

THRASHER NEWSLETTER

Vol. 6

AUGUST 1987

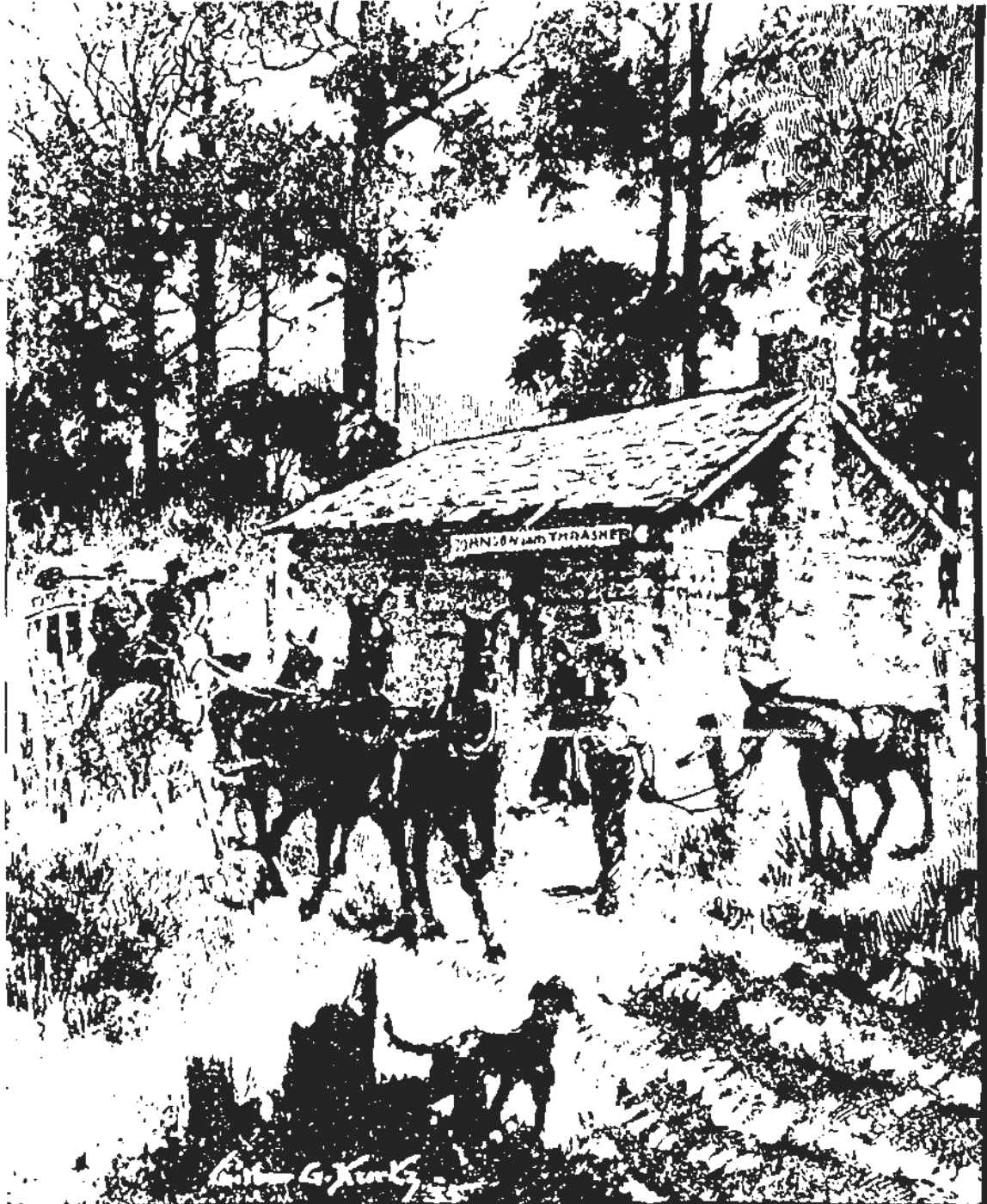
No.

Mrs. Joe F. Pruett, Editor

4935 Brittany Drive, Macon, Georgia 31210

This sketch of the first store in what is now Atlanta, Georgia, was discovered and submitted by our cousin Frank Combes. It appeared in the Atlanta Journal Magazine, edited by Angus Perkerson, on September 15, 1935.

Atlanta's First Store



Appearing under the sketch was the following:

"A drawing by Wilbur G. Kurtz shows the small log store built in 1839 by "Cousin" John Thrasher on Marietta Street where the Federal Reserve Bank now stands. The northbound stage is seen en route to Marietta and the Ross Landing (now Chattanooga, Tenn.) On Page 2 appears an article on "Atlanta's Pioneer Merchants."

"Cousin John" Thrasher was a son of David Thrasher and Mary "Polly" Hughey, and the direct ancestor of many of you who are descended from the "DAVID" line.

As those of you who were in attendance at the Reunion, in June, here in Macon were told, an article written by Paula Crouch, with research assistance by Warren Thrasher, was to appear in the Atlanta Journal-Constitution, on July 5th, regarding "Cousin John", our very distinguished and most widely known ancestor. Paula is the wife of John Paul Thrasher, and daughter-in-law of Warren Thrasher. We are deeply indebted to Paula and Warren for their good work in getting this article published. I have since learned that some of my friends, who knew nothing of my connection to this family, had clipped the article because of their interest in the first real name of Atlanta. The article contains three pictures or sketches of "Cousin John". Those of you who did not know about this article may want to order a copy from the Journal.

CURRENT FAMILY VITAL STATISTICS

Congratulations to HUGH and HELEN THRASHER on the birth of their grandson, ROBERT BARTON THRASHER, son of KEN and CATHY THRASHER, on June 2, 1987, 9:27 A.M., at Northside Hospital, Atlanta, Fulton Co., Ga. His paternal grandmother was EVELYN S. THRASHER. The BARTON in the baby's name is for our ancestor SUSAN BARTON.

INFORMATION RECEIVED SINCE PUBLICATION OF OUR THRASHER HERITAGE

Dr. JAMES M. MARLOWE furnished information that his son, RICHARD MARLOWE, died at Gainesville, Florida in 1976. (Page 333, Our Thrasher Heritage)

EUSTACE E. BISHOP, SR., furnished the following information regarding his nephew, EDWIN H. BISHOP, JR., who wrote stating: "My correct birth date is Sept. 15, 1942 (not 1941). PHYLLIS' full name is PHYLLIS JANET CURTIS and she is the daughter of GEORGE BRYAN CURTIS and JANET COGSWELL NICOLET. PHYLLIS was born on September 5, 1942, in Louisville, Ky. (See p. 202 - OUR THRASHER HERITAGE.)"

EUSTACE BISHOP also furnished the following information on CLOUD HAMPTON BISHOP:

"MATTIE GREEN BISHOP was a descendant of General Nathaniel Green, of whom there is a statue in Rhode Island. General Green later became a resident of Georgia, and is buried in the Savannah-Brunswick area. It is said that he put all of his considerable wealth into the Colonies' fight for freedom from oppression, and hence died poor.

"CLOUD HAMPTON BISHOP, born in Watkinsville, Oconee County, Georgia, and his bride, MATTIE FLORENCE GREEN, first lived together at Oxford, Georgia, where he graduated from Emory at Oxford in 1902. CLOUD and MATTIE BISHOP initially had two still-born children, a boy and a girl, who are buried in the Watkinsville cemetery alongside their parents.

"He taught school at Headland, Alabama, and Ft. Gaines, Georgia, before moving to Ashburn, Turner County, Georgia in 1905, to continue his profession in education. There were six sons born in Ashburn.

"He left the education field to organize Ashburn Distributing Co., a wholesale grocery business. It served a market of approximately 30 miles radius from Ashburn. The business was expanded to include potato curing, ice manufacture, cold storage, and egg and poultry processing. He also established Georgia's first creamery.

"Mr. Bishop's life-long dream was to uplift the farmer's economic position, which led him to develop the Turner County Cow, Hog and Hen Program. This diversified farming provided year-around cash for the farmer and was widely adopted in Georgia as a substitute for single-crop cotton farming.

"Always an idea man, his business in Ashburn furnished customers in Miami freshly killed chickens packed in ice in the late twenties. He experimented with freezing chickens and, later in Atlanta in conjunction with Tom Huston Peanut Co., freezing peaches was also attempted. Since that time, the programs of diversification and frozen foods he proposed have contributed greatly to farm prosperity in the South.

"Ironically, Mr. Bishop's continuing support of farmers and farming in general contributed to the failure of his business. During the depression, many of the large farmers to whom he had extended credit reneged on their debts.

"The creamery was sold to J. C. Penny interests in Jacksonville, Fla., which later became Foremost Dairies. Promissory notes taken for the sale were not paid by Penny, which prompted him to move his family to Atlanta, Ga., in 1929. There he accepted a job as Director of Georgia's Bureau of Markets in the Department of Agriculture. Soon after, however, he became disenchanted with the Talmadge regime and his administration's program for Georgia farmers.

"Mr. Bishop then interested Sears in establishing a farmers' market as a public relations activity. A building was provided on the parking lot at Sears on Ponce de Leon Avenue where dirt farmers could bring their produce, wild flowers, juices and berries, home-made items of food, clothing and furniture, etc., to be sold directly to Atlanta homemakers. This experience led to Sears' investing many thousands of dollars on 4-H projects in the Southeast to upgrade live-stock through better breeding on the farm.

"Discouragement was 'not a word in his dictionary'. Ever the teacher, C. H. BISHOP encouraged those who had the least to help themselves. His patience and perseverance led directly to the establishment of several highly successful private enterprises in Atlanta, including two leading caterers, a major poultry dealer, and a bakery.

"His service to agriculture has been recognized by Sears hanging his portrait in the Hall of Fame at the University of Georgia"

I had first heard from Mr. Bishop in June, shortly before our Reunion, and immediately wrote and invited him and his family to attend. He was unable to make it this year, but states he would like to attend next year and get to know some of his cousins.

Mr. Norman A. Smyth, 525 7th St., S.E., Washington, D. C. submitted an Obituary for JAMES RICHARD THRASHER, which appeared in the Piedmont (W. Va.) Herald, issue dated March 10, 1987, which will probably be of interest to many, and which is quoted:

"Funeral services were held Friday at the Eichhorn-McKenzie Funeral Home in Lonaconing, Md., for JAMES RICHARD THRASHER, SR., 73, of Rt. 1, Frostburg, Md., who died last Sunday at the home of his son in Bradenton, Fla. The Rev. Louis L. Emerick assisted by the Rev. George M. Harpold officiated and burial was in Sunset Memorial Park.

"Mr. THRASHER was well known to many paragoers because of his historic horse-drawn carriages. Visitors from the United States and numerous foreign countries signed the guest register at his Thrasher Historical Museum, of which he was president and curator, in Midland, Md. He also operated the Thrasher Horse and Carriage Farm at Route 1, Frostburg.

"A retired coal operator, he was past president of the Coal Association of Allegany and Garrett County, and was a member of the Midland Grace Methodist Church.

"Born in Midland, he was a son of the late JOHN NELSON THRASHER and MARY (FAZENBAKER) THRASHER.

"He was an active member of the American Carriage Association and the Lions International Association.

"In 1976, he appeared in the movie 'Harry and Walter go to New York' by Columbia Pictures and in 1983, appeared in the movie, 'Puddin Head Wilson', based on the Mark Twain story.

"He is survived by three daughters, Mrs. PATRICIA MORTON, Lonaconing; Mrs. BONNIE SHEARER, Bradenton and Mrs. ROSEE BLUBAUGH, Arlington, Va.; two sons, JAMES RICHARD THRASHER, JR., Vienna, Va. and DONALD THRASHER, Bradenton, Fla.; four brothers JOHN NELSON THRASHER, JR., Knapps Meadow, Lonaconing; LORAIN 'SPAIN' THRASHER, Midland; PAUL THRASHER, Suitland, Md. and EUGENE THRASHER, Midland; three sisters, Mrs. ARMINTA M. ROBERTSON, Lonaconing; Mrs. EVELYN ROBINETTE, Cresaptown and Mrs. MABLE MARBLE, Warrenton, Ohio; 10 grandchildren and 11 great-grandchildren"

Mr. Smyth stated that he was sorry to have missed our Reunion this year, but hopes to be able to be with us next year.

I have just received a call from STEVE THRASHER, Louisville, Ky., whom you all will recall, his having attended the Reunion in Sweetwater, Tenn. He believes he has found the elusive ISAAC THRASHER, brother of JOHN and JOSEPH CLOUD, who left the State of Georgia prior to 1810. From our conversation, I believe he is about to find the proof we have been needing to tie many of the North Alabama THRASHERS to our main Georgia Thrasher family. STEVE has found one ISAAC THRASHER in the legal records, and tax records of Bedford Co., Tenn., in which he also found one BENJAMIN BARTON and some of the WELLBORNS, known to have been close friends, or intermarried with our THRASHERS. These records were dated 1811-1814. Steve has promised to send me copies of the information, copies of which he has requested by mail, which I will publish in subsequent Newsletters.

As most of you are aware, all of the families that have been positively traced are descendants of JOHN and JOSEPH CLOUD THRASHER, two of the sons of JOHN THRASHER and SUSAN BARTON. The third brother, ISAAC THRASHER, who married RUTH BARTON we have been unable to locate. If Steve is able to prove that the ISAAC THRASHER, of Bedford Co., Tenn., is our ISAAC, we may be able to tie many of the families later located in the Northern District of Alabama, to our Georgia Thrasher Family.

For the past couple of weeks, I have been researching the early census records of Alabama. According to Everton, the first white settlers to become established in Alabama, came there in 1702 (some say 1699). They established Mobile in 1702. Many British sympathizers living in Ga. moved westward into the Alabama Section in 1775, followed by planters from Ga., Va. and the Carolinas in 1783. In 1798, the territory now known as Alabama was made part of the Territory of Mississippi. On March 3, 1817, St. Stephens became the Capitol of the newly created Alabama Territory. In November, 1818, Cahaba was made the Capitol. Two years later, in 1819, Alabama became a state, and Huntsville, seat of Madison Co., Ala., became the temporary State Capitol.

The first Census of Alabama, enumerated in 1820, has been lost, with the exception of the counties of Baldwin, Conecuh, Dallas, Franklin, Limestone, St. Clair, Shelby and Wilcox. The THRASHER families enumerated in the 1820 extant Census of St. Clair County, are as follows:

(Note: I have checked the census records for the Northern District Counties thru 1840 and plan to research the 1850 and 1860 Censuses, to be published in subsequent Newsletters..)

1820 Census - St. Clair County, Alabama

J. THRASHER - 1 Male over 21 yrs.
3 " under 21 yrs.
1 Female over 21 yrs.
3 " under 21 yrs.
8 Total white population
0 Slaves

THOMAS THRASHER - 2 Males over 21 yrs.
6 Males under 21 yrs.
1 Female over 21 "
3 " under 21 "
12 Total white populat:
0 Slaves

JOHN THRASHER - 1 Male over 21 yrs.
1 " under 21 yrs.
1 Female over 21 yrs.
3 " under 21 yrs.
6 Total white population
6 Slaves

1830 Alabama Census - Northern District

Bibb County - Page 150

JOHN THRASHER - 1 Male 5-10 yrs.
1 " 10-15 yrs.
1 " 40-50 yrs.
2 Females under 5 yrs.
1 " 5-10 Yrs.
2 " 10-15 yrs.
1 " 30-40 yrs.

Lauderdale County - Page 207

HENSON THRASHER - 1 Male 10-15 yrs.
1 " 30-40 yrs.
2 Females under 5 yrs.
1 " 20-30 yrs.

St. Clair County - Page 239

JAMES THRASHER - 1 Male 15-20 yrs.
1 " 30-40 yrs.
1 " 50-60 yrs.
1 Female 20-30 yrs.
1 " 50-60 yrs.

Page 239

WILLIAM THRASHER - 2 Males under 5 yrs.
2 " 5-10
1 " 50-60 yrs.
1 Female 10-15 yrs.
1 Female 30-40 yrs.

Page 242

HOWARD (?) THRASHER- 1 Male under 5 yrs.
1 " 15-20 yrs.
1 " 20-30 yrs.
1 Female under 5 yrs.
1 " 20-30 yrs.

1840 Alabama Census

Benton County

Page 9

WILLIAM THRESHER - 2 W M 5-10
1 " 10-15
1 " 30-40
1 W F 10-15
1 " 15-20
1 " 30-40

Page 9

DELILA THRESHER - 1 W F 20-30
1 " under 5
2 " 5-10
1 " 15-20
1 " 40-50

Benton County - Page 9

JAMES THRESHER - 1 W M 20-30
2 W F under 5
1 W F 20-30

Bibb County

JOHN THRASHER - 1 W M under 5
Page 107 1 W M 5-10
1 W M 10-15
1 W M 20-30
1 W M 40-50
2 W F 5-10
1 W F 10-15
1 W F 15-20
1 W F 30-40

JOSEPH THRASHER 1 W M 20-30
Page 122 1 W F under 5
1 W F 20-30

JOSHUA THRASHER 2 W M under 5
Page 123 2 W M 5-10
2 W M 20-30
1 W F 20-30

DeKalb Co.

THRASHER, G. 1 W M under 5
Page 167 2 W M 5-10
1 W M 10-15
1 W M 30-40
2 W F 10-15
1 W F 30-40

THRASHER, H. 1 W M under 5
Page 167 1 W M 10-15
1 W M 30-40
2 W F 5-10
1 W F 10-15
1 W F 20-30

THRASHER, J. 1 W M 20-30
1 W F 20-30
Page 167 1 W F 60-70

Lauderdale County

THRASHER, H. 1 W M under 5
Page 79 1 W M 15-20
1 W M 30-40
1 W F under 5
4 W F 5-10
1 W F 40-50

THRASHER, ROBT. 2 W M under 5
Page 85 1 W M 5-10
2 W M 10-15
1 W M 30-40
1 W F under 5
1 W F 10-15
1 W F 30-40

THRASHER, W. 1 W M under 5
Page 126 2 W M 10-15
2 W M 15-20
1 W M 40-50
1 W F under 5
1 W F 5-10
1 W F 10-15
1 W F 40-50

Randolph County - Page 202

THOMAS THRASHER-1 W M 5-10 1 W F 10-15
Page 202 2 W M 20-30 1 W F 15-20
1 W M 40-50 1 W F 30-40
1 W F 80-90

St. Clair County

THOMAS THRASHER, JR. 1 W M under 5
Page 234 1 W M 5-10
1 W M 20-30
1 W F under 5
1 W F 5-10
1 W F 20-30

THOMAS THRASHER, SR. 2 W M 15-20
Page 234 1 W M 30-40
1 W M 60-70
1 W F 60-70