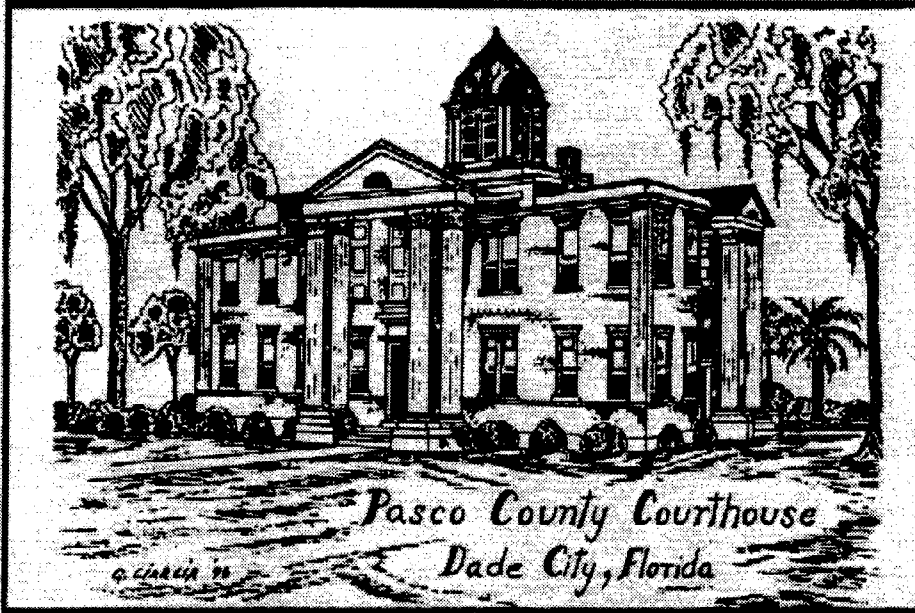


# The Thrasher Newsletter

Mentor: Dot Pruett Editor: Barbara Eger Circulation: John E. Thrasher III Volume 17 No. 2 November 1998



This representation of the old Pasco County Courthouse appears on the cover of the commemorative booklet produced by the Historical Society in conjunction with the Pioneer Founding Families Commemorative Plaque project. It depicts the courthouse as it may have appeared when it was built in 1909. The booklet includes an interesting glimpse of what life was like in the area prior to the turn of the century.

## Pasco County Courthouse Re-Dedication Set for Dec. 5

The restoration of the old Pasco County, Fla., Courthouse is almost complete. Only final projects such as irrigation and landscaping and the installation of the plaques commemorating the founding families remain to be done.

The first lighting of the courthouse and grounds will be at 6 p.m. Friday, Dec. 4. The rededication ceremony is set for Saturday, Dec. 5, at noon, to be followed by a reception for the descendants of those families.

Requirements for plaque approval included submitting proof that the person(s) lived in Pasco County during or before 1887, the year that Pasco County was created by the State of Florida through subdivision of Hernando County. The required documentation is filed separately for each family plaque, and will be available in the archives of the Pioneer Florida Museum in Dade City. Of the founding families residing in Pasco County in 1887, 223 are commemorated with the individual cast bronze plaques.

The entire plaque project was privately funded, primarily by descendants of the pioneer families. The plaques will be embedded in the sidewalks leading to the porticos of the

old courthouse to provide a lasting tribute to those early settlers.

The finished renovation is the culmination of more than four years of efforts by the Board of County Commissioners, assisted by the Pasco County Historical Society, the Pioneer Florida Museum Association and the Pasco County Genealogical Society. Through their combined efforts, \$1 million in grants covered 44% of the total cost, and Pasco County paid the remaining \$1.3 million.

*cont. on pg. 2*



Happy Thanksgiving!

### Pasco Courthouse (cont. from pg. 1)

The project included the removal of additions made in 1939, 1952, 1956, 1958 and 1961. The interior portions of the building were completely restored, including the wood trim and flooring. The first floor of the renovated courthouse will house office space for county officials and the second floor will house the County Commission Chambers and a separate area for historical displays.

Members of the Dade City Garden Club played a key role in defeating a plan to chop down five ancient live oak trees as part of the restoration project. As Christmas approaches, the club has chosen to commemorate that effort, as well as the renovation, by offering a replica of the courthouse as its 1998 yuletide ornament.

The Bellamy Brothers' annual Snake, Rattle and Roll Jam is 3 p.m. on Dec. 5 in San Antonio, and they will perform briefly at the courthouse dedication. They are Dade City residents and their annual show benefits area charities.

#### Editor's Corner



Well, the editor has finally gotten organized (sort of) after the move, and has some limited on-line access. If you wish to contact me or send information via e-mail, the same address that I used before is again valid: <eger@spot.colorado.edu>. The next issue of the newsletter will be coming out in late January. It will include all the information for the 1999 reunion, including hotel accommodations and rates. As always, I am looking for family news and information to include in the newsletters, so please send anything you may wish to share with the family to: Barbara Eger, 13318 Omega Court, Dade City, FL 33525-5304, or to the e-mail address above.

Remember to check out Greg Wickenberg's Web page at <<http://www.eskimo.com/~greg>> and subscribe to his Thrasher mailing list, <[thrasher-list@eskimo.com](mailto:thrasher-list@eskimo.com)>, for a while -- lots of queries and information come through from all over the country.

**AGAIN -- the 1999 reunion will be the weekend of APRIL 24 and 25. John E. and Eleanor Thrasher promise an exciting time with good food, an interesting program for Saturday night's dinner and lots of visiting with family.**

### Micanopy Thrashers Looking Forward to April

Micanopy, Florida, is the site of the 25th Thrasher Reunion on Friday evening, April 23, and Saturday, April 24th. Some of you probably don't even know where that is at this time, but I hope you will find out! I'm sure you are not aware that this is Rawlings country, Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings, that is! The famous Pulitzer prize winning author's home is only nine miles away at Cross Creek. The home is now a state park and tours of the house are available on Fridays and Saturdays.

I'm sure you will want to brush up on Rawlings and I recommend reading her "Cross Creek" and the fun to read "Cross Creek Cookery" or the well known "The Yearling." For a crash course, run down to the video store and rent "Cross Creek" with Mary Steenburgen, Rip Torn and Peter Coyote. This movie, as well as Michael J. Fox's "Doc Hollywood," were filmed here and at the Creek. In fact, if you watch your TV guide, you can probably view "Doc Hollywood" several times before April, as it is often shown on TV.

Just a mile and a half north of Micanopy is the entrance to the Payne's Prairie State Preserve, which William Bartram visited in 1774 and described so beautifully in his "Journals" -- you can still see the buffalo! Have lunch at Mildred's cafe or Old South Cafe, and don't miss O'Biskey's Book store.

Evin Bailey White, whom you probably know from having heard her on PBS, makes trips of nearly 200 miles to search out that book store, as she tells in her "collection" of observations, "Mama Makes Up Her Mind and Other Dangers of Southern Living."

Then browsing the 18 or so antique shops is great fun. Some are located in historic buildings. There are 38 historic sites on the National Register. Two Thrasher sites are on the National Register: the J. E. Thrasher store, built in 1923, which is now Tyson's Trading Post, and the Thrasher Warehouse, home of the Micanopy Historical Society Museum, which is where we will meet for our reunion! Looking forward to seeing you here!

Eleanor and John Thrasher



# Bits and Pieces

## Congratulations!!!

Tom Thrasher was one of two Huntsville, Ala., residents honored for their contributions to the community's quality of life during the Arthritis Foundation's 10th annual James Record Humanitarian Award Banquet in September. His community service efforts included the Huntsville School Board, the NASA Local Advisory Committee, the Huntsville Convention and Visitors Bureau board of directors, the Huntsville-Madison County Chamber of Commerce and many other agencies. He was one of the founding members of the University of Alabama Huntsville Foundation, and was instrumental in the effort to bring a U.A. campus to Huntsville. Tom and his wife Dorothy are among the first members of the Thrasher Family Association.

\*\*\*\*\*

Dr. David Reynolds Thrasher was selected as the 1997 recipient of the Distinguished Eagle Scout Award presented by the Tukabatchee Area Council, Boy Scouts of America. The presentation was made Sept. 23 in Montgomery.

The award is presented to an Eagle Scout who, after 25 years, has distinguished himself in his life work and who has shared his talents with the community on a volunteer basis.

\*\*\*\*\*

Siegfried Schmidt, M.D., Ph.D., was among those selected for inclusion in the 1998 edition of "Outstanding Young Men of America." A resident of Gainesville, he is married to Bonnie Elizabeth Summer, daughter of Elizabeth and William Summers and great-niece of John E. Thrasher.

\*\*\*\*\*

Celestia Gentry Sharp, the speaker at the last two Thrasher reunions, was named the winner of the Lilla M. Hawes Award for 1998. The award is given by the Georgia Historical Society to the author of the best book on local or county history in the state of Georgia during a two-year period. Ms. Sharp received the award for the 1996-97 period for BISHOP, GEORGIA: The Ancient Roots, Rich History, and Enduring Spirit of a Southern Crossroads Community.

\*\*\*\*\*

## More on the Courthouse:

Immediately following the dedication and reception, family members are invited to meet at my home for an informal get-together. I hope to see you then.

The Thrashers have ties to many of the families remembered in the project; a copy of the entire list of names is included in this issue so that you may check for any who are related to your own branch.

To round out the weekend, the Pioneer Florida Museum's annual Christmas Open House will be Sunday, Dec. 6, from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. The museum buildings, which are originals representative of early settlement, will be decorated and there will be entertainment and refreshments as well as a Christmas Arts and Crafts Show. Admission and parking are free. The museum is a mile north of the city just off U.S. 302 on Pioneer Museum Road.

If you plan on staying overnight in the area, there is a Best Western motel in Zephyrhills, which is eight miles south. There are a few small motels here in Dade City, but I can't really recommend them. There is a bed and breakfast, the Azalea House, which may have room. Their telephone number is (352)523-1773.

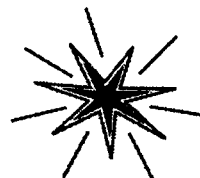
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## Latin Inscription Translated:

Jon Thrasher was kind enough to share the translation of the inscription on the Thrasher memorial in the Bradford-on-Avon church which is reprinted in this newsletter. Jon has made many trips to the area on business, and a friend there had the inscription translated by an expert in ancient Latin as a gift for Jon. Thank you, Jon.

\*\*\*\*\*

*Wishing you peace, joy and the blessings of the season for Christmas and the New Year.*



## The Thrasher Monument

The following is provided courtesy of Jon-Louis Thrasher, son of William Avery Thrasher ("Our Thrasher Heritage," page 229). Jon and his family currently reside in Charlotte, but they are anticipating a move to Atlanta soon. In his message with the translation, Jon wrote "I hope this provides some previously unknown insight into our English forefather(s)."

Located at Holy Trinity Church (north Wall of the north aisle) Bradford-on-Avon, County of Wiltshire, England, United Kingdom of Great Britain.  
Translated text from the original Latin:

*Near this monument lie buried the mortal remains of John Thrasher, gentleman, only son of Edward Thrasher.*

*A brilliant man, he spent several years of his youth among experienced lawyers in London, earnestly devoting himself to his legal studies. In these studies, being endowed with wonderfully keen wit and intellectual powers, he so quickly and successfully found fame that, much the most celebrated of his time, he will deservedly be said to have far surpassed those who build their reputations on these studies.*

*His father died just when he had the joy of seeing his son flourishing in the full bloom of his reputation, a great adornment of the Law Courts, on the very threshold of public honour.*

*Throughout the father's life, his outstandingly brilliant capabilities, his unshakeable integrity and the other innate fine qualities of his kindly and honourable character won him the highest favour with all. In the interests of both himself and his Country, he promoted Trade by means of prosperous and reputable Industry, with a special regard to the parish of Bradford and its neighbourhood. (Alas, for the former Pride of the English people, their golden fleece.)*

*After the father's death, his son, John, already clearly his partner even before his demise, put his family affairs before public life and here to his father's house, his native soil, willingly retired. Here he enjoyed a retirement most pleasing to himself yet honorable and beneficial, taking active thought for his friends just as he had for his Country. He died greatly missed by all, equally well-known for his generosity, his friendliness and his integrity.*

*By his wife, Ellen, daughter of Henry Long of Melksham, gentleman, (by Ellen, sister and co-heiress of John Trenchard of Cutteridge in the county of Wilts, gentleman) had six children of whom only four outlived him, viz: Ellen, Dionysia, Elizabeth and Maria.)*

*The father died on the 18th day of February, 1725, aged 65, the son on the 17th day of August, 1741, aged 52. The widow of the son, beloved spouse, has most dutifully erected this monument sacred to the memory of them both.*

(Translated by Joan Fletcher of Bath, England, 1996)

# Stepping back

## Little Micanopy commemorates its place in the history of the South

By MARIAN RIZZO  
Star Writer

Just a short drive off U.S. 441 down a quiet country road stands a rustic wood structure with a sloping, corrugated tin roof. Above the door a sign reads, "W.H.I.S.E. No. 1, Thrasher Bros." The outer wall bears a 1920s advertisement done in fading red paint with white lettering that touts "Drink Coca-Cola." The entry door stands gaping at the end of a narrow ramp made from wooden slats that creek beneath your step. And, on the landing, a worn metal chest and a rusty old scale have been laid to rest.

A step across the threshold is a journey into yesteryear. Inside the dimly lit room are display cases and wooden tables filled with relics from the past - obsolete farming tools, Civil War memorabilia, early railroad implements and American Indian treasures.

With such items, the Micanopy Historical Society has created an exhibit of artifacts that depict the history and lifestyle of the area from the time the Europeans first stepped onto Central Florida soil. Since the early 1980s, the committee has been acquiring mementos to enhance the museum.

The museum is open Monday through Thursday, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., Friday and Sunday, 1 to 4 p.m., and Saturday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. There is no admission cost, but a donation would go to improve the exhibit, says Carmen Smyth, museum director.

Dressed in a flowing dress in autumn shades, Smyth moves about the room as if it were her own parlor. Proudly, she points out a clump of railroad spikes, a kerosene lamp and an old oil can.

"These were really used," says Smyth. "They're not reproductions. It takes you back in time. Makes you realize it really happened."

Inside a display case are some of Smyth's cherished heirlooms, her great-grandfather's military pension papers from his service in the Civil War and a uniform that was worn by her son at the Citadel. The uniform is similar to one worn by Capt. William Powell, a resident of Micanopy and commander of a cavalry unit in the Civil War, says Smyth.

"They have not changed the uniform in 140 years," she says. "That was why it was put in there."

Behind a cashier's cage stands a desk, complete with antiquated adding machine, the kind with large numbers and a handle that pulls down on one side. An old typewriter, silent now, has been cleared of its cobwebs. And a hefty ledger is open to a page of ink scratchings penned there by the original store owner, John Thrasher Sr.

### IF YOU GO

**WHAT:** The Micanopy Historical Society Museum

**WHERE:** 607 Chokolka Blvd., Micanopy

**WHEN:** Monday through Thursday, 11 a.m.-4 p.m.; Friday and Sunday, 1-4 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

**COST:** Free Admission, donations accepted.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION:** (352) 466-3200

Smyth explains that the building was constructed in 1896 beside a railroad track that has since been removed. The warehouse once served as the town's general store, supplying everything a person needed from grains and foodstuffs to clothing, farm tools and ammunition.

Smyth says her family has lived in the area for more than 60 years. Her mother's ancestors settled in what is now Alachua County in 1768. Her father, John Alan Whiting, designed a railroad passenger car, "The Kathryn," which was named after her older sister and was used by the T & J Railroad which ran between Tampa and Jacksonville.

"Naturally, I'm very interested in Florida history," Smyth said. "I was chairman of the committee that worked to get Micanopy on the National Register of Historic Places. Most historic districts are done by professionals, but none of us were professional."

The committee had to send documentation on 55 different building sites. The district was approved on Nov. 23, 1983 - "on my 63rd birthday," Smyth said.

"What a present," she says, her silver hair captured by a ray of sunlight at the open door. "Pure coincidence, of course. We had all worked so hard on it - the whole committee. When it happened, we were delighted."

After that, the committee got to work on the museum. It was first located in a small downtown building owned by the Smyths.

Later, the town bought the current facility from the Thrasher family for \$71,500, and the society began to expand the display.

Having the old building used for such a project means a lot to John E. Thrasher III.

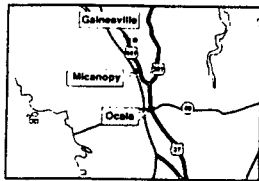
"I think its pretty wonderful," Thrasher says. "Of course, there's a lot of things that are in there that are mine."

Thrasher donated or placed on loan a number of items, including a gasoline-powered iron, a cast-iron waffle maker, a fireless cooker, a ribbon case with numerous compartments and some toys from



MARIAN RIZZO/STAR-BANNER

An exhibit at the Micanopy Historical Society Museum covers the existence of Fort Micanopy. The museum was approved in 1983.



his childhood. A look into the display case may very well generate visions of young John Thrasher flicking marbles across the wood floor or dealing a pack of playing cards to his friends huddled in a corner.

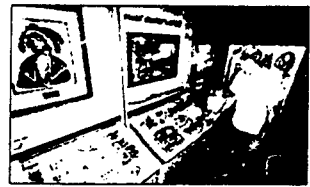
As a teen-ager, Thrasher and some of his buddies worked at the warehouse. He recalls that on Christmas Eve, his mother traditionally would make a large kettle of oyster stew and carry it in for the workers to share.

His father spent a lot of time behind the cashier's cage, keeping records and working at a 1908 typewriter that had two layers of keys, one for capitals and the other for lower case.

"Dad learned to type on that kind of typewriter," says Thrasher. "He could type like lightning on it."

These days, people come from all over to see the old warehouse and pour over the quaint items on display. According to Thrasher, numerous groups come through, including two separate Smithsonian tours that recently visited the area. He estimates more than 4,500 people signed the museum's guest book in 1997.

"During festival time, thousands of people come in and don't sign it at all," Thrasher says.



MARIAN RIZZO/STAR-BANNER

Paul Oliver, a volunteer docent, looks over some artifacts from the Second Seminole War found on a dig in Micanopy.

As treasurer for the Thrasher Warehouse Corp., he has been involved in raising funds to help renovate and restore the museum and a second open-air building that stands behind it. Already, the antiquated buildings offer a showcase of history for those who enter.

A tour of the building takes about an hour or two. Afterwards, you're invited to sit awhile on the 1890s church pew, close your eyes, and imagine what life must have been like in Micanopy, long ago. Enjoy the moment.

From the Ocala Star-Banner, August 28, 1998

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 COCHRANE

Dr. Joseph M. & Henrietta  
 Samuel Joseph & Sarah Garrison  
 Peter Karr & Maria Cope  
 William John, Sr. & Sarah Stevenson  
 William John, Jr. "Uncle Willie"  
 Benjamin & Jane  
 Samuel & Elizabeth Pinder  
 Dr. Richard C. & M. J.  
 Bernard A. & Agnes  
 Abraham Melton & Sussannah Vereen  
 Frank J. & Mary Lenora Douglas  
 J. Milton & Florrisa Platt  
 J.N. & M.E.  
 Eugene Sanford & Emily O'Berry  
 Francis E. & Mary E.  
 William Henry  
 Thomas S. & Ida M. Bisset  
 Leonard S. & Mary Jane Ellis  
 Capt. Robert D. & Nancy Wiggins  
 Rev. Robert J. & Amelia A. Knight  
 John Alexander & Adaline A Frierson  
 Thomas Edwin  
 William & Mary S. "Mamie" Frierson  
 Robert L. & Malinda Lanier  
 Archie S. & Harriett Morgan  
 Andrew Edgehill & Emily Anderson  
 Archie James & Albena Eiland  
 James Edgehill & Emily Gillett  
 James Edgehill & Mary Ann Keathley  
 Henry Clay & Lula I. Frierson  
 Billy  
 Jasper C. & Sallie C.  
 N. A. & M. A.  
 David Hope, Sr.  
 James Washington, Jr.  
 James W., Sr. & Frances L. Hope  
 James Lewis  
 Dr. William W. & Elizabeth T. Dillard

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 GEIGER  
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 GODWIN

Charles William & Mary Jane McLeod  
 Henry Bradham  
 John W. & Olinda Bradley  
 Mary Wiggins  
 Allen Scott & Martha Hill  
 James William & Virginia Adkins  
 Stephen P. & Elizabeth Smith  
 William Eston & Zula Bellamy  
 Charles Edwin & Julia Howell  
 William Newton & Caroline Center  
 Capt. Hugh  
 Jesse H. & Ida Govreau  
 Judge Edmund F. & Josephine Warner  
 Capt. Francis M. & Primmie R.  
 John Franklin  
 Levi Daniel, Jr. Lydie Ann  
 Neri Daniel & Emily E. Jones  
 James Polk & Evalina Chapman  
 F. L. & M. C.  
 William D.  
 Jonathan L. & Eliz. Ann Sumner  
 Gen. Samuel Warren  
 1st Benedictine Monk in Florida  
 John A. & Theresa Thaler  
 John Taylor & Joannah Bellamy  
 William Edwin  
 William Graham & Sussannah Goodman  
 Benjamin H. & Rosannah Baillie  
 Christopher Columbus  
 J. W. & Ida S. Hancock  
 J. D. & Martha Barnes  
 Rosa Emerson  
 John Buregard & Mary Ann  
 Abraham Elias & Sarah Smith  
 Elias Jasper & Alef V. Spivey  
 Asa & Elsie  
 James F. & Rose A. Andrews  
 Allen Scott & Florence P. Kersey

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NATHE Casper Joseph & Mary "Lizzie" B.  
 NATHE Joseph  
 NOBLE Dr. W. E. & W. A.  
 NODINE Frances Elizabeth Bradley  
 O'BERRY James R. & Susan Albritton  
 O'BERRY John & Mary  
 O'BERRY Joseph W. & Artie Ann Frances  
 O'NEAL Soloman & Mary J.  
 O'NEAL Millard Filmore & Annie Johnson  
 OSBURN Cornelius Willey & Edith Amanda Wilbur  
 OSBURN Jackson Andrew & Eliza Kersey  
 OSBURN Will L. & Mary A. Hudson  
 OSBURN David & Eliza Jane Wells  
 OSBURN James Lucius & Lizzie  
 OVERSTREET Thomas & Julia C. Goethe  
 PINDER James N. & Minnie Bankston  
 PLATT John N.  
 PLATT John Wesley & Mary Jane Jackson  
 PLATT Rev. Joshua H.  
 PLATT L. Walter  
 PLATT William A.  
 PLATT A. H. & J.  
 RAVISIES J. Freeman, Sr. & Sarah Osborn  
 REVELS J. Freeman, Jr. & Ella  
 REVELS Aaron M. & Mary  
 RICHEY Joseph  
 ROBLES Mattie Platt  
 ROBLES Samuel & Mary Jane  
 ROBERTS Daniel C. & Molly  
 RYALS Henry D. & Mary  
 RYALS Sherrod & Margery  
 SAWYER John Richard, Jr. & Georgia J. Butler  
 SAWYER John Richard, Sr. & Mary  
 SAWYER William Thomas & Della Goss  
 SELLERS David Lott & Jane Howell  
 SELLERS Leonard J. & Martha Jackson  
 SLAUGHTER M. Harrison & Martha McKinney  
 SMITH Brantley Eugene & Appionia Osborn  
 SMITH J. Leroy & Eliza Dell Osborn  
 SMITH Willis F. & Sarah Green

SOAR Victor Hugo & Mary M. Sellers  
 SPIVEY John David & Roxie Ann Wooten  
 STANLEY Louis Napoleon & Mary A. Tomberlin  
 ST. CLAIR Hampton & Sally  
 STEVENSON Constatine & Mary Ann  
 STEVENSON Richard D., Sr.  
 STEVENSON Samuel & Elizabeth  
 STRICKLAND Laurin M. & Emaline Tootle  
 SULTENFUSS William & Cecelia  
 SUMNER Alexander C. & Sarah J. Kitchen  
 SUMNER David Edwin & Frankie Thrasher  
 SUMNER James Alexander & Looney Thrasher  
 SUMNER James Neil & Alice Platt  
 SUMNER Jesse Cary & Caroline Hall  
 SUMNER King Joseph & Susan McMinn  
 SUMNER Robert Hughey & Annie Tait  
 SUMNER Robert Lawton & Martha Bedgood  
 TAIT John Thomas & Nannie Ann Croft  
 THRASHER David Hughey & Sarah R. Harper  
 THRASHER Judge David O. & Ellen Mason  
 THRASHER John James & Marg. B. Scaife  
 THRASHER Willis E. & Pallen Cochrane  
 TOWNSEND Capt. John & Nancy Leigh  
 TUCKER Elijah A. & Hannah Garrason  
 TUCKER Jesse B. & Emma Rebecca Goss  
 TUCKER Zachariah William & Martha J.  
 VEREEN Joseph Dewitt & Susan Ann Duett  
 WALLACE Dr. James Goodwin  
 WATKINS Cordia Corline Hancock  
 WATSON Gideon M. & Elizabeth Grey  
 WELLS L.R. "Dee" & Missouri Spivey  
 WHITMAN Dr. Thomas Campbell & Elizabeth Gillett  
 WICHERS Benedict M. & Annie  
 WILLIAMSON William W. & Mary M.  
 WORLEY Jacob & Mary E. Baillie

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# The Thrasher Newsletter

Mentor: Dot Prueett Editor: Barbara Eger Circulation: John E. Thrasher III Volume 17 No. 3 February 1999



## ***Thrasher Warehouse Rich in History***

The site of our Saturday night dinner and program, the Thrasher Warehouse is one of a very few historical sites with strong family ties. Located on Cholokka Boulevard at Early Street in Micanopy, Fla., it was built around 1890 by John Early Thrasher, Sr. It was served by a branch of the Atlantic Coast Line Railroad until the 1950's.

The warehouse is a wood frame building

with horizontal siding and a patterned shingle design in the west gable. It retains the original cashier's cage, a sealed room for seed storage, and even a little of the original pipe which carried carbide gas to the hanging brass light fixtures.

The warehouse was used by J.E. Thrasher, Sr. as a part of the general merchandise business which he opened in 1896.

## ***The Cape Cod Inn will provide a restful oasis for reunion attendees***

The 1999 Thrasher Family Reunion will be April 23-26 in Micanopy, Florida. Read all about it in this newsletter.

This picture of the Cape Cod Inn should be an enticement to come and enjoy the serenity of the Micanopy area and visit, whether again or for the first time, with all the Thrasher cousins. John E. and Eleanor Thrasher are this year's hosts, and they have been working hard to make sure the 25th reunion is one of the best ever. In addition to the usual Saturday night dinner, they have made arrangements for a catered dinner at their home on Fish Prairie Friday night.

This issue of the newsletter has all the information you need to make motel reservations (directly with the Cape Cod Inn), a dinner reservation slip to send back to John and Eleanor, and directions to everything. Mark your calendars, plan your route and come to Micanopy in April.



# **John E. and Eleanor Thrasher Want YOU!**

## **An open letter to all the cousins from our reunion hosts**

We hope that you are planning to attend the 1999 Thrasher Family Reunion in April! Now is the time to finalize some of those plans. The two of us have been busy working out the details to make this reunion very memorable for all the family. The caterer has planned two delicious meals, since we know all of the Thrasher kin love to eat, and the program should provide something of interest to everyone.

We have arranged with the Cape Cod Inn to set aside a block of rooms for guests attending the reunion. The Inn is a small, charming, clean motel on Highway #441 about 10 miles north of Micanopy itself. There is an outdoor pool and handicap-accessible rooms are available. The cost is \$43.95 for two adults. Children age 12 and under can stay free with the adults; there is a \$5.00 charge for each child over 12. The motel address is 3820 S.W. 13th St. (Hwy. 441), Gainesville, FL 32608. The phone number is (352) 371-2500. The motel management will guarantee rooms until April 13. See the map and directions on another page of the newsletter to find out how to get to the motel, our home, and the Thrasher Warehouse in Micanopy.

Everyone had such fun for the past two years meeting for dinner on Friday night as well as the Saturday gathering that we would like to do a repeat for those of you who can arrive on Friday. If you can travel to Micanopy on Friday and would enjoy a planned activity that evening, we will have a catered dinner at our home, which will be served about 6 p.m. Come on out to our house any time after 4:30 Friday afternoon for good fellowship and dinner. Reservations are needed -- see the reservation mail-in slip attached to the newsletter.

Our home will be open on Saturday, April 24, as the "Hospitality Center." There will not be a hospitality room at the motel; we feel that with all the available antique shops and places of interest to visit in the area that no one will want to sit around the motel on Saturday. Anyone arriving on Saturday and in need of a spot to sit and meet and refresh, our home will be available to enjoy the sights and sounds of the woods. You

might even find an Indian arrowhead or see a flock of wild turkeys or catch a glimpse of a young doe or a big gator!

On Saturday afternoon we will gather at the Thrasher Warehouse/Micanopy Historical Society Museum, Cholokka Blvd. at Early St. in Micanopy, starting at about 3 p.m. We would like everyone to register, visit the museum, and spend some time visiting and meeting cousins old and new! Please don't be shy. There will be cousins here whom you have not met before, and getting to know one another is really one of the major points of having reunions!

At 5 p.m. the first part of our program will feature author Jake Glisson. You don't want to miss a minute of his presentation (Hope you have brushed up on "Cross Creek" by now!). Dinner will follow about 6 p.m., and that will be followed by family members who have presentations of one kind or another and our usual brief business meeting. Then, talk as late as we like!

In the event of bad weather, the site will shift back to our home.

On Sunday morning, for those who have time, we will meet for breakfast before starting home. This year the IHOP restaurant, which is only a couple hundred yards north of the Cape Cod Inn, is where we will meet for breakfast at 8 a.m.

While you are in the area, here are a few of the wonderful places to visit that were not mentioned in the last newsletter:

1. The University of Florida campus (just north of the motel)
2. Harn Museum of Art
3. Powell Museum of Natural Science (Great for kids!)
4. The Bat House on Lake Alice
5. The Devil's Millhopper State Park
6. Victorian McIntosh (Just south of Micanopy; a seven-minute drive)

We are really excited about this, the 25th annual Thrasher Family Reunion! Please let us know you are coming by returning the dinner reservation form by April 16th, which is when we have to let our caterer know how many will attend each event.

Hope you can be with us!

John and Eleanor

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**Saturday's Speaker, J. T. Glisson,  
has extensive area background**

The featured speaker at the 1999 Thrasher Family Reunion is someone whose past is closely tied to Cross Creek and Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings.

Jack Glisson, who describes himself as "author, artist, Floridan," was born in Cross Creek and his home until the age of 9 was next door to Ms. Rawlings. He attended the Ringling School of Art in Sarasota and Associated Art School - Illustration, Water Color in Miami. His experience includes work with the Steinmetz Studio and the Newman Lynde Advertising Agency in Miami, and as an artist with the Cape Haze (Florida) Marine Laboratory, as well as other well-known organizations.

Glisson currently is a resident of Evinston, Fla. His hobbies include flying, sailing and exploring, and he has traveled extensively, both here and abroad.

His watercolors were featured in an exhibit, "Cross Creek Looking Back," at the University of Florida, and he is the author of "The Creek" and "Sigsbee," a two-act play. He served as a consultant on the film "Where the River Flows North."

His extensive background in the Cross Creek area and his knowledge of Florida should provide a most interesting start for our Saturday evening program.

**Stay a while -- there's a lot to do!**

There's a lot to do in this part of Florida -- there were some suggestions in the last newsletter and John and Eleanor made some more in their letter elsewhere in this issue. If you want to add a day or two of relaxation before or after the reunion, or just do a little exploring during the day Saturday, there is something for everyone in this area.

Payne's Prairie State Preserve is only a mile north of Micanopy on US 441. Encompassing 20,000 acres, it includes freshwater marsh, hammocks, pine flatwoods, swamps and ponds.

The visitor center is open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily. Admission is \$3.25 per private vehicle.

John and Eleanor mentioned McIntosh in their letter -- it is a charming old town with many restored Victorian homes and a number of antique shops to browse. The town is only a short drive north of Micanopy.

Cross Creek is probably my Saturday destination -- Rawlings used this area as the setting for several of her books, and her restored home is now a state historic site. The grounds are open 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily, and admission to them is free. Guided tours of the house are offered, and the cost is \$2 for adults, \$1 for children ages 6 to 12.

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***Reunion Dinner Menus -- Don't they sound delicious?***

**Friday, April 23, 1999, at John E. and Eleanor Thrasher's home:**

Garden salad with ranch, oil and vinaigrette, and Mrs. Thrasher's Blue Cheese dressings  
Chicken puffed pastries with tarragon sauce  
Broiled salmon with lemon herb sauce  
Roasted garlic new potatoes  
Fresh steamed and sauteed vegetables  
Fresh-baked rolls and butter  
Variety of individual desserts  
Iced teas, Coke products and coffees

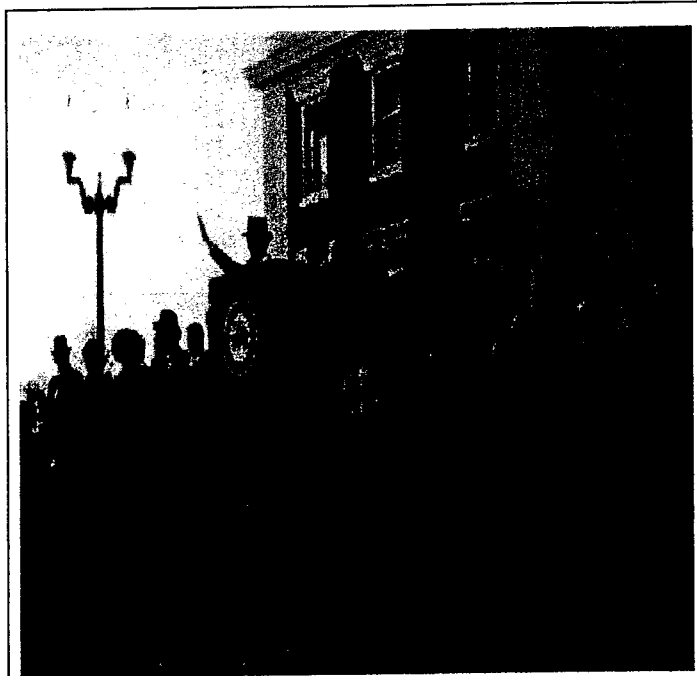
**Saturday, April 24, 1999, at the Thrasher Warehouse:**

Harvest of fresh fruits and vegetables with cheeses, dips and crackers  
Beef and shrimp kabobs  
Rice pilaf  
Fresh steamed and sauteed vegetables  
Fresh-baked breads and butter  
Assorted dessert station.  
Iced teas, Coke products and coffees

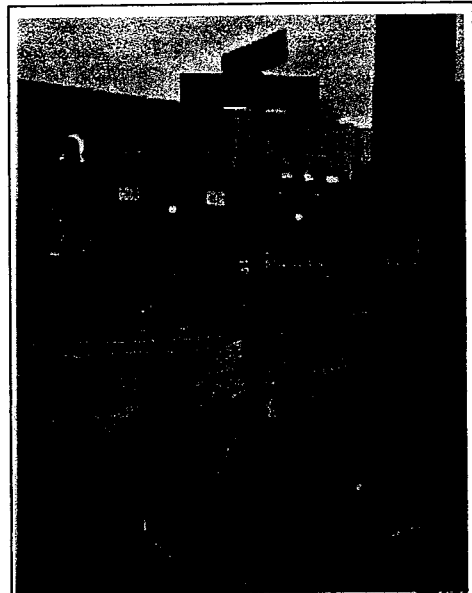
The cost per person is \$15.00 for each meal; children are half price at \$7.50.

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## Dade City Ceremonies Dedicate Restored Courthouse



*Mallory Pasco, direct descendant of Samuel Pasco, speaks to the crowd attending the rededication of the restored Pasco County Courthouse. Others on the speakers platform include the Pasco County Commissioners and representatives of the Historical Society and the Founding Families of Pasco County Committee.*



*John E. and Eleanor Thrasher arrived in plenty of time to get comfy to watch the parade Friday night.*

Pasco County pulled out all the stops for the rededication of the old county courthouse in December and the city was bulging at the seams with visitors. The festivities started with the lighting of the Christmas tree on the courthouse grounds and a parade Friday night. Saturday events began with the official ribbon-cutting ceremony, with all of the official party in period dress. Mallory Pasco, a direct descendant of Samuel Pasco, after whom the county was named, was among the speakers and the Bellamy Brothers sang. After the ceremony, the courthouse was opened for tours. The annual Dade City Christmas Stroll filled the evening, with Santa Claus, carriage rides and entertainment.

The commemorative sidewalk plaques with the names of early county families were installed, and were a focus of attention for many of the people attending. Among them are Thrashers, Sumners and O'Neals, all branches of our "cousinship." Of the founding families who lived in Pasco County in 1887 when it was formed, 223 are represented in the walkways.

The restored courthouse adds a great deal to the preservation of the character and history of downtown Dade City and will provide a tangible link with the past.



*Some of the family got together for a visit and some food after the Courthouse ceremonies on Saturday. Front row (l. to r.) Joann Bandy, Barbara Eger, Joan Stine, Eleanor Thrasher and Frankie Goldsby. Back row (l. to r.) John Thrasher, Joe Stine, and Richard Goldsby.*

## News and Notes

Belated congratulations to Peggy Thrasher on her retirement. Peggy wrote that "I have retired after 36 years in education -- or I have cut back. The school system needs me 2-1/2 days a week to continue coordinating gifted education and assist in teacher certification." She also wrote that Albert has retired as well, but is teaching flying part-time. And they have bought Albert's parents' former home in Butts County and the two of them are preparing to move there as soon as they do some remodeling, sorting out and so on. Meanwhile, they are juggling three places -- their present home, the Butts County home and their cottage in the mountains. Peggy, are you sure this is retirement??

\*\*\*\*\*

Congratulations to Luke Douglas Bentley on his graduation from the University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa in December. Luke is the son of Dr. Robert J. and Dianne Jones Bentley of Tuscaloosa, Ala., and the greatnephew of Dot Pruett.

\*\*\*\*\*

Nancy Thrasher Cherry, moving spirit behind the Middle Atlantic Thrasher Association and regular attendee at our reunions, has been busy updating a 25-year old history of the town of Jefferson, Maryland, in time for the town's 225th anniversary celebration in May. Nancy's legendary energy has been in full gear, with all of her free time taken up with interviews, photographs, and all of the other details that go into such an ambitious project!

\*\*\*\*\*

George Benton Thrasher of Tulare, Calif., has started a new Thrasher publication, *The Thrasher Chronicles*. George plans to use the publication to share research, information, and pictures he has, as well as any material he may receive from readers. He also will include any queries sent to him. There is no charge for the publication, but George will be relying on donations to cover copying and mailing costs. If you are interested in being on the list, send your name, address, and whatever you think fair for costs to: George B. Thrasher, 758 Mariposa Ave., Tulare, CA 93274.

\*\*\*\*\*

John E. Thrasher III sent me a letter written to his father, John E., Jr., in 1948, which he thought might be of interest for the newsletter. John wondered about the writer, Wm. A. Thrasher -- who was he and what about his descendants. Anyone out there have any clues? Maybe William is someone George Benton Thrasher might shed some light on. Here's the letter:

"San Francisco, Cal.

Mar. 29 - 48

Mr. J. E. Thrasher

Dear Sir:

This is in reply to the letter you wrote John W. Thrasher (my nephew). As I knew Dr. Thrasher, John turned your letter over to me, but sorry I can't do much for you. I met Dr. Thrasher several times and he told me the book he wrote, *History of the Thrasher Family*, and promised to give me a copy if he could get hold of one, but later he could not get one. I was out of San Francisco for seven years in the 20s and when I came back I could not locate him nor his son Carrol.

There was a Thrasher (I can't recall his given name) who had a merchandise store in Frankfort, Indiana, who helped Dr. Thrasher write the book and you might get some information from him if he is still living. Sorry I can't give you more information.

Yours very truly  
Wm. A. Thrasher  
307 Duncan St."

\*\*\*\*\*

The *Tampa Tribune* had an article in the business section last month about telephone mergers. A Holt Thrasher was quoted extensively in the article, and he was identified as the managing director for Broadview International in Fort Lee, N.J. Is he a twig on the tree, and if so, what branch -- Maryland or the South?

\*\*\*\*\*

And last, but definitely not least, get your plans made and your dinner reservations in to John and Eleanor. Let's have a good big family group for this 25th reunion. See you all in Micanopy in April!

\*\*\*\*\*

## Bits and Pieces

Picked up from the Net: Among the known Confederate dead buried in the Confederate Circle in Evergreen Cemetery, Murfreesboro, Tenn., is A. J. Thrasher, Company F, 22nd Alabama. The sender notes that while there are more than 2,000 bodies buried at the site, only 258 have been named.

\*\*\*\*\*

The following are taken from Greg Wickenburg's Thrasher e-mail list. If anyone can respond and doesn't have access to e-mail, let one of us who subscribe to Greg's list know and we'll pass on the information. I know John E. Thrasher does and I do and there are probably other family members out there who do as well.

From Cheryl Stewart <howard@negia.net>: "I am looking for any information on the parents of Rosa A. Thrasher, b. Feb. 1886 in Georgia. Her parents were John Thrasher, b. Mar. 1850 in Georgia, and Martha (?), b. Nov. 1860 in Georgia. This is all I have on this line of my family. Rosa A. married Jessie Sanders. Thanks in advance to anyone who can shed a little more light." And this one from Robert Thrasher <rthrasher@mindspring.com>: "I need to find anybody past a William Walton Thrasher born in early 1800 in Tenn. or Alabama. He was my GGGF and no one knows any more about him. He married a Lucendia Lott and I did find a marriage record." Greg added a postscript asking that anyone e-mailing Robert cc Greg since Robert is traveling and only checks his e-mail when he is able.

\*\*\*\*\*

"Sightings" additions:

Elizabeth (Thrasher) Baldwin sent these to Dot Pruett, who passed them on for the newsletter. The street behind the DeKalb Medical Center in Madison, Ga., is Bill Thrasher Drive, named for her youngest brother, who was the first administrator of the hospital. And outside Plains, Ga., is Thrasher Road, named for her family. Elizabeth wrote "From the time that I was six years old until I was thirteen we lived on a large farm on that road, which was later named for our family."

Frank Combes shared this one several reunions ago, but somehow it never got included on the list: the Wilkes T. Thrasher VFW Post 4848 in Chattanooga. Also, there is a Thrasher Elementary School in Signal Mountain, Tenn.

\*\*\*\*\*

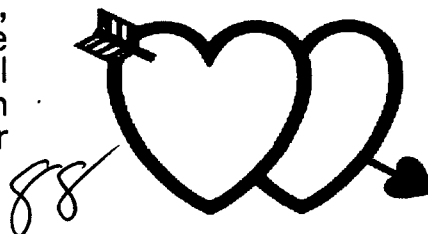
Greg Wickenburg sent away for Isaac Thrasher's War of 1812 files and posted a transcription of an old newspaper article to his Thrasher list. This Isaac is from Hawkins County. Greg noted that both pages of the article were cut off and not complete. Here is the first page (the second seems to deal with an unrelated topic) with Greg's notes: \*\*\* means unreadable.

\*\*\*GENT. -- The Jonesborough Union of last week says in relations to an old citizen of Hawkins County

There came to this town a short time since an old gent, who dwells on the western slopes of Bay's Mountain in Hawkins County, who is something of a remarkable man. His name is Isaac Thrasher.

When he was quite small, his parents resided near Harper's Ferry, in Virginia. Subsequently they removed with him to Guilford Co., N.C. Whilst here, his father was drafted to service in Capt. Forbush's Company in the Revolution. \*\*\* (the next two lines were folded and unreadable, but in other records he says he (Isaac) fought in the Revolution under his father's name.) \*\*\* and he was present at the Battle of King's Mountain, and took an active part in that engagement, which occurred in October, 1780. He is probably the only survivor of that memorable conflict in Tennessee, if not in the entire South. About 50 years ago, Mr. Thrasher came to this Country \*\*\* (I'm sure they meant County) \*\*\* and in the War of 1812, served as a volunteer under Capt. Haitzell (sp?) from this County, and subsequently another campaign under Lt. Peter Miller, which he marched as far south as Mobile. He is now in his 96th year.

\*\*\*\*\*



Happy  
Valentine's  
Day!

## More Bits and Pieces

Something from Dot Pruett for those of you who may have enjoyed the Christmas goodies a little too much:

"Twas the month after Christmas and all through the house  
Nothing would fit me, not even a blouse!  
The cookies I'd nibbled, the eggnog I'd tasted  
At the holiday parties had gone to my waist!  
When I got on the scales there arose such a number!  
When I walked to the store (less a walk than a lumber)  
I'd remember the various meals I'd prepared:  
The gravies and sauces and beef nicely rared,  
The wine and the rum balls, the bread and the cheese,  
And the way I'd never said, 'No thank you, please.'  
As I dressed myself in my husband's old shirt  
And prepared once again to do battle with dirt --  
I said to myself, as only I can,  
'You can't spend a winter disguised as a man!'  
So -- away with the last of the sour cream dip,  
Get rid of the fruitcake, every cracker and chip.  
Every last bit of food that I like must be banished  
Till all the additional ounces have vanished.  
I won't have a cookie -- not even a lick.  
I'll want only to chew on a long celery stick.  
I won't have hot biscuits or corn bread or pie;  
I'll munch on a carrot and quietly cry.  
I'm hungry and lonesome and life is a bore --  
But isn't that what January is for?  
Unable to giggle, no longer a riot --  
Happy New Year to all and to all a good diet!"  
Anonymous



### Editor's Corner



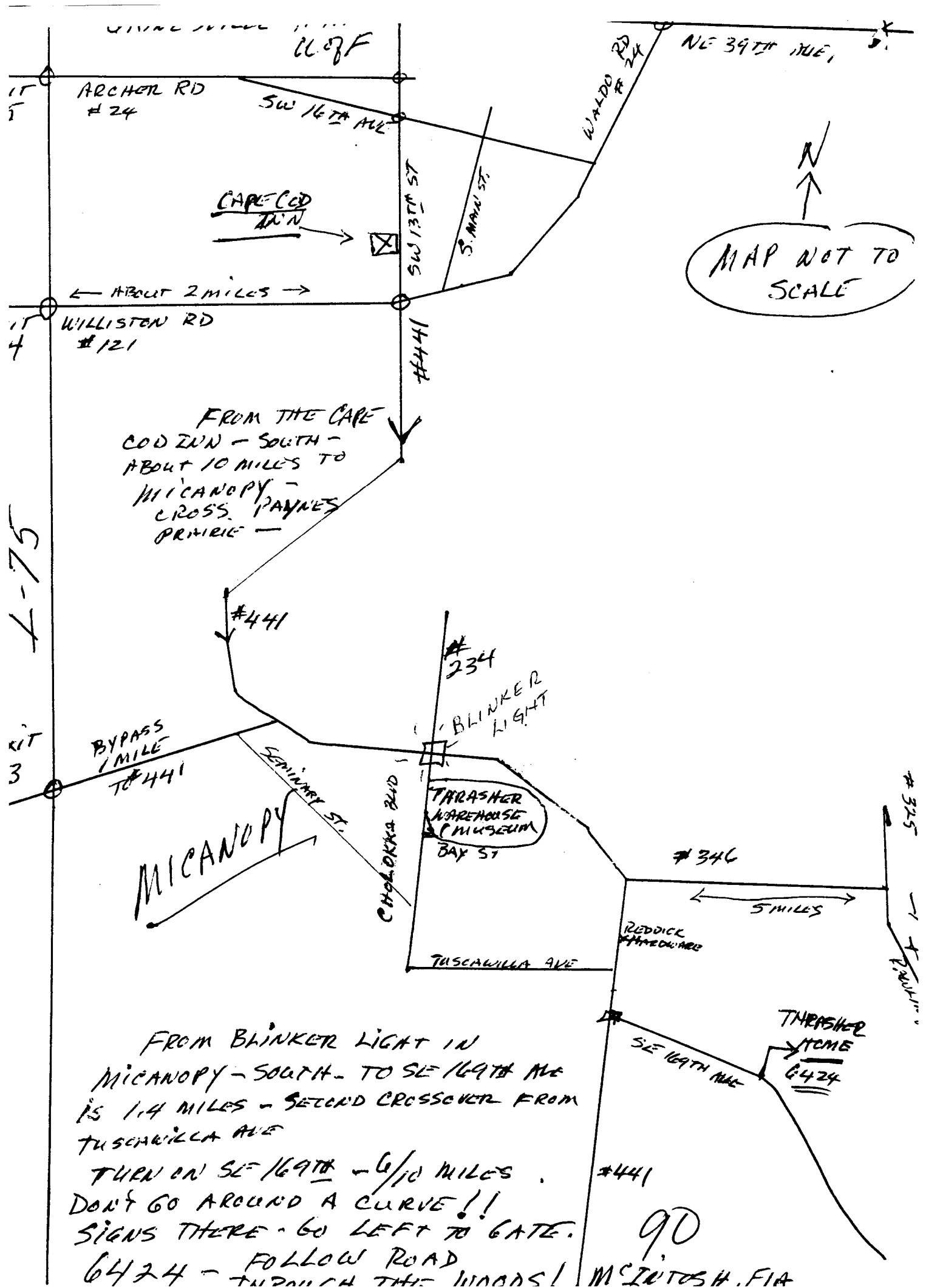
As (I hope) many, many of you are, I'm looking forward to being in Micanopy in April. In the meantime, things are finally coming to a semblance of order here in Dade City. The number of boxes still unpacked are reduced to books waiting for the arrival of bookcases, and most of the construction glitches have been corrected. The one thought that is uppermost in my mind now is that I am NEVER moving again!

I have finally gotten an ISP, so if you have something to send in for the newsletter or just want to send a suggestion, correction or complaint by e-mail the new address is <egerb@gte.net>. Regular mail will reach me at 13318 Omega Court, Dade City, FL 33525. With graduation and wedding seasons coming up, there should be some family news out there! Please, please send me any items of interest so that they can be shared. I'm

planning on another issue in March IF there is enough material, and then the next one will come out in May following the April reunion. Also, if there is a particular topic you'd like to see covered, send me a note on that. Suggestions are more than welcome.

If you are planning on attending the reunion and will be taking pictures, it would be wonderful if you could share some of them for the May newsletter. As always, I will scan them and return them to you undamaged.

Finally, I know quite a few of you are on the Internet. Would publishing a list of e-mail addresses in the newsletter be of interest to anyone? If so, let me know, preferably by the May newsletter, and I'll include them.



N  
↑  
MAP NOT TO SCALE

FROM THE CAPE COD INN - SOUTH - ABOUT 10 MILES TO MICRANOPI - CROSS. PAINES PRairie -

BYPASS 1 MILE TO #441

MICRANOPI

FROM BLINKER LIGHT IN MICRANOPI - SOUTH - TO SE 169th AVE IS 1.4 MILES - SECOND CROSSOVER FROM TUSCANWILLA AVE

TURN ON SE 169th - 6/10 MILES. DON'T GO AROUND A CURVE!! SIGNS THERE - GO LEFT TO GATE.

6424 - FOLLOW ROAD THROUGH THE HANDS! MCINTOSH, FLA



# The Thrasher Newsletter

Mentor: Dot Pruett Editor: Barbara Eger Circulation: John E. Thrasher III Volume 17 No. 4 March 1999



*John E. and Eleanor Thrasher's Fish Prairie home, where Friday night's dinner and family get-together will be held. Dinner will be served about 6 p.m., but John and Eleanor are looking forward to welcoming family members anytime after 4:30 that afternoon.*

## **Don't miss the fun -- make those Reunion plans now -- April is almost here!**

Don't put it off any longer! Mark your calendars, make your travel plans and motel reservations and send your dinner reservation form and checks to John and Eleanor. March is more than half over, and the reunion weekend is coming close. In case you don't have the last issue of the newsletter handy, here's a repeat of the motel information:

Cape Cod Inn  
3820 S.W. 13th St., Gainesville, FL 32608  
352-371-2500

Cost is \$43.95 per night for two adults; children age 12 and under stay free with adults, \$5 for each child over 12. The motel has guaranteed the rooms until April 13.

Dinner reservations must be in to John and Eleanor by April 16 so that they can provide a count for the caterer. Another copy of the dinner reservation slip is attached.

If you are planning to attend the Friday night dinner, directions to John and Eleanor's will be available at the motel in case you don't bring the ones in the last newsletter with you.

As always, there will be a "show and tell" opportunity, so if you have memorabilia or pictures that you are willing to share, bring them along. This has always been one of the more popular features of the reunion, so think of what you may have that would let people have a glimpse into our Thrasher past.

This is the 25th Reunion -- let's make it a memorable one! Remember that people are what makes a family, and reunions are the glue that keeps far-flung branches and twigs connected to the tree. Stay connected and plan now for Micanopy.

## Robert Rainer continues Georgia Thrasher heritage

by David E. Sumner

If the Southeast is called "the Bible belt," then northwest Georgia can be called "the Thrasher belt." Because of the long Thrasher heritage in Georgia, it is surely no coincidence that the Georgia state bird is the Thrasher and Ted Turner named his NHL hockey team the Atlanta Thrashers.

Growing up in the Thrasher belt, Robert Andrew Rainer, Jr., a retired dentist, has lived in McDonough almost all of his life. McDonough is in Henry County and about 25 miles south of Atlanta. He followed in his father's footsteps, who began his dentistry practice in McDonough in 1923. Both graduated from Emory University School of Dentistry. Named after his father, the Robert A. Rainer Conference Room in the dean's office at the Emory Dental School was dedicated in May 1961. A bronze plaque was placed there in honor of Robert A. Rainer, Sr. (1895-1975).

Robert A. Rainer, Jr., 75, married Jane Brewster on April 5, 1947, and they raised four sons, all of whom still live in McDonough. They will celebrate their 52nd anniversary in April. Robert and Jane hosted the Thrasher reunion in McDonough in 1993. Dr. Rainer is part of the Thrasher line through his mother, Vessie Thrasher Rainer (1898-1988). His mother helped organize the first Thrasher Family Association meeting in 1974. Dr. Rainer admits, however, "I was just sitting in the corner listening."

Asked how he was related to "Cousin John Thrasher," Dr. Rainer says, "Well, he would be a great-great uncle of mine. I used to call him, 'Uncle John-three times' and Robert Woodruff [former Coca-Cola CEO] called him 'Uncle John two times.'" Cousin John's father, David Thrasher raised fourteen children in Newton County, just about a dozen miles east of McDonough. "Cousin John" was the railroad builder who founded Thrasherville, which was incorporated as Atlanta in 1839.

Besides his dental practice in McDonough, Dr. Rainer taught a dentures course at the Emory Dental School for about ten years. He and his family have been active members of McDonough Baptist Church all of their lives.

He displays obvious pride when he speaks of his sons. His oldest, Andy, has had

cerebral palsy, but worked as a letter carrier for the McDonough Post Office since 1966. He married for the first time about three years ago. "He's a great guy, and we're real proud of him," he says.

The second son, Ray, was awarded the Purple Heart and four Bronze Stars for service in Vietnam. He joined his brother, Fred, in going into the mortuary business. They purchased the Carmichael Funeral Home in McDonough, which they ran for 20 years, before selling it about four years ago. The youngest son, Joe, works for a store in McDonough.

Dr. Rainer also speaks with great pride and affection for his mother, Vessie Thrasher Rainer, whose accomplishments as a historian, genealogist and author fill two pages in Dot Pruett's "Our Thrasher Heritage" (pp. 281-282). "Mother traced our family line back to Charlemagne," he says with a laugh. Charlemagne (742-814) united by conquest nearly all of the Christian lands of western Europe and ruled as emperor from 800-814.

Vessie Thrasher Rainer authored or co-authored books on the history of Henry County, the Henry County cemeteries, and the McDonough Baptist Church. She wrote and published "Thrasher-Barton Descendants of Georgia" in 1977. She was officially appointed the Henry County historian on September 23, 1969, a position she held until her death in 1988.

Dr. Rainer was a captain the U.S. Army Reserve from 1951-1953. He served as president of the Georgia Board of Dental Examiners, as a member of the McDonough City Council and is listed in Who's Who in the South and Southeast.

Dr. Rainer says his wife, Jane, is now confined to a wheelchair and "We don't get around much anymore." He says, "I'm sorry we can't come to Micanopy, and I'll be thinking about everyone."

\*\*\*\*\*

### About the Author:

David Sumner grew up in Dade City, Florida, where his father was a citrus grower. His grandmother, Frankie Thrasher Sumner, was a granddaughter of "Cousin John." He has been a journalism professor at Ball State University in Indiana since 1990.

# Bits and Pieces

## **Political News:**

Florida House Speaker John Thrasher may be making a Senate run. According to a Tampa Tribune article, he has filed papers to become a candidate for the Florida Senate seat being vacated in 2002 by current Senator Jim Horne, who is not eligible for reelection due to term limits. However, with the announced retirement of U.S. Senator Connie Mack, the Tribune article speculated that a run for Mack's seat may be a possibility instead. Good luck in either case!

\*\*\*\*\*

## **Montgomery people:**

News from from Bill and Velma Thrasher in Montgomery:

They have just returned from a vacation in New Orleans. Bill wrote that they had been to New Orleans on several occasions, but there was never enough time to see much in such a short time since there is so much to see and do in New Orleans. They enjoyed this opportunity to have a more leisurely stay.

Bill and Velma's daughter, Sherry Gail Rollins of Anchorage, Alaska, will graduate in May from the University of Alaska with a BA in Business Administration. Velma will be going to Alaska for the event and to visit with daughter Sheila Reed, son-in-law Lee Reed and grandson Robbie Rollins. Velma will also be visiting with other Alaska friends from when Bill and Velma lived in Alaska.

Bill writes that they will be in Micanopy for the reunion next month and look forward to seeing everyone there.

\*\*\*\*\*

## **McSpaddens wanted:**

Here are two queries seeking McSpadden/Thrasher information that were posted recently, one on Greg Wickenburg's list and one on the Tennessee Roots list. The first one, unfortunately, only has an e-mail reply address, but if anyone without e-mail wants to respond, just contact one of us with e-mail. The second one very prudently provided both snail mail and phone information, so can be contacted directly.

## **McSpaddens (cont.)**

" I am trying to find out something about my great-grandmother Sarah Joppa Thrasher b. 1884. She isn't buried in Ala. but her husband, Robert McSpadden, may be along with most of her family that died before the 1940's. Is there an easy way to access information on the Thrasher Family.

Also, Sarah's sister, Rosa Thrasher-McSpadden, may also have relative in Bibb County. I believe their father was Joseph T Thrasher.

I have been striking out with this line. Hope you can help. PJ Ross  
RKRRICHARD@aol.com"

\*\*\*\*\*

"Subject: Surname McSPADDEN - looking for connections

Date: Tue, 23 Feb 1999 08:38:10 - 0800

From: Robert Lewis  
<cheechako@INETARENA.COM>

Well!! It's been several months since the last time I pestered y'all about this family! We have VERY EXTENSIVE records of the so-far known descendants of the line - would you believe over 17,000!!!!?? But we also have info on over 1,000 people living in various locations throughout the US of A that we feel sure belong "on the tree" but we can't get connected - - missing "links" and all that!!

We find them listed in the phone book - we talk to them - but nobody seems to know their family history far enough back to "make the connection" with people known in our records!! They may know their grandpa was "George A." - but WHICH of the 17 "George A."s we have on record was he??? No birth dates - places - names of siblings - some don't seem to know who their Aunts, Uncles, and cousins were!!!

If you can, Please Help!!

Robert P. Lewis  
2593 S.E. ALDER St.  
Hillsboro, Oregon, 97123  
Voice: (503)-648-3765  
<cheechako@inetarena.com> (preferred)  
<73611.430@compuserve.com>  
<cheechako4@juno.com>"

\*\*\*\*\*

## More Bits and Pieces

### *A Snip from the Past*

John E. Thrasher shared the following bit of family history from a March 8, 1956, Atlanta Constitution story. It appeared on the front page with a picture, which isn't scannable. I have excerpted the article here, and the complete original can be seen at the reunion.

### **"She Is No. 1 In 41 Years of Teaching**

A sixth grade teacher at Ragsdale School has been rewarded for 41 years of service in the Atlanta School System.

Miss Arienne Thrasher of 207 W. Princeton Ave., College Park, was named Atlanta's Teacher of the Year Wednesday by a committee of judges.

Cited for developing the creative instinct of the children in her classroom, Miss Thrasher was selected to compete for state and national teacher honors.

### **LOVED BY STUDENTS**

A personable little lady of 60, Miss Thrasher served up the three R's with humor, understanding and firmness. In return, she enjoys the love of her students and colleagues.

This esteem is attested by frequent visits by former students, some of them middle-aged. 'She's the most human teacher I've ever had,' said one of her charges."

The article goes on with more testimonials and background information on Miss Thrasher. John also sent the following information on her family background:

"Reverend Gustavus Barton Thrasher (son of Barton Cloud Thrasher) was a Baptist minister, and somewhere in the period about 1905 - 1920 was a minister in Micanopy.

He and his wife, Anna (Prior) Thrasher, had five children -- Lenna, Mary, Anita, Arienne, Vetra and G.B. Jr.

My father and mother knew the girls, Lenna, Mary, Anita and Arienne. I know that they visited Mary (Thrasher) Dennard in College Park, Ga., in 1957 as there is a letter from Mary dated 25 Oct., 1957. In the letter she says that Vetra and G.B. Jr. died 'many years ago.'"

According to John, both G.B. Sr. and his wife are buried in Apalachee Cemetery in

Morgan County, Ga., which is "just a stone's throw across the Apalachee River, which separates Morgan County from Clarke (now Oconee) County, Ga. The properties of Barton and Isaac Thrasher are along the river there.

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### **Just for Fun!**

From an article in the Middle Tennessee Genealogical Society Newsletter:

According to Marylyn Salmon's *The Legal Status of Women in Early America*, "Faithful Puritans believed that 'our Ribs were not ordained to be our Rulers . . . the woman was made for the man's comfort, but the man was not made for the woman's command.' Good Puritan women trusted their husbands, and later their sons, to take care of them."

And we don't think we've "come a long way, baby," as the old commercial used to say?

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### **Editor's Corner**



Oscar the Grouch is back after a brief respite -- there isn't a lot of news coming in for the newsletter. It's time for you all to get on the ball and look around to see what kind of family information, old and new, that you might have to share. Just one idea: There are family Bibles with information written in by past generations. Take a few minutes and write down what is in there and send it in. Another possibility would be family group sheets that you or someone else in your branch created. What about copies of old wills, deeds, land grants, etc.? There are a lot of records that help track family history, and sometimes people don't realize how useful something could be.

Personal stories about the family past would be wonderful -- oral history is a way to preserve memories for future generations

Just send anything you may have to me at the e-mail or snail-mail addresses shown in the Help Wanted box on page 8.

## THRASHER FAMILY

Written by Charles Royster Thrasher  
Albany KY

William Thrasher, the progenitor of the family of this name, sold his house, lands, and his business as a clothier in Bradford-on-Avon, Wiltshire, England, and with his wife and son, Robert, came to Virginia in 1649, settling in Pittsylvania County. William Thrasher's wife's name is unknown.

Robert Thrasher, the son of William Thrasher, married Abby A. Stevens, daughter of Daniel G. and Sibbel Stevens. Their children were Samuel, John, Richard, Joseph, Pleasant and William.

Richard Thrasher married Ann Tyler. It is unknown as to how many children they had. The will of Richard Thrasher, written in 1768 mentions his eldest son, William. This William Thrasher, son of Richard and Ann Tyler Thrasher, is believed to be the same William Thrasher recorded in the 1790 North Carolina census. Listed were William, as head of household; 3 males under the age of 16; and 4 females, including Sarah his wife. One of the females was named as a slave. He and his wife Sarah (surname unknown) were living in what is now Burke County, North Carolina. It is believed that he died before 1800, as the North Carolina census of that year list Sarah as the head of the household.

William and Sarah had three sons: Isaac, born 1773; William Jr., who lived from February 4, 1787 until November 20, 1872; and Samuel J., born in 1789. They had two daughters: Mary, born 1776, and Rachel, born 1781.

I believe Isaac Thrasher, the brother of our William Thrasher, Jr., came to Tennessee and William Thrasher may have stopped over in Fentress County, Tennessee before settling in Cumberland County, KY.

William Thrasher, Jr. Moved to what is now Cumberland County in Kentucky. William's first wife was Rachel Baker (died 1809?). They had one child, Isaac Baker Thrasher, born 1805, died 1889.

William served in Captain William Wood's company of the Kentucky militia in the War of 1812, enlisting at Robert Pogue's farm on August 10, 1813, and being honorably discharged November 13, 1813, having served 84 days. His last wife, Elizabeth Felkins, received a widow's pension of \$8.00 per month, granted on January 28, 1880.

William received a land grant of 80 acres in what was later known as Sexton's Fork Creek, surveyed on December 12, 1833. This first grant, according to family tradition, included the site where the family water mill stood. William built a saw and grist mill on Sexton's Fork Creek. Now it is impossible to envision a busy, bustling place in such hilly terrain. Gasoline brought about the end of the water powered mill, and many mills in Clinton County fell into disuse. As our home (Charles Royster Thrasher) near Highway, Kentucky, there was no water mill when I was a boy. When I nine years old, my father placed a bushel of corn on the horse's back. I climbed aboard and took the corn to the old mill. It was still operational in 1915. It ceased operations about 1920, but the original land grant remained in the Thrasher family until the death of Margaret Thrasher. People came for miles to use this mill.

William also received a grant for 220 acres on what he called Lick Branch, Lick Branch is believed to be the small stream just east of the old family mill site. According to family tradition, most of this land was east of the branch. In the early days, a branch was a very small stream of water. This second grant was surveyed on August 16, 1834.

William Thrasher Jr.'s second wife was Elizabeth Kennedy. Their children were: Samuel J., born 1809; Rachel, born 1813, died January 17, 1852; and Elizabeth, born 1818.

William Thrasher, Jr.'s third wife was Sally (surname unknown). Their children were: Hardin, born 1826; Mary Ann, born Sept 28, 1828, died July 9, 1908; and Allen, born January 10, 1834, died June 22, 1909.

William Thrasher, Jr.'s second son from his second marriage, Samuel J. Thrasher, received a land grant of 100 acres on Sexton's Fork Creek, surveyed on March 13, 1847, and a second grant of 100 acres on the Cumberland River, surveyed on October 22, 1847. Samuel J. Thrasher married Judith Jones.

Davidson Jones Thrasher, son of Samuel J. and Judith Jones Thrasher, was born on June 11, 1829, and died on August 20, 1909. Davidson Jones Thrasher's first wife was Sarah Cross, born in 1812, died June 24, 1891. Their children were: James S.E., born April 11, 1852, died January 22, 1923; Jackson ("Jack"), born January 10, 1855, died May 10, 1929; George Alvis, born October 26, 1860, died July 29, 1942; Mary A., born 1858, who married Martin McClusky; and William Robert, born February 2, 1864, died August 27, 1900. Dr. William Robert Thrasher attended medical college and set up his practice at Albany Kentucky, but died at an early age.

After Sarah Cross Thrasher's death in June, 1891, Davidson Jones Thrasher married Margaret Vincent on February 22, 1893. There were no children of this second marriage. Margaret Thrasher was the sister of Davidson Jones' daughter-in-law, Nancy Leann Vincent (wife of James S.E. Thrasher).

Davidson Jones Thrasher received the following land grants:

100 acres on Illwill Creek in Clinton County, which was surveyed on February 8, 1847.

100 acres again on Illwill Creek, surveyed March 17, 1852.

23 acres on Fanny's Creek in Clinton County, surveyed April 9, 1875.

100 acres on Illwill Creek, in Cumberland County, surveyed on October 21, 1870.

5 acres in Sexton's Fork Creek in Clinton County, surveyed on October 15, 1880.

The Clinton County line crossed Illwill Creek not far from where Sexton's Fork joined it, and which was very near the family water mill. Thus, Illwill Creek flowed through both Clinton and Cumberland counties. The country near this area was hilly and the soil was poor. The people who lived on the ridges barely existed. The second land grant to William Thrasher, Jr. was mostly east of the branch which included bottom land. There were wide bottoms in Illwill Creek and the bottom land was very fertile. Davidson Jones' land on Illwill Creek was undoubtedly bottom land, as was the land on Fanny's Creek. This was a very small stream with very little bottom land until it neared the Obey River.

Davidson Jones Thrasher built a large house near the mill site, built of poplar and chestnut logs with chimneys at each end and with a covered breezeway dividing the house. The living room, dining room and kitchen were on one side, with a parlor and the upstairs on the other side of the breezeway. It is said that when Davidson Jones Thrasher became old and could not do hard work, he would sit in the breezeway and split wood. He would have some of the family cut poplar and chestnut trees, then cut the logs in lengths to fit the stove. He would then split them into small pieces. He could also make and mend shoes. He did this to pass the time in later life.

Davidson Jones Thrasher practiced medicine and ran the family mill. He served as a sergeant in Company E, 5th Kentucky Volunteer Cavalry in the Civil War, enlisting October 4, 1861 at Burkesville, Kentucky, but was discharged when he contracted measles, then considered a dreaded disease in adults, because of complications which usually ensued, and subsequently apparently contracted tuberculosis, in Columbia, Kentucky on February 20, 1862. This left him with a cough for the rest of his life. Dated October 25, 1866, there is an application for Invalid Pension for Davidson Jones Thrasher, describing his medical condition and service.

Albany, KY was a strongly Union area in Kentucky during the Civil War, and it was common for several men from the same family to volunteer together. James A. Thrasher, the son of Isaac Baker Thrasher, and

first cousin to Davidson Jones Thrasher, joined C Troop, 1st Kentucky Volunteer Cavalry. Allen D. Thrasher, Davidson Jones' younger brother, served as an Assistant Surgeon in the Cumberland Battery State Guards. Thompson D.J. Thrasher and Samuel Thrasher, probably cousins of Davidson Jones Thrasher, enlisted in C Troop, 1st Kentucky Volunteer Cavalry, and as a farrier in G Troop, 6th Kentucky Volunteer Cavalry, respectively.

James S.E. Thrasher married Nancy Leann Vincent, the sister of Margaret Vincent. Nancy was born April 5, 1848 and died April 16, 1937. Their children were: Belle, born September 24, 1867 and died June 13, 1924; Mollie, born February 9, 1874 and died in 1952; Julia, (dates unknown); John Davidson (Charles Royster Thrasher's father) was born on July 7, 1881 and died July 12, 1977; William Burr, born July 13, 1885 and died March 1911 while in the United States Army; and Edna May, born on August 9, 1890 and died on October 10, 1962,

The children of James S.E. Thrasher and their children are as follows:

Belle married Verner Blair, and had four children: Cynthia, Homer, Leah and Sally.

Julia married John Ewing and had one child: Stanley.

Edna May married William Shelley, and had one child: Dorlese.

John Davidson Thrasher married Myrtie Agnes Smith in 1901. Their children were: an infant (unnamed), Charles Royster Thrasher, Lila Thrasher, Imogene Thrasher, and James Denton Thrasher.

Burial Places in Clinton County:

James S.E. Thrasher, Nancy Leann Thrasher, George Rush and Mollie Thrasher Rush, and William Burr Thrasher are buried in the Vincent Graveyard. John Ewing and Julia Thrasher Ewing, and Belle Thrasher Blair are buried at The Rose of Sharon Cemetery. John Davidson Thrasher and Myrtie Agnes Smith Thrasher, and William Shelley and Edna May Thrasher Shelley are buried at The Albany, Kentucky Cemetery (new Plot).

## A little genealogy humor!

The following came from an e-mail group list and seems to be a pretty good summary of everyone's ideal research circumstances. Hope it brings a smile to your faces.

### "I WANT"

I want ancestors with names like Rudimentary Montagnard or Melchizenick von Steubenhoffmannschild or Spetznatz Giafortoni, not William Brown or John Hunter or Mary Abbott.

I want ancestors who could read and write, had their children baptized in recognized houses of worship, went to school, purchased land, left detailed wills (naming a huge extended family as legatees), had their photographs taken once a year — subsequently putting said pictures in elaborate isinglass frames annotated with calligraphic inscriptions, and carved voluble and informative inscriptions on their headstones.

I want relatives who managed to bury their predecessors in established, still-existent (and indexed) cemeteries.

I want family members who wrote memoirs, who enlisted in the military as officers and who served in strategically important (and well documented) skirmishes.

I want relatives who served as councilmen, schoolteachers, county clerks and town historians.

I want relatives who 'religiously' wrote in the family Bible, journaling every little event and detailing the familial relationship of every visitor.

In the case of immigrant progenitors, I want them to have arrived only in those years wherein passenger lists were indexed by the National Archives, and I want them to have applied for citizenship, and to have done so only in those jurisdictions which have since established indices.

I want relatives who were patriotic and clubby, who joined every patrimonial society they could find, who kept diaries, and listed all their addresses, who had paintings made of their houses, and who dated every piece of paper they touched.

I want forebears who were wealthy enough to afford, and to keep for generations, the tribal homestead, and who left all the aforementioned pictures and diaries and journals intact in the library.

But most of all, I want relatives I can FIND!!!

## Thank you's from the editor

One of the basic facts about editing a newsletter is that the person doing it needs a lot of help. So I'd like to take the opportunity to say thank you to some of the people without whom I could not even begin to do it.

First and foremost, Dot Pruett always has suggestions or material for each issue; her guidance and support have been a constant, to say nothing of her vast knowledge of the Thrasher family history.

Then, John E. and Eleanor Thrasher, who take care of the copying and mailing of each issue and who also share their Thrasher research and memorabilia.

And David Sumner, who at the reunion two years ago volunteered to interview various family members and write articles for the newsletter. David's latest is on Dr. Robert Rainer, who is profiled in this issue. These articles take time and effort, and David already has a busy schedule as a journalism professor at Ball State University in Indiana.

Sandy Thrasher Harbison shared the article on early family history by Charles Royster Thrasher published in this issue, and contacted Mr. Thrasher, who kindly gave his permission to reprint it. Sandy was one of my early family e-mail contacts. Her husband is in the military, assigned to the Pentagon, and they currently live in Virginia.

Greg Wickenburg, of course, is a continuing resource with his web page and Thrasher list. I have borrowed shamelessly from him for both information and queries.

And last but not least, Nancy Thrasher Cherry has graciously permitted plagiarism from her MATA newsletter several times, and shared other information as well.

And these are just a few of the people who have helped make the newsletter possible. Thank you to them and to all the others who have helped, as well.

**Help Wanted:** This seemed to be an appropriate place for a reminder that the newsletter is always in need of material. Send your information to: Barbara Eger, 13318 Omega Court, Dade City, FL 33525, or e-mail to <egerb@gte.net>. Pictures and other original material will be returned undamaged after use, I promise.

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# The Thrasher Newsletter

Mentor: Dot Pruett Editor: Barbara Eger Circulation: John E. Thrasher III Volume 17 No. 5 June 1999

Spring was very much in evidence in Micanopy as the group gathered for the 25th annual Thrasher reunion April 23 - 25, and the weather cooperated, with not a drop of rain for the outdoor events.

Dinner at John and Eleanor Thrasher's home on Friday night saw 24 family members gathered for visiting, exchanging news of the past year, and a delicious dinner!

Saturday night was the official reunion dinner and meeting, with 56 in attendance. Once again, everyone present enjoyed an excellent meal, served on the lawn of the old Thrasher Warehouse in Micanopy. Funny how all the Thrashers seem to love to eat!

John E. did a great job serving as emcee for the evening. The family was welcomed to the Warehouse by Bill Crass, president of the Thrasher Warehouse Corp. Then John introduced Jake Glisson, whose talk on early Florida and his memories of growing up as a neighbor of Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings was both humorous and informative, and gave the group a



Top: Welcome sign at the Warehouse.

Right: Emmett Thrasher as he speaks to the group following Saturday's dinner.



picture of what life must have been like for earlier generations of the family.

During the family meeting, Nancy Thrasher Cherry gave a brief report on the Middle Atlantic Thrasher Association and Bill Cherry, having found many old, unlabeled pictures in the Micanopy antique shops, reminded everyone of the importance of labeling family pictures so that your own don't wind up in a similar place two or three generations from now.

Hugh Thrasher talked briefly about the NHL's new team, the Atlanta Thrashers, which will begin play in the next season, and Emmett Thrasher reported on his family research. Emmett told of his great-uncle who founded Selmer, Tenn. -

- saying he had meant to name it after Selma, Ala., but evidently couldn't spell very well. Emmett also said he had mixed feelings when he uncovered five great-uncles who had fought for the Union!

Dot Pruett showed the family a wonderful map she has created of the known Thrasher



Left: After-dinner conversation on Saturday.

Below: Finishing up the weekend with Sunday breakfast at IHOP.



Continued on page 4

## Bits and Pieces

Some Census Data from Texas by way of Greg Wickenburg's Thrasher List on-line:

1860 Census for Hopkins County, Texas:

Thrasher, James, 50, Day Laborer, GA Mary A., 27, TN; Amanda, 9, TX; Franklin, 6, TX; Mary E., 4, TX; Shuggs, William, 60, Day Laborer, VA

Next Door:

Thrasher, V.M., 35, Farmer, AL Mary, 30, TN; Thomas W., 3, TX; Frances M., 5 months, TX; Thomas, 83, Laborer, NC (could be his father); Clifton, Sarah, 14, TX (Mary's sister)

Next Door:

Thrasher, A.P., 38, Farmer, AL Louisa J., 31, NC; Jesse J.H., 10, MS; Malissa A., 4, TX; Narcissus, 3, TX; Joel T., 10 months, TX

In the 1870 Census:

Thrasher, Vineyard, 43 Mary, 39; Thomas, 12; Francis, 9; Elizabeth, 7; Mary, 4; (Also some Cooplin and Clifton living with them.)

Five Houses Down:

Thrasher, Perry (Alfred), 48 Jane (Louisa), 41; James, 20; Narcissa, 13; Joel, 10; Mary, 7; Alfred, 4; Mary, 14

In the 1880 Census:

Thrasher, Alfred, Louisa J., Joel T., Mary J., Alfred P., and Thomas Z., 10 Thrasher, (Illigible, but probably Vineyard), Mary A., Thomas, Frances, Sarah E., (Illigible) Dau., Age ?, and Clifton, Carole N., 35

Thrasher, Jno T., 31, NC Sara, 31, MS; Wm C., 9, MS; Jno W., 6, TX; Julia, C., 3, TX; Emmie, 2, TX Thrasher, Aaron, 16, TX, TN, TN, Errand Boy

In the 1900 Census:

Thrasher, V.W. (Vineyard) Aug 1824, Mary Oct 1830, Marion (Frances) Jan 1860, and Clifton, Sarah, SIL, Apr 1846 Thrasher, John Sept 1859, Louisa J. (mother) Apr 1829, Jesse J.H. (brother) Oct 1849, and Sarah R. (SIL) Jan 1849 Thrasher, Thomas Jun 1856, Johnnie A. (wife) Sept 1859, Junell, James W. (step-son), Pearl (step-dau.), Sallie (step-dau.)

Thrashers listed in the 1910 Census

Index:

Fannie, Ferry P., Florence, Joel T., Jonnie, Laura, Lueza J., Luke, Prue E., Sallie, Susan, Tom, and Virgia V.

Thrashers listed in the Tapp Funeral

Home Book:

Ada and Laura

Thrashers listed in the Death Index,

1903-1950:

Marion-70, Mar 22, 1930 Mrs. Jennie-67, Jan 26, 1943 Mrs. Laura-81, Jan 25, 1947 Thrashers listed in the Hopkins Co. Marriage Book, 1846-1890:

Grooms:

Aaron to Sarah J. Crabtree on Nov 8, 1890 James F. to Elizabeth Gideon on Oct 24, 1860 Jas. to Sarah Cottedge on Jul 24, 1870 T.W. to Sallie Vaden on Dec 16, 1885 Vineyard to Mary A. Clifton on May 11, 1856

Brides:

Bettie to Dallas Clayton on Dec 1, 1886 Mary E. to W.T. Formby on Feb 20, 1879 Mary Jane to W.A. Stone on Dec 14, 1882 Narcissia to Jas. P. Parris on Jan 6, 1876

### Editor's Corner



This actually is the editor looking reasonably cheerful (for a grouch), since there have been all kinds of nice people out there recently, and thus a lot of interesting things for the newsletter. Now it's your turn! Take a look at the "Help Wanted" box on another page of the newsletter and think about what you could share with the rest of the family and send

it in. If you have access to e-mail and want to send an item (or items -- the more the merrier) for the newsletter, you can save time and postage by just sending it off to: <egerb@gte.net>.

And a heartfelt thank you to all of the "cousins" whose suggestions, published information, pictures, etc., make it possible for me to put these newsletters together. There are so many of you that I don't have space to list you all, but know that I couldn't do it without you!

# Bits and Pieces

## Another Branch Heard From!

Dot Pruett has been corresponding with Fayra Thrasher Ray about Fayra's Thrasher ancestors, the Marion Johnson Thrasher line.

We were very kindly put in touch with Fayra by her cousin, Dr. B. H. Thrasher, who is a faculty member at LeTourneau University in Texas. Fayra's mother was one of those who submitted the information on the Marion Johnson Thrasher line for Dot's book.

The following is excerpted from an e-mail message Dot received from Fayra, which refers to the Thrasher line beginning on page 522 in Our Thrasher Heritage.

"Recently, Fayra Bonner Thrasher, who submitted parts of our family for your printing, purchased a book at my suggestion. She, Stanley, his mother, Mrs. M. L., and I have added much but have not proven ancestors prior to Marion Johnson Thrasher.

I have several leads pointing toward Marion Johnson Thrasher's father being James Thrasher. James Thrasher was listed in the 1800 census of Pendleton District, South Carolina; 1810 J. Thrasher was listed in Franklin County Tennessee; James Thrasher 1820 and 1830 St. Clair County, Alabama; James Thrasher 1840 Dekalb County, Alabama, between 60 and 70, also one white male between 20 and 30 (Marion Johnson Thrasher was born 1817); 1850 Marshall County Census lists James Thrasher with Lucinda age 40 in household; 1860 Marshall County Alabama census James Thrasher, 82, (last appearance) in the household of George W. Thrasher (born 1804), his son. George Washington and Marion Johnson are the only children we have proven.

James & Martha Thrasher received a letter of dismissal from Mud Creek Baptist Church 1814-1829 Jackson County, Alabama. Also, older cousins have passed through family lore that our family came from South Carolina and James, who they called Jimmy, was Marion Johnson Thrasher's father."

If you have information on possible connections, Fayra can be contacted via e-mail at <fayra@worldnet.att.net>

## A Barton Seeker on the Web

Here is another query picked up by Hope Pees and forwarded to Dot Pruett. This is on the Barton line, and is an example of how far the lines spread across the country.

"I am the grandson of Lon Barton (b. 1907 TX, d. 1938 OK). He was the son of Richard Conway Barton, who married Bertie B. Morris. I have no birth or death dates for either. He was the son of John Harold Barton and Julia Bass. John was born in 1840 and died in 1887 and lived on the family plantation in Milam/Robertson counties (along the Brazos River). His father was Conway Oldham Barton who died at the plantation in 1868 and was born in 1805.

We do not know who his father or mother was, but he was named for his grandmother's family. She was Ruth Oldham Barton (1734 VA to 1807), wife of David Barton, who was born in 1730 in VA and died on an expedition with Daniel Boone in Kentucky in 1772. Ruth was the daughter of John Oldham and Ann Conway.

Can anyone help me connect the line with the missing generations? All this information comes from family history written out by Conway Oldham Barton II, who was John Harold Barton's brother.

Thanks for any help."

The message came from Rich Reed <rreed@texas.net>.

**Help Wanted:** Stories of, or queries on, family history or memories of the past; pictures are always of interest (I promise they will be returned); information on current family events is especially welcome -- send anything you think might be of interest to: Barbara Eger, 13318 Omega Court, Dade City, FL 33525, or send an e-mail to <egerb@gte.net>.

As always, it would be wonderful to get some items about what the younger generations are doing -- some of you out there must be graduating from high school or college, embarking on new careers, getting engaged or married, having babies -- let us know what is new in your lives!

## April Reunion

Continued from page 1

migration paths, and talked about her latest book, which is about her Sturgis family. One of the important things that Dot reminded everyone of was that while it is important to preserve knowledge of family relationships, it also is important to pass on what previous generations did in their everyday lives and what interested them. Dot also reminded everyone that a cookbook is still a possible project, but she has only received a few recipes.

Quite a few wound up the weekend with Sunday breakfast at IHOP, and at least two groups then took the tour of the Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings State Historic Site to cap off a great reunion!



*The first Thrasher reunion group in front of the Rawlings home as they started the tour.*

*In front of the barn after the tour, the first group is checking to see who might be waiting to tour next. This was an informative, enjoyable experience. Seeing the house, outbuildings and grounds was a memorable glimpse into the past.*

## News and Notes

### Georgia Site May Be Year 2000 Thrasher Reunion Site

Next year will bring our "Millenium Reunion," and it was suggested that Calloway Gardens near Columbus, Georgia might be a good site. Dot Pruett volunteered to make some initial inquiries as to date availability, cost, etc., and if it seems practical after her inquiries, volunteers will be needed to make final arrangements. Start thinking now about any suggestions or assistance you might be able to give.

### Internet Bits and Pieces to Check

Hope Pees has sent in the address of an Internet site where there Barton/Hughey genealogical information can be sought. If you are on-line and want to check it out, go to: <[www.onelist.com](http://www.onelist.com)>, click on the Family category, then use genealogy or Hughey as your search category. It is necessary to register to get on the list, but you can check out what it is like without registering. Hope also said if anyone would like to get in touch with her, her address is <[jouett@axs4u.net](mailto:jouett@axs4u.net)>.

The Mormon Church's Family History Library just recently opened a website. The amount of information available right now

is limited, but more will be added as work on the site continues. A good gauge of its popularity is a news item in the Tampa Tribune recently saying that the first day the site was open there were 30 million hits! The address is <[www.familysearch.org](http://www.familysearch.org)>. You can search the Ancestral File, which allows people to type in a name and see if it links to family trees entered by fellow researchers, and it also provides access to the church's International Genealogical Index (IGI). As you may already know, the IGI is a huge database of marriage, death and birth records available on CD-ROM at Family History Centers. Being able to access it on-line will be much easier and faster.

### And Most Important of All!

A huge **THANK YOU** to John and Eleanor Thrasher for a wonderful reunion. Everyone knows what a huge undertaking this was, and they provided a truly memorable weekend.

On behalf of everyone thanks for opening your home on Friday night, for providing a truly historical setting and an interesting program for Saturday night and for all of the other things there isn't space to list!

# In Memorium

## Stanley Bishop, Valdosta, Georgia

Stanley Bishop, 78, died at his Valdosta residence on Sunday, April 4.

The son of the late Cloud Hampton Bishop and Mattie Florence Green Bishop, he was born in Ashburn on Dec. 28, 1920. He was a U.S. Navy veteran of World War II.

Formerly of Decatur, Mr. Bishop came to Valdosta and founded Stan Bishop Cleaners in 1954. He was active in many community organizations, including the Valdosta Rotary Club, where he was a past president, and the Valdosta Boys Club, where he served on the board of directors and coached the Boys Club baseball teams. He was member of First United Methodist Church, where he was a member and past president of the Christian Homebuilders Sunday School Class.

Survivors include his wife, Jeanne Howard Bishop, daughter and son-in-law Sandy and Robert Hastings, son and daughter-in-law Steve and Karen Bishop; daughter Molly Porter, all of Valdosta; eight grandchildren and one great-grandchild; and two brothers, Eustace Bishop of Dothan and Arthur Bishop of Atlanta. He was preceded in death by three brothers -- C.H. Bishop, Eddie Bishop and Lanier Bishop.

Services were held at Sunset Hill Cemetery with Dr. Wayne Moseley officiating.

## Lanier J. Bishop, Dothan, Ala.

Lanier Jefferson Bishop, Sr., 85 died Thursday, April 1, at Flowers Hospital after a brief illness. Mr. Bishop was born March 27, 1914, in Ashburn, Ga., the son of Cloud Hampton and Mattie Florence Green Bishop.

He worked for Eastern Airlines during World War II as a troop transport coordinator. In the early 1950s he and Eustace Bishop of Dothan founded Bishop Laundry and Cleaners in Albany, Ga., where he remained until his retirement, when he moved to Dothan.

Mr. Bishop was a member of First Baptist Church and a former Rotarian. An accomplished pianist, for many years he served as pianist for Campus Farthest Out and Bible conferences throughout the Southeastern United States, in addition to playing weekly at the First Baptist Church.

He is survived by his wife, Kathryn McCullough Bishop, Dothan; his children: Patricia Ann Savelle, Albany, Ga.; Jeff and Marilyn Bishop, Dothan; Nancy and Gene Ponder, Ball Ground, Ga.; Fred and Penny Elder, Burnesville, N.C.; and Barbara Wade, Chipley, Fla.; twelve grandchildren and fifteen great-grandchildren; and three brothers and sisters-in-law.

Services were held at the First Baptist Church with Dr. Philip Wise and Rev. Bob Gross officiating. Burial was at Memory Hill Cemetery.

## C. H. Hoffman, Largo, Florida

C. H. Hoffman, 75, of Largo and formerly of Dade City, died Sunday, May 23, at Largo Medical Center.

A native of South Jacksonville, Fla., he was born Nov. 3, 1923, and had been a resident of Dade City for 32 years.

A World War II veteran of the U.S. Navy, he worked as a mechanic for the Pasco County School Board from 1961 to 1979. He was a member of First Baptist Church in Dade City, where he sang in the choir and also served as custodian for 10 years.

He is survived by his wife, Ruth Hoffman of Largo/Dade City; his son, Gary Hoffman of Mt. Upton, N.Y.; his daughter, Debbie Winters of Leesburg, Fla.; his step-son, David Sumner of Anderson, Ind.; his step-daughters, Frankie (Sumner) Goldsby of Belleaire Bluffs, Fla., and Joann (Sumner) Bandy of Rockville, Md.; his sister, Agnes Lamb of Dade City; two nieces; three grand-nieces; six grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were held May 27 at the Coleman and Ferguson Chapel in Dade City with the Rev. Brad Stevens officiating. Burial was at the Florida National Cemetery.

On behalf of the association, our sympathy to the families in their losses. The thoughts and prayers of everyone are with you.

## UPDATE ON ELI THRASHER

It's wonderful to have new light thrown on old information – to have it corrected and updated. Such is the case here. Those of us who perhaps began our Thrasher research with Dr. Marion Thrasher's "A History of the Thrasher Family", printed in San Francisco, California in 1895, realize the value of authenticating research as Dr. Thrasher did not – he took whatever information was sent to him and included it in his book. We have been blessed to have his work as a starting point. I mean just that ! A starting point !

I have up to this point call attention to the wonderful research that Nancy Thrasher Cherry has done with "her" organization, "The Mid Atlantic Thrasher Association (Mata Data)". She has spearheaded work to research the Thrasher families, especially the family of Thomas Thrasher (1725- 1804), and his wife Martha Lee (1729- 1806) – Nancy's own ancestors. Thomas and Martha Lee Thrasher were the beginning of Dr. Thrasher's work.

In the July 1997 issue of Mata Data (vol. 4, #3) Nancy printed the research of Frances Dittmann (July 1996) showing that a Benjamin Thrasher and his wife Mary (maiden name unknown) were the parents of Thomas Thrasher, whom I have just mentioned. She moved us back one generation ! At the same time her research moved forward to list the children of Thomas and Martha Thrasher: Benjamin , Mary, John, Elias, Henrietta (listed by Dr. Thrasher ) AND Ruth, Keziah and Eli.

For years, everyone seemed to assume that Elias and Eli were the same child ! Dr. Thrasher attributed (that has been proved) at least one of Eli's children to Elias, that being William Franklin Thrasher (b. July 16, 1808). He also listed Elias' wife as Henrietta Lamar, who was actually Eli's wife, and his wife being her sister, Sarah Lamar.

Twenty years ago, Dorothy Hodges Thrawley and I corresponded (at length) and finally met one evening in Houston concerning our Thrasher and Johnson families. She is a descendant from Eli Thrasher and Henrietta Lamar Thrasher. Recently, after being out of touch for about fifteen years, I searched for her on the internet and located her ! We have resumed our mutual family interests and the information from her ancestor Eli's time to the present is from her research and records.

The " Will of Thomas Thrasher " filed in Frederick Co. Maryland June 12, 1804 and probated 5 Nov. 1804 in which Eli is listed as one of his children, gives Eli property jointly with his brother Elias . He is appointed with his brother Elias as executors of the will. (This will was published in the Oct. 1984 "Thrasher Newsletter").

In a letter to the County Clerk, Frederick Co. Md. from Dorothy Thrawley, dated Sept. 9, 1963 in which she says, "From some authentic records among genealogy material, I have found the two following marriage records listed in your county:

Elias Thrasher married Sarah Lamar 30 Oct. 1788

Eli Thrasher married Hennarritta Lamar 26 Oct 1791 "

The CountyClerk responded by saying, "We found the above marriages. In the earliest records the only information given is the names of both parties and the date the license was issued". Signed Ellis L. Nachter, Clerk

Eli Thrasher (Sr.) b. 18 May 1771 in Frederick Co. Maryland. Died 1 Feb 1856 near Lewisport , Hancock, Ky. He is buried in the Thrasher cemetery on the Pate Farm near Lewisport. He was married 26 Oct. 1791 in Frederick Co. Md. to Hennaritta Lamar, born 14 Feb. 1769 and died 8 May 1821, daughter of Colonel William Bishop Lamar and Elizabeth (Smith) Lamar of Maryland. She is also buried in the Thrasher Cemetery on the Pate Farm Hancock Co. Ky.

The Thrasher Bible (see references) lists four children from this union:

1. Matilda Thrasher b. 27 May 1792 ( married a. Mr. Sheldon)
2. Thomas Thrasher b. 19. Sept 1798 (married Lucricia Blandford)
3. Eli Thrasher ( Jr.) b. 21 Oct 1802, died 16 May 1841 )
4. William Franklin Thrasher b. 16 July 1808

Dr. Marion Thrasher's history lists five other children in his compilation , but they are not are listed in the Thrasher Bible.

John Lewis of the Lewis and May Land Company was from Loudoun Co. Va. He purchased Kentucky lands in 1809. He then probably came back to Northern Virginia – Potomac area – and Maryland or at least advertised the land for sale there and sold it to friends and neighbors that included a sale to Eli Thrasher in 1811 of a tract of land located between Lewisport and Hawesville . At that time it was located in Breckenridge Co., but after 1829, when Hancock Co. was created it was located there. Lewis also sold land to Eli's father- in-law, Colonel William Bishop Lamar of Frederick Co. Md.

Eli's parents, Thomas and Martha Lee Thrasher died in 1804 and 1806 respectively at their Maryland plantation , "The Benjamin". Eli and his family and his brother John and his family then immigrated to Kentucky shortly after their mother's death.

The youngest child of Eli and Hennaritta Lamar Thrasher was William Franklin Thrasher who was born 16 July 1808. He was possibly born in Frederick Co. Md. or Loudoun Co. Va., but the family left those areas after his grandmother's death in 1806 and could have been in Breckenridge Co. Ky, by the time of his birth. William died 20 June 1855 near Lewisport, Ky. He was married on 26 Feb. 1846 ( in probably Perry Co.

Indiana) to Michal McDaniel of Troy, Indiana, daughter of Stephen McDaniel and his wife, Elizabeth Williams McDaniel. Michal was born 6 January 1826 in Perry Co. Indiana and died 11 Dec. 1912. She is buried in Sand Hill Graveyard east of Lewisport, Ky. beside her twin sister Merab. Michal was married, 2nd, to William Queary Johnson.

The children of William Franklin Thrasher and Michal McDaniel Thrasher were :

1. Eli F. Thrasher, b. 9 Jan. 1847, Hancock Co. Ky. Married on 12 Oct. 1869, Alice Taylor.
2. Stephen F. Thrasher b. 23 Sept. 1848 in Hancock Co. Ky. Died 19 Sept. 1935 in Lewisport, Hancock Co. Ky. Married Carrie E. Johnson (sister of Eurith Catherine "Lulu" Johnson) on 15 Jan. 1874. She was born in 1854 in Hancock Co. Ky.

Stephen and Carrie Thrasher had five known children :

- A. Beryl V. Thrasher b. 8 April 1875. She married Sid Johnson.
- B. Grace D. Thrasher b. 8 Dec. 1876. She married Lee Henderson.
- C. May M. Thrasher b. Oct. 1878. She married Harry Greathouse.
- D. Maud Thrasher b. 9 March 1882. She married Walter Toler.
- E. Cecil Thrasher b. Sept. 1885. He married Margaret Marsch.

- William  
Thrasher  
p. 9*
3. William Franklin Thrasher (Jr.) b. 30 Oct. 1850 in Hancock Co. Ky. d. 21 May 1936 and is buried in the Lewisport Cemetery, Hancock Co. Ky. He married Sarah F. Lewis on 9 Sept. 1879.
  4. John Fletcher Thrasher b. 30 Jan. 1853 in Hancock Co. Ky. Died 20 June 1933 in Hancock Co. Ky. Buried in St. Columba Catholic Cemetery, near Lewisport, Hancock Co. Ky. He married Eurith Catherine "Lulu" Johnson on 21 April 1881 in Henderson Co. Ky. She was born 24 April 1857 in Hancock Co. Kentucky, but later moved to Dunbarton, Henderson Co. Ky. She was the daughter of Michael Hilary Johnson of St. Mary's Co. Md. and Mary Caroline Jones Johnson (daughter of Brian Johnson who was not a relative). She died 4 Feb. 1910 and is also buried in St. Columba Catholic Cemetery, near Lewisport, Hancock Co. Ky.

John Fletcher Thrasher and Eurith C. Johnson had four children:

- A. Mary Fletcher "Fletch" Ethel Thrasher who was born 19 April 1882 in Lewisport, Hancock Co. Ky. She died 28 April 1956. She was married on 25 Jan. 1916 to Frederick Lewis Hodges in Hawesville, Hancock Co. Ky. who was born 3 April 1882 in Hancock Co. Ky. He died on 19 May



1956 in Hancock Co. Ky. Frederick and "Fletch" are both buried in the Lewisport Cemetery, Hancock Co. Ky.

Fletch Thrasher Hodges and Frederick Lewis Hodges had three children:

I . Mary Fletcher Hodges , b.20 June 1917 in Hancock Co. Ky. She died 24 Feb. 1984 in Shelbyville, Shelby Co. Ky. and is buried in the Lewisport Cemetery, Hancock Co. Ky. She married Roy E. Barlow on 28 Aug. 1938 in Owensboro, Daviess Co. Ky. Mary Fletcher and Roy had two children: Sarah Ann, born 7 July 1939 and Charles Edward, born 17 Jan. 1944.

II . Dorothy Anne Hodges, b. 12 March 1919 in Hancock Co. Ky. She was married on 21 December 1945, in Louisville, Jefferson Co. Ky. to Eugene " Gene " Keith Thrawley. Gene was born on 8 Oct. 1922 at Pointsville, Johnson Co. Ky. and died on 10 Jan. 1948 in Letcher Co. Ky. He is buried in the Rosehill Cemetery, Daviess Co. Ky.

III. John Lewis Hodges, b. 1 June 1923 in Hancock Co. Ky. Died 24 March 1974 in St, Louis Co. St. Louis, Mo. Married Victoria Giacoletti on 24 Nov. 1951 in Houghton Co. Michigan. John Lewis and Victoria had four children: Kenneth Lewis, born 14 Nov. 1952; Michele Marie, born 15 Nov. 1956; Nancy Katheryn, born 31 May 1958; and Meredith Ann, born 22 Oct. 1959.

B. Michael Franklin "Mila" Thrasher, b. 12 May 1884 in Hancock Co. Ky. Died in July 1982 at a daughter's home in either Ohio or Indiana. Married Marie Pettit who was born in Daviess Co. Ky. They are both buried in St. Columba Catholic Cemetery, Hancock Co. Ky. There were two children from this marriage : A. Julia Thrasher (unmarried) and Katherine Thrasher, b. 19 Jan. 1919. She married George Bennett.

C. Stephen T. Thrasher, b. 23 Aug. 1886 in Hancock Co. Ky. Died 29 Nov. 1902. He was killed by an accidental gun shot when climbing over a fence while hunting. He is buried in St. Columba Catholic Cemetery, Hancock Co. Ky.

D. John Reaugh Thrasher, b. 4 Sept 1892 in Hancock Co. Ky. Died 24 April 1969 and is buried in St. Columba Catholic Cemetery, Lewisport, Hancock Co. Ky.

5. Merab (I or J) Thrasher, b. 13 March 1855 in Hancock Co. KY. ( was three months old when her father died) . Died 23 June 1930 in (probably) Hancock Co. Ky. Married E. O. Miller on 29 May 1878.

For more information about the children of William Franklin and Michal McDaniel Thrasher, see Dr. Marion Thrasher's "A History of the Thrasher Family" p. 31-32. Many details in this paper are from Dr. Thrasher's information, but this information comes from the following references and was collected by Dorothy Hodges Thrawley who is at present retired and living in N. C. John E. Thrasher III prepared the present compilation . May 1999

#### References:

1. Inscriptions from the Thrasher Cemetery located on the old Samuel Pate Farm now owned by Eli Gregory near Lewisport, Hancock Co. Ky.
2. " Daybreak On Old Fortification Creek - A History of John Lewis His Family and Descendants " - by Glenn Hodges.
3. Letter and reply to County Clerk, Frederick Co. Md. ( marriage of Eli and Henrietta Lamar).
4. Will of Thomas Thrasher, Frederick Co. Md. March 23 , 1799 and probated 5 Nov. 1804
5. The Brian Johnson Family Bible
6. The Thrasher Bible belonging to John Fletcher Thrasher and his family
7. The Thrasher Bible belonging to Michal McDaniel and Willaim F. Thrasher
8. Hancock Cemeteries ( published by researcher Grant, p.3)
9. Hancock Cemeteries Vol . I, 1974 (West Central Ky. Family Research Assoc.)
10. Hancock Co. Ky Census: 1850 and 1880

Note: Records from the Bibles, formerly in the possession of Dorothy Hodges Thrawley, were published in "The Genealogical Record", quarterly of the Houston Genealogical Forum, Houston, Texas. Vol. 22, #2, June 1980.

#### LATE-BREAKING NEWS from the Editor

If this newsletter seems unfinished, or if there are any errors, I have experienced a complete meltdown of my system. I'm writing this through the kindness of a repair facility where my computer will be for the next week or so. It will get pasted at the bottom of the last page of the information on Elias Thrasher, so I hope you see it.

Fortunately, I didn't lose any documents, but can only access the copies I had backed up on disk, so "what you see is what you get." My apologies for any goofups!

There was a great deal that I planned to include that will have to wait until the next issue, so if you were expecting something to be in this one, it should show up next time, barring disaster! Please be kind and understanding -- this new world of computers is really wonderful, but when they crash it's miserable and there is frequently not a simple fix. If you are one of my e-mail buddies, it will be a while before I can read any messages you may have sent, although they will be waiting for me when my Mac is healed.

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