

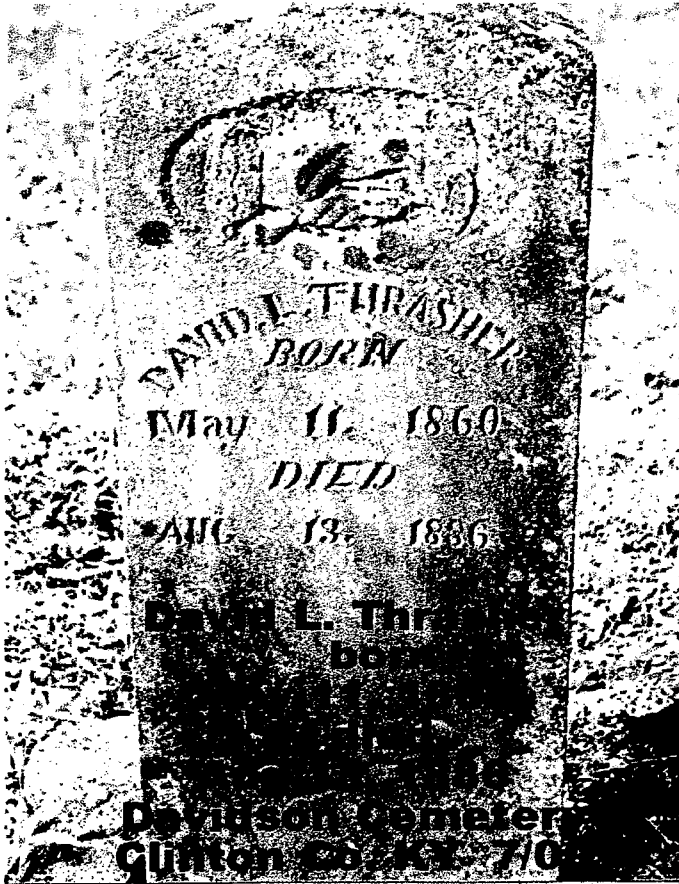
The Thrasher Newsletter

Mentor: Dot Pruett Editor: Barbara Eger Circulation: John E. Thrasher III Volume 20 No. 1 October 2001

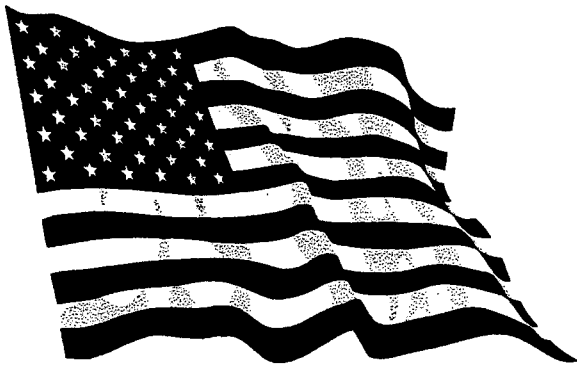
More from Dale Thrasher:

Here are Dale's pictures of David L. and Martha A. (Davidson) Thrasher's graves, both of which are in the Davidson Cemetery, Clinton County, KY. The final pages of his research on that family (generations five through seven) are included in this issue as well.

Research by family members is one of the best ways to find our various links, and the newsletter is possibly the easiest method to share your information. If you have something that would be of interest, let one of us know. Remember to include documentation of sources with anything you submit. Copies of the newsletters are sent to the Georgia State Archives in Atlanta, and thus are available for others looking for Thrasher connections.



God Bless America



Our flag -- long may it wave!! God bless our country and its people, especially our military men and women who are placed in the path of danger fighting the scourge of terrorism.

With heartfelt wishes for the safety of our country and thoughts and prayers for all those touched by the sad events of September 11, 2001.

In Memorium

Dr. Robert Andrew Rainer, Jr.

Sadly, the family has lost another of its long-time members. Dr. Robert Rainer, Jr., one of the association's founders, passed away Friday, Oct. 12, at the age of 78.

A native of McDonough, Ga., he was the son of the late Dr. Robert Andrew Rainer, Sr., and Vessie Thrasher Rainer.

A 1941 graduate of McDonough High School, Robert Rainer attended Emory University at Oxford and Emory University of Atlanta, where he received his D.D.S. degree from Emory University School of Dentistry in 1947.

A member of the U.S. Army Reserve while at Emory, he entered active service as a first lieutenant in 1951. He served with the U.S. Army Dental Corps, stationed at Fort Benning, Ga., and was honorably discharged as a captain in the U. S. Army Reserve in 1953.

During his career, Robert Rainer was appointed a part-time instructor in the Emory University Dental School. He

received a Fellowship Award from the Academy of General Dentistry in 1967, and was elected president of the Board of Dental Examiners of Georgia in 1968. He served his community as a member of the McDonough City Council and of McDonough Baptist Church. He retired from dentistry in April 1992.

Survivors include his wife, Jane Brewster Rainer; sons Andy Rainer of Jonesboro, Ray, Fred and Joe Rainer, all of McDonough; grandchildren Clark, Robbie, Michael, Jane Marie and Joey Rainer, Donnie L. Foster, Donald and Mary Beth Cleveland, Barry Wingler and Melissa Treu; and great-grandson Sam Rainer.

Funeral services were held Sunday, Oct. 14, from the graveside in McDonough City Cemetery with Dr. C. R. Hill, Jr., officiating. Cannon-Cleveland Funeral Directors of McDonough were in charge of arrangements.

News and Notes

Frankie and Richard Goldsby had a busy summer. After making a two-month motor home trip to Nova Scotia in June and July, they helped move Frankie's mother into a condo unit in their building while moving into a new unit themselves. Time to relax now, you two???

Bill and Velma Thrasher sent a message that they would be leaving Sept. 10 for a 10-day trip to Puerto Rico. Hope that they didn't get stranded there by the grounding of air travel and that they returned safely.

Dot Pruett has sold her house and moved into a condominium (new address

noted in Directory Changes). Dot says she is happy not to have the yard work, etc., involved with a house and is really pleased with her new home.

David Sumner was promoted to full professor at Ball State University in the spring and also has been having quite a bit of success having free-lance articles accepted for publication. One of these, from the Anderson (IN) *Herald-Bulletin*, is included in this newsletter. David, of course, is the author of the articles on Thrasher Association members for our newsletter.

More News and Notes

Check this for research help!

The National Archives and Records Administration's Southeast Regional Office in Atlanta has 80,000 cubic feet of records which are open to anyone! Documents pertaining to Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina and Tennessee are stored here. The mix contains material ranging from files from the Centers for Disease Control and federal court cases to applications from former Confederate soldiers for presidential pardons and naturalization records, filed in federal court from 1790 to 1892 (the bulk of these, however, are from 1910 to 1940).

You can check to see what might be of interest to you through an on-line index which has a partial list of the research information available at <www.nara.gov/regional/findaids/atlafind.html>. Particularly interesting was a link to family history resources. The site also has links to other regional offices. And -- National Archives microfilms can be borrowed through their rental program or inter-library loan. For complete information check <<http://merrimack.nara.gov/publications/microfilm/micrent.html>>

Directory Changes

The following are additions or changes to your membership directories -- please make a note of them.

Linda T. Burkhalter
4800 Westlake Dr.
Conyers, GA 30094
<lindaburkhalter@juno.com>

Lynda Fitch
34 Galloway Dr.
Morganton, GA 30560
(706) 633-7794
<lgfitch@lycos.com>

Barbara Thrasher Hill
4818 Oak Acres Dr.
Lake Wales, FL 33853-8844
<echlwfl@juno.com>

Sue W. Holden
2026 N.W. 26th St.
Gainesville, FL 32605-3858

Dorothy Pruett
4000 Fieldcrest Dr., #A-308
Montgomery, AL 36111
(334) 281-4412

David L. Thrasher
300 Hickory St., S.E.
Hartselle, AL 35640
<thrasherlines@aol.com>

Donald S. Thrasher
913 Arrowood Dr.
Warner Robins, GA 31088
<Dthrash67854@cs.com>

E. B. Thrasher
261 Calumet Place
Trussville, AL 35173

New unit no. only:
Frankie & Richard Goldsby
100 Bluffview Dr., Apt. 404C
Belleair Bluffs, FL 33770

New e-mail only:
Max and Marie Senn
<MSenn1@hotmail.com>

David Sumner
<dsumner@bsu.edu>

Al and Peggy Thrasher
<althrasher@ycn1.com>

Pinellas Co. Marriages Online

Some of the old records for Pinellas County (Fla.) are available online. The following two Thrasher marriages are listed. Does anyone know who they are or how they may be connected???

W. C. Thrasher to Damares P. Platt by L. G. Simmons, M. Gospel, 16 Feb. 1882
Annie Thrasher and Eli J. Verbeck by Robt. Thomas, J.P., 28 June 1893

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Growing up during the Seminole Indians Wars

BY DAVID E. SUMNER

Ron Wilkins' recent column in response to Martha Hall's comment that the Indians were "peaceful, loving people" prompted these observations.

I grew up in Pasco County, Fla., where clashes between the Seminole Indians and the early settlers were frequent. My grandfather, D.E. Sumner, contributed an essay to a 1927 book, "A History of Pasco County." He writes about Jesse Sumner, my great-great-grandfather, who came to that part of Florida (just north of Tampa) in the 1830s.

He writes, "The Indians of those days did not make any great effort to kill the adults of a family, especially the men. They preferred to capture and kill his children, as the Indian seemed to realize that such persecution was more effective than killing the man."

He tells the story about Jesse Sumner, who sent out a boy on a horse to take some rope to a neighbor 10 miles away. When the boy never arrived, neighbors went on a search. They found the horse with the boy's suspenders plotted into the horse's

mane, "which was a message from the Indians to my grandfather that they had his boy." They had scalped and murdered the boy.

He goes on to write, "In the meantime there were many tragedies committed by the Indians in (now) Pasco County, one of which was the murdering of the two Bradley children near Darby."

"Dade's Last Command" by Frank Lauer (University Press of Florida, 1995) is a fascinating, yet gruesome account of the December 1835 massacre of General Francis Dade and his entire column of 108 men. The West Point general was marching his Army unit on a 100-mile trip from Port Tampa to Ft. King (now Ocala) when Chief Osceola's men started firing in a surprise attack. After they had killed the first 68 soldiers, they returned a few hours later to finish off the remaining 40 wounded survivors. This battle, commemorated at the Dade Battlefield Historic Park about 50 miles north of Tampa, marked the beginning of the Second

Seminole War from 1835-1837. Both Dade County and Dade City, the Pasco County seat, are named after General Dade.

Such heinous cruelties are, of course, no worse than those inflicted upon the Indians by white Americans, by Nazi Germans upon Jews, by slave owners upon African Americans or in countless other atrocities throughout history.

No nationality, racial or ethnic group is inherently more or less moral. The only logical explanation of such behavior to me is the Christian doctrine of original sin. The apostle Paul got it right about 58 A.D. when he wrote, "For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God" (ROM. 3:23-NAS) and John, who wrote, "If we say we have no sin, we are deceiving ourselves and the truth is not in us." (1 John 1:9).

Fortunately, the central Christian message is a transforming one offering forgiveness and hope.

David E. Sumner is an Anderson resident and a professor of Journalism at Ball State University.

From the Anderson (Indiana) Herald-Bulletin
Sept. 9, 2001

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John Thrasher and Ellen Terry Involved in Railroad Building?

"Cousin John" Thrasher evidently continued to be involved with railroads after his move to Dade City. The May 2001 newsletter had the power of attorney granted by Ellen Thrasher Terry to her father, John J. Thrasher. This conveyance of right of way was executed just one week after that power of attorney. The conveyance shows Ellen as a resident of Fulton County Georgia at the time. Did she come to Florida with her parents and file for or purchase land, then move to Georgia, or did her parents acquire the land in her name? Our forebears certainly engaged in a variety of land transactions!!

Ellen B. Terry

to Conveyance of Right of Way
Fla. Ry. & Nav. Co.

This indenture, made and entered into this October 16th day of A.D. Eighteen hundred and eighty six, between Ellen B. Terry (widow) of Fulton County of the State of Georgia by her attorney-in-fact John J. Thrasher of the County of Hernando and State of Florida, party of the first part, and the Florida Railway and Navigation Company, a body corporate under the laws of the State of Florida, of the second part. Witnesseth that the said party of the first part for and in consideration of the advantages derived by her through the construction of the FR&N Co.'s railroad and the sum of five dollars lawful money of the United States to her in hand paid, the receipt whereof is hereby acknowledged, has given, granted, bargained, sold, aliened and conveyed and by these presents does give, grant, bargain, sell, alien and convey unto the said party of the second part its successors and assigns forever the right of way for the construction of the line of the Florida Railway and Navigation Company through the following described lands situated, lying and being in the County of Hernando and State of Florida that is: The south west quarter of northwest quarter of the north east quarter of Section Twenty-seven, Township Twenty four South of Range Twenty one west and commencing at south west corner of the north west quarter of the north east quarter of Section Sixteen (16) Township Twenty five (25) Range Twenty one (21) west running one hundred and ten (110) yards north, Thence east four hundred and forty yards (440) to the section line, Thence South one hundred and ten yards (110) yds. to the south east corner of said section Thence west four hundred and forty yards (440) yds. to place of beginning. Half interest in the SW 1/4 of the NE 1/4 of Section (21) Twenty one Township (25) Twenty five South of Range (21) Twenty one east, said right of way to be road wide measured each side of and at right angles to the line of said railroad now located on or about to be located as the center line of the main track of said Florida Railway and Navigation Company together with all and singular the heriditaments and appurtenances thereunto belonging or in anywise appertaining and all the estate, right, title, interest, possession or claim whatsoever of the said party of the first part of in and to the said land herein conveyed, To have and to hold the above granted premises together with the appurtenances and every part thereof unto the said party of the second part, its successors and assigns forever. In Witness Whereof the said party of the first part has hereunto set her {hand} and seal the day and year above written.

Signed, sealed and delivered in presence of
M. G. Rowe David O. Thrasher

Ellen B. Terry By
John J. Thrasher, Atty. in fact

State of Florida
Thrasher

On this day personally appeared before me John J.

County of Hernando to me well known as the person described in and who executed the foregoing deed of conveyance and acknowledged that he executed the same for the purpose therein expressed. Whereupon it is prayed that the same may be recorded. In Witness Whereof I have hereunto affixed my hand and seal this 16th day of October 1886.

David O. Thrasher

Recorded by me Dec. 8th 1886

Jno. C. Law Clerk By W. E. Law D. C.

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Ancestors of David L. Thrasher

Generation No. 5

16. **William William Thrasher** (Source: *Land Survey*, Burke Co. NC Jul 1782.), born Abt. 1745 in England?; died Abt. 1796 in Burke Co. NC??. He married 17. Sarah ???.

17. **Sarah ???** (Source: *Census*, Burke Co. NC 1790.), born Abt. 1747 in England?; died Abt. 1805 in Burke Co. NC??.

Notes for William William Thrasher:

Land Survey Burke Co. NC 20 Jul 1782. 100 acres on E. side of Lower Creek.

Land Survey Burke Co. NC Entered 20 Jul 1786 Grant nr 1243 for 100 acres, Issued 22 Aug 1795.

Burke Co. NC Circuit Court April 1796 P364. Ltrs of Admr for Sarah Thrasher on estate of William decd who gave bond and took the oath rqrd by law.

1870 Clinton Co. KY Census. Wm Billy states that his father was "foreign born".

More About William William Thrasher:

Census: 1790, Burke Co NC P109

More About Sarah ???:

Census: 1800, Burke Co NC P800

Probate: April 1796, Admr of Wm estate P364

Children of William Thrasher and Sarah ??? are:

- 8 i. Isaac H. Thrasher, Sr., born 1764 in "2 days at sea"; died February 1870 in Hawkins Co. TN.
- ii. Mary Thrasher (Source: *Military Affidavit*), born December 23, 1775 in North Carolina; died 1855 in Fentress Co. TN?; married Andrew Hisaw July 24, 1800 in Burke Co. NC (Source: *Pension Application*, 1850.); born 1775; died October 22, 1846 in Fentress Co. TN.

Notes for Andrew Hisaw:

Overton Co. Tn Deed B, P323. 27 Aug 1813. Samuel Mcgee of Giles Co. TN to Andrew Hisaw of Overton Co. Tn. 150 acres on Yockums Creek.

More About Andrew Hisaw:

Military service: 1812, 3rd Rgt Tenn Militia

More About Andrew Hisaw and Mary Thrasher:

Affadavit: 1850, By Wm Thrasher (brother of bride)

Marriage: July 24, 1800, Burke Co. NC (Source: *Pension Application*, 1850.)

Witness: 1800, Samuel Thrasher

- iii. Rachel Thrasher (Source: *Census*, 1820, Overton Co. TN.), born 1781 in North Carolina (Source: *Census*, 1860 Clinton Co. KY P52.); married ??? Jones.

Notes for Rachel Thrasher:

Believe Rachel was member of Wm household and signed his War of 1812 pension application with an X on 4/13/1855. She used married name of Jones. Rachel was included in Wm hshld 1860 Census.

More About Rachel Thrasher:

Census: 1860, Clinton Co. KY P52, A-79

- iv. William (Billy) Thrasher (Source: (1) *Military Affidavit*, P182., (2) Reba Nell Jones Brown, (3) *Grace Becker*, 1989., (4) *Census*, P151, 1820 Cumb Co. KY., (5) *Census*, P..., 1830 Cumb Co. KY., (6) *Census*, P333, 1840 Clinton Co. KY., (7) *Census*, P..., 1850 Clinton Co. KY., (8) *Census*, P52, 1860 Clinton Co. KY., (9) *Census*, P556, 1870 Fentress Co. TN.), born February 14, 1787 in North Carolina (Source: (1) "Reba Nell Jones Brown 1978.", (2) *Military Pension Appl.*); died November 20, 1872 in Huntersville, Clinton Co. KY. (Source: *Military Pension Appl.*); met (1) Rachel Baker, born Abt. 1789 in Virginia?; died in Tennessee?; married (2) Elizabeth Kennedy August 12, 1807 in Washington Co. TN; born 1788; died 1841; married (3) Sallie Perdue 1830 in ??; died 1842 in KY?; married (4) Elizabeth Felkins May 06, 1848 in Fentress Co. TN; born 1816 in Clinton Co. KY; died in KY?.

Notes for William (Billy) Thrasher:

About 1943 during a trip through the cemetery at Locust Grove Church, Huntersville, KY (we often travelled thru the cemetery) my grandfather Floyd Thrasher pointed out to me (Dale R. Thrasher) the location of his gffathers gravesite and stated that "Wm. Billy never had a stone other than a flat rock". William was a veteran of the War of 1812. In the 1980's the military records were obtained and Dale initiated the installation of a Veterans headstone at Locust Grove Cem.

Ky Land Grants Book F2 Pg58/59. 80 acres on Spring Creek Cumb Co. Warrant Nr 22736. Dated Aug 12, 1835.

Ky Land Grants Book F2 Pg60. 220 acres on Lick Branch, Cumb Co. Warrant Nr 23482 & 23500. Dated Aug 12, 1835.

William member of Clear Fork Baptist Church records.

One of founding members of Locust Grove Church.

More About William (Billy) Thrasher:

Admitted: January 1820, Clear Fork Baptist Ch. Clinton Co. KY

Burial: November 1872, Locust Grove Cem. Clinton Co. KY (Source: Tombstone Inscription, 5/99.)

Census: 1850, Clinton Co. KY A-62

Military service: Bet. August 22 and November 13, 1813, War of 1812

Tombstone: Locust Grove Cem. Clinton Co. KY

Notes for Elizabeth Kennedy:

Printed copy of Marriage bonds of Washington Co. TN for the period indicated that a person named Eliz Kennedy was also bonded in marriage to two other men.

Elizabeth left the Clear Fork Baptist Church to join the Mt Pisgah Church 1832. Believe this to be the Mt Pisgah Church across the Wayne Co. line.

More About Elizabeth Kennedy:

Admitted: September 1818, Clear Fork Baptist Ch. Clinton Co. KY

More About William Thrasher and Elizabeth Kennedy:

Marriage: August 12, 1807, Washington Co. TN

Marriage Bond: August 12, 1807, Washington Co. TN

- v. Uriah Thrasher, born Abt. 1789 in North Carolina.
- vi. Samuel Thrasher, born Abt. 1790 in North Carolina; died 1869 in Cumberland Co. KY (Source: Tombstone Inscription, 7/00.); married Judah C. Jones 1828 in Tennessee?; born 1801 in Virginia (Source: Jack Ferguson, *Early Times In Clinton Co. Vol II.*); died 1891 in Cumberland Co. KY (Source: *Lila M. Thrasher*, "Electronic," 3/00.).

Notes for Samuel Thrasher:

ETCC Vol 1, p277/278.

1830 Census, TN, Fentress Co. pg3, age 40-50.

1840 Census, KY, Clinton Co. pg 337, age 50-60.

1850 Census, KY, Cumberland Co., pg age 60, b-NC, w/Judy & 4 chil.

1860 Census, KY, Cumberland Co., pg18, age 71, w/Judith & 2 chil.

1870 Census, KY, Cumberland Co., pg6, not in census.

Present at mge of sister Mary to Andrew Highsaw in Burke Co. NC. Jul 1800 as stated on pension affidavit by Mary Thrasher Highsaw.

Cemetery headstone says name Samuel Jackson Thrasher. No other evidence found of a middle name or initial. 7/00 Birthdate on headstone says b-1809.

More About Samuel Thrasher:

Burial: 1869, Rose of Sharon Cem. Cumberland Co. KY (Source: (1) *Sandy Harbison*, 10/97., (2)

Tombstone Inscription, 7/00.)

Notes for Judah C. Jones:

ETCC, Vol 1, p277.

1830 Census, TN, Fentress Co. pg 3, age 30-40

1840 Census, KY, Clinton Co. p337, age 40-50

1850 Census, KY, Clinton Co., p., age 51 b-VA. Next house to son David J.

1860 Census, KY, Cumberland Co., age 60. Next to son David J.

1870 Census, KY, Cumberland Co., age 70. Next to son David J.

1880 Census, KY, Cumberland Co., p 211, age 79. Next to son David.

Cemetery headstone says b-1812.

More About Judah C. Jones:

Burial: 1891, Rose of Sharon Cem. Cumb. Co. KY (Source: Tombstone Inscription, 7/00.)

Tombstone: Rose of Sharon Cem. Cumb. Co. KY

More About Samuel Thrasher and Judah Jones:

Marriage: 1828, Tennessee?

- vii. Sarah Thrasher, born Abt. 1791 in North Carolina; died Aft. 1838.

Notes for Sarah Thrasher:

Member of Mt Pisgah Bapt Ch. Wayne Co. KY 1832, 1838.

When government was evidently simpler: This is another document found on the Pasco County microfilms. It was interesting to see that at that time the federal government was considerably less wordy in transferring land than the locals were. Certainly is a difference from the government documents seen today!

The United States [4-131]

to
David H. Thrasher
No. 8200

Conveyance of land

Receiver's Office at Gainesville, Fla., April 14th 1884

Received from David H. Thrasher of Hernando County, Fla. the sum of ninety-nine dollars and 94 cents, being in full for the NW⁴ of NW⁴ Sec. 22 and NE⁴ of South-E⁴ quarter of Section No. 12 in Township No. 26 S of Range No. 21 E. containing 79 acres and 95 hundredths at \$1.25 per acre.
(99.⁹⁴)

John F. Rollins, Receiver

Recorded by me April 21st A.D. 1884

Jno. C. Law, Clerk by J. W. Johnston, D.C.

EDITOR'S CORNER



This issue has the remaining pages of Dale Thrasher's research on the line of David L. Thrasher, b. ca. 1860, and pictures of David's headstone along with that of his wife Martha A. Thanks again, Dale, for sharing. Future issues will include John E. Thrasher's research on the Augustus (Gus) Thrasher line. David Sumner has promised to interview another of our long-time members, so that will be something else to anticipate!

Quite a few of you have already renewed (thank you), but in case you forgot, another renewal slip is enclosed with this issue. If you are one of those who have already renewed and you know someone who might be interested, pass on the slip instead of tossing it! And if you do pass it on, write your name on a corner so that Dot knows where the new member got the information.

Don't forget -- any family news is very welcome, so share what's going on in your branch. Weddings, new babies, anniversaries, graduations, genealogy research, travel -- all of those and more are of interest. My address is 13318 Omega Ct., Dade City, FL 33525; or send your items by e-mail to <egerb@gte.net>.

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The Thrasher Newsletter

Mentor: Dot Prueff Editor: Barbara Eger Circulation: John E. Thrasher III Volume 20 No. 2 January 2002

John E. Thrasher III -- Man of Many Interests and Talents

By David E. Sumner

He is a pianist, singer, genealogist, gentleman farmer and community leader -- the kind of guy who has less time in retirement than he did during his 36-year career as an educator. Probably everyone reading this article has met John E. Thrasher, III, of Micanopy, Florida, who has missed only two of the Thrasher reunions since 1975.

I spent two years trying to track him down for this article. Every time I asked him about an interview, he suggested someone else. When I finally got him to do an interview, I wanted to learn things about him that weren't in "Our Thrasher Heritage" or most Thrashers didn't already know. Here are some things I learned.

"I worked with the Boy Scouts for 12 years. I did everything except be Scoutmaster, which meant chief cook and bottle washer, driver, counselor, canoe paddler. I was responsible for monthly camping trips, backpacking, all those things that go along in Scouts. It was a once-a-week, Monday night commitment for 12 years during the time we lived in Jacksonville," he says.

"What else?" I asked.

"I've always been involved with music. I sang in the Glee Club at the University of Florida and studied piano for several years. Eleanor studied voice. Music is our major hobby. We both sing; we both sang in

oratorio groups and church choirs in Jacksonville. We sang in various summer choruses at the University of Florida when we first moved here; for example, we did Mozart's Requiem once and many other major works. We have a large record collection. I play the piano and studied piano fifth grade through high school and then a couple of years in college.

"At St. John's Presbyterian Church [in Jacksonville], I was a deacon and sang in the choir. Eleanor held various offices with the women of the church. We were regular participants in everything," he says.

Currently John is past president of the Gainesville Camellia Society. "We are very active in that. We have a big show coming up in January; we'll probably have a thousand who come to see it. It's a two-day show with judges and growers coming from all over the Southeast. We may have 1,500 to 2,000 blooms in a show. I'm also a certified judge by the American Camellia Society. I have 190 varieties in my yard; they're blooming now and they're gorgeous," he says.

Since retiring to Micanopy in 1990, he has played a significant leadership role in enhancing the town's place as one of most eminent and historic small towns in the Southeast. Micanopy is the oldest inland

Cont. on pg. 2

Go with the flow in May -- Flovilla, that is! Reunion plans are set.

Peggy and Albert Thrasher have made some exciting plans for our Thrasher Family Reunion May 17 - 19. The tentative schedule is in this issue and, while there is no registration fee, there will be a reservation form in the next issue so that Peggy and Al can have an idea of how many to expect at the Friday night dinner at their home and also how many will be attending the Saturday events.

Flovilla is southeast of Atlanta on U.S. Rte. 23, and only a short distance from I-75, so will be easy to find. Exact directions to Al and Peggy's will be included next time.

Since they have reserved the banquet room at the hotel for our meeting, exhibits, etc., bring something of interest to the family to share. Do you have pictures of earlier generations, some research you have done, or perhaps some item handed down in your family? Any of that would be of interest.

The annual reunions are always fun and are the only opportunity that some of us have to visit with each other. Don't miss out on the fun. Note the dates on your calendars now, and plan to be in Flovilla in May.

John E. Thrasher III

Cont. from pg. 1

town in Florida with 39 places on the National Historic Register. A Seminole Indian village named "Cuscowilla" was located here when the naturalist William Bartram visited in 1774. It was later named "Wanton" after Edward Wanton, who established a trading post here in 1821 when Florida became a U.S. Territory. The town of Wanton established Alachua County's first post office in 1826. Even then, it was informally called "Micanope" after the Seminole Indian chief (1785-1847) and later named Micanopy.

Among Micanopy's sites on the National Register and also pictured on the Alachua County Historic Commission's website are the Thrasher Warehouse, the Thrasher Store, and the former home of John's grandparents. The first store burned in 1911 and the business was moved into the warehouse from 1911-1923. A new store was built in 1923. The Thrasher Warehouse was built on a Florida Southern railroad spur in 1896 by John Early Thrasher, Sr. (John's grandfather), who moved there from Madison, Georgia, in 1875. The building now houses the Micanopy Historical Society Museum. The Thrasher Store, a general merchandise store that he built in 1923, was described at the time as "one of the largest mercantile firms in Alachua County."

Describing the family store, John says, "My father bought out his brother's interest in 1931 when my grandfather retired and managed it until 1973. It was a general store and sold everything except coffins and beer. We used to say, 'We don't serve the dead or the drunk.' We even raised cattle and horses out back and sold them." John's father died at the age of 93 in 1981 and his mother also died at 93 in 1987.

But John was never interested in managing the family store. "It would not have supported me in the style to which I had become accustomed. It got tough. It was really hard. My dad was absolutely strapped with the store all the time. He was there first thing in the morning at 6:00 and then until he closed. He did the store's book-keeping work at night. He could hardly ever go anywhere because he didn't want to leave anyone in charge. So he finally sold the store in 1973."

After earning a B.A. in sociology, English

and music education from the University of Florida, John served in the U.S. Army between 1950-52. It was during his Army tour in Germany that he met his wife, Eleanor, in Paris, whom he married in 1955. He returned to Gainesville to earn a master's in social studies and education in 1954. From there, he went to Jacksonville where he taught social studies at Lake Shore Junior High for 12 years and then worked as guidance counselor, curriculum director and "everything else except principal" for 22 years. "I felt very happy and satisfied with my career. They really didn't want to see me retire," he says.

John was founding president of Micanopy Historical Association in 1983 and served as president for two other terms as well as treasurer and secretary. The museum was started in 1984. The Smithsonian tours have visited the museum twice for a tour and luncheon on the porch. "It's a draw. Tourism is a big industry here. For example, yesterday afternoon while we were docents there was a group of 33 Jewish women who came for a tour of the warehouse and had a religious service and tea on the porch," he says.

Three movies have been made in Micanopy: "Cross Creek" (1983) was based on Marjorie Kinnan Rawling's autobiography about her move to Florida and how she wrote "The Yearling." "Doc Hollywood" (1992) was Michael J. Fox comedy about a New York doctor who ends up in a small southern town. "Miracle Child" starring Cloris Leachman was another movie produced in the mid-1990's about an abandoned child who is raised by folks in a rural community.

"Why is Micanopy a popular spot for Hollywood movies?" I asked. "It looks just like it did in 1910," says John. "A lot of places they have to go and build sets, but here they didn't have to build much." Explaining further, he says, "We have 39 sites on the National Register. We worked very hard to get rules passed by the City Council that ban such things as neon lights and hamburger restaurants in the downtown section. We have an active historical society.

"We just had the whole area here in southern Alachua County designated as a scenic highway; that's brand new. It in-

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Cont. on pg. 3

John E. Thrasher III

Cont. from pg. 2

cludes Highway 441 and also the side highways that go near Cross Creek and Island Grove. This was done by a group here called Florida Trust for Conservation," he says.

"What else do you do in your spare time?" I asked. "I would consider myself a dedicated genealogist. I've done a lot of work with that and have been typing for the last three years since I got a computer. All my information is printed and up to date. I have compiled several different books; one on my father's people, my mother's people and Eleanor's people. We've done a lot of traveling to cemeteries and courthouses all over the South. I've contacted people through state records. Everywhere I go I pursue it. On a trip to California last fall, I went down to Brown County, Texas, and did some research and came back through Woodford County, Kentucky, to do some more."

He contributed a lot of information to Dot Pruett's books. John also gave me copies of some old Atlanta newspaper articles on "Cousin John" that were important sources for my biographical article published in the Georgia Historical Quarterly in summer 2000.

John and Eleanor's son, John F., is a nurseryman for a large landscaping company and lives nearby in Newberry. His wife, Kathleen, is an auditor and accountant at the University of Florida. John and Eleanor's daughter, Gretchen (Thrasher) Harris, is a registered nurse and lives with her husband, Bill, an attorney in Del Mar, California.

At 73, John continues with his busy and productive life. "We're very much involved with the historical society and the Thrasher Warehouse Preservation Corporation and the construction of a new archives building." We've been working a long time to get that. In fact, we're meeting Monday night with the architect. It will hold all of Micanopy's papers and historical collections that are now kept in various homes and libraries.

There's no way of "summing up" a fruitful life that has touched so many people in so many ways. But among all of his activities, what do John and Eleanor most enjoy? "We like to entertain, visit with our children and enjoy being with our friends," he says.

News and Notes

David Sumner has written another wonderful article on a long-time association member -- this time it is John E. Thrasher III. David, a journalism professor at Ball State University, has been of great assistance in providing feature articles over the past several years. His articles are always interesting and provide a record for future readers of our newsletter. Thank you again, David.

Two of our long-time Thrasher Association members have been laid low by illness and accident.

Eleanor Thrasher had unexpected gall bladder surgery Jan. 16 and is now recovering at home. At first she and John were afraid it was her heart, but all tests for that came back clear.

Dot Pruett had a rather bad fall recently; she tripped over a curb and hit the sidewalk with her face, resulting in a badly scraped and cut face. However, Dot says she is grateful nothing was broken and she "hid" in her home until the bruises, etc. faded!

Dot Pruett has completed the compiling and indexing of the first volume of Thrasher Newsletter issues, which will include Volume 1, No. 1 to Volume 13, No. 3 dated May, 1995. Dot says there are almost 400 pages in this first volume. Subsequent issues will be in Volume II. Dot is checking on copying/binding costs for anyone who wishes to have a copy. More information in the next newsletter.

EDITOR'S CORNER



Let's have a big turnout for the Flovilla reunion in May. Flovilla is close to the Oconee National Forest, so if any of you are hikers or campers, here's an opportunity to stretch your stay and enjoy that area. See you there!

A large thank you goes to John E. Thrasher for sharing his research on Gustavus Bartow Thrasher and the descendants of his daughter Anita. John also has done extensive research on Mary Cloud Thrasher which will be included in a future issue.

Remember that your contributions can help make this a family project -- share your research, family memories, pictures, etc. Mail items to 13318 Omega Ct., Dade City, FL 33525, or send an e-mail to me at <egerb@gte.net>.

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Thrasher Family Reunion Schedule - Flovilla, Georgia, May 17 -19, 2002

We have reserved a block of rooms at a discount at the Plantation Lodge and Motel in Jackson, Ga. Rooms have been quoted at \$49.95 per night plus tax.

The reduced rates will be good until 45 days before the scheduled date. The pertinent numbers and addresses are:

770-504-8811 1-877-504-8811 Fax: 770-504-1852

plantationlodge@yahoo.com

For a virtual tour check out PlantationLodgeJackson.com

Here's the plan. Everyone should plan to arrive Friday the 17th around lunch and check in the motel. The Brown Thrasher's Nest (our home out from Flovilla) will be expecting everyone for a laid-back afternoon of activities designed to interest almost anybody. Hiking, biking, horseshoes, fishing, shooting, rocking (on the porch), or just taking it easy will await the friends who can make it.

Dinner (supper) will be at the nest, and we are looking forward to hosting that meal.

Breakfast will be on your own (continental is included in motel's rate) Saturday.

We will leave at 9:00 sharp for a guided tour of Jarrell Plantation. It's not like Tara. This is a working, self-sufficient farm from the mid-1800's till early 1900's that is wonderfully preserved.

Lunch will be dutch at the Whistle Stop Cafe in Julliette, Georgia. Those who saw the movie "Fried Green Tomatoes" will certainly recognize it. There will be time for wandering through some unusual shops in that "city".

The next stop will be the oldest state park in the US. Indian Springs has a history-a real history. We will be given a private tour of their archives of photos of grander days. You will have an opportunity to imbibe the mystical (some say magical) waters of the namesake spring.

We will take a short detour to show you the route Sherman's 30,000 men and 20,000 horses and mules took to the crossing of the Ocmulgee river on their way to Savannah. We plan to be back at the motel around three o'clock.

The meeting will be in the banquet room at 5:00. Incidentally. We have the room reserved for the entire day Saturday. Anyone having a display to set up, it can be arranged, and will be secure.

We should plan to leave for dinner (supper) at the Fresh Air Bar-B-Q about 7:00. The menu is very limited, but since it's been operated in the same location by the same family since about 1929, they must be doing something right. This meal will be dutch.

That's all that's on the official agenda. After dinner, the banquet room will be available, as will be the Nest.

And a related note: there is a slight address change for Peggy and Albert Thrasher: 433 Dave Bailey Rd., P.O. Box 99, Flovilla, GA 30216-0099. This is a p.o. box number and zip code change only, but you may wish to note it in your directories.

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Descendants of Gustavus Bartow Thrasher

Generation No. 1

1. GUSTAVUS BARTOW⁵ THRASHER (*BARTON CLOUD*⁴, *ISAAC (I. HITE)*³, *JOHN*², *JOHN*¹) was born 23 July, 1860 in Watkinsville, Clarke Co. Ga., and died 01 February, 1921 in Atlanta, Fulton Co. Ga.. He married ANNA CORNELIA PRIOR 05 May, 1886 in Morgan Co. Ga., daughter of FELIX PRIOR and NANCY MURDEN.

Notes for GUSTAVUS BARTOW THRASHER:

Gus attended the Baptist Seminary in Louisville, Kentucky, to receive his training as a Baptist Minister. He was also a missionary. Later he worked as a night watchman.

He and his family lived in Micanopy, Florida, for a few years between 1900 - 1914 where he was the pastor of the Baptist Church. While living in Micanopy the family occupied a home on an acre adjoining (on the west side) the home later owned and occupied by his 2nd cousin, John E. Thrasher Sr. on Cholokka Blvd.

Gus developed epilepsy and took paragoric to prevent having seizures. Realizing that a seizure was near, he went to the pharmacy about four blocks from home to get more paragoric. The pharmacist refused to sell him more and Gus held out the pistol that he carried and told the pharmacist that he might as well shoot him. When the pharmacist grabbed the pistol, it fired striking Gus. Gus managed to walk home and died there. Gus is buried in the Prior - Sturges Cemetery in Apalachee, Morgan Co. Georgia, near where he was born.

Notes for ANNA CORNELIA PRIOR:

Anna Prior Thrasher is buried in the Prior - Sturges Cemetery in Apalachee, Morgan Co. Ga.

Children of GUSTAVUS THRASHER and ANNA PRIOR are:

- i. LEUNA⁶ THRASHER, b. 04 April, 1888; d. 18 November, 1964; m. ANDREW J. PITTMAN.
2. ii. MARY CLOUD THRASHER, b. 23 May, 1891, Louisville, Jefferson Co. Ky.; d. 17 December, 1976, Maricopa Co. Arizona.
3. iii. ANITA PRIOR THRASHER, b. 28 December, 1892, Louisville, Jefferson Co. Ky.; d. 28 December, 1971, West Palm Beach, Palm Beach Co. Florida.
- iv. ARIENNE THRASHER, b. 02 February, 1896, Ga.; d. 25 August, 1979, Atlanta, Fulton Co. Ga..

Notes for ARIENNE THRASHER:

The Atlanta Constitution, 8 March 1956 (Front page and with a picture.)

"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 children in her classroom, Miss Thrasher was selected to compete for state and national 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 enjoyed the love of her students and colleagues."

Arienne is buried in Evergreen Cemetery, Gainesville, Alachua Co. Florida.

- v. VETRA THRASHER, b. 23 December, 1896; d. 31 October, 1901.

Notes for VETRA THRASHER:

Buried in the Apalachee Cemetery, Morgan Co. Ga.

- vi. GUSTAVUS BARTOW THRASHER, JR., b. 08 January, 1900; d. 02 March, 1900.

Descendants of Anita Prior Thrasher

Generation No. 1

1. ANITA PRIOR⁶ THRASHER (*GUSTAVUS BARTOW⁵, BARTON CLOUD⁴, ISAAC (I. HITE)³, JOHN², JOHN¹*) was born 28 December, 1892 in Louisville, Jefferson Co. Ky., and died 28 December, 1971 in West Palm Beach, Palm Beach Co. Florida. She married FRANCIS EARL WALLACE 28 July, 1915 in College Park, Fulton Co. Ga..

Notes for ANITA PRIOR THRASHER:

Anita's parents, grandparents and many other relations lived in the Clarke/ Oconee/ Morgan County area of Georgia. Even though her father moved many times as a Baptist minister, they were always in contact with the home folks. Anita was a pretty red-headed school teacher.

Earl owned a farm of about fifty acres where he grew cotton. He also owned a warehouse and in his later years lived on the rent from the properties in Georgia. (In the 1950s he received a letter from the Alcohol Beverage Commission that the people who were renting the farm operated there one of the largest stills in Georgia !)

After Earl Jr. was born in 1917, then Anna Sue in 1920, the family moved to Macon, Georgia where Earl Sr. owned the Wallace Motor Company (Oldsmobile).

The family moved frequently over the years. Times were difficult in Georgia and in Florida the "Boom" of the 1920s was underway. The Wallaces moved to Lakeland, Florida and as luck would have it they moved to Florida just as the economy boom went bust! They moved again, about 1933, this time to West Palm Beach, Florida where Earl owned the Twin Cities Chevrolet Company. They purchased a home at 263 Valencia Road and lived there until Anita's death in 1972.

Children of ANITA THRASHER and FRANCIS WALLACE are:

2. i. ANNA SUE⁷ WALLACE, b. 10 November, 1920, Rutledge, Morgan Co. Ga..
3. ii. FRANCIS EARL WALLACE, JR., b. 23 October, 1916, Rutledge, Morgan Co. Ga.; d. 1981, Boynton Beach, Palm Beach Co. Florida.

Generation No. 2

2. ANNA SUE⁷ WALLACE (*ANITA PRIOR⁶ THRASHER, GUSTAVUS BARTOW⁵, BARTON CLOUD⁴, ISAAC (I. HITE)³, JOHN², JOHN¹*) was born 10 November, 1920 in Rutledge, Morgan Co. Ga.. She married EDMUND STANLEY HOLDEN 12 June, 1946 in West Palm Beach, Palm Beach Co. Florida.

Notes for ANNA SUE WALLACE:

Anna Sue graduated from the University of Georgia with a major in Education and English. She was a member of the Chi Omega sorority. She taught kindergarden and first grade at the Luckie Street Elementary School in Atlanta, Georgia, for several years. Anna Sue and Edmund met in West Palm Beach, Florida, when Edmund was serving in the Army Air Corp during WWII. Anna Sue and Edmund have lived in Gainesville, Florida, for almost fifty years.

Notes for EDMUND STANLEY HOLDEN:

Edmund received his BA degree from the Chicago Teacher's College and a Masters and

PHD from Northwestern University. He is now a Professor Emeritus of English and the Humanities at the University of Florida in Gainesville, Florida. Edmund was also the Academic Advisor for the Athletic Department at the University of Florida.

Children of ANNA WALLACE and EDMUND HOLDEN are:

- i. STANLEY WALLACE⁹ HOLDEN, b. 14 January, 1948, West Palm Beach, Palm Beach Co. Florida; d. 10 July, 1967, Gainesville, Alachua Co. Florida.
4. ii. ROBERT EARL HOLDEN, b. 07 August, 1950, West Palm Beach, Palm Beach Co. Florida.
5. iii. ANITA SUE HOLDEN, b. 02 November, 1953, West Palm Beach, Palm Beach Co. Florida.

3. FRANCIS EARL⁷ WALLACE, JR. (*ANITA PRIOR⁶ THRASHER, GUSTAVUS BARTOW⁵, BARTON CLOUD⁴, ISAAC (I. HITE)³, JOHN², JOHN¹*) was born 23 October, 1916 in Rutledge, Morgan Co. Ga., and died 1981 in Boynton Beach, Palm Beach Co. Florida. He married JANET BIRDSALL LOCKWOOD 21 August, 1942 in Bridgeport, CT..

Notes for FRANCIS EARL WALLACE, JR.:

Buried in Delray Beach, Palm Beach Co. Florida.

Children of FRANCIS WALLACE and JANET LOCKWOOD are:

6. i. FRANCIS EARLE⁸ WALLACE III, b. 09 September, 1943, West Palm Beach, Palm Beach Co. Florida.
- ii. MARY ANITA "AUBREY", b. 17 June, 1946, West Palm Beach, Palm Beach Co. Florida.
7. iii. WILLIAM LOCKWOOD WALLACE, b. 04 June, 1948, West Palm Beach, Palm Beach Co. Florida.
- iv. TREVETTE LOCKWOOD WALLACE, b. 10 March, 1951, West Palm Beach, Palm Beach Co. Florida; m. PATTI GOSNELL, 23 February, 1974, Delray Beach, Palm Beach Co. Florida.
8. v. SUSAN ARIENNE WALLACE, b. 24 March, 1953, West Palm Beach, Palm Beach Co. Florida.
9. vi. CLYDE STETSON WALLACE, b. 20 January, 1956, West Palm Beach, Palm Beach Co. Florida.

Generation No. 3

4. ROBERT EARL⁸ HOLDEN (*ANNA SUE⁷ WALLACE, ANITA PRIOR⁶ THRASHER, GUSTAVUS BARTOW⁵, BARTON CLOUD⁴, ISAAC (I. HITE)³, JOHN², JOHN¹*) was born 07 August, 1950 in West Palm Beach, Palm Beach Co. Florida. He married CONSTANCE LESAGE 28 April, 1985 in New Orleans, Orleans Parish, La..

Children of ROBERT HOLDEN and CONSTANCE LESAGE are:

- i. MARK CHRISTOPHER⁹ HOLDEN, b. 05 December, 1987, New Orleans, New Orleans Parish, La..
- ii. STEPHANIE EILEEN HOLDEN, b. 01 July, 1990, New Orleans, New Orleans Parish, La..
- iii. ELIZABETH HOLDEN, b. 13 November, 1992, New Orleans, New Orleans Parish, La..

5. ANITA SUE⁸ HOLDEN (*ANNA SUE⁷ WALLACE, ANITA PRIOR⁶ THRASHER, GUSTAVUS BARTOW⁵, BARTON CLOUD⁴, ISAAC (I. HITE)³, JOHN², JOHN¹*) was born 02 November, 1953 in West Palm Beach, Palm Beach Co. Florida. She married LEROY WILLIAM MOAK 29 April, 1989 in Camden Co. Ga..

Children of ANITA HOLDEN and LEROY MOAK are:

- i. KATHERINE MAE⁹ MOAK, b. 08 August, 1991, Jacksonville, Duval Co. Florida.
- ii. DOMINICK MOAK, b. 22 December, 1995, Jacksonville, Duval Co. Florida; d. 22 December, 1995, Jacksonville, Duval Co. Florida.
- iii. STANLEY HOLDEN MOAK, b. 22 December, 1995, Jacksonville, Duval Co. Florida.

6. FRANCIS EARLE⁸ WALLACE III (*FRANCIS EARL⁷, ANITA PRIOR⁶ THRASHER, GUSTAVUS BARTOW⁵, BARTON CLOUD⁴, ISAAC (I. HITE)³, JOHN², JOHN¹*) was born 09 September, 1943 in West Palm Beach, Palm Beach Co. Florida. He married SHEILA WILDER 06 August, 1966 in

Boynton Beach, Palm beach Co. Florida.

Children of FRANCIS WALLACE and SHEILA WILDER are:

10. i. AMBER ALESSANDRA⁹ WALLACE, b. 28 February, 1968, Boynton Beach, Palm Beach Co. Florida.
11. ii. FRANCES EARL WALLACE IV, b. 22 February, 1970, Boynton Beach, Palm Beach Co. Florida.
- iii. TREVETTE WALLACE, b. 24 March, 1972, Miami, Dade Co. Florida.

7. WILLIAM LOCKWOOD⁸ WALLACE (*FRANCIS EARL⁷, ANITA PRIOR⁶ THRASHER, GUSTAVUS BARTOW⁵, BARTON CLOUD⁴, ISAAC (I. HITE)³, JOHN², JOHN¹*) was born 04 June, 1948 in West Palm Beach, Palm Beach Co. Florida. He married KATHLEEN SMITH 20 April, 1968 in Delray Beach, Palm Beach Co. Florida.

Children of WILLIAM WALLACE and KATHLEEN SMITH are:

- i. HOPE CAROLINE⁹ WALLACE, b. 09 February, 1972, Boynton Beach, Palm Beach Co. Florida.
- ii. KATHRYN LOCKWOOD WALLACE, b. 17 October, 1974, Boynton Beach, Palm Beach Co. Florida.
- iii. MARJORY RANDALL WALLACE, b. 23 September, 1977, Boynton Beach, Palm Beach Co. Florida.

8. SUSAN ARIENNE⁸ WALLACE (*FRANCIS EARL⁷, ANITA PRIOR⁶ THRASHER, GUSTAVUS BARTOW⁵, BARTON CLOUD⁴, ISAAC (I. HITE)³, JOHN², JOHN¹*) was born 24 March, 1953 in West Palm Beach, Palm Beach Co. Florida. She married WILLIAM WALLACE 11 August, 1979 in Boynton Beach, Palm Beach Co. Florida.

Child of SUSAN WALLACE and WILLIAM WALLACE is:

- i. SEAN PUTNAM⁹ WALLACE, b. 31 December, 1985, Tallahassee, Leon Co. Florida.

9. CLYDE STETSON⁸ WALLACE (*FRANCIS EARL⁷, ANITA PRIOR⁶ THRASHER, GUSTAVUS BARTOW⁵, BARTON CLOUD⁴, ISAAC (I. HITE)³, JOHN², JOHN¹*) was born 20 January, 1956 in West Palm Beach, Palm Beach Co. Florida. He married SHARON HAHN 26 May, 1990 in Delray Beach, Palm Beach Co. Florida.

Children of CLYDE WALLACE and SHARON HAHN are:

- i. CASSANDRA LEE⁹ WALLACE, b. 02 November, 1993, Boynton Beach, Palm Beach Co. Florida.
- ii. SKY ALEXIS WALLACE, b. 25 March, 1995, Boynton Beach, Palm Beach Co. Florida.

Generation No. 4

10. AMBER ALESSANDRA⁹ WALLACE (*FRANCIS EARLE⁸, FRANCIS EARL⁷, ANITA PRIOR⁶ THRASHER, GUSTAVUS BARTOW⁵, BARTON CLOUD⁴, ISAAC (I. HITE)³, JOHN², JOHN¹*) was born 28 February, 1968 in Boynton Beach, Palm Beach Co. Florida. She married JOHN GRAHAM 25 March, 1995 in Coconut Grove, Dade Co. Florida.

Child of AMBER WALLACE and JOHN GRAHAM is:

- i. JOHN WALLACE¹⁰ GRAHAM, b. 18 July, 1997, Miami, Dade Co. Florida.

11. FRANCIS EARL⁹ WALLACE IV (*FRANCIS EARLE⁸, FRANCIS EARL⁷, ANITA PRIOR⁶ THRASHER, GUSTAVUS BARTOW⁵, BARTON CLOUD⁴, ISAAC (I. HITE)³, JOHN², JOHN¹*) was born 22 February, 1970 in Boynton Beach, Palm Beach Co. Florida. He married MICHELLE MCGIGHAN 06 November, 1994 in Coconut Grove, Dade Co. Florida.

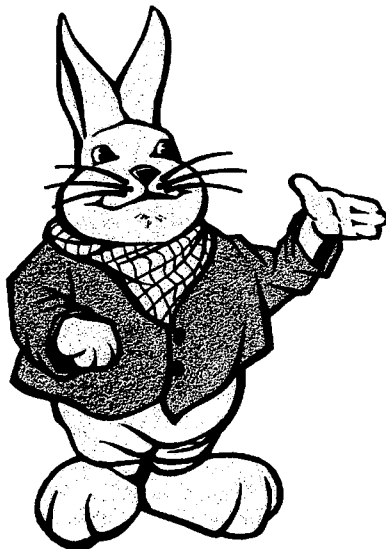
Child of FRANCES WALLACE and MICHELLE MCGIGHAN is:

- i. ANDREW RILEY¹⁰ WALLACE, b. 10 July, 1997, Boca Raton, Palm Beach Co. Florida.

The Thrasher Newsletter

Mentor: Dot Prueff Editor: Barbara Eger Circulation: John E. Thrasher III Volume 20 No. 3 March 2002

Time is getting short -- don't get left out of the reunion fun!



Be quick like a bunny and get your motel reservations set for the reunion. The Plantation Lodge rooms blocked for our group by Peggy and Al Thrasher will drop 45 days prior to the reunion dates. A quick look at the calendar seems to indicate this

would be April 4, so there isn't much time left.

However, if you later find you can attend, reservations can still be made if the motel has open rooms. The group rate of \$49.95 plus tax may not be available, however.

Al and Peggy are hosting Friday dinner at their home, and would really appreciate having a rough estimate of how many of us will be there. A form is included with this newsletter; please complete it and mail to:

Mr. & Mrs. Albert Thrasher
P.O. Box 99
Flovilla, GA 30216-0099

Al and Peggy have made some wonderful plans for everyone's enjoyment.

Don't miss out! And if you plan on joining the excursions to Indian Springs Park, the Jarrell Plantation and/or Sherman's river crossing route, bring your walking shoes and your camera.

In case you've mislaid or tossed the last issue, the motel information and schedule for the weekend is reprinted on page 3. Hope to see you there!

There will be a secure room at the motel for displaying material of interest to the family, so if you have something to share please bring it. Pictures, family items handed down, articles, books -- anything family-related is appropriate. If you have pictures from previous reunions bring them along.

1901 U.K. Census Online

According to an article from CNN.com, the British Public Records Office has made the entire 1901 census for England and Wales available online at <www.census.pro.gov.uk>. While most researchers are looking farther back than that, this may be the start of much more. In the meantime, you can look up some interesting people in this one -- Charlie Chaplin, Florence Nightingale and J. R. R. Tolkien are among the notables listed.

Project Manager Allison Webster told CNN that the Public Records Office has already begun work on building a similar site for the 1891 census. This is expected to be available to the public next year, she said.



Wishing everyone a blessed and happy Easter season.

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Winfield S. Smith and Wife
To
David H. Thrasher

Conveyance of Land

This indenture made and entered into on this the fourth day of February anno Domini Eighteen Hundred and Eighty four by and between Winfield S. Smith and Mary C. Smith Wife of the said Winfield S. Smith of the County of Hernando and State of Florida, parties of the first part, and David H. Thrasher of the same place, party of the second part, Witnesseth that the said parties of the first part for and in consideration of the sum of Fifty dollars lawful money of the United States to them in hand paid by the said party of the second part at or before the ensealing and delivering of these presents the receipt of which is hereby acknowledged have granted, bargained, sold, aliened, remised, released, conveyed and confirmed and by these presents do grant, bargain, and sell unto the said party of the second part his heirs and assigns forever all of an undivided one half interest in and to and of the following described lands located, lying, being and situate in Hernando County and State of Florida and known and described as follows to Wit: The South East quarter (SE 1/4) of North East quarter (NE 1/4) of section Ten (10) in Township number Twenty Six (26) South of Range Twenty one (21) East containing in all forty acres more or less Together with all and singular the tenements, heriditaments and appurtenances thereunto belonging or in any wise appertaining and the reversion, and ?????? remainder and remainder rents, issues and profits thereof and also all the estate right, title interest, dower, right of dower, separate estate property possession claim and demand whatsoever: To Have and to hold the same unto the said party of the second part his heirs and assigns in fee simple absolute forever and the said parties of the first part for themselves their heirs executors and administrators doth covenant and agree that with the said party of the second part his heirs and assigns that at the time of the ensealing and delivery of these presents they were lawfully seized in their own right a good absolute and indefensible(????) Estate of inheritance in fee simple of in and to the above described and hereby conveyed land and hath good right lawful authority and full ??????? to sell and convey the same in manner and that they the said parties of the first part will warrant and by their presents forever defend this title to said land against themselves, their heirs, executors and administrators and against all persons whomsoever lawfully claiming to claim the same forever. In testimony whereof the said parties of the first part have hereunto set their hands and affixed their seals on this the day and year above written.

Signed sealed and delivered
in presence of us as Witnesses
John A. Washington
G. V. Ramsey

W. S. Smith
M. C. Smith

State of Florida
County of Hernando Before me, G. V. Ramsey County Judge in and for said County, personally came Winfield S. Smith and Mary C. Smith his wife grantors in the foregoing Deed of Conveyance and who being by me first duly sworn an oath doth say and depose that they executed the said deed for the uses, purposes and consideration therein expressed and that they make this, their acknowledgment of the same, that the same may be admitted to record. Sworn to, acknowledged and subscribed before me this the 4th day of February A.D. 1884.

G. V. Ramsey
County Judge

W. S. Smith
M. C. Smith

Note: The document also includes the usual renunciation of dower rights by Mary C. Smith, but in order to save space is not included here. Please refer to deeds in previous newsletters for usual wording of these renunciations.

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Schedule of Events -- 2002 Thrasher Family Reunion, May 17 -19

Here is the reprinted schedule of events for the reunion -- motel information is in boldface to help you remember that the deadline is looming to make reservations! Join the family for a fun weekend and to enjoy the many activities Peggy and Al have planned. And don't forget to send them the enclosed form to help with advance planning.

We have reserved a block of rooms at a discount at the Plantation Lodge and Motel in Jackson, Ga. Rooms have been quoted at \$49.95 per night plus tax.

The reduced rates will be good until 45 days before the scheduled date. The pertinent numbers and addresses are:

770-504-8811 1-877-504-8811 Fax: 770-504-1852

plantationlodge@yahoo.com

For a virtual tour check out PlantationLodgeJackson.com

Here's the plan. Everyone should plan to arrive Friday the 17th around lunch and check in the motel. The Brown Thrasher's Nest (our home out from Flovilla) will be expecting everyone for a laid-back afternoon of activities designed to interest almost anybody. Hiking, biking, horseshoes, fishing, shooting, rocking (on the porch), or just taking it easy will await the friends who can make it.

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That's all that's on the official agenda. After dinner, the banquet room will be available, as will be the Nest.

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News and Notes

Bill Thrasher has been appointed Alabama State Commander of the Veterans of Underage Military Service by National Commander Ray Jackson. His responsibilities as State Commander include administration of association business in the state, maintaining contact with members and promoting local and state activities, and recruiting new members.

VUMS has more than 1,100 members nationwide, all of whom served in the U.S. Military before reaching the legal enlistment age. Six members served at age 12, and the others ranged in age from 13 to 16. More than 20 members are women whose age at enlistment ranged from 13 to 19.

Bill joined the U.S. Army in 1947 at the age of 16. Shortly after training with the 5th Infantry Division, he was discharged. With his parents' approval, he reenlisted in the U.S. Air Force and remained in the service until his retirement in 1968. He served more than five years in the Pacific Theater in the occupation of Japan, and also during the Korean conflict and in Viet Nam.

Congratulations, Bill!

And on a different note, Bill and his wife Velma spent a week in Hilton Head last month with their daughter and son-in-law, who had come down from Alaska for a vacation. Know they enjoyed the visit.

Nancy Thrasher Cherry retired in January after 40 years of service with the federal government -- 30 with the National Institutes of Health and 10 with the Food and Drug Administration. She and her husband Bill are planning some travel, several do-it-yourself projects, and, of course, time for just general relaxation.

Colleagues & friends helped Nancy celebrate at a retirement party, where gifts ranged from a digital camera to a letter from the President recognizing her

for her years of service (Nancy notes that while it was a form letter, it was a sweet gesture from her co-workers who pulled some strings to get it). On the lighter side, she received a doll-sized red hat to signal her readiness to join the Red Hat Society, which, for those of you not familiar with it, is a women's organization where the rules are mainly that you have to wear purple for events, along with a red hat, and have fun!

But before the month was up, she was back at work as a contractor in the Office of the Commissioner. Nancy firmly says, "But only until end of April and only for 2 days a week." Looks like she means that, because she says she wants to work on at least 2 books -- one a genealogy book and the other a book of oral histories taken by young people at a church in her hometown -- and also restart the MidAtlantic Thrasher Assoc. newsletter and "to write the script for Bill's video which never did get made 3 years ago when it was supposed to accompany my book on Jefferson's history." Hey, Nancy, days only have 24 hours!

Happy retirement!

Dale Thrasher writes that he and Trudy hope to be with us in Flovilla this year. They're trying to keep their calendar clear. Dale had an interesting idea -- he wondered why all the newsletters couldn't be scanned and copied onto a CD, which could then be duplicated and available for purchase by anyone interested. Dale noted that this would make them readily available in a compact form for research. Does anybody have any ideas as to feasibility, cost, interest, etc.?

John E. Thrasher was recently in touch with Ray Rowland of Augusta, Georgia, who was seeking information concerning John Floyd Thrasher who married Mary Antoinette Rowland on 4 August 1850 in

More News and Notes

Greene County, Georgia (Ordinary Records). In addition to the marriage date, several other interesting bits of information were gleaned from Ray's genealogy that can be added to the published information in Dot Pruett's "Our Thrasher Heritage" (p. 240). The following information is printed with Ray's permission:

"Mary Antoinette Rowland married second, John L. Williamson on 14 August 1864 in Clarke County, Georgia.

Harold Lawrence's "Methodist Preachers of Georgia, 1783 - 1900" (1984) p. 552: John F. Thrasher, a local preacher of Methodist Episcopal Church, elected Deacon in 1860, gives date of death. He probably died in the Civil War.

Evans, op. cit. p. 143: Rev. J. F. Thrasher, at Schull Shoals, performed the marriage of A. F. Sims to Miss L. Williams, all of Greene County, Georgia, 21 April 1855.

The "Roster of Confederate Soldiers of Georgia 1861 - 1865," Hapeville, Georgia, Login & Porter, 1960, Vol. 5, p. 588: Enlisted November 18, 1861, died 1 August 1862 of tuberculosis in Camp Winder Hospital, Richmond, Va. Buried there."

More information is available on the Rowland and Williamson families' genealogy if desired.

Here are two items that should be noted in your directories:

Welcome to new members Roy and Lorraine Thrasher, 2717 Downing St., Huntsville, AL 35801. Roy is Albert

Thrasher's brother -- the David and Mary (Hughey) Thrasher line. Hope to meet them at this year's reunion!

And, Dot Pruett has switched internet providers. For those of you who use her BellSouth address, this is no longer active. The new one is:

<Ddotpru@aol.com>

For the time being, Dot still is keeping her Juno address, but the AOL address is the better one to use.

And finally, here are two web sites that may yield some research gold.

This one was on Greg Wickenburg's Thrasher list some time ago and I just came across it in my files:

"Lots of Thrasher names here: ALABAMA DEATH INDEX, 1908-59 To search this database, go to: <<http://www.ancestry.com/search/rectype/inddb/5188.htm>>"

Many of us are not paid subscribers to Ancestry -- however, I recently discovered that my local library subscribes and it is available to anyone who is a library patron with a valid card. Check out your library to see if they offer this service.

The second one just came courtesy of Dale Thrasher, who forwarded the March 20 issue of RootsWeb Review, a weekly on-line magazine, which contained an article about the coordinator of the Alachua County website on RootsWeb. Check out <<http://www.rootsweb.com/~flalachu/>>.

EDITOR'S CORNER



Send your reservation slip to Al and Peggy now -- I know when I put things aside for "later," they frequently get forgotten. This is going to be a really good weekend, so don't miss out on the fun.

In the meantime, thanks go to John E. Thrasher for his work on the Mary Cloud Thrasher line included, as promised, in this issue. Thanks also to Dianne Wallace Kuntz for her help in providing information on this line. Dianne was fortunate enough to know her grandmother, Mary Thrasher.

The deed on page two is another culled from the Pasco County microfilms. This is a wonderful source of information on the Thrashers who settled in this area and I feel fortunate to live close enough to the courthouse to take advantage of it.

Don't forget -- your contributions to the newsletter are always welcome; family news and events or research are all of interest. My address is 13318 Omega Ct., Dade City, FL 33525; or send an e-mail to <egerb@gte.net>.

Descendants of Mary Cloud Thrasher

Generation No. 1

1. MARY CLOUD⁶ THRASHER (*GUSTAVUS BARTOW⁵, BARTON CLOUD⁴, ISAAC (I. HITE)³, JOHN², JOHN¹*) was born 23 May, 1891 in Louisville, Jefferson Co. Ky., and died 17 December, 1976 in Maricopa Co. Arizona. She married DUDLEY SANFORD DENNARD 16 February, 1913 in College Park, Fulton Co. Ga..

Notes for MARY CLOUD THRASHER:

Mary Cloud Thrasher was a graduate of Cox College in College Park, Georgia. Her degree was in teaching though it is not known if she taught after her marriage.

Mary was a devoted wife and mother to Dudley's son, James, whose mother had passed away several years before Mary and Dudley married. Mary and Dudley named their daughter Mary Belle after Dudley's first wife.

Mary possessed a talent for music and played the piano. She crocheted beautifully and did other kinds of needlework with tiny, delicate stitches. She was described as "sweet and the perfect Southern lady".

Mary is buried in College Park, Georgia.

Notes for DUDLEY SANFORD DENNARD:

Dudley was a Baptist minister and school teacher. After he and Mary were married, they lived in Draketown, Georgia. They also lived for a time in Florida. They settled, however, in College Park, Georgia.

Dudley has been described by family members as being a very kind man. Letters in their possession show him to have adored his family.

Dudley is buried in College Park, Fulton Co. Georgia.

Children of MARY THRASHER and DUDLEY DENNARD are:

2. i. MARY BELLE⁷ DENNARD, b. 02 January, 1915, Draketown, Haralson Co. Ga.; d. 21 July, 1999, Surprise, Maricopa Co. Arizona.
3. ii. JOHN SANFORD DENNARD.

Generation No. 2

2. MARY BELLE⁷ DENNARD (*MARY CLOUD⁶ THRASHER, GUSTAVUS BARTOW⁵, BARTON CLOUD⁴, ISAAC (I. HITE)³, JOHN², JOHN¹*) was born 02 January, 1915 in Draketown, Haralson Co. Ga., and died 21 July, 1999 in Surprise, Maricopa Co. Arizona. She married DAVID "DAVE" HEATH WALLACE 01 January, 1940 in College Park, Fulton Co. Ga..

Notes for MARY BELLE DENNARD:

Mary Belle Dennard Wallace was not allowed to play the piano as a small child, because everyone thought she would just "bang" on it. At age 9 she was confined to bed with typhoid fever and double pneumonia for two months. During that time her favorite aunt, Arienne Thrasher, bought her a toy xylophone. She began to play it by the numbers in a little song book, then found that she could play many songs that weren't in the book.

The first day out of bed, Aunt 'Rienne asked if she would like to play the piano. To her

surprise, she played, "You Are My Song of Love", then "Old Rugged Cross", and anything else she'd ever heard. Her family was amazed. Within a few years she was working on the courses that were offered through the Atlanta Conservatory of Music and continued studying at Cox College.

Mary Belle met Dave on a blind date.

Mary was an excellent educator, teaching 3rd and 4th grades and piano, before starting a family. Her main career, however, was being a very warm, loving wife and mother, Mary was very spiritual, and an inspiration with her tremendous amount of faith. She adored her family and they adored her. Mary Belle is buried in Sun City, Maricopa Co. Arizona.

Notes for DAVID "DAVE" HEATH WALLACE:

Dave Wallace was a very spirited "only child". He was a great combination of his parents. He inherited his Mother's sense of humor - and carried it a bit further with the pranks he used to play. This was perplexing for his more straight-laced father - a quiet, more serious man, who was very musical and wrote beautiful poetry. Dave also inherited a serious side and a terrific amount of talent.

At ten years of age, he took piano lessons from his aunt for about a year. She then stated that he showed no interest, made no progress, and it was pointless to continue. Later, in his teens, he discovered he could be more popular by doing something special. He worked on the piano again - his own way - with popular dance tunes. If he wanted something really distinctive, he "simply" composed it. Also, he was a talented artist.

He played with an orchestra for many years, touring the south. 78 RPM recordings of the orchestras with which he played are still prized by his descendants. It was not his intent to make a career out of music. Upon starting a family, his "serious and practical side" kicked in and he became a very successful businessman - a dedicated railroad man. Over the years he and Mary Belle lived in Atlanta, Pittsburgh, Los Angeles, and Phoenix.

Life with Dave was fun. He often drew cartoons for the family and told stories every night which he had written. He continued to write songs, which all enjoyed. For the rest of his life, friends and family would gather around the piano and have fun harmonizing with this wonderful man who had a style all his own.

Dave is buried in Sun City, Maricopa Co. Arizona.

Children of MARY DENNARD and DAVID WALLACE are:

4. i. MARY DIANNE⁸ WALLACE, b. 13 October, 1942, Atlanta, Fulton Co. Ga.
- ii. JANE ARIENNE WALLACE, b. 03 October, 1947, Los Angeles, Los Angeles Co. California.

Notes for JANE ARIENNE WALLACE:

Jane has lived in the Phoenix, Arizona, area for most of her life. In 2001 she completed twenty-two years of work with the Honeywell Corporation.

- iii. DAVID HEATH WALLACE, JR., b. 10 May, 1955, Phoenix, Maricopa Co. Arizona; d. 11 September, 1968, Pittsburgh, Allegheny Co. Pa..

3. JOHN SANFORD⁷ DENNARD (*MARY CLOUD⁶ THRASHER, GUSTAVUS BARTOW⁵, BARTON CLOUD⁴, ISAAC (I. HITE)³, JOHN², JOHN¹*). He married MYRTLE BELLE WILKIE.

Children of JOHN DENNARD and MYRTLE WILKIE are:

5. i. JANE⁸ DENNARD, b. 03 October, 1947.
6. ii. JOHN EDWARD "JACK" DENNARD, b. 30 June, 1950.
- iii. ALAN SANFORD DENNARD, b. October 1956; d. November 1983.

4. MARY DIANNE⁸ WALLACE (*MARY BELLE⁷ DENNARD, MARY CLOUD⁶ THRASHER, GUSTAVUS BARTOW⁵, BARTON CLOUD⁴, ISAAC (I. HITE)³, JOHN², JOHN¹*) was born 13 October, 1942 in Atlanta, Fulton Co. Ga.. She married RAYMOND LAWRENCE KUNTZ, SR. 22 September, 1962.

Notes for MARY DIANNE WALLACE:

Dianne calls the Los Angeles area "home" even though she has lived in Arizona for the past few years. She works as a Sr. Admin. Asst. for the Honeywell Corp. Dianne has many interests that include: travel, music, art, sewing, photography and her family. She has never had formal training in painting, but has provided art work for several major corporation projects. Of special interest is Photography which she has done professionally for the past twenty-two years. She enjoys composing songs for family and friends.

Children of MARY WALLACE and RAYMOND KUNTZ are:

- i. RAYMOND "DUFF" LAWRENCE⁹ KUNTZ, JR., b. 05 August, 1964, Denver, Adams Co. Colorado; m. DANA KRISTINE HUSSEY, 04 February, 2002, Los Angeles, Los Angeles Co. California.

Notes for RAYMOND "DUFF" LAWRENCE KUNTZ, JR.:

Duff likes to work with his hands and is currently studying for his General Contractor's License.

- ii. MARY SUZANNE KUNTZ, b. 20 December, 1967, Los Angeles, Los Angeles Co. California.

Notes for MARY SUZANNE KUNTZ:

She was the fourth generation of first daughters being named "Mary". Suzanne is also named for her Grandmother's cousin, Anna Sue Wallace Holden. Suzanne is very artistic, creative and does beautiful calligraphy.

- iii. JULIE MARIE KUNTZ, b. 08 June, 1976, Los Angeles, Los Angeles Co. California; m. WILHELM GERMANICUS VON FUHRHERR - MARKSFELD, 30 April, 2001, Maricopa Co. Arizona.

Notes for JULIE MARIE KUNTZ:

Julie is artistic, musical, athletic, and bi-lingual (English and German). She will receive her degree in Global Business in May 2002.

5. JANE⁸ DENNARD (*JOHN SANFORD⁷, MARY CLOUD⁶ THRASHER, GUSTAVUS BARTOW⁵, BARTON CLOUD⁴, ISAAC (I. HITE)³, JOHN², JOHN¹*) was born 03 October, 1947. She married MIKE MARTIN.

Children of JANE DENNARD and MIKE MARTIN are:

- i. DAVID⁹ MARTIN.
- ii. KAREN CLAE "KACIE" MARTIN.

6. JOHN EDWARD "JACK"⁸ DENNARD (*JOHN SANFORD⁷, MARY CLOUD⁶ THRASHER, GUSTAVUS BARTOW⁵, BARTON CLOUD⁴, ISAAC (I. HITE)³, JOHN², JOHN¹*) was born 30 June, 1950. He married BARBARA FREDA.

Children of JOHN DENNARD and BARBARA are:

- i. STEVEN ALAN⁹ DENNARD.
- ii. CHRISTOPHER JOSEPH DENNARD.

The Thrasher Newsletter

Mentor: Dot Pruetz Editor: Barbara Eger Circulation: John E. Thrasher III Volume 20 No. 5 July 2002

The Potato Posse -- one of the 2002 Reunion "hits"



Our host offers a new sport!

After checking in at the Plantation Lodge on Friday, the next stop was Al and Peggy's, where the porch was cool, the rockers were comfortable, and the fun was all ready to begin. In addition to the (in?) famous potato gun, entertainment options included fishing, target and skeet shooting, opportunities for walking in the woods, and of course visiting and just plain relaxing. The buffet supper was delicious -- demonstrated by the sudden drop in conversation while everyone devoted themselves to their plates!

Saturday morning's rain didn't dampen enthusiasm for getting out and about. While not everyone chose to do the umbrella tour of the plantation, there was a good-sized group of hardy souls under umbrellas. The downpour dwindled to

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drips in time for Juliette with its charming shops and picturesque scenes. Of course everyone had to try fried green tomatoes with lunch at the Whistle Stop Cafe!

The annual meeting was held in the Plantation Lodge conference room -- which in addition to the usual furnishings came complete with a juke box! Since the room was reserved for the Thrashers the entire weekend, we had a place to display pictures, articles and other memorabilia safely and to gather and visit all during the reunion.

The potato gun was just one thing in a long list of entertainment options Al and Peggy Thrasher had planned for the 2002 Reunion, but it was surely the most unusual! From the Friday afternoon/evening get-together at the



Bill Thrasher tells Al "I'm game."



And those varmints had better watch out!

Brown Thrasher's Nest to saying goodbye at Sunday breakfast, it was a wonderful, wonderful weekend.

Al and Peggy were the perfect hosts and there was a great turnout. The folks

Cont. on pg. 2

2002 Reunion

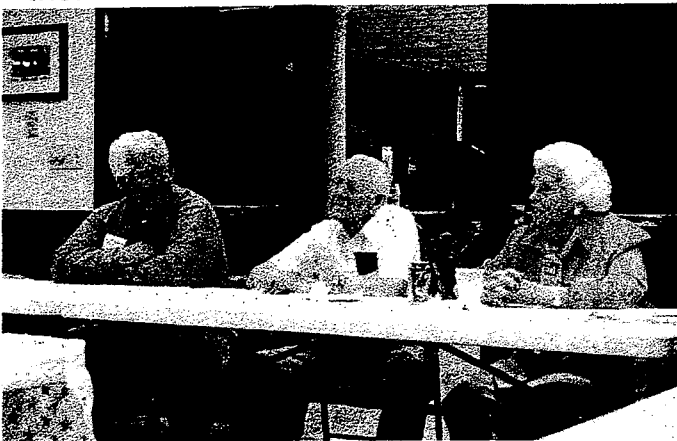
Cont. from pg. 1

at the Plantation Lodge in Jackson couldn't have been nicer, the Saturday night barbeque dinner was great fun and there were a number of new "cousins" to meet along with greeting old friends from past years. It rained on the trip to Jarrell Plantation and "dripped" on lunch at the Whistle Stop Cafe, but no one let a little



Bill Cherry, Eleanor Thrasher, Dale Thrasher and John E. Thrasher III in front of the Whistle Stop Cafe

All in all, this had to be one of our very best reunions. Al and Peggy deserve a big family thank you and a hug for all their work!



John P. Thrasher and Warren and Caroline Thrasher at the Saturday meeting

Seen at the reunion . . .

There were quite a few new faces at this reunion, as well as several that we had not seen for a while. It was especially nice to see so many of the younger generations. The descendants of Gustavus Leviticus Thrasher were especially well represented. Peggy and Al did a great job contacting people and encouraging them to attend.

Dr. and Mrs. Dan Fincher, Robert Fincher (Dan and Robert are first cousins), and Carmie Thrasher Cochrane (Gustavus Leviticus descendants); Fred and Shirley Rainer and Joe and Terry Rainer (grandsons of Vessie Thrasher and Robert A. Rainer); Chris and Sharon Hand and their daughter Ashley; and Sheila Roberts were just some of the new or "not seen for a while" attendees.

Of course, it was a pleasure to see the familiar reunion faces as well -- Nancy and Bill Cherry, Bill and Velma Thrasher, Warren and Caroline Thrasher and their son, John P. (our reunion host for last year), Dale and Trudy Thrasher, Joann Bandy, Dot Pruett, Hugh and Helen Thrasher and John E. and Eleanor Thrasher were some of those busy visiting and catching up on the past year's events.

And so many people who were unable to attend sent notes or e-mails or called that this reunion probably had the best response of any reunion in years. Al and Peggy should be appointed attendance chairs for all time!!! Think they probably will decline the honor, though.

Photo Credits . . .

Thanks go to Dale Thrasher and Nancy Thrasher Cherry for sharing their reunion photos, and especially for scanning and e-mailing them to make them even easier to use. If Al and Peggy are attendance chairs, maybe Dale and Nancy should be official photographers.

And Coming Up . . .

Let's make future years as well-attended as this one. John E. And Eleanor Thrasher have volunteered to host the 2003 reunion and have already started on plans. They have already gotten started; dates and initial arrangements follow on another page.

More Reunion News

At the Saturday afternoon meeting, Al and Peggy and John E. Thrasher III shared correspondence they had received from some of the members who could not attend.

Mrs. Elizabeth Thrasher Baldwin wrote that she had hoped to be attend but even though circumstances prevented that, she would be thinking of us. She also sent the information used in this issue about her son Barton's election to the chairmanship of the Natl. Assoc. of State Boards of Accountancy.

Others sending regrets were Linda Burkhalter, who had other commitments; Sarah Kass, who also wrote she was pursuing research on the descendants of John and Mary Ann Thrasher of Bibb County, Ala., since she had recently spoken with several of them who were still living in the area. Perhaps when she has completed it, she will share it for the newsletter. Faye Bernhardt wrote Al and Peggy that she was sorry to miss the reunion, "and especially the invitation to the 'Nest.' Those attending are in for a great treat . . ." And that was an accurate prophecy, Faye!

While the rains didn't dampen anyone enough to prevent the Jarrell Plantation trip in the morning or the lunch/sightseeing/shopping excursion to Juliette and the Whistle Stop Cafe, it was just too wet to continue to Indian Springs, which was regrettable, but didn't put a serious "damper" on the fun.

John Enslin and his family were sorry they could not attend this year, but John had received an invitation from the Chicago Title Insurance Company to present a seminar for their Alabama and Mississippi agents, which was a professional opportunity John did not think he could pass up. John also wrote that they were fortunate enough to be able to travel to Utah to take in some of the Winter Olympics and see family there.

Carmie Thrasher Cochrane passed on a request from her son John for data on the Thrashers, especially those generations born on or after 1960. He is planning on updating the earlier work on the family. Carmie brought a letter and form for those at the reunion, but if you would like to help him, I'm sure he would be happy to mail you the information. Con-

tact John Cochrane, 180 Thatching Lane, Alpharetta GA 30022 or by e-mail at <JCochrane@aol.com>.

2003 Reunion Plans Already Underway!

John E. and Eleanor Thrasher have volunteered to host the 2003 Thrasher Family Reunion. They have very generously taken on this job several times, so know it will be a great one.

The dates are May 16 and 17, the same time as the past few years. It seems to have worked out that the weekend between Mothers' Day and Memorial Day fits the most schedules and generally avoids conflicting with events such as graduation. Since you are getting this information so early, John and Eleanor say no one should be able to say they didn't know far enough ahead to plan!

Headquarters will be the Holiday Inn in Gainesville, Fla. Word from John is that a block of rooms is already reserved with a rate of \$59 per night, which will include breakfast. He wrote that it is a large motel with plenty of amenities and very attractive. There will be a meeting room available for our group and the Saturday night dinner (probably buffet-style) will be catered there by the Holiday Inn.

John and Eleanor are planning to host the Friday get-together and dinner at their home in Micanopy. Those of you who attended the last reunion held there know how peaceful and beautiful it is and what a good time we had.

Gainesville offers many opportunities for sightseeing ranging from the Florida Museum of Natural History to the Kanapaha Botanical Gardens. In checking the city's web page, one of the more intriguing sites was Devil's Millhopper State Geological Site -- wonder what it is? And for those of you who may have missed it last time or just want to revisit, don't forget that Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings' home, Cross Creek, is between Gainesville and Micanopy. And of course there are the quaint shops in Micanopy for browsing.

More details will be coming in future newsletters, so keep tuned and save the dates on your calendars now!

News and Notes

Dot Pruett has completed the compilation and indexing of the Thrasher Family Newsletters through Volume 13. She did an absolutely wonderful job. The loose-leaf binder format allows sheets to be removed for copying without damage to the book or the other pages. The copies Dot brought to the reunion sold immediately, and there are orders already in for more. The cost is \$38 including postage. This covers only the cost of copying and the binder, and is well worth it. The plan is to collect orders and then have them printed in groups -- probably of five or six. If you would like a copy or have questions about it, contact Dot at 334-281-4412 or by e-mail at <Ddotpru@aol.com>.

There is a correction to the membership directory -- John E. Thrasher's e-mail address should be <fish_jet@bellsouth.net> (not .com as it is now); his juno address is still valid as well. And -- sometime during the next few months the directory will be updated; please make sure you have all of the correct information on your dues form when you send it in.

CELEBRATIONS

Hugh and Helen Thrasher had several grandchildren graduating this spring. They are: John Thrasher, The Lovett School, Atlanta; Karen Webb, Central High School, Macon; and Lindsay Webb, Lexington, Ky.

Allie Thrasher, daughter of Roy C. and Lorraine Thrasher, graduated from Huntsville (Ala.) High School.

Rebecca E. Roberts, daughter of Sheila Roberts and granddaughter of Chleo Thrasher Hand, is now an R.N. She received her degree from Georgia Perimeter College and Piedmont Hospital. Rebecca is the daughter of Sheila Roberts (Gustavus Leviticus Thrasher line).

On May 26, family and friends helped Hugh Thrasher celebrate his 80th birthday in Sweetwater Park, Atlanta. Family members from Jacksonville, Fla., Macon,

Peachtree City and Atlanta, Ga., and Lexington, Ky. attended.

And Eleanor and John E. Thrasher III recently celebrated their 47th wedding anniversary.

Congratulations to everyone on these milestones!

It may be possible that Al and Peggy Thrasher deserve the title of family gadabouts -- with last summer's trip to Australia, Peggy and Al had started on the title, and now they are off again. They left June 24 to fly into Anchorage and then take a seven-day cruise from Seward to Vancouver, followed by a scenic train trip to Seattle. Sounds wonderful -- is this possibly R & R to recover from their hosting duties?

Dale and Trudy Thrasher sent 4th of July greetings by e-mail while they were enjoying their Colorado vacation! Can't decide whether to be impressed by their staying electronically connected or by their thinking of greeting friends and family while gone.

And Bill and Velma Thrasher are joining the wanderers in the family with a brief trip to Destin, Fla. They will be celebrating their 52nd wedding anniversary. Congratulations and best wishes to both! Actually, Bill and Velma are probably pretty close runners-up to the family gadabout title -- they seem to be on the road a lot.

The following e-mail came from Shirley Thresher Brewer, the organizer of the very enjoyable reunion of Tennessee Threshers/Thrashers two years ago, which several of our group attended.

"Dear Friends and Relatives, This is to let you know that if you are passing through our great state of Tennessee on I-40 between Memphis and Nashville and have an hour or so, please let us know as we would enjoy meeting you at I-40 exit 126. They have truck stops there with

More News and Notes

large restaurants and everyone is welcome . . . If you have more time we would enjoy having you at our home . . . we are just 15 -20 minutes away and will meet you there . . . just give us a call at 731-847-6768. Have a great and safe summer."

Elizabeth Thrasher Baldwin wrote that her son-in-law, Jack Satterfield, had fallen and broken his leg and torn all of the ligaments. Best wishes for a complete and speedy recovery.

Barton W. Baldwin, son of Elizabeth (Thrasher) and the late Asbury Baldwin, was elected chairman of the National Association of State Boards of Accountancy last fall. He is managing partner of Baldwin & Hodge LLP in Mount Olive, N.C., and a University of Georgia graduate. In his acceptance speech, he noted that he is continuing his family's tradition of professional public service. His father served many years on the Georgia State Board of Pharmacy, his grandfather was a division head in the Dept. of Revenue, and his uncle, Barton E. Thrasher III, served for 32 years as Georgia's state auditor and became known as the "Watchdog of the State Treasury."

Dale Thrasher passed on the following info on a good site for you genealogical web surfers. <http://www.searchforyourancestors.com/quicksearch> allows you to enter your surname once to search multiple search engines. The search engines include Ellis Island, GenCircles, Genealogy.com, GenForum, RootsWeb, the SSDI, the Mormon Church and several others. According to Dale's information, because this is a surname-specific search engine, it is a good way to search for those names which may also be common nouns such as Brown or Day or first names such as Thomas or James.

An update for those of you interested in "our" hockey team, the Atlanta Thrashers: Seems as though it might be

time for them to stop leaning on the "We're an expansion team; it takes time" excuse! They had (I think -- sports buffs, feel free to correct me) the worst record in the NHL in this past season. The good news is that their left wing Dany Heatley won the Calder Trophy as the NHL's top rookie, and fellow team member Ilya Kovalchuk came in second in the voting. Does this mean hope for the future??

And last but not least, it is dues time again. The past twelve months have gone by quickly, but July 1 marks the end of our year. A renewal slip is enclosed with this issue, which is the last one of the current volume. Be sure to send your information and check in promptly so as not to miss out on any of the newsletters.

In Memoriam

Mr. James Warren Thrasher died Saturday, May 18, 2002. Born Oct. 10, 1913, in Bishop, Oconee County, Ga., he had been married to Olevia (Pentecost) Thrasher for more than 52 years.

He was the son of the late James Ernest and Ola (Robison) Thrasher and the grandson of the late Isaac Lee and Annie Beatrice (O'Dillon) Thrasher. He was preceded in death by his three siblings, Ernest Mobley Thrasher, Velma Annette Thrasher and Henry Robison Thrasher.

Mr. Thrasher was a member of the Tucker (Ga.) United Methodist Church. He was also a member of the Pathagoras Lodge and was a Scottish Rite Mason and a Shriner.

He is survived by his wife, Olevia; his daughter, Linda T. Bird, and her husband Timothy; and grandchildren John Timothy Bird and Meredith Leigh Bird.

Funeral services were held May 20 with the Rev. Mike Cash and the Rev. Sondra Jones officiating. Interment was in Floral Hills Memory Gardens.

While at the May reunion, Col. Warren Thrasher shared this editorial from the *Athens Banner-Herald* as an example of how well-remembered the public service of some of the earlier Thrashers were. In this case it is Barton Edmonds Thrasher III, who began his service in the Georgia State Auditor's Office in 1927 and was appointed State Auditor in 1941, continuing in that position for more than 20 years. It should be noted that while the *Banner-Herald* refers to him as B. E. Thrasher Jr., page 194 of Dot Pruett's "Our Thrasher Heritage" documents him as being B. E. Thrasher III.

State government sorely needs an earnest, attentive watchdog

He was president. Ernie Vandiver was governor. Georgia's favorite major league baseball team was the St. Louis Cardinals. And Roy Barnes was barely 12 years old. That's how long it has been since state government had an honest-to-goodness, seemingly independent state auditor. His name was B. E. Thrasher Jr. He scared the daylights out of state officials and legislators. Reporters adored him. He was the ultimate whistle-blower. Then, one day about 40 years ago, Thrasher retired. The position of auditor gradually went from high-profile to low-profile to no-profile. The whistle-blowing stopped.

Flip the calendar forward to 2002. Corruption has become institutionalized in the Gold Dome. Legislators brazenly pick up multimillion-dollar chunks of state funds for their private endeavors. Nepotism is rampant in every branch of government. Obvious conflicts of interest are straggled in as routine.

Ethics has been relegated to the back of the government bus. The state auditor (Can you name him? Try Russell Harlow, and don't say Russell who?) is now a third-level career bureaucrat who works closely for the General Assembly and never acts without the express consent of the legislative leadership.

Then consider the State Ethics Commission, a purely underfunded, understaffed panel concerned with whether it's deflected and it's crossed in campaign finance reports. The commission has no authority to delve into conflicts of interest or plain stealing. As for the once assertive attorney general's office, AG Thurmond Baker's staff has spent months without results sifting through allegations of wrongdoing.

regarding the Pardons and Pardons Board. The attorney general also has under advisement a thick folder on Senate Majority Leader Charlie Walker of Augusta, concerning Walker's commingling of state and personal business. No action is in sight. To his credit, Baker's office recently secured an indictment of state Sen. Van Street. DeNicholls, on charges of accepting money to get Under, gentler prison treatment for a convicted killer. The case appears weak. Sen. Street's main defense is likely to turn on that tried-and-true legal theory, "everybody does it." The evidence suggests he may be right.

On another front, former state Sen. Sonny Perdue, the Republicans' leading candidate for governor, has set out to make ethics the centerpiece of his campaign against Gov. Roy Barnes. Three days before Perdue unveiled his proposal for a state inspector general, his main Republican rival, Cobb

Commission Chairman Bill Byrne, publicly documented instances after instances of Perdue's plugging the prison system about softer treatment or transfers for at least 20 assorted felons.

The State Ethics Commission also took Perdue to task in late April for improperly handling \$30,000 in campaign funds. Would-be governor Perdue may have trouble establishing his credentials as a crusader for a purer government.

Perdue's adviser, Chairman Byrne, is not without ethics problems of his own. Byrne's best pal and longtime financial adviser is said to be a very successful

Cobb zoning lawyer, and Byrne's most lavish campaign contributors are real estate developers.

As for Gov. Barnes, he began his administration on sound moral footing. He released all his tax returns dating back to 1985, and has made his returns public every year he has been in office. He sacked a couple of department managers for playing foosball with vendors and, in one case, allowing the theft of millions from state cash registers. Barnes established firm rules against state employees accepting gifts from folks who desire to conduct business with the state.

In recent months, however, Barnes' ethical slope has begun to get slippery. His Senate floor leader and confidant, Sen. Steve Thompson, D-Powder Springs, is involved, perhaps indirectly, in the Pardons and Pardons mess. Thompson's estranged wife, Lisa, contends she lost her job as a lobbyist for the P&P board because her so-called marriage to the senator crippled her ability to influence legislation.

This week Gov. Barnes opened his TV campaign for re-election. His first round of commercials dwells on his Georgia roots and his determination to improve education. Those are sound themes.

But the governor needs to use some of his campaign millions to reassure Georgians he is on the side of honesty and ethics. He ought to consider proposing the establishment of an additional high-level position in the state government — that of state auditor to be elected statewide in a nonpartisan election. Perhaps then the spirit of B. E. Thrasher will again stalk the corridors of the Capitol, infusing would-be miscreants with a fear and trembling they have not experienced in four decades.