

The Thrasher Newsletter

Mentor: Dot Pruett Editor: Barbara Eger Circulation: John E. Thrasher III Volume 21 October 2002

Some Biographical Information on Leon Brooks Thrasher

By John E. Thrasher, III

Leon Brooks Thrasher was born in the family home in Micanopy, Fla., on Dec. 15, 1891. His father started his general merchandise store in the town in 1896 and also operation a large livery stable. Leon later recalled that he made an early start in Florida trailways as a boy when he made daily trips driving drummers to visit stores in the area.

From Rosemary, Leon's daughter, recalled one of her father's favorite childhood memories about visiting his Means grandparents in Newton County, Ga., and the transportation involved. It seems that the train went by the Covington station, where it was met by a wagon which also ran on a railroad track and was hauled by a mule. Then the mule pulled them up to

A year and a month have passed since our country suffered the pain of the terrorist attacks. In that time, our lives have changed in many ways. As we head for possible wartime, pray for the United States and our people. Don't surrender to fear and hatred and hold family and other loved ones close. As you read the pledge below, renew your faith that our country will survive.



I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands; one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

Oxford, their destination. After the mule hauled the passengers and wagon up the hill to Oxford, the passengers got off and the mule boarded the wagon for the ride down the hill to the station!

After graduation from Micanopy High School in 1909, Leon entered the University of Florida to study electrical engineering. At that time, the University only had about 150 students. Because there was so little electricity being used in those days, he changed his major and received a degree in civil engineering in 1913. He vividly remembered a campus with only two buildings and driving to football games in a horse and buggy. What a difference he would see today!

Leon also earned a master's degree in civil engineering from the University in 1922.

After graduation, Leon's first engineering job was for the East Coast Railroad; then he moved to Polk County to work with the Phosphate Mining Company in Nichols for three years. He got his first highway engineering work in 1916 in Polk County where he had a part in its famous road programs, one of the first systems of paved roads in Florida.

In 1917-1918, he moved to Lakeland as assistant city engineer, where about 25 miles of asphalt roads were built before he entered military service in July 1918. After his enlistment in the Engineering Corps., Leon's third posting was to Officer's Training Camp in Virginia. He received his commission as 2nd Lieutenant as the armistice was signed.

In 1919, Leon joined the Florida State Road Department; at the time, it was only a little more than three years old and had fewer than 25 employees. He traveled the entire state, advising on surveys of road and grading operation.

Cont. on pg. 2

Leon BrooksThrasher

Cont. from pg. 1

Later that year a new 5th District was added and Leon was reassigned to the Ocala headquarters for District 4. At the time, there were no paved roads outside of town except for some brick roads in St. Johns, Seminole and Orange counties. Until Jan. 1, 1939, Leon handled the planning and construction of paved roads over a territory extending from Leon County on the west and north and Duval County on the east to Brevard, Polk and Hernando counties on the south.

The name L. B. "Skeet" Thrasher is engraved on a metal plaque on U.S. Hwy. 441 as a tribute to the man who built the road through Payne's Prairie even though detractors said it would sink in the swamp. In 1924 the road went around the Prairie between Micanopy and Gainesville. By cutting across, five miles were cut off the trip. "They thought the Prairie was all mush," said Leon indignantly, "I prospected through and found it was solid clay." It took a year to build the road. Sometimes called "Thrasher's Folly," Leon said the biggest difficulty wasn't the snakes, mosquitos, deer or wild turkeys; it was the doubters. It was his belief in and use of lime rock which made the highway possible in spite of the naysayers.

In 1938, after 20 years of service, Leon left the department and took a position as engineer-director for the Limerock Association of Florida, doing research work in the lime rock field, and working to develop new uses for this natural and abundant road base material.

Leon Thrasher became "semi-retired" in 1960 -- he remained available as a resource person and often appeared in Tallahassee during legislative sessions to give advice. Later, the legislature unanimously passed a bill naming a 15-mile segment of U.S. 441 from Ocala to near Orange Lake after him, and the ribbon-cutting was held on May 21, 1965.

After retirement, he was active in the Florida Engineering Society, the Old Alumni of the U. of F., and was made an honorary member of the Blue Key leadership fraternity in 1985. In 1981, he was selected to receive the University of Florida Distinguished Alumnus Award,

one of the highest recognitions the University can bestow. Always an enthusiastic Gator fan, he attended every football game he could. A backup short-stop for two years during his student days at Florida, in 1980 Leon was invited to throw out the first ball of the Gator's baseball season. He always said receiving his first baseball letter was one of his biggest thrills -- "I was proud of that jacket; I used to wear it almost everywhere."

In his mid-90s, Leon was asked to plot the city of Micanopy as it was when he was a young man. In response, he not only plotted the city, but he plotted each house and building, with the name of the families who lived there. The completed chart and list of names is displayed in the Micanopy Historical Society Museum in the Thrasher Warehouse in Micanopy. In order to make sure the map was correct, Leon wrote letters to those of his childhood friends who were still living and also made many trips to visit former Micanopy residents. Some of the correspondence survives and is in the M.H.S. archives.

After the death of his wife, Margarita, Leon lived alone, although his daughters were in close contact and lived only a short distance from him. He managed alone until about two weeks before his death, passing away one week before his 100th birthday. He is buried with Margarita and their infant son, Ralph, in the Micanopy cemetery.

One of the more moving tributes to Leon Thrasher and the many others who made our modern road system possible is author Baynard Kendrick's dedication in his book "Florida's Trails to Turnpikes":

"To the living Engineers, Contractors, Purveyors of materials and machinery; the Public Servants, Prisoners, Mules, and Oxen; To the memory of all those gone, whose blood, sweat, tears, and efforts turned the Florida Trails of 1915 to the Highways of Today and the Future and, most particularly, to Leon B. (Skeet) Thrasher -- Gentleman and Engineer who, with untiring effort, and un-failing courtesy, bridged all the gaps, and smoothly paved the long road traveled while putting this history together."

Bits and Pieces

The King's Passengers

Early in 1718 the English law for the Further Preventing Robbery, Burglary and other Felonies, and for the More Effectual Transportation of Felons was enacted. After 1718 all but the most heinous or most trivial crimes could attract a sentence of transportation for seven or fourteen years, though the King still retained the prerogative of pardoning those sentenced to death for their crimes on condition of their serving in the colonies. The Privy Purse was used to defray the cost of shipping felons from London, Middlesex, the Home Counties (Essex, Herefordshire, Kent, Surrey and Sussex) and Buckinghamshire, which together accounted for some two-thirds of the country's criminal population. More than 300 convict ships from London, Bristol, Liverpool, and Biddeford crossed the Atlantic between 1716 and 1776. Particularly after 1730, the ships docked in Maryland or Virginia. Principal English prisons were cleared on a regular basis two or three times a year at times to suit maritime requirements and the demands of tobacco exporters in the colonies.

Felons transported from London to Virginia by the Smith, Capt. William Loney, in September 1730 included John Jeffrey, Aron Short, James Smith, Richard Thresher and Thomas Tydey from Sussex, plus felons from Essex, Herefordshire, Kent, and Surrey.

Felons transported from London by the Smith, Capt. William Loney, in September 1731 and registered in Virginia in 1732 included Richard Hikes, Edward Tackett and James Thresher from Buckinghamshire plus other felons from London, Middlesex, and Wiltshire.

From MATA DATA, January 1998

Nancy Cherry shared the above from her newsletter and noted that the information was taken from "The King's Passengers to Maryland & Virginia" by Peter Wilson Coldham, copyright 1997, and published by Family Line Publications (now Willow Bend Books) in Westminster, Maryland, 1-800-876-6103. The website is <www.WillowBendBooks.com>. Ac-

ording to the Summer 2002 catalog from Willow Bend, the book is still available. It is paperback (#1372WB, \$30) with index and listing of some 25,000 passengers.

Spanish Music CD Helps Students

Elise Carr Sumner has created ¡Viva La Música!, a Spanish music CD with 28 original songs. The CD is accompanied by a 61-page Spanish lyric booklet with English translations and teacher notes. The songs teach specific grammar and vocabulary for beginning and advanced students.

On her web site Elise writes: "I have taught Spanish for about 20 years in Indiana, Ohio and Tennessee and have found that students learn more when I teach with music."

She adds, "I wrote the first ten songs for travelers, and the others I composed with certain vocabulary and grammar points in mind. The songs are practical, melodious and sometimes humorous." Elise now teaches private Spanish classes to adults.

You can learn more about this on her web site, <www.elisesumner.com>. Elise is married to David Sumner, whose newsletter contributions include the much-appreciated articles on several of our Thrasher Family Association founders. Many of you know both of them from past reunions.

And A Directory Change

Bill and Velma Thrasher have new e-mail addresses. Please enter the following in your directories:

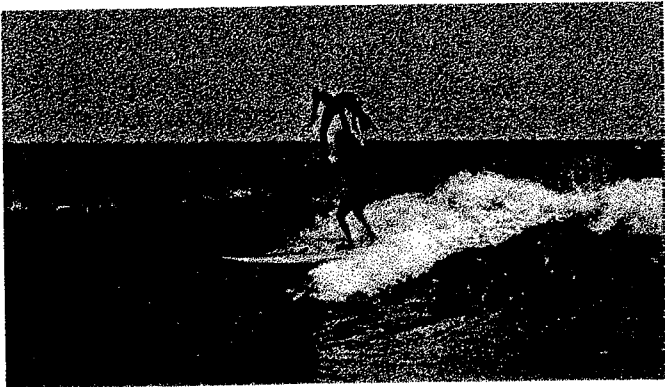
<bill142@charter.net> and
<velma33@charter.net>.

And on the subject of the directory -- if you have a new address, phone number, e-mail, etc., be sure to send it in because there will be a new directory, probably coming out shortly before the 2003 reunion.

More Bits and Pieces

This Sure Isn't Like Web-Surfing!

Paige Harris, daughter of Gretchen (Thrasher) and Bill Harris, is a tandem surfer whiz at the age of 12! Paige and her partner, Guy Takayama, took first place in the Orange Biarritz Surf Festival



in July. The pair took second place in 2001. The two have worked together more than a year and have won many competitions.

Gretchen Harris said the invitation for her daughter to participate was a good excuse for the whole family to head to France for a few weeks of summer fun. Paige and her brother Billy both surf, along with father Bill. Younger sister Kelly, 8, is just learning to surf. Gretchen said she prefers to watch the fun from the shore.

Billy, who is 16, took advantage of the trip to test his skills in competition as well. He took fifth place overall in one of the Biarritz events. He said that he probably would like to compete on the pro circuit.

Paige will enter seventh grade this fall and said she would probably compete for another year before she grows too big for Takayama to lift over his head. She must be no more than half his body weight in order to compete.

Newsletter Idea -- "Coincidences"

When involved in family research, have you ever had an "unexplained" happening, event or occurrence? Have you ever had some unusual connection with people that made you truly feel weird? Something that made you feel that your

ancestor, relations or friends were there helping (or maybe hindering) you? Did some unsolved puzzle suddenly, mysteriously, become clear?

How about sharing such an experience with other members of the Thrasher Family Association? Just jot it down and send it to Barbara Eger. Here is an example to begin with . . .

A few years ago when Eleanor Thrasher was working at Florida National Bank in Jacksonville, she needed to copy some paper work. When she got to the copy machine and lifted the lid, there was a small piece of newspaper that the previous user of the machine had left behind.

Eleanor picked up the paper and looked at it. It was an obituary for Albert Americus Thrasher of Flovilla, Ga. Eleanor was amazed as Albert was well known to us and we had no idea that he had died or had even been ill.

Eleanor asked everyone in the bank about the obituary. No one claimed it, no one knew who had left it in the copier, no one knew Albert!

Later, when we were in contact with Lorraine, Albert's widow, and other members of the family, we asked about it, but they had no clue who in the Jacksonville area may have been the one with the obituary.

We never found out more, but did appreciate this stranger's letting us know of Albert's death!

John E. Thrasher III

Remember -- Reunion in May

Don't forget to mark your calendars and save May 16 and 17 for the Thrasher Family Reunion. Details on how to make your reservations and details on events will be in the next newsletter. Remember, accommodations will be at the Holiday Inn in Gainesville, Friday night dinner will be at John E. and Eleanor Thrasher's in Micanopy and the Saturday meeting and dinner will be at the Holiday Inn. Rates for the motel are \$59/night if there are 10 or more reservations.

And a Few More Bits and Pieces

Last Chance for Binder Collection

Dot Pruett only plans one more printing of the indexed collection of the first 13 volumes of the the Thrasher Family Newsletter, so if you plan on getting one now is the time! The price is \$38 including shipping, and orders should go to Dot at 4000 Fieldcrest Drive, Apt. A-308, Montgomery, AL 36111. If you have any questions about it, e-mail her at Ddotpru@aol.com.

Update on Our Maryland Members

Nancy Thrasher Cherry and her husband Bill are a little too close for comfort to the Maryland/D.C./Virginia sniper. She recently emailed "Our sniper struck again last night and this morning. Two more deaths.

Bill bought his gas in Baltimore last evening & hunkered down between the station and the pumps. I warned Chris, [their son] who declared that he wasn't going to be scared. I called him at work today to remind him that he was the family future and had an obligation to stay alive. I'm a little cranky because I haven't ventured out except for my training day at the Maryland Archives in Annapolis. Don't seem to have any interest in dashing to Michael's for crafts stuff or to the Giant for a can of cranberry sauce, but HATE feeling confined."

As you know, the toll has increased since then and there seems to be no way to catch this person or persons.

Keep the Cherrys in your thoughts, along with all who may be in danger. By the time you read this, we hope the person or persons responsible for this horror has been caught.

Dues Reminder -- Last Chance

Remember that dues were due July 1. Dot Pruett says that quite a few of you have already sent them, but in case you haven't paid your association dues yet there is another form included with this newsletter. It's easy for something like

this to slip one's mind, so this is just a reminder. Membership is still just \$20 a year, and the newsletter and the reunions are wonderful ways to keep up with family news. Don't let this be the last issue you receive.

And finally, since there won't be another issue before they arrive -- best wishes to all for the holidays. Happy Thanksgiving and a merry, merry Christmas!



EDITOR'S CORNER

This issue is almost entirely thanks to John E. Thrasher. Without his information on Leon Brooks Thrasher and the Sansom research, along with the idea for the Coincidences feature, there would not have been much in the way of new material.

Not to be a grouch, although you'll notice he has returned as my icon of choice, but without all of you, there is no way to make the newsletter cover the various branches of the family. I can do research here on John James Thrasher and his family and descendants, but what about the Tennessee, Alabama, Georgia, Kentucky, etc., people? This shouldn't be only about one or two branches when there are so many.

Other than certain faithful contributors -- Dot Pruett, John E. Thrasher III, David Sumner, Dale Thrasher, Bill Thrasher, and a few others (sorry not to list everyone, but you're appreciated!), there aren't many of you participating in your newsletter.

Send newsletter items to me at 13318 Omega Ct., Dade City, FL 33525; or send an e-mail to <egerb@gte.net>. And if you do send something and I don't respond right away, that doesn't mean

it wasn't received or appreciated. I have company coming for 10 days next month, then Thanksgiving and I will be away most of December, so will get a little behind on keeping in touch.



**HAPPY
HALLOWEEN!!!**

Some Recent Research by John E. Thrasher III

I have recently been in contact with Molly McLaughlin of Jesup, Georgia, who is a SANSOM researcher. By comparing notes Molly and I have been able to correctly state that the name of Jackson M. Thrasher's wife was Susan Jane Sansom, not Sansora. (See OTH p. 133, 134, 138, and 139).

The name "Sansom" is very unclear in the Barton Thrasher Bible and also in the account of sale of Jackson M. Thrasher's property. That account was submitted to the court by Thomas Sansom, administrator. In both documents the name could have been interpreted as "Sansora".

Thomas Sansom was born in Greene County, Georgia, about 1790. He moved to Clarke County, Georgia, about 1801. He was a veteran of the War of 1812. He and his family are found in the U. S. Federal Census for Clarke County, Georgia, for the years 1830, 1840, and 1850. His death on May 30, 1852 in Athens, Georgia, was reported in the "Southern Christian Advocate" issue of July 9, 1852.

This Thomas Sansom was the father of Susan Jane Sansom who married Jackson M. Thrasher on 14 November 1843.

As Jackson was twenty-eight years old in 1843, it is quite possible that there was an earlier marriage to a Marion Williams as reported in Dr. Marion Thrasher's "A History of the Thrasher Family" which was published in 1895. If that was true, Marion probably died before 1843. No record of the marriage or of Marion's life has ever been found.

Jackson M. Thrasher died on 1 February 1847. The Thrasher family was reported in the 1850 Clarke County, Georgia, Census (Farmington District, Family # 11, Dwelling # 11), with Susan (Jane) head of the family and with her two children, Josephine V. and Barton F. (OTH p.133)

It had been assumed that the "Susan" as reported in the census was Jackson's sister, Susan A. C. Thrasher, but she had married Dr. Lewis G. Anderson on 27 July 1842 and thus would not have been reported as Susan Thrasher. (The Susan reported in the census was Susan Jane and her two children, Josephine V. Thrasher and Barton F. Thrasher).

It is not known when Susan Jane died. She was alive in 1852 when her father wrote his will, but not in 1868 when her daughter Josephine V. Thrasher Overby and husband Barton Overby were considered legatees of Susan Jane's brother, James T. Sansom. She had undoubtedly died by 1861 for Letters of Guardianship were granted to John Oates Thrasher for Josephine V. Thrasher and Barton F. Thrasher. John Oates Thrasher was their uncle.

In a loose record found in the Georgia Department of Archives and History there is a petition which was made by family members of James T. Sansom's after his death on 26 June 1868. The petition identifies James' mother, sisters and their husbands and - "his niece Josephine Overby and her husband Barton Overby". There are other references in court records of the settlement of James Sansom's estate to Josephine Overby as late as 18 January 1870.

Josephine V. Thrasher's middle name was probably "Virginia", the name of her Aunt Virginia Sansom.

You may remember too that Josephine and her husband Barton were first cousins! Barton's mother was Asenath Caroline Thrasher, Jackson's sister.

In a letter which Dr. D. W. Scott of McDonough, Georgia, wrote to Dr. Marion Thrasher about 1895, he stated that Josephine lived at Farmington, Oconee Co. Ga.

Wouldn't it be great if we could locate Josephine and Barton Overby's descendants?

The Thrasher Newsletter

Mentor: Dot Prueff Editor: Barbara Eger Circulation: John E. Thrasher III Volume 21 No. 2 February 2003

2003 Reunion Plans Set for Micanopy!

When: May 16th and 17th, 2003
Where: Home of Eleanor and John Thrasher - Micanopy, Florida
Co-hosts: Dale and Trudy Thrasher and Barbara Eger
Motel accomodations: Howard Johnson's



John E. and Eleanor Thrasher's home, where the 2003 Reunion events will be held. Friday dinner will be served about 6 p.m., but John and Eleanor are looking forward to welcoming family members anytime after 3 that afternoon. Schedule for the entire weekend is in the article below.

CHANGE IN PLANS!!!!!!!

In the last newsletter we stated the reunion would be held in Gainesville, Florida, at the Holiday Inn West. Because of problems in dealing with the Holiday Inn (exhorbitant fees and an apparent lack of interest in hosting smaller events among other problems), we have cancelled our contract with them. We are now having BOTH Friday and Saturday events in our home!!!

We have made new arrangements with the Howard Johnson Motel on Hwy #441 in So. Gainesville. It is the same motel we used 3 years ago but under a different name. It is very conveniently located only 10 miles north of Micanopy.

The motel has both double and king size bed accomodations. Also non-smoking, first floor and wheel chair accomodations. There is a pool and continental breakfast is available each morning. (There is an IHOP just across the street for more hearty fare). The motel charge is \$52.00 plus tax. Make your own reserva-

tions by calling (352) 371-2500; ask for the "Thrasher Reunion" group. Reservations should be made before April 22nd. John is going to try to change this date and get a later cutoff, but may not be able to do it, so call and make your reservation as soon as possible. There is a reservation form included in the newsletter you can use to send us your meal reservations for either or both nights. Deadline for meal reservations is May 2.

The motel address is 3820 SW 13th St. Gainesville, which is Hwy 441; see map for directions. Exit # 382 (Williston Rd.) is the closest exit from I-75.

FRIDAY, May 16th: We will have a "kick-off" dinner for those who can attend. Feel free to come to the house any time after 3 o'clock to unwind and visit. Dinner time is about 6:30. Food and drinks will be provided by John and Eleanor, Dale and Trudy Thrasher and Barbara Eger. No charge; however,

Cont. on pg. 2



The Howard Johnson Motel (formerly the Cape Cod Inn) will be the "headquarters motel" for this year's reunion. Recently taken over by the HJ chain, it has been completely renovated, according to John E. and Eleanor. Those of you who were at the 1999 reunion will remember it was comfortable and convenient. There is a continental break-fast provided by the motel, and for those who would like a heartier breakfast, there is an IHOP just across the highway and down a bit.

Micanopy Reunion Plans

Cont. from pg. 1

reservations are a must.

Feel free to come out anytime after 3 p.m. and visit and snack and play shuffle board and maybe Al and Dale will bring their potato guns!

Saturday morning: There are a number of most interesting things to see and do in Gainesville. The University of Florida campus, Harn Gallery, and Florida State Museum of Natural History are highly recommended. Be sure to stop "in town" (Micanopy) to see the Thrasher Warehouse (Historical Society Museum) - exhibits inside and outside as well as the new Archive building. On Cholokka Blvd., the main street, you will recognize scenes from the movies "Cross Creek" and "Doc Hollywood" and can do some antique shopping. There are 10 antique shops in Micanopy (maybe more).

SATURDAY, May 17th: Dinner will be catered. The menu has not yet been determined, but it will be good. Cost for dinner will be \$20.00 per person. **RESERVATIONS A MUST. PLEASE DO LET US KNOW IN ADVANCE!!!!**

Again, feel free to come out and visit - our home will be your "hospitality room." There will be a brief business meeting about 5:30 and then dinner about 6:30.

Be sure to bring your "Show and Tell" materials -- and your walking shoes; the dress code for the weekend is comfortable.

We are looking forward to seeing you!

John and Eleanor Thrasher

Bits and Pieces

This "coincidence" was sent by Carmie Thrasher Cochrane:

It was interesting that Eleanor had found the clipping re my father's (Albert Americus Thrasher) death in a photocopier and I'm responding to the invitation for other serendipitous events related to genealogy searches.

Once, about twenty or more years ago, my cousin, Robert Andrew Rainer, Jr., son of Vessie Thrasher Rainer (my father's sister), was in Chicago, I think at a dental convention or meeting. He knew from his mother that his and my great-grandfather, Albert Conway Thrasher, had been captured in Alabama during his service in the Army of the Confederacy. He was transported to Chicago, where he died in a Union prison camp there and was buried in a Chicago cemetery. Just how he knew WHICH cemetery, I don't know. Anyway, the day Robert went to that cemetery, the weather was very cold and it was snowing heavily. No cemetery personnel were there. It was a very large cemetery and snow covered up all markers and inscriptions. Robert walked about a little while but was considering leaving. As he turned, his eyes fell on a quite tall marker. As he watched, the strong wind blew all the snow off just that monument. Robert walked over and there was the name, Albert Conway Thrasher, among many others on the same marker. This was only marker from which the wind blew the snow away!

Robert often told this story. I'm sure that he would not mind me sharing it

Cont. on pg. 3

EDITOR'S CORNER



Reunion time is fast approaching and I hope you all have your plans made to be in Gainesville in May. Let's have a great turnout! This will be the fourth time John E. and Eleanor Thrasher have played host to the Thrasher clan and they always provide a great time. They tell me that they have arranged for a surprise for the Saturday afternoon program the everyone is sure to enjoy! Also, our chilly Florida winter should be long-gone by then and we can enjoy the spring warmth! Although it's been so cold this year it's hard to imagine ever being warm again, much less hot. I know it sounds like whining coming from someone who lives in Florida, but it seems as though the weather will never get warm again.

And that's enough whimpering; let's look forward to May. The meal reservation slips should be returned to John E. and Eleanor as soon as possible, but no later than May 2. Motel reservations should be made directly with the Howard Johnson Motel. Remember that the block of rooms reserved for us will only be held until April 22, so do it soon!

Don't forget -- Contributions to the newsletter are always welcome; the address to send items to me at 13318 Omega Ct., Dade City, FL 33525; or send an e-mail to <egerb@gte.net>.

Bits and Pieces

Cont. from pg. 2

within the family through the newsletter. That Albert Conway Thrasher was brother to John James Thrasher, Atlanta pioneer and founder of Norcross, Georgia.

John E. Thrasher III forwarded this one that he received from Harold Thrasher of Houston, Texas:

Let me tell you a true story that happened to my wife and me on a visit to Knoxville, Tennessee, to see my two brothers for the first time in 20 years. (We were raised as orphans.) This story is true in every detail.

At no time while we were there did we speak of our parents, who had died before reaching the age of 30.

As we were returning home, we reached Gadsden, Alabama, driving southward, and something told me to go see my parents' graves. I knew they were buried somewhere in Alabama, but where, I did not know. We drove through Gadsden and then Anniston until we came to a sign on the road that read "Ohathee Cemetery 1 mile." Well, we drove to the cemetery, got out of the car, went through the gate, turned left and went about 59 feet and there were three pieces of pipe sticking in the ground. I told my wife that those were the graves of my parents and baby brother! I could not mark the graves until I had positive proof of the burials.

That was 1957 and it was not until 1982 that the graves were marked. I had told my brother to go there and learn who "Crool Cemetery" was named after. He drove there and he met a farmer on a tractor that gave him directions to a lady by the name of Crook. He went there and spoke with her. She was 96 years old and very alert. She got down a ledger and found the graves for my brother and parents. My brother then drove back to Anniston to a marker company, gave then all the information for the tombstones and then spent the night so that he might drive back and thank Mrs. Crook. He did that only to learn that she had died about 30 minutes after he had left the day before.

I tell you this story for one reason. Never give up hope. God will find a way

to direct you and had it not been for Him I would never have found the graves nor would my brother have learned from Mrs. Crook where the bodies were located.

From the *Southern Christian Advocate* (Notices 1867 -1878) page 61:

March 12, 1869: The death of Mrs. Celestia A. Griffith, who was born in Clarke County, Georgia. Married Francis P. Griffith, Esquire. She was the daughter of Barton C. and Mary Thrasher. She was in her 23rd year of age and died February 1, 1869. She was married 10 December, 1867.

Barton C. and Mary S. B. Thrasher and five children are listed in the 1860 Census of the High Shoals District, Clarke County, Georgia, which shows Celestia as 13 years old and the oldest child. ("Our Thrasher Heritage," pg. 182)

For those of you who like to do genealogy research on line, Dale Thrasher sent this information about a site that should make it quite a bit easier:

<<http://www.searchforancestors.com/quicksearch/>>

It allows you to enter your surname only once to search multiple search engines.

The search engines include Ellis Island, GenCircles, Genealogy.Com, GenForum, I Found It!, Mormon Church, RootsWeb, SSDI, SurnameWeb, Ancestry and others.

Also, because the Quick Search is a surname specific search engine, it is a good way to do those difficult searches for surnames that are also common nouns such as Brown, Day or Page, and to find surnames that can also be first names such as Thomas or James.

Enter a surname once, then visit each search engine. Results will open in a new browser window.

And this site sent by Nancy Thrasher Cherry had two copies of Dr. Marion Thrasher's book, "A History of the Thrasher Family," for sale when she checked last. Even if those are gone, Nancy says this is a great website for locating used and out-of-print books. <<http://used.addall.com/SuperRare/>>

In Memoriam

Faye Hand Bernhardt

Mrs. Faye Hand Bernhardt of Atlanta died January 30, 2003. She was a loving mother, grandmother and great-grandmother, who will be greatly missed by all. She was preceded in death by her husband, Richard Preston Bernhardt. She is survived by daughter Beverly Patton of Decatur; grandson Bret Douglas Patton and his wife Susan of Dallas, Georgia; great-grandchildren Joshua, Amanda and Sarah; and several nieces and nephews. Graveside services were held at Decatur Cemetery with the Rev. Suzanne Meyer officiating.

Dr. Barrie Thrasher

Dr. Barrie Thrasher of Atlanta died Friday, Feb. 7, at his home. He was 67. A memorial service was held Feb. 11 at the Episcopal Cathedral of St. Philip. A. S. Turner and sons were in charge of arrangements.

A noted eye surgeon, Dr. Thrasher was medical director of the Georgia Society for the prevention of Blindness for five years and helped found the Georgia Association for Children with Learning Disabilities and the Shepherd Center. He helped to found the American College of Eye Surgery and Metropolitan Hospital, an eye facility that operated between the mid-1970s and early 1990s.

"Barrie was highly respected within the ophthalmology community," said Dr. Eugene Gabianelli, another Atlanta eye surgeon. "He definitely was an innovator in cataract surgery, in particular no-stitch cataract operations. And he had a special talent for passing his knowledge of techniques on to younger surgeons."

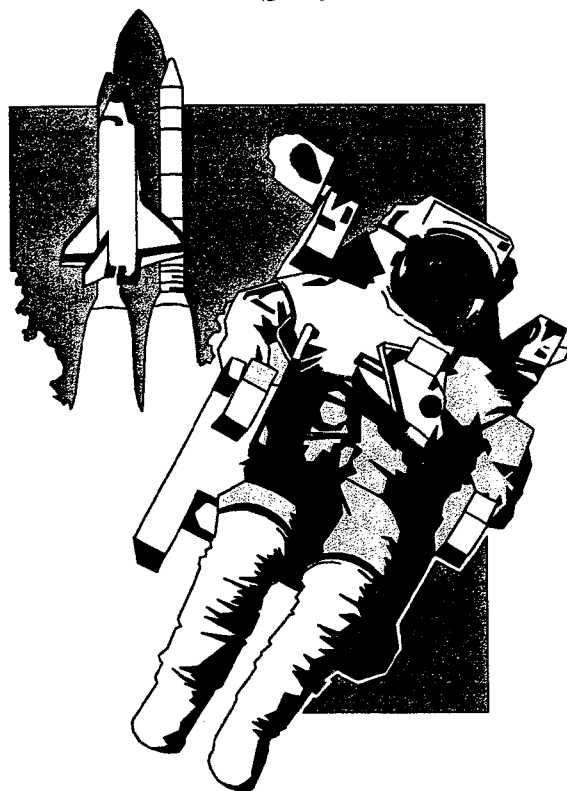
Both a devotee of an an advocate for fine art, he also chaired the board of the Atlanta College of Art and was a board member of the Michael C. Carlos Museum.

Survivors include his wife, Dickie McMullan; two daughters, Laura Thrasher of Atlanta and Allen Thrasher of London;

two sons, Holt Thrasher of Greenwich, Conn., and Talbot Thrasher of Atlanta; a sister, Allen Taylor of Montgomery; and four grandchildren.

Thank you to John E. Thrasher, Carolyn and Warren Thrasher, Peggy and Albert Thrasher and Carmie Thrasher Cochrane, all of whom thought to send these for the newsletter.

Space Shuttle Columbia February 1, 2003



*Mike Anderson
David Brown
Kalpana Chawla
Laurel Clark
Rick Husband
William McCool
Ilan Ramon*

May their memory always live in the hearts of all and may God bless the families left behind.

The Thrasher Newsletter

Mentor: Dot Pruett Editor: Barbara Eger Circulation: John E. Thrasher III Volume 21 No.3 April 2003

Reunion only three weeks away! Don't miss out!

Listen up, those of you who may have procrastinated! Time is running out to get in on the fun at the Thrasher Family Reunion. John E. and Eleanor Thrasher have all sorts of fun plans for the weekend of May 16 - 18. And get ready for some good eating both Friday and Saturday nights. Quite a few reservations have already come in, so there promises to be a good crowd.

Remember, the motel is the Howard Johnson Motel on Hwy #441 in south Gainesville. It is the same motel that was used three years ago, but has now been taken over by the HJ chain. It is very conveniently located only 10 miles north of Micanopy.

The motel has both double and king size bed accommodations. Also non-smoking, first floor and wheel chair accommodations. There is a pool and continental breakfast is available each morning. (There is an IHOP just across the street for more hearty fare). Make your own reservations by calling (352) 371-2500; ask for the "Thrasher Reunion" group. While the rate was only guaranteed until April 22, you may be able to talk them into giving you that rate and they also probably offer either AAA or AARP rates or both. There is a meal reservation form included in the newsletter you can use to send us your meal reservations for either or both nights. Deadline for meal reservations is May 2. This is an "unbendable" deadline since the Saturday night dinner will be catered and the caterer must have a number by then.

The motel address is 3820 SW 13th St. Gainesville, which is Hwy 441; see map for directions. Exit # 382 (Williston Rd.) is the closest exit from I-75.

There is always a lot to do and see in the area, from the town of Micanopy and its antique shops and, of course, the Thrasher store (Micanopy Historical Society Museum) to the city attractions in Gainesville. If you haven't been to Cross Creek (or if

you simply want to revisit it), and are a fan (who isn't?) of Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings, it is only a few miles down the road. And if relaxing rather than touring is your thing, there are lots of places to just sit and look at the lake.

John and Eleanor have promised a surprise program for Saturday afternoon, and the food, as always, will be delicious. There is a rumor that the (in?)famous potato gun may make an appearance! Also, the membership directory is being updated and will be distributed at the reunion. Note: If you have moved or something from the previous directory was incorrect, please let us know. The directory copy will be finalized early in May so that copies can be made in time for the reunion.

This is the 28th year of the Thrasher Family Association; how it has grown over those years! Let's celebrate with a big turnout for the reunion.



HE IS
RISEN

**May the blessings of
Easter linger with you
through the year.**

Bits and Pieces

Best wishes and good thoughts for:

Dot Pruett underwent an angioplasty in March and wrote that all went well, though she spent two nights in the hospital. Dot is one of the mainstays of the association and we hope to see her at the reunion.

Carmie Thrasher Cochrane e-mailed that her health will not permit her to travel, so cannot attend this year, but that she will be thinking of us.

Keep both Dot and Carmie in your thoughts and prayers.

Coincidences

"In the mid '70s when Eleanor and I were living in Jacksonville, Florida, I exchanged many letters with Dot Pruett about our heritage. It was at the time in history when "we all" thought that William Barton, designer of the Great Seal of the United States, was our ancestor because so many of our Thrasher aunts and grandmothers had joined the DAR by listing William Barton, Patriot, as the father of Susan Barton, who married John Thrasher, Jr. (our Revolutionary war ancestor).

Dot was interested in adding William Barton as a collateral line on her DAR membership, having joined the DAR by tracing to John Thrasher, Jr. Me, I was just interested in proving that William Barton was my ancestor. Both of us had done a great deal of independent research on William Barton and his related lines (Ritterhouse and Conway) and had found no proof that David Barton, the father of Susan, was the son of William Barton, designer of the Great Seal.

Enough background -- one evening Dot phoned and said that she was going with her husband, Joe, to Waycross, Ga., where Joe was to meet with a business associate. Dot asked if Eleanor and I could meet then in Waycross and while Joe was tied up, we could work on Thrasher genealogy and have a visit.

That evening Joe and his business associate came to the motel room where we were gathered. The associate, being

curious as to what we were doing, asked about the genealogy and then said that he was interested in his ancestor William Barton, designer of the Great Seal!

I'm sure that the expressions on Dot's and my faces must have been priceless! Here we had it all, and before his very eyes we pulled out voluminous records of our research on his family.

Was that a coincidence or fate??

John E. Thrasher III

As many of you know, John and I met in Paris, France, but that is another story. Out of that meeting comes the story of my first visit to Micanopy, Fla. At the time, I lived in Yonkers, N.Y.

I sang in the choir of the Dutch Reformed Church in Bronxville, N.Y. When I told other members of the choir that I was going to visit "some guy" in Florida, one member, Peggy Bobbitt Poe, became very curious and wanted to know WHERE in Florida. I casually remarked "Oh, it is just a small town you probably never heard of." That did not satisfy Peggy, so I told her it was Micanopy. Then she wanted to know WHO I was going to see. When she learned it was John Thrasher, she said, "My goodness, I DATED his father and uncle when I lived in Micanopy!!!"

With all of those thousands and thousands of people living in the New York City area, what a coincidence!

Eleanor K. Thrasher

A Guaranteed Punch (Out?)

Editor's note: This is sort of a cross-country smile; a friend who now lives in Colorado but is a Florida native sent it to me; a cousin in Athens, Georgia, sent the recipe to her, noting: "I came across this recipe for Chatham County (Savannah) Artillery (founded in 1812) Punch in some of Mother's papers which I thought would amuse you."

1 lb green tea in 2 gallons of cold water, allowed to stand overnight and then strained.

Cont. on next page

More Bits and Pieces

Artillery Punch (Cont.)

3 gals. Catawba wine
1 gal. rum
1 gal. brandy
1 gal. rye whiskey
5 lbs. brown sugar
2 qts. cherries
Juice of 3 doz. oranges
Juice of 3 doz. lemons
1 gal. gin added after the fruit juices to make it smooth.

Mix tea and juices together first, preferably in a cedar tub, then sugar and the liquors. Let the stock sit for a week or two, covered. When ready to serve add ice and 12 quarts of champagne. The stock and the finished punch should be stirred well.

This punch was served at the first big Athens society wedding after prohibition with devastating results. All the most dignified dowagers in town were reputed to have spent half the evening trying to powder each other's noses with slices of ham. The following day, 12 UNOPENED bottles of champagne were discovered under the punch table. I believe the wedding was of Marie McHatten to Turnell Hanson."

Melanie Massengale, Boulder, Colo.

Another on-line resource

From an AP wire story that appeared in the *St. Petersburg Times* April 6: "Researchers, genealogists and the plain curious can now use the Internet to check more than 50-million historical records at the National Archives, from Civil War battles to family immigration files."

The article goes on to say that while the records available represent only a small fraction of the the archive's electronic holdings, they can provide some vital clues and save time when you go to the Archives or a library.

Drawn from the records of 20 federal agencies, the information was set up to suit those agencies to suit their particular needs. Some records may have typographical errors such as misspelled names of inaccurate dates because officials did not make any corrections in order to preserve the records' integrity.

But as an example of what can be done, if you want to research an ancestor who immigrated to the United States in the 19th century you can choose the records listed under "immigrants," enter the name and learn the ship traveled on, occupation, date of arrival, the country of emigration and other details.

The site is <www.archives.gov/aad/>. I haven't had time to check it out yet, but since I'm looking for Welsh great-grandparents who came over sometime after 1880, but before Ellis Island, it looks as though there may be some help there.

Barbara Eger

EDITOR'S CORNER



I'm looking forward to seeing everyone at Micanopy. It will certainly be a fun weekend -- John E. and Eleanor always do a super job of planning. Let's make this an opportunity to catch up with what family members have been doing in the past year -- I'm hoping to glean some material for future newsletters.

In the meantime, many thanks go to John E. Thrasher for sharing his research on the descendants of Jeames Oates. This would have been a mighty skinny issue had it not been for him!

A lot of us have begun using one of the various genealogy programs on our computers, which makes it easy to print out in an organized format. If you have material on others in the "tree," how about sharing it for a future newsletter issue?

Don't forget -- contributions to the newsletter are ALWAYS welcome; items may be sent snail mail to me at 13318 Omega Ct., Dade City, FL 33525; or send an e-mail to <egerb@gte.net>.

Descendants of Jeames Oates

Generation No. 1

1. JEAMES¹ OATES was born Abt. 1667, and died 03 October, 1703. He married ELIZABETH EIVENS, (WIDOW) 11 September, 1694.

Notes for JEAMES OATES:

Jeames Oates first appears in the authentic records of Perquimans Co. N.C. as a planter and practicing attorney at whose home in Albemarle County, court and the first General Assembly of N.C. met from time to time from 1696 on to the time of his untimely death in 1703.

It is believed that the Oates family came to the shores of N.C. with "several Gentlemen and Persons of Good Quality of the Isle of Barbados" subsequent of 1663," to settle the goodly lands of Florida at Cape Faire, with their negros and other servants - a number of whom were shipwrecked on the coast north of Hatteras while attempting to sail to Chesapeake Bay to replenish the provisions of the first abortive settlement on Cape Fear.

The original James Oates Family Bible was owned in 1974 by Mrs. Cecil Norman (DeEtta) Oates, of Oates, S. C. The records were copied by Mrs. Wm. A. Lampton, Tylertown, Miss. in 1976. They are the same as printed in "Old Southern Bible Records" by M.A. Lester 1974. The birth dates for R. W. Oates' generation are taken from these Bible records and other research done by Mrs. Lampton, Mr. Haywood R. Faison Sr., Celestea G. Sharp, and me, John E. Thrasher III.

Notes for ELIZABETH EIVENS, (WIDOW):

Elizabeth was the widow Eivens when she married Jeames Oates. Her maiden name is unknown. She had five children by the first marriage.

See: N.C. History and Gen. Register - Hathaway Vol. 3, p. 406 " Berkley Parish Register - - Jeames Oates and Elizabeth Evins were married Sept. 11, 1694 by Thomas Hawes "

Child of JEAMES OATES and ELIZABETH EIVENS is:

2. i. JOSEPH² OATES, b. 07 August, 1697; d. Abt. 1763.

Generation No. 2

2. JOSEPH² OATES (*JEAMES*¹) was born 07 August, 1697, and died Abt. 1763. He married ELIZABETH WYATT, daughter of JOHN WYATT and RACHAEL CALLOWAY.

Notes for JOSEPH OATES:

Joseph and Elizabeth Wyatt Oates -- They first lived in Parquimans Co. N.C., later moving to Bertie, Anson and Johnston Counties N.C.

Joseph was the only child born to his parents.

Children of JOSEPH OATES and ELIZABETH WYATT are:

3. i. JAMES³ OATES, b. Abt. 1725; d. January 1766, Sampson Co. N.C..

- ii. JOHN OATES, b. Abt. 1725; d. Abt. 1789; m. ELIZABETH BLOUNT.

Notes for JOHN OATES:
His will is dated 1789.

- iii. JETHRO OATES, b. Abt. 1732; d. 1781; m. LETITIA "ARTESHA" CARRAWAY.

Generation No. 3

3. JAMES³ OATES (*JOSEPH², JEAMES¹*) was born Abt. 1725, and died January 1766 in Sampson Co. N.C.. He married SARAH.

Children of JAMES OATES and SARAH are:

- i. JOHN⁴ OATES, b. 08 December, 1753.
- ii. SUSANER OATES, b. 24 March, 1756.
- iii. JAMES OATES, b. 25 December, 1757; m. LORVHANA STEVENS.
- iv. SAMUEL OATES, b. 04 February, 1760; m. FANNEY CANNON.
4. v. RICHARD WYATT OATES, b. 26 July, 1762, Wayne Co. N.C.; d. 13 October, 1851, Sumter Co. Ga..
- vi. STEPHEN OATES, b. 1764; d. 14 October, 1817; m. FERREBY CARRAWAY, 09 July, 1783.

Generation No. 4

4. RICHARD WYATT⁴ OATES (*JAMES³, JOSEPH², JEAMES¹*) was born 26 July, 1762 in Wayne Co. N.C., and died 13 October, 1851 in Sumter Co. Ga.. He married ELIZABETH.

Notes for RICHARD WYATT OATES:

Wyatt Oates is first found in Georgia in the: A. Washington Co., Ga. Surveyor's Record Books D - E 1789-1793. "Georgia Roster of the Revolution" by Knight p.136 - Richard Oates - Certificate of Elijah Clark Col. April 20, 1784. Petitioner prays 287 1/2 acres in Washinton Co. Ga.

B. Clarke Co. Tax Digest : Composite of 1802, 1804, and 1805 Capt. Phillip's Militia District -

Freeman Creek : Oats, Richard W. 228 acres :

Apalachee River : Oats, Richard W. 153 (1802)

" " " 229 (1805)

Items listed under B are from "Bishop, Ga." by Celestea G. Sharp 1996

C. Clarke Co., Ga. (Reference to in numerous Deeds) 14 July 1805 (73 1/2 acres on Freeman's Creek) places Wyatt permanently between Bishop, Farmington and on the Waters of the Apalachee River.

D. 1809 - Captain Selman's District (actually, Farmington District, G. M. D. 222)

Otis, W. Richard, 230 acres, land granted to Freeman , joining Autory (Autrey) in Clarke Co., on Freeman's Creek, 8 slaves, 5 acres, land granted to Otis, in (illegible county) on Bear Creek

E. 1813- Capt. Martin's District (Farmington District)

Oats, Richard W., 260 acres joining Oats in Clarke Co. on Apalachee, 9 slaves 2190 3/4 acres.

F. " Richard W. Oates, guardian of James Carter, minor of Nancy M. Carter - dated 3 Mar. 1817

James Oates, surety - Clarke Co., Ga. - " The Ga. Genealogy Magazine" #24 April 1967, p. 1625.

G. 1819 - Capt. Oats District (Clarke Co., Ga.) land : 113 acres/ 113 1/21 ; granted to :

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Freeman (original owner) Joining of : Gresham; Clarke Co.,; Waters; Apalachee ; slaves : 7.

H.- R.W. Oates: 1820 Census (Index) Clarke Co.,

I. 1820 - Capt. Steward's District (Farmington District)

Oats, Richard W., 230 acres, land granted to Freeman, joining Gresham, in Clarke Co., on waters of Apalachee, 8 slaves.

J. 1823 - Capt. Wright's District (Farm. Dist.)

Oats, Richard W. 230 acres, land granted to Freeman ,joining Williams, in Clarke Co. on Apalachee (River), 202 1/2 acres, No. 1 & 4, in Henry County

K. 1828 - Capt. Love's District (Farm. Dist.)

Oats, Rich'd, W. no pole, 229 1/2 acres on land granted to Freeman, Joining Williams, in Clarke Co., on Freeman's Creek, 8 slaves

133 1/2 acres, joining Oats, in Fayette Co.

L. Given the location of Richard Wyatt Oat's land so near to and on the north side of Farmington, it seems possible that Barton Thrasher might have had the reason for his wife's preference for living nearer her family's land for them to settle at Farmington rather than Salem.

M. 1830 Census - Coweta Co. Ga. p. 389

N. 1833, 1834, 1835 - There are no more Oats family names listed in the Clarke Co. tax digest for the Oconee Co. vicinity.

O. " Richard W. Oats, a Revolutionary Soldier, is found in Harris Co. Ga. in 1832. Drew Cherokee

County Land granted July 1, 1843" (from "Gone To Georgia" by Stewart)

P. "Roster of Revolutionary Soldiers in Ga." by McCall Vol 111 p. 311

"Cherokee Land Lottery in 1838". Names of Revolutionary Soldiers who drew land and the Counties in which they lived, p. 314

Oates, Richard W. (Harris Co.)

Q. 1840 Census - Sumter Co. Ga. (Index)

R. 1850 Slave Schedule, Sumter Co. Ga.:

R.W. Oates - 11 slaves

On the 10th day of August 1852, Elizabeth Oates applied for a Federal government pension for her deceased husband, Richard Wyatt Oates (Federal pension application R 7764, Service in N.C.). The document she submitted was signed by "R.W. Oates" and stated that "on this 4th day of Nov. 1844, personally appeared in court (Sumter Co. Ga.) - called & designated by the name of Wyatt Oates resident of said county (Sumter) "agd 82 & more as he has reason to believe", who being first duly sworn according to law, doth, on his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the act of Congress passed 7 July 1832. That he was a penny less orphan born in the county of Wayne, N. C.July 1758 - and that his real age was kept a secret from him by the man whose hands he fell in childhood, & and that this man concealed his age that he might reap the benefit of a protracted period of servitude ---- according to the man's statement which prevailed at the time and to which he had to submit in the absence of positive proof to the contrary, applicant was born in the county and state last aforesaid on the 26th of July 1762 - That he has not & and never had any record of his age except what he made himself after the authority of interested strangers - That he lived in his native county when he volunteered as as militiaman in the war of the Revolution on the side of Liberty against British oppression that he continued to live there after the war. That he removed to Hancock Co. Ga. in which he resided for thirteen years- thence to Clarke Co. Ga.

where he resided for 34 years - thence to Coweta Co. Ga. where he reside one year - thence to Harris Co. Ga. where he resided four years & from Harris he removed in 1835 to Sumter C. the place of his present residence.

About the 1st of Jan. 1781, he volunteered in the militia of N.C. for a three months tour of service which with one exception he faithfully performed & which he was regularly discharged by his captain. He has been fortunate enough to keep his discharge which he herewith exhibited to the court & which he asks to be taken into considered as part of this declaration. Col. Reed commanded the regiment to which he was attached & Capt. Robinson the company. Genl. Greene was at that time commander of the Southern army. Applicant was at the beginning of the battle of Gailford, but he & other militiamen wishing unanimity thought it advisable to leave before the fight had made much progress & did so with an impetuosity as eager as it was contemptible.

After this our nerves became steady, other council prevailed & though we had never had a regular ---fight, we did nothing to avoid one. From Gailford we scouted the county about Troublesome Iron Works, Haw River, Ramsey's Milk & Camden. The three months expired while we were at Little Linches Creek where applicant received the discharge above mentioned.

He did not stay at home three days before he volunteered again for another tour of three months, The county was so full of Tories & their villainess became so daring that he could not consent to stay at home &-(listen to)frightful account of their(escapes)-which were constantly grating on his(mind). He enlisted this time under the command of Capt. John Grantham, The name of the first Lieutenant was Jernigan, The operation of this tour were principally confined to N.C. & much was done in the neighborhood of Drowning Creek, The chief business of the tour was to pursue, capture, & hang the Tories. On one occasion during the term of this last enlistment, the Whigs did once capture a Torie the honor to shoot instead of hanging him. This was done & if the applicant had known he was entitled to the benefit of the Act of 1832, a few years ago, he could have procured the testimony of this gentleman in support of his claim for this tour of service, be he now learns with pain, that he is dead & applicant does not know of a single living witness by whom any of his Revolutionary service can be positively proven. He served out the three months fully and faithfully, but thinks he never got a written discharge. He cannot at this late period of time state the precise day which he entered upon & ended these two tours of duty, but he can safely state that both were fully served out in the manner and he can state further that after these tours were fully completed & ended amounting together to a service of six months under a regularorization, her served irregularly in scouting parties against the Tories as long as their disturbances continued and in fact up to 1783, when times became quiet, he referred the court to all his neighbors present to testify to their opinion of his character for truth and veracity. He has hereby relinquished every claim whatever to any pension or annuity except the declarer that his name is not on the pension roll of the agency of any state in the Union. Sworn to & subscribed the day & year aforesaid.

Signed: Rd. W. Oates

(The pension was denied).

Hawking H. Nunn appeared in the court of the Ordinary, Sumter Co. Ga. on 7 Sept. 1857

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to be granted Letters of Administration of the estate of Richard Wyatt Oates.

The report covered the period beginning the first Tuesday, Feb. 1858 to final settlement signed 19 June 1861.

"Account of the Sale of the Lands and Negros belonging to Richard W. Oates, Decd. Sold on the first Tuesday in Feb. 1858.

Lot of land # 203 and north half of land # 204 in 26th District Sumter Co. on a credit until the 1st Jan. 1859 to Barney Parker - \$500.00

Lewis a man same time to Barney Parker, \$1000.00

Jerry a man 1/2 cash & 1/2 credit until 1st Jan. 1859 to H. K. McCoy, \$1000.00

Jacob a man on a credit until 1st Jan. 1859 to Cutts and Graham, \$476.25

Becky a woman. Half cash and half credit until 1st Jan. 1859 to Barney Parker, \$301.00

Ga. Sumter Co. - sworn to and subscribed before me this 7th day of July 1859

L. Bruns, ordinary H.H. Nunn"

Other bills were paid. Final value of sales etc \$ 3353.91

" The History of Harris Co. Ga." Harris Co. Revolutionary Veterans Buried in Sumter Co. (Grave marked by Button Gwinnett Chapter D.A.R.) - Richard Wyatt Oates, b. 7-26-1762, died 10-13-1851. Buried Americus, Sumter Co. Ga. (on his farm).

The grave is marked in the family plot on his farm five miles from Americus, Sumter Co. Ga.

1-1958, By Button Gwinnett D.A.R. Chapter

The DAR marker says: Richard Wyatt Oates

N.C. Militia

Rev. War

July 26, 1762 - Oct. 15, 1851

To locate the marker, travel west from Americus on highway #280. It joins # 19 and turns south, # 19 divides to the left; keep right on #280 for about 3000 feet - a small road to the right (west) leads toward Johnson Lake (but you can continue on #280 a little further then turn on paved road to Johnson Lake) There is a small hill as you approach Wolfe Creek/ Johnson Lake, About 100 yards before you begin the descend toward the creek and lake, turn left (west) onto a graded road (may be paved now). The area on the north side of this road is an old cemetery (The eastern end is used by Negros today). Continue about 3/10 miles. There were a couple of houses on the south side . The marker is twenty paces from the road, north. (Just about opposite "between" the two houses). In 1978 the marker was near a very large pine tree with slash marks on both sides.

Richard Wyatt Oates MAY have been buried here, but I believe he is buried just northwest of Johnson Lake on his farm (lots 203, 204, and 214). The highway across Johnson Lake goes across #214 and turns west along the border of # 203. " I was told" ~~that~~ there was a grave over in the field, but couldn't find it!

Notes for ELIZABETH:

It is possible that Elizabeth was not the mother of Richard Wyatt Oates' children and that she was his second wife for in "40,000 Georgia Marriages" the following entry: Coweta Co. Ga. - Richard Y. (Wyatt) Oates - Elizabeth Sutton - 9 Aug. 1829"

Children of RICHARD OATES and ELIZABETH are:

5.
 - i. MARY FRANCES (FANNY)⁵ OATES, b. 11 October, 1792, Clarke Co. Ga.; d. 26 July, 1864, Clarke Co. Ga.
 - ii. SALLEY OATES.
 - iii. JAMES OATES.
 - iv. POLLEY OATES.

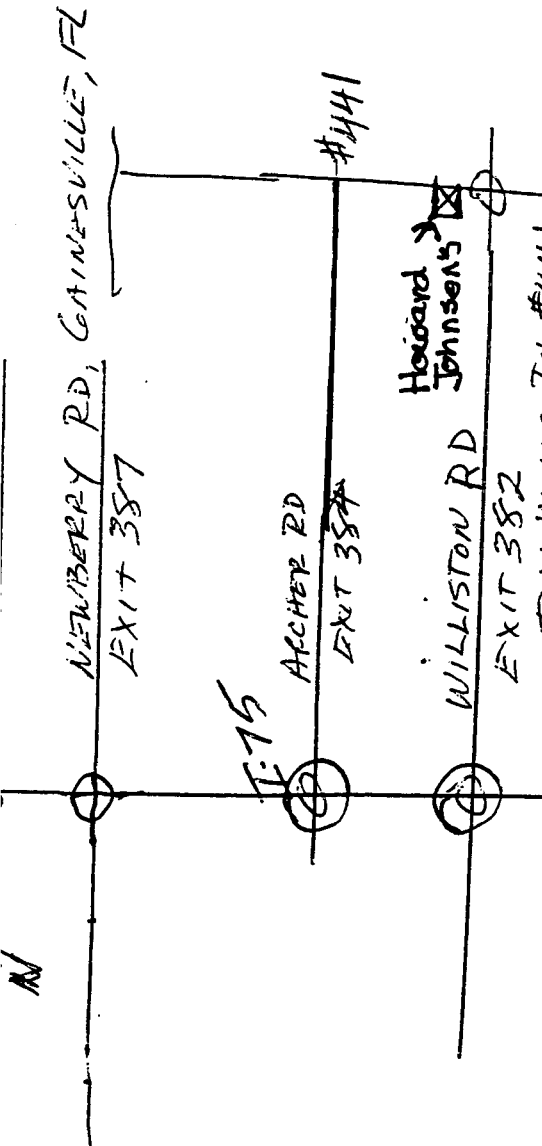
Generation No. 5

5. MARY FRANCES (FANNY)⁵ OATES (*RICHARD WYATT*⁴, *JAMES*³, *JOSEPH*², *JEAMES*¹) was born 11 October, 1792 in Clarke Co. Ga., and died 26 July, 1864 in Clarke Co. Ga.. She married BARTON THRASHER 03 December, 1812 in prob. Clarke Co. Ga., son of JOHN THRASHER and SUSANNAH BARTON.

Notes for MARY FRANCES (FANNY) OATES:

Barton Thrasher Bible Records

Old Southern Bible Records by M. A. Lester 1974

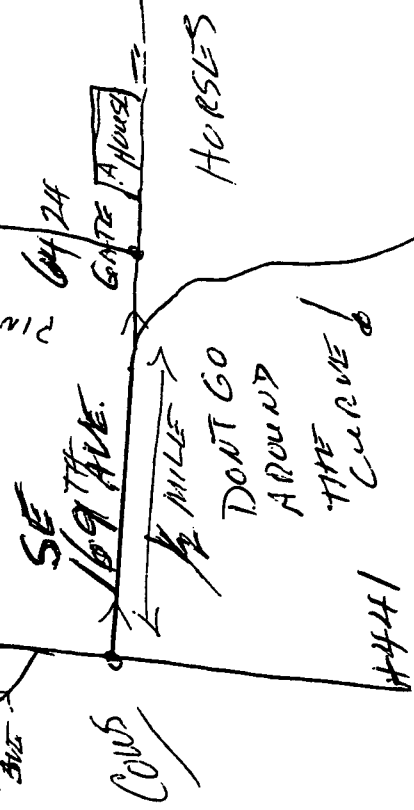


BLINKER
1.4 MILES FROM #234 OFF
LIGHT AT #441 + #234 OFF
TO SE 169TH AVE.
SE 169TH SOUTH OF MICRANOOPY

WEST #234
EXIT 374
MICRANOOPY



Woods
Micranopy Home #234



SE 169TH AVE IS ONE MILE NORTH OF THE ALACHUA CO / MARION CO. LINE

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The Thrasher Newsletter

Mentor: Dot Pruett Editor: Barbara Eger Circulation: John E. Thrasher III Volume 21 No. 4 July 2003



The wonderful thing about having a professional photographer (Dianne Wallace Kuntz) in the association is really good pictures! At left is the Friday night group, taken on the lawn behind John E. and Eleanor Thrasher's home before dinner. Dale Thrasher took this picture with Dianne's camera, so he is missing from the group. Dianne will be happy to provide prints for only the cost of printing and mailing if you are interested. Details in the Editor's Corner. Thank you, Dianne and Dale.

The Sweet Adeline group Confetti (below) presented a program of old favorites after dinner. Their harmony was wonderful, especially to those of us who can't carry a tune in a bucket (the editor, for one). The four are members of the national Sweet Adelines, which are the female equivalent of barbershop quartets.

A final highlight Saturday evening was the impromptu singalong led by Elise Sumner on the guitar.



Above, left to right: Eleanor Thrasher, David Sumner, Elise Sumner, Ed Holden and Dianne Wallace Kuntz.

Everyone thoroughly enjoyed themselves with songs ranging from *Oh, Susannah* to *Row, Row, Row Your Boat*. Thank you for leading us in song, Elise!



Reunion Held Family, Friends, Fun, Food and Song

The 2003 Thrasher Family Reunion was by any standard an unqualified good time! There were 37 signatures in the guest book, from long-time regulars to new members and first-time attendees.

John E. and Eleanor Thrasher, with co-hosts Dale and Trudy Thrasher and Barbara Eger, made sure there was plenty of good food (a reunion requirement??) both Friday and Saturday night. John and Eleanor's Micanopy home provided a beautiful setting for the events. The weather cooperated, even providing a lunar eclipse for those of us who were willing to stand in the motel parking lot until the wee hours of the morning and get stiff necks.

The buffet dinner Friday, courtesy of our reunion hosts, featured ham, beef brisket and all the trimmings and started the weekend off with a bang. After dinner Al Thrasher presented John E. with his very own "tater gun" and declared John an official "quiet redneck" with an official cap to round out the outfit. Can the cap only be worn when using the tater gun, John? Guess the tater gun is now the declared armament of the family -- or at least at the reunions. Those taters went almost across the lake! Dale Thrasher has the plans on his computer and will send them to any of you who would like to make your own.

Saturday morning John and Eleanor led a group to visit the Florida Museum of Natural History in Gainesville, followed by lunch at Harry's Grill, a Gainesville landmark. Harry's is located in the old Opera House, which is now on the National Register of Historic Places. Later in the afternoon, the group gathered again at John and Eleanor's home to visit before dinner.

Saturday night's catered dinner was just delicious; salmon, chicken, squash casserole and all sorts of other goodies for the main meal, and the desserts were scrumptious. This was definitely not a weekend to watch your waistline!

After Saturday's dinner there were door prizes for everyone, many of which were handmade by Trudy Thrasher. The program that followed was a real treat and something different for the group. The Sweet Adeline quartet Confetti sang

old favorites that had everyone tapping their feet. Later in the evening the notes must have still been echoing -- Elise Sumner showed her musical talent with a guitar and everyone sang along. Each song seemed to bring forth a "do you remember when?" from someone.

Dianne Wallace Kuntz and her sister Jane Wallace from Arizona, Max and Marie Senn from Ohio, and David and Elise Sumner from Indiana get the award for coming the longest distance. It also was Dianne and Jane's first reunion, along with Ed and Sue Holden; Janna Kellerman, JoEllen LaVeigne's daughter; and Buff Poppell, Rosemary Greene's granddaughter.

It was the first reunion as a married couple for new members Anna and Ken Sutherland, the Senn's son and daughter-in-law, although they had attended the reunion together four years ago. Nancy and Bill Cherry from Maryland represented the mid-Atlantic states. We need someone from California next year to make attendance "from sea to shining sea"!

David and Elise Sumner, Frankie and Richard Goldsby and Joann Bandy have volunteered to host next year's reunion. Ruth Hoffman, David, Frankie and Joann's mother, joined us this year.

The weekend wound up with several of the group gathering for breakfast at IHOP before beginning their travel home.



In Memorium

FITZGERALD S. HUDSON

Fitzgerald (Jerry) Hudson, owner and CEO of the international surety bond brokerage Collier Cobb & Associates, died Friday, May 9, in Montgomery, Alabama.

Jerry Hudson was born in Montgomery July 23, 1924. His parents were Holt Harrison and Elizabeth Graff Hudson. He joined the US Marines in 1943, and served during World War II and the Korean War. He attended Auburn and Duke universities, graduating from Duke University in 1946 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Civil Engineering. In 1966, he completed the Executive Program in Business Administration at the University of North Carolina in Chapel Hill. He served on the Duke University Board of Trustees from 1978 through 1991 and as chairman from 1988 through 1991. The Duke Engineering School building was renamed "Hudson Hall" in his honor.

Jerry Hudson was also an experienced pilot and a thirty-year trustee of the Aircraft Owners & Pilots Association (AOPA). He enjoyed field sports such as shooting, fishing and fox hunting. He served as a longtime director of North Carolina's Walthour-Moss Foundation and was a supporter of historic preservation in Montgomery, the Alabama Boys' and Girls' Clubs, and the Alabama Shakespeare Festival and Theater.

Mr. Hudson maintained a home on Mt. Desert Island in Maine, but in recent years he spent most of his time at his ranch in Pike Road, Alabama.

A private memorial service was held Wednesday, May 14, 2003, at Grace Episcopal Church in Mt. Meigs, Alabama.

Marjorie Graves Thrasher

Marjorie Graves Thrasher, widow of Lloyd Zeno Thrasher, passed away November 2, 2002, after a prolonged illness. She was born Oct. 19, 1928, at Columbus, Ga. She was preceded in death by her husband, who died in August 2000. She is survived by a daughter, Margie T. Richardson, and two grandchildren.

News and Notes

Got Pictures?

With apologies to the milk industry for what is probably plagiarism (and is mangling also an offense?) of their slogan, just want to pass on a request from John E. and Eleanor Thrasher. They are working to put together a "Reunion Album," and have asked if any of you who have some good pictures that you would be willing to share. They are particularly looking for the tater gun "presentation" Friday night and clear shots of Trudy Thrasher. Eleanor said the only ones she took of Trudy turned out too dark. Dianne Wallace Kuntz has shared some of hers with John and Eleanor and for the newsletter, which is very much appreciated. Now what we need is input from some of the rest of you.

Old Thrasher Marriage Records

The following marriage records are on film at the Pasco County Courthouse in Dade City. These are five of the seven children of David Oliver Thrasher and Ellen Elizabeth Mason. Of the two remaining, Johnny Wylie Thrasher only lived to the age of 21, and it appears he did not marry. David Leland Thrasher married Inez Ferran, and that marriage probably took place in Sanford and the records would be there. The five who married in Pasco County are: Marguerite W. (Maggie) Thrasher to Nathan H. Garner (12); Willie L. Thrasher to Walter E. Seay (225); Frankie B. Thrasher to David E. Sumner (250); Robert T. Thrasher to Katherine I. Carter (413); Ellen M. Thrasher to Fred S. Daiger (76).

These are all in Book 1 of the micro-filmed marriage records. The number in parentheses after each couple denotes the page.

If any of these are of interest to anyone, prints are available from the film. Maybe a Friday project for next year's reunion? There also are films of deed books and court records from the earliest days of Pasco County. The county charges \$1 per page for prints.

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More News and Notes

New Association Treasurer

The association has a new treasurer. Dot Pruett has passed the job on to Bill Thrasher. Dot has taken care of this chore since the association's beginnings along with all the other things she has done to make us what we are today, and it is time to take some of the load off her shoulders. Thank you to Dot for all the years she has done it, and to Bill for being willing to take it on.

The renewal form reflects the new information, so check carefully before you send yours off. Checks should now be made payable to "Thrasher Family Association" and sent to Bill.

Directory Additions and Changes

Please make note of the following in your 2003-2004 directories:

New members:

Ken and Anna Sutherland, 7097 Ft. Caroline Hills Dr., Jacksonville, FL 32277; (904) 762-1211;

<kenannas@concentric.net>.

Telephone for Dianne Wallace Kuntz is (623) 561-0888.

E-mail address changes, additions: Dot Pruett <ddotpru@charter.net>; Max and Marie Senn <MSENN1@msn.com>; David Sumner <dsumner@gw.bsu.edu>; Al & Peggy Thrasher

<althrasher0@lycos.com>; Barbara Eger <beger@earthlink.net>.

If anyone knows of any other additions or corrections that should be made, please let either John E. Thrasher or Barbara Eger know. Also, directories were mailed only to those of you who were not at the reunion. If you were at the reunion and simply neglected to pick up a copy, let John E. know and he will send you one.

Wedding Bells Ring for Two Couples

Congratulations and best wishes for happiness go to four of the younger generation:

Sandra Kaye Kirkpatrick and Robert Michael Buglino were married on April 19 at the Golden Ocala Country Club in Ocala, Fla.

Sandra is the daughter of Frankie and Richard Goldsby of Belleair Bluffs, Fla. and Robert is the son of John and Nadine Buglino of Franklin, N. C.

They are residing in Ocala with daughters Kayla and Hannah Kirkpatrick.

Stephanie Leigh Hamm and Matthew Elliott Payne were married May 31 at Glenn Memorial United Methodist Church in Atlanta, Ga.

Stephanie is the daughter of Dr. and Mrs. L. Lee Hamm of New Orleans. Matthew is the son of Ms. Debbie Broughton Payne of Montgomery, Ala., and Mr. Philip Patton Payne of Huntsville, Ala.; the grandson of Mr. and Mrs. Elliott Broughton of Montgomery, and Mr. Frank Payne and the late Mrs. Mary Payne of Huntsville; and the great-nephew of Dot Pruett. Both Stephanie and Matthew are graduates of Auburn University. After a honeymoon in Ocho Rios, Jamaica, the couple is residing in Atlanta.

2004 Reunion Plans Underway

David and Elise Sumner, Richard and Frankie (Sumner) Goldsby and Joann (Sumner) Bandy have volunteered to host the 2004 reunion here in Florida. David says they are already busy making plans, and his early reports make it sound as though it will be a good one. They have reserved the Pioneer Florida Museum here in Dade City for the Saturday night dinner and are working to arrange for Frank Laumer, author of "Massacre" and "Dade's Last Command," to speak. Both of his books deal with the early history of the area and the conflicts with the Seminoles during the Second Seminole War. David says they are suggesting that he talk about social and economic conditions when the Thrashers first came to Dade City in the late 19th century. Tentative Friday night dinner plans for early arrivals call for gathering here in Dade City at Kokopelli's, where the food is very good and the atmosphere charming. The date will be different this year -- the first weekend in March (March 5 and 6), so make a note on your calendars now. More details in future newsletters.

This article and the one on the following page were sent in some time ago by Ashley Thrasher. Both are historically interesting; the first one mentions John James ("Cousin John") Thrasher's involvement in the beginnings of public transportation in the City of Atlanta in the aftermath of the Civil War. The second is a look at what our ancestors faced in settling the new lands in the 1700s. Does anyone have any background on the Richard Thrasher mentioned in the article? Ashley Thrasher has been a faithful contributor over time with things of interest for the newsletter and it is very much appreciated.

PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION: The first seeds for a public transportation system in Atlanta were planted in 1866 by George Hillier, Dr. John Westmoreland and J. J. Thrasher, three prominent citizens who exemplified the spirit of hope and rebuilding that prevailed in the city as it dug out from the devastation caused by the Civil War. Even though Atlanta was still occupied by Union troops, they incorporated The Atlanta Street Railway Company on Feb. 23. But, because of unrealistic tax burdens and other bureaucratic restrictions, the company lay dormant for five years.

By 1871, with a population of over 21,000 people, Atlanta was expanding in all directions and in the midst of a building boom. But despite its rapid growth, Atlanta was called "Mud City" because the streets were still unpaved and side-

walks were few, causing the citizens to negotiate through the city in a quagmire after a heavy rain or dust in dry weather. The need for such a system of transportation had become imperative.

Richard Peters and George W. Adair, two Atlanta railroad pioneers, bought the company, then had most of the burdensome restrictions lifted and succeeded in getting the first cast-iron track constructed beginning on Whitehall Street, south of the railroad tracks near today's Underground Atlanta.

Called the West End Line, it was routed along Whitehall, Mitchell and Forsyth streets and terminated on Peters Street near the present site of Spelman College. The seeds planted in 1866 bore fruit on Sept. 8, 1871, as the new line with its shiny new horse-drawn car opened with great fanfare as

citizens were exhorted to "jump on board the cars and all take a ride."

The line was greeted with much enthusiasm by the public and soon proved to be a great success. Atlanta's street railway system continued to expand, adapting to the needs of a growing populace. Through the years, it was to play a major role in the life of the city. An era ended on April 11, 1949, when the last streetcar in Atlanta made its final run.

Pictured here in 1872 is the Whitehall to West End horse-drawn car beginning its run on Whitehall Street, south of the railroad tracks. The National Hotel on the left is now the site of the First National Bank Tower, and the three-story building in the background is facing what later became Five Points.

— Betty Parham

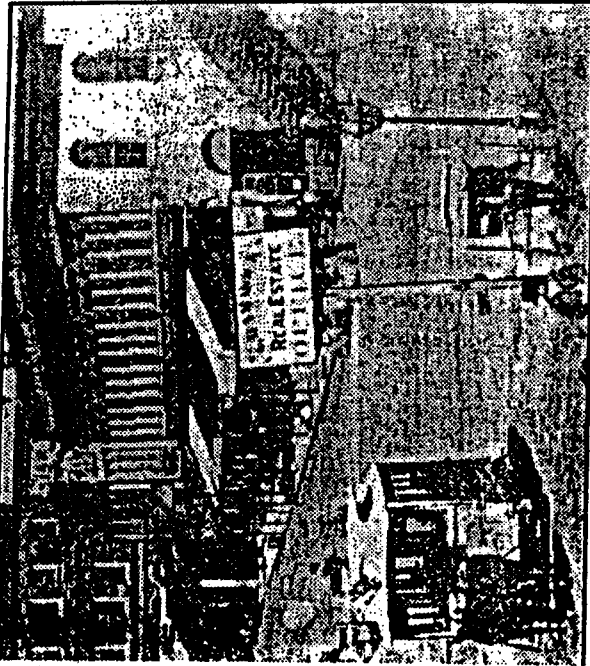


Photo Courtesy of The Atlanta Historical Society

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Pioneer Law Enforcement

Greensboro's rural and peaceful atmosphere of today was not always so, in another era and when the Upper Creek Indians were raising problems and scalps.

The settlement was often raided by the Creeks. Escape for the Indians was just across the Oconee River to the west and any party of settlers who followed the Creeks did so at considerable risk to their lives.

In 1787 Greensboro's local equivalent to city, county and state law enforcement was the militia. The group was summoned that May 31 because a party of Creeks had raided the area, killing two persons and

carrying away one man and 14 horses.

The militia crossed the Oconee River, overtook the raiders and killed 12 Indians, according to *Historical Collections of Georgia* by the Reverend George White.

Apparently, the raiders sought retribution for the loss of their 12 braves, asking for as many settlers as would satisfy the tribe.

Upon hearing the demand of the Creeks, Governor George Mathews is quoted as saying in words easily understood, "We will deliver up none of our people, and if the Indians spill a drop of blood, we will lay their

towns in ashes and sprinkle their land with blood."

Records indicate that six years later, in 1793, 37 Indians attacked the home of Richard Thrasher, Mrs. Thrasher, carrying an infant, almost escaped the Indians by fleeing to the Oconee River. The Indians pursued her, fatally wounding her with guns and knives and leaving her for dead.

With the knowledge that her entire family was probably dead, the pioneer woman managed to hide in the river, holding to a bush to keep from being swept away. She was found by rescuers but was told she was mortally wounded. The pioneer housewife then "in a calm manner gave her hand to every one, wishing them a better fate than that which had befallen her and her family."

The lady of the rural house, during the early days of Georgia, was not without much fortitude. In addition to wifely and motherly duties, she easily and expertly took up the musket when the situation called for it.

An example of the housewife-warrior role occurred when the homestead of a Mr. Fielder, noted scout and hunter, was raided by 13 Indians. With her husband absent, Mrs. Fielder and her woman servant decided that they would try to save the place and prevent the Indians from stealing their horses.

The servant was shot in the leg, fleeing for the shelter of the house. Mrs. Fielder ran from the dwelling and helped the wounded woman inside. With about five muskets loaded and ready for firing, Mrs. Fielder bolted the door and began shooting at the raiders while her wounded servant reloaded.

In addition to shooting, the two women yelled back and forth in the cabin, making the Indians think that the home held more than just two persons.

The Indians fired about 25 rounds into the cabin before giving up the attack and their attempt to steal the horses. ■

A Reminder

It's that time of year again. Remember that your Thrasher Family Association dues are payable in July. This is the last newsletter for the 2002-2003 year, and unless you renew now, you may miss something! Just complete the enclosed renewal slip and send it with your check while it's fresh in your mind.

Here's a Smile for Your Day!

The following is from the Hughey mailing list, and seems to perfectly reflect what we all would like when researching!

"I want ancestors with names like Rudimentary Montagnard or Melchizenick von Steubenhoff Mannschild or Spetzatz Giafortoni, not WilliamBrown or John Hunter or Mary Abbott.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

EDITOR'S CORNER



Another year and another great reunion. Everyone had such a great time, which seems to always be the case when John E. and Eleanor are involved. Hope to see you all here in Dade City next year with the Sumner family members hosting.

Those of you who would like reprints of the reunion pictures should contact Dianne Wallace Kuntz, 6733 W. Kristal Way, Glendale, AZ 85308. \$2 for 3 x 5 prints and \$6 for 5 x 7 prints, which is to cover her printing and mailing costs. There are others in addition to the two used on the front page, so contact Dianne and ask what she has. Her phone number is (623) 561-0888.

There are some corrections and additions to the directory in the News and Notes section. Please make note of them in your copy, and if you have any others, please let me know.

And last, but not least, remember that your renewal checks should be made out to Thrasher Family Association and sent to Bill Thrasher rather than Dot Pruett. And thank you, Dot, for the many years of work you put in to taking care of this for us.

Don't forget — the address to send items for future issues is 13318 Omega Ct., Dade City, FL 33525; or send an e-mail to <beger@earthlink.net>. This is a new e-mail address for me, as I finally had to give up on GTE and its problems and change ISPs.

Can This Help Your Research?

While people like Dot Pruett, Dale Thrasher, John E. Thrasher and a few others are devoted, determined searchers for information, most of us are occasional researchers. If you are an "occasional," maybe this will help.

Dates when laws were passed requiring Birth & Death registrations:

State	Death	Birth	State	Death	Birth
Alabama	1908	1908	New Jersey	1848	1848
Alaska	1913	1913	New Mexico	1919	1919
Arizona	1909	1909	New York	1880	1880
Arkansas	1914	1914	North Carolina	1913	1913
California	1905	1905	North Dakota	1908	1908
Colorado	1907	1907	Ohio	1909	1909
Connecticut	1897	1897	Oklahoma	1908	1908
Delaware	1881	1881	Oregon	1903	1903
D.C.	1855	1871	Pennsylvania	1906	1906
Florida	1915	1915	Puerto Rico	1931	1931
Georgia	1919	1919	Rhode Island	1852	1852
Hawaii	1896	1896	South Carolina	1915	1915
Idaho	1911	1911	South Dakota	1905	1905
Illinois	1916	1916	Tennessee*	1914	1914
Indiana	1882	1882	Texas	1903	1903
Iowa	1880	1880	Utah	1905	1905
Kansas	1911	1911	Vermont	1857	1857
Kentucky	1911	1911	Virginia	1912	1912
Louisiana	1914	1914	Washington	1907	1907
Maine	1892	1892	West Virginia	1917	1917
Maryland	1898	1898	Wisconsin	1907	1907
Massachusetts	1841	1841	Wyoming	1909	1909
Michigan	1867	1867			
Minnesota	1900	1900			
Mississippi	1912	1912			
Missouri	1910	1910			
Montana	1907	1907			
Nebraska	1905	1905			
Nevada	1911	1911			
New Hampshire	1905	1905			

* For Tennessee, 1914 is the year that the state began requiring birth and death registration; however, many counties and the larger cities have records before 1914. Nashville has birth records 1881 through 1913 and death records 1874 through 1913.