

# The Thrasher Newsletter

Editor: Barbara Eger Circulation: John E. Thrasher III Volume 24 No. 1 November 2005

## First Results for Thrasher DNA Testing Project

By Nancy Cherry

The results are in for the first wave of volunteers for the Y-chromosome DNA testing project, bringing us confirmation of our previous documented genealogy and a few surprises. Testing was done in August, September, and October of this year by the Family Tree DNA company (FTDNA) of Houston, Texas.

As we could have predicted, results from John E., Al, Barton, John Paul, and his brother Warren show that these men are closely related. More interesting is the fact that Bill, Dale, and Buddy are evidently also closely related to the others. Genetic differences between all of these show up as 2's, 3's, 4's, and one 5, indicating that there is a very strong likelihood that they shared a common ancestor within the last few hundred years, but that a few mutations have occurred. The company's estimates for genetic differences between any two individuals are based on known mutation rates for the specific markers that vary, and the estimates for the Time of the Most Recent Common Ancestor (TMRCA) exhibit a great deal of scientific caution (i.e., they are deliberately on the low side.)

Jodie and Thomas Neal Thrasher, while not very genetically close to the men listed above, appear to be very closely related to each other.

William Thomas Thrasher who lives in Knoxville but is from the large Thrasher family centered near Easley, South Carolina, is of such a genetic difference that it is unlikely that he is related to either the Florida/Georgia group or the Maryland group, at least within the last 400 years.

Steve Thrasher of Maryland shares very little in common with the other lines of the family but, as expected, his test aligns

closely to his two known cousins who have so far participated in our project.

Each participant in the trial receives a list of the specific values for each of his markers. As this project grows, and more men participate, we should begin to develop marker "trees" that pinpoint where specific mutations occurred. The best thing any of us - male and female - can do now is to encourage other Thrasher men to be tested so that we can continue to distinguish similarities and differences in the various family lines.

\*\*\*\*\*

## Happy Turkey Day!



As we celebrate Thanksgiving, family ties are high on the list of things for which we can be thankful. Have a good holiday, and remember our men and women who are far from home. Pray for their safe return.

## Second International Conference on Genetic Genealogy

By Nancy Cherry

The conference, hosted by our testing company, Family Tree DNA of Houston, was held in Washington, DC on November 4 and 5 for administrators of FTDNA's testing projects. About 200 persons attended.

The location was the headquarters of the National Geographic Society, highlighting FTDNA's participation as testing outfit in the Genographic Project, a 5-year research partnership between National Geographic and IBM to study human migratory history. The Genographic Project uses sophisticated computer analysis of DNA contributed by hundreds of thousands of people - including indigenous populations and the general public - to reveal mankind's migratory routes and to better understand the connections and differences that make up the human species. The effort to map how mankind populated the earth is the most ambitious genetic anthropology research initiative ever.

Conference presentations ranged from those on "deep genetics" (the Genographic Project and another one on Native American anthropology) to subjects of greater relevance to most of us - why there was a July/August slowdown in testing this year (unanticipated volume and machine issues), ideas for a family website, suggestions for improvement of the company's website, and recruitment suggestions. Other presentations addressed lab procedures, mitochondrial DNA testing, haplogroup testing, and statistical processes (held unfortunately in the deadly after-lunch time period, but it probably would have been over my head at any time). Company president Bennett Greenspan opened the conference with statistics indicating that dna testing is now "on the cusp of being a mainstream product." The company has experienced tremendous growth in the sale of its testing as well as taking on the Genographic testing for the general public in April of this year.

The International Society of Genetic Genealogy (ISOGG) held a meeting on Saturday before regular conference ses-

sions began. ISOGG is endorsed by FTDNA and offers free help to project administrators and projects.

The entire conference displayed high standards and attention to detail in its planning and delivery. I was particularly impressed with the accessibility of the entire staff and their working relationships with the administrators. The level of sophistication of the administrators was amazing to me, and sent me scurrying to read and learn more.

Next year's conference will probably be held near company headquarters in Houston. I look forward to attending.

Eight days after the conference, the Washington Post of November 13, 2005 carried the story of a 15-year-old boy, child of an anonymous sperm donor, who had himself tested by the Family Tree DNA company in Houston and heard from two men with Y chromosomes that closely matched his. Neither man knew the other, but the analysis indicated that there was about a 50% chance that all three had the same father, grandfather or great-grandfather. The men also had similar last names, spelled differently.

The mother of the 15-year-old obtained the donor's date of birth and birthplace from the sperm bank and the boy then paid another on-line service, OmniTrace.com, to buy the name of every person born there on the same day. One man with the same last name appeared on the list, and within 10 days the boy contacted him.

The case, first reported by the British magazine New Scientist, is causing a lot of controversy, pitting those who wish to protect donor anonymity with those who believe that the rights of the offspring outweigh those of the donors. Ethicists are divided on the matter.

\*\*\*\*\*

*Thank you, Nancy! This project probably would never have gotten off the ground without your hard work. It is exciting to find both confirmation of connections we knew and to find some new, previously unsuspected connections.*

# *In Memoriam*

## Kathryn W. Thrasher

Kathryn Waters Thrasher, 93, of Orlando, passed away December 13, 2004, in Mount Dora, Fla. She was born October 1, 1911, in Atlanta, Ga., the oldest daughter of five children. At the age of two she moved with her family to Stark, Fla. and subsequently to Sanford, where she attended school. At the age of 18 she won the Miss Sanford Beauty Contest. While in Sanford, she met her husband, Robert C. Thrasher, to whom she was married for 56 years.

Following the move to Orlando she trained as a dental assistant and worked in that field for 36 years while still fulfilling the roles of wife and mother. She was instrumental in organizing and founding the Florida Dental Assistants' Association and served two terms as president of that organization.

She was an active member of Park Lake Presbyterian Church, spending many hours there as a volunteer after her retirement. She also served as a volunteer with Meals on Wheels for 14 years. Following the death of her husband she took on even more volunteer activities, working for the American Heart Association and in the Orlando City Hall gift Shop.

She was known for showing kindness and compassion to all she met and for being a source of strength for her family, friends, community and church.

She is survived by her sister, Minnie Hester; one son, Col. Robert H. Thrasher, USA (Ret.) and his wife Ginny of Mt. Dora; four grandsons and six great-granddaughters.

Services were held December 15, 2004, at Evergreen Cemetery in Sanford.

*From The Orlando Sentinel.*

## John Albert Thrasher

John Albert Thrasher, 54, died June 13, 2005. Memorial services were held Friday, June 17, 2005 at 7P.M. in the Athena Room at the Classic Center of Athens. -Mr. Thrasher grew up in Macon, Georgia and lived in Athens for twenty-five years before moving to Commerce in April of 2005. He graduated from the University of Georgia in 1973 and was an insurance adjuster for thirty years. He was employed with Auto Owners Insurance Company for the last fifteen years and was a Senior Field Claim Representative, AIC, and CPCU.

Survivors include his wife, Pam Thrasher; daughters and sons-in-law, Amber (Tommy) Wilkerson of Athens, Wendy (Mickey) Payne of Commerce; parents, Jodie and Charlotte Thrasher of Warner Robins; brother, Tommy Thrasher of Kathleen; one granddaughter, Ansley Jewell Payne.

Memorials may be made to St. Mary's Hospice, P. O. Box 6588, Athens, Georgia 30604.

Lord and Stephens East were in charge of arrangements.

From the Macon, Ga., *Telegraph*

\*\*\*\*\*

## Patricia J. Thrasher

Patricia J. Thrasher of Columbus, Miss., died October 18, 2005. Services were held October 20 at Mount Vernon Baptist Church, where she was a member. Interment was in Mt. Vernon Cemetery.

Ms. Thrasher graduated from New Hope High School and received an Associates Paralegal Degree from the University of Texas in Brownsville. For a number of years she worked as a paralegal in Brownsville, then returned to Columbus, where she was currently working and attending the Mississippi University for Women.

She was preceded in death by her paternal grandfather, Patton Thrasher, and maternal grandparents, Duffy and Hettie Crum. She is survived by her daughter, Susanna Renaud of Clay, Mich.; her parents, Robert "Buddy" and Glenda Thrasher of Columbus, Miss.; grandchildren Indiana, Mateo and Xander Renaud of Clay, Mich.; her paternal grandmother, Lorene Thrasher of Columbus; and her maternal grandmother, Ruth Cattalanotto of Columbus.

From *Heartfelt Connections* website

\*\*\*\*\*

325

# News and Notes

## Our Trip to New Mexico and Colorado

By Bill Thrasher

Velma and I had a very enjoyable trip this past summer. We departed Montgomery for Albuquerque, N.M., on July 30 for a two-week trip to New Mexico and Colorado.

Our granddaughter Mandy Valarde met us at the airport and we then drove with our great-granddaughter Jade Thrasher to Farmington, New Mexico.

Our great-granddaughters Jade Marie Thrasher and Saige Noel Thrasher had already arrived from Japan where they are stationed at Misawa Air Force Base with their mother Kayla and stepfather Sergeant Joel Booth.

We had reservations to ride the narrow gauge railway from Durango, Colo., to Silverton, Colo., and stay overnight in the Grand Imperial Hotel, returning to Durango and Farmington the following day.

Our Great-Grandson Hayden Wood, who lives in Flora Vista, N.M., with his mother and our granddaughter Mandy, also accompanied us. We rode in an open gondola car. During the trip both going up to Silverton and returning to Durango we encountered spectacular scenery. In earlier times the rail line was used to haul silver from the mines in Silverton.

The Grand Imperial Hotel is one of the oldest buildings (circa 1870's) in Silverton and was once a famous hotel and bar with live entertainment. There are bullet holes in the wall, which speak eloquently of wilder times at the Grand Imperial. One of our waiters in the dining room of the hotel introduced himself and we learned that the population of Silverton is about 600 and when winter arrives, all leave except about 26 people including the Mayor.

There is a large painting of Lily Langtry, the famous singer and entertainer who traveled extensively throughout the West during those early years hanging in the Lobby. Since our return train did not leave until 4 p.m., there was

ample time to browse the gift shops and other places of interest, including the old jail of Silverton.

The remainder of our trip was spent visiting and having dinners out with family. Our granddaughter Mandy made arrangements for all of us to attend a Wild West Show with live entertainment and dinner near Durango, CO. The evening was most entertaining and enjoyable.

\*\*\*\*\*

### Congratulations and Best Wishes

David Ryan Thrasher received the Mercer University Outstanding Senior Majoring in Information Science and Technology Award at Mercer's annual Honors Convocation. David also has since received his degree from Mercer.

He is the son of Mary and Tommy Thrasher of Warner Robins, Ga. and the grandson of association members Jodie and Charlotte Thrasher, also of Warner Robins.

\*\*\*\*\*

### Just for Fun!

Those of you who toured the San Sebastian Winery during the 2005 reunion weekend in St. Augustine might enjoy knowing that their wines won several medals at the Indiana State Fair this year.

The fair hosts the second-largest U.S. wine competition and the largest for wineries across the South and Midwest that use hybrid grapes and fruit.

The winery won gold for a red muscadine, silver for a cream sherry and bronzes for a red muscadine port and a white muscadine wine.

From the *St. Petersburg Times*

\*\*\*\*\*

326

# More News and Notes

## Huntsville Fountain to Honor Tom Thrasher

Huntsville's downtown canal will open next summer with a big splash. The waterway will feature a huge fountain with colorful lights and water plumes that can be choreographed to music. The City Council tonight will consider a \$284,000 development deal with Big Spring Partners Inc. to construct the fountain. It will be in a flared part of the canal just beyond the new arched Monroe Street bridge where the canal juts from Big Spring lagoon. The fountain is a gift from the Thrasher family of Huntsville in memory of Tom Thrasher, a business and civic leader who died in 1999.

The project includes benches and landscaping and decorative brick pavers. The fountain will be the centerpiece in a planned 1,000-foot canal separating the 10-story Embassy Suites Hotel and the Von Braun Center's South Hall. The waterway and adjacent green space is part of an expansion of Big Spring International Park.

"This is something the city wanted to do, but it was not affordable without the generosity of the family," said Huntsville Mayor Loretta Spencer. "The fountain, the benches, the landscaping, the walkways will all be features in the park the public can enjoy."

The Thrashers will donate the money to Big Spring Partners, a nonprofit organization that supports downtown development efforts of the city through donations and private investments.

The canal will feature two circular basins, two pre-cast bridges similar to the Monroe Street bridge and a stepping-stone bridge. Other features include brick pavement, decorative light fixtures, handrails and park benches.

Spencer said the location for the Thrasher memorial is particularly fitting, given Tom Thrasher's business history and storied involvement in the development of the VBC. Thrasher owned Thrasher Oil Co., which had its office where the VBC complex now sits.

He was a lieutenant colonel in the Army before starting the company in 1946. He was instrumental in the establishment of the University of Alabama in Huntsville,

active with the local Industrial Development Board and was chairman of the Von Braun Center Board of Control. He also served on the Huntsville school board and was involved in other community leadership positions. The fountain should be completed early next summer.

From *The Huntsville Times*

*Note: Tom Thrasher was one of the original Thrasher Family Association members and was always a strong supporter. He is missed by all.*

\*\*\*\*\*

## David Sumner Writes Textbook

"Feature and Magazine Writing," a book written by David Sumner, and Holly G. Miller, was published in May. A textbook for journalism programs teaching magazine writing, feature writing or similar courses.

David wrote that he is working on another book to be titled "Magazines: A Complete Guide to the Industry" and recently returned from a week-long trip to New York City where he interviewed about 10 magazine editors and publishers for the book. Among his interviewees were the editor of *Reader's Digest* and the publishers of *Sports Illustrated* and *TV Guide*.

David also wrote that his wife, Elise, is now teaching Spanish at Ivy Tech State College.

\*\*\*\*\*

## Directory Changes

There are three new email addresses and a new mailing address for your member directory.

The email addresses are:  
Sande Thrasher <MRSTNT@adelphia.net>  
Fayra Ray: <fayraray@netzero.net>  
Linda Burkhalter: <linda@d2ainc.com>  
The new mailing address is:

Robert Eger  
1441 Central St., #314  
Denver, CO 80211

\*\*\*\*\*

# And Still More News and Notes

## Dale and Trudy Thrasher Travel to Family Wedding

Dale and Trudy Thrasher traveled to Frostburg, Maryland, to attend the July 16 wedding of their granddaughter, Andrea K. Thrasher, to Mr. Lorin Rounds of that city. All ten of their children along with spouses and most of their grandchildren attended the ceremony held at St. Michael's Church. All had a grand weekend.

Dale and Trudy then left for a week in Dearborn, Michigan, where they visited with Trudy's sister. While Trudy spent time with her sister, Dale traveled to Detroit, Flint, Bay City, and Corunna to various cemeteries to take pictures of tombstones of relatives on his maternal side. Leaving Dearborn, they visited their son Wm T. and his family, who live outside Columbus, Ohio. Dale wrote "We spent the weekend there and then went home to Leesburg, Fla., taking with us some of son Bill's prize early tomatoes!"



*Taken at the reception: Dale, Trudy and their children. From back to front are: Cliff, Art, Dale Jr., Bill, Chris, Jo, Mary, Patti, Pam, Terrie, Trudy and Dale*

### EDITOR'S CORNER



The holidays are right on the horizon -- and to those of us who have survived another hurricane season that is a much nicer thing to have on the horizon! This issue begins a new year for the association; the 2005 reunion marked 30 years for our group. May it see another 30 and more!

The DNA project is going well, thanks to Nancy Thrasher Cherry's work in coordinating it. If anyone else wishes to join the project, contact her at <NancyTC@aol.com> for more information.

Remember to save the dates of June 23 - 25 for our 2006 reunion. Detailed information will be coming in the next newsletter.

As usual, I'm askin (begging?) for family news items. They are what makes the newsletter a tool for staying in touch year to year. Weddings, graduations, new additions to the family, and any other events in your family are of interest. Send items to me at 13318 Omega Ct., Dade City, FL 33525; or send an e-mail to <beger@earthlink.net>.

# Bits and Pieces

## New Cousin Looking for Family Links

Nancy Cherry has been in touch with a new "cousin," Suzanne Patterson of Duluth, Ga., and recently forwarded the following message from Suzanne.

"Well... where do I start? My research comes from my mother's father who has since passed away. He was in contact with Dorothy Pruitt and I have read her book.

"He was Russell Jackson Hudson, son of Porter Russell Hudson and Marion Clair Jackson.

"Marion was the daughter of William Frances Jackson and Ola Alma Thrasher. Ola Alma Thrasher was the daughter of Barton Cloud Thrasher and Mary Celestia Bird Elder from Watkinsville, Ga. (south of Athens).

"Barton was the son of Isaac Thrasher and Elizabeth Hester. Isaac was the son of John Thrasher and Susan Barton -- these two were the ones that migrated south from Rockingham Co., N.C.

"All three of these men had quite substantial plantations in the Clarke Co. (now Oconee Co.) area. They all owned a fair number of slaves as well. I have found them in several of the censuses. I also have a copy of Isaac's certificate of allegiance to the U.S. after the Civil War. They seemed to fare better than most during Sherman's march to Atlanta. There are several interesting family stories about that.

"I actually grew up in Timonium, Maryland (north of Baltimore). Twelve years ago my husband and I moved to the Atlanta area and in between jobs and my sons' activities I have tried to get source information for what my grandfather had given me. I am not a professional genealogist but I am a stickler for details and proof. I have been over to Watkinsville where they have a great library. I have searched and found some family cemeteries and not been able to find others in that area, though there is a book of all the cemeteries in the Barrow and Oconee county area that was recently

published by one of the historical societies there.

"This summer, my church's minister's daughter got engaged to... you guessed it... a Thrasher. His name is Jordan and he also happened to be my youngest son's counselor at church camp last year. We did some digging and found that he is my cousin within the same generation though I am 44 and he is 22. Ola Alma Thrasher was the very much younger sister of his gr-gr-grandfather. Small world. The majority of his family is in the Watkinsville/Athens/Atlanta area still today and they may be interested in the DNA research. I'll have to ask.

"I am most interested in validating the DAR application and certification of my Gr-grandmother Marion. Her information regarding Susan Barton's parents is often contradicted by every other researcher's info. But I have yet to see proof from either. Very frustrating.

"I am definitely interested in going to both reunions. I live an hour from Rabun county. In fact, I was just there this past weekend for other reasons! I still have a sister in the Baltimore area. Please share my information with whomever you choose."

*Suzanne can be contacted at*  
<sspatt@mindspring.com>.

\*\*\*\*\*

## **Blessings of the Season to All**



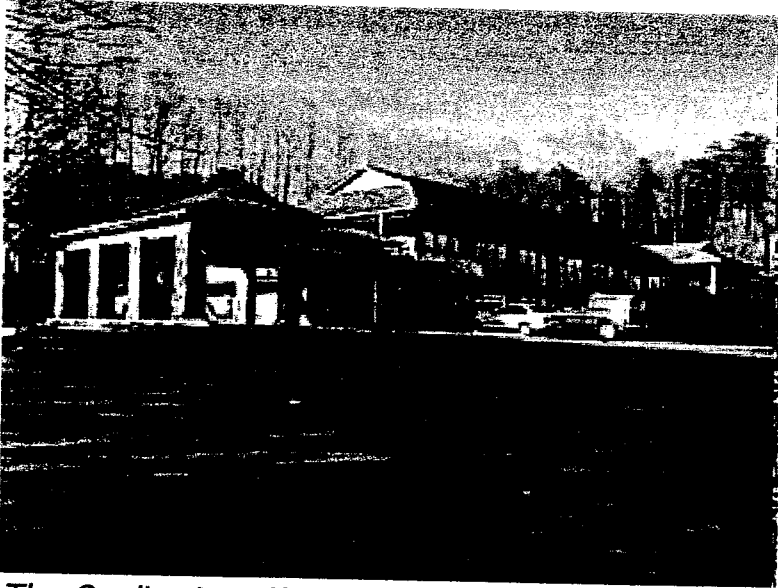




# The Thrasher Newsletter

Editor: Barbara Eger Circulation: John E. Thrasher III Volume 24 No. 2 February 2006

## Plans Have Been Made for Lots of Reunion Fun!



The Quality Inn, Clayton, Georgia, where reunion attendees will stay for the June 23 - 25 event

*Peggy and Al Thrasher have been hard at work getting arrangements made for our reunion and sent the following report. As you will see, there is a lot to see and do, so make your plans now to attend.*

A block of rooms has been reserved at the Quality Inn in Clayton, GA. Most of the rooms will be on the ground floor, and some allow smoking. Each room has two queen-size beds. There is no extra charge for children under 18, but pets are not allowed. The Thrasher Association price, if reserved by May 15, is \$69.99 plus tax for a total of about \$78. Check-in time is 2 p.m. and check-out time is 11 a.m. There is a toll-free number direct to the hotel -- 1-800-334-2214. The motel provides a continental breakfast and

the rooms have microwaves, coffee makers and mini refrigerators.

"Peggy's House on the Hard Road" (47 Clyde Ellen Drive, Tiger, GA 30576) will be open about mid-afternoon on Friday, June 23. Their letter said "We can make the group comfortable, and can provide some table space for individual displays. A low-country boil will be served." However, Peggy and Al definitely need a head count for this -- "to be able to determine the size of the pot needed," according to Peggy's letter.

Saturday breakfast and lunch will be individual choice. Be sure to get some suggestions from our hosts. They say there are some really good places to eat there, so try a couple of them.

Possibilities for Saturday field trips are many and varied, and Peggy and Al hope to accommodate as many interests as possible either as a guided tour or directions for those who would like to head out on their own to explore. Some areas that might be of interest are:

### Tallulah Falls and Gorge

An easy to moderate hike around a section of the rim of Tallulah Gorge or a moderate-to -"stop and catch your breath" hike down into the gorge across the swinging bridge. A trip here should include the Hurt Interpretive Center, the Co-op Craft Center, the Art Gallery and School and the Old General Store (reminiscent of the Thrasher Warehouse in Micanopy).

### Helen, Georgia

Helen is a rather well-done re-creation of an Alpine village. Although quite "touristy," it is also very scenic as the headwaters of the Chattahoochee River run through

## Reunion Plans

*Continued from page 1*

the center of town. Of the several attractions in Helen, one of special note is a huge collection of wagons, stagecoaches, surreys, buggies and automobiles.

### Mountain City and Dillard

Mountain City is home to one of the best flea markets anywhere. Dillard has specialty shops to address any taste. Black Rock Mountain State Park offers a breathtaking view. The Foxfire Museum and the Railroad Museum may pique your interest also.

### Old Clayton

A leisurely stroll down Main Street in old Clayton may be your cup of tea. Among the traditional and specialty shops you will surely find something that fits your interests. You can actually sit at the soda fountain in the corner drug store and have an ice cream soda! The Prater Book Shop is definitely worth checking out.

### Motor Tour of the Mountains

Depending on your interest and time, Al and Peggy have offered to work up routes which might include Highlands, N.C. (highest incorporated city east of the Mississippi); Cherokee, N.C. (Native American reservations and Harrah's Casino; Cades Cove; and Gatlinburg, Tenn. The ride to Cherokee would take you to the entrance of Great Smoky Mountain National Park -- the most visited park in the nation. Another option would be a western ride through the most scenic of the Georgia mountains.

### Boat Tour of the Millionaires' Lake

Lake Rabun is the original second-home site of the rich-and-famous in Georgia. Many of the homes are of stone, while the most recent ones are just huge. Lake Rabun is clear, cold and simply beautiful! However, in order to make appropriate arrangements, Al and Peggy need a head count for this activity by June 1.

### Visitor's Choice

You may have heard of some place or activity that has stirred your interest. Al and Peggy said let them know and they will try their best to make it happen!

### A note from Peggy and Al:

"We will gather at 3:30 Saturday afternoon at the Tiger Mountain Vineyards for a little sample of some award-winning wines. You may even want to take some home to impress your friends!

"The annual meeting will be at 'The House on the Hard Road' at 5:00 Saturday."

Saturday night dinner will be at the famous Dillard House Restaurant. Peggy wrote that she knows of no other family-style restaurant that even comes close! Cost is \$18.95 for adults, children ages 4 through 11 are \$10 less, and children under 4 are free. Tax and gratuity are additional. A \$5.00 per person refundable deposit will be needed to hold a reservation seat.

There is a reservation form at the end of the newsletter with spaces for Friday and Saturday dinners and the boat tour. These three things all must have accurate counts, so be sure to send yours to Al and Peggy so that they receive it prior to the June 1 deadline.

## In Memoriam

### Frances C. Dutcher Thrasher

Frances C. Dutcher Thrasher passed away Dec. 6, 2005, at Port Richey, Fla. She was born April 11, 1910, in Mio, Mich.

Her first husband, James Elmer Thrasher, passed away in 1964. She leaves four living children, Dale R. Thrasher of Leesburg, Fla., Dolores Vigderman of New Port Richey, Fla., John Thrasher of Niceville, Fla., and Jean Henderson of The Woodlands, Texas. Sons Donald and James Thrasher predeceased her. Her sisters, Lucy Oss and Dorothy Howe, and her brother, Carl Dutcher, predeceased her also. She had 28 grandchildren, 56 great grandchildren and 4 great-great grandchildren.

A mass of Christian burial was held at St. Mary of the Lake Church in Eustis, Fla., in January. Her ashes will be interred with husband James E. Thrasher in Albany, Kentucky.

*Received from Dale R. Thrasher*

### Eleanor Lee Hale

Eleanor Lee (Thrasher) Hale, 85, a faithful companion, partner, loving wife, mother, grandmother and friend, died Dec. 6, 2005, in Azle, Texas. Services were held at Pisgah United Methodist Church in Kernersville, North Carolina. Burial was in Pisgah Cemetery. She was born May 29, 1920, to Grady and Eleanor Thrasher in Oconee County, Georgia.

Mrs. Thrasher was a faithful member of Pisgah United Methodist Church. She moved to Azle in 2001 to be closer to her children.

She was preceded in death by her parents; her husband, Loyd; two brothers; and two sisters. Survivors include her son, Gerry C. Hale; her daughter and son-in-law, Donna and Lonnie Venable; grandchildren Connie Roach and husband Darrell, Cary Venable and wife Tammy, Robert Lloyd and wife Amanda, and Stephen Douglas and wife Mandy; eight great-grandchildren; her brother, William A. Thrasher of Marietta, Georgia; and several nieces and nephews.

*From the Azle News, Azle, Texas*

### Steven Lane Thrasher

Steven Lane Thrasher, 52, of Louisville, Ky., passed away Friday, January 20, after a long battle with brain cancer. His mother, Dorothy Riley Thrasher, preceded him in death. He is survived by his father, Robert Gene Thrasher Sr.; five brothers, Robert Gene Thrasher Jr., Terry Neal Thrasher, Thomas Michael Thrasher, Mark Alan Thrasher, and Timothy Alvin Thrasher; two sisters, Emily Ruth Thrasher and Amy Lynn Thrasher; nine nieces and nephews; and five great-nieces and nephews.

Steve was an extremely gifted individual. He founded and was president of the Kentucky Branch Bottle Water Co. and was a past owner of the Valley General Store.

Perhaps his biggest accomplishment was his work in genealogy. He just finished his first book entitled "Richard Pile of Prince George's County, Maryland and His Descendants." His work in genealogy was nationally known and his works are quoted in many other written works across America. He was a member of the National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution and was well known at the Filson Club in Louisville.

Steve held a thoroughbred owner's license for more than 20 years. He also was a great U. of K. fan.

Funeral services were held at W. G. Hardy Funeral Home, Valley Station. Interment was in Resthaven Cemetery.

*From the Louisville, Ky, Courier-Journal*



## DNA Project Results In For Current Participants

By Nancy Thrasher Cherry

All results for the eighteen men participating in the DNA study are back, and the results did provide a few surprises. As reported earlier, John E., Al, Barton, Warren Jr. and John Paul Thrasher share a relatively recent ancestor with Bill, Dale, and Buddy (Robert Patton Thrasher) of Mississippi. Joining this group are Lester Thresher of Oxnard, Calif., and Kenneth Thomas ("Tom") Thrasher of Alabama.

Jodie Thrasher turns out to be unrelated to either of the eastern groups. Using Family Tree DNA's conservative estimate, the chances are less than 12% that he shared a common ancestor within the last 600 years with John E. He has, however, found a definite cousin in Thomas Neal Thrasher of California, with whom he shares a genetic distance of 1. Jodie writes that *"The good stuff is that many of us assumed without proof that we descended from George Thrasher who came from North Carolina to Georgia in 1775. The dna shows Thomas Neal Thrasher and I are related. I have traced back to William Thrasher and he to his brother Jesse Thrasher. Both are recorded in tax records along with George. This information alone makes (the dna test) worth the cost."*

The three descendants of Benjamin Thrasher (d. 1740 in Maryland), Steve, Amos, and Calvin, show remarkable genetic closeness, but are surprisingly remote from all other men in the test.

Craig Thrasher of San Diego does not appear to be related to anyone currently in the project. His closest genetic distance is to William Thomas Thrasher of Knoxville at 13, and his chances that he shares a common ancestor with William Thomas within the past 300 years are less than 1%. William Thomas Thrasher has found no relatives enrolled in the study even though he comes from a family of 12, and his father also was one of 12.

Similarly, Patrick Thrasher of Sebring, Fla., has no relatives yet enrolled in the study. His least genetic distance is to Jodie, but there is less than a 1% chance that they shared a male ancestor in the last 600 years.

In December, Family Tree DNA, our testing company, offered us two certificates for \$30 each to be applied to the price of the Y-37 tests. This was a holiday special, ending December 31. Sadly, we were not able to enroll any new participants to take advantage of the offer. In the "old" days, traveling Thrashers stopped when they saw the name on the mailbox or made "cold" calls to anyone having their name in a strange city's phone book. Let's follow tradition and reach out to every Thrasher we come across, encouraging them or their male relatives to participate in our study. Who knows what surprises might await us!

\*\*\*\*\*

### Descendants of Ola Alma Thrasher

We are so pleased to have a genealogy update from the newest member of the Thrasher Family Association, Suzanne Patterson! A letter from Suzanne was published in the last issue of The Thrasher Newsletter. On the following pages she has shared with us the extension of her line of Thrasher genealogy.

To avoid repetition of well-known and previously printed family history, here are the first four generations: John and Ruth Cloud Thrasher, John and Susan Barton Thrasher, Isaac and Elizabeth Hester Thrasher and Barton Cloud and Mary Celestia Bird Elder Thrasher.

Ola Alma Thrasher was the daughter of Barton Cloud and Mary Celestia Bird Elder Thrasher. (See page 182 of "Our Thrasher Heritage.")

## *Descendants of Ola Alma Thrasher*

### *Generation No. 1*

1. OLA ALMA<sup>5</sup> THRASHER (*BARTON CLOUD<sup>4</sup>, ISAAC<sup>3</sup>, JOHN<sup>2</sup>, JOHN<sup>1</sup>*) was born February 05, 1866, and died January 03, 1946 in Ashburn, GA. She married WILLIAM FRANCIS JACKSON 1887.

#### Notes for OLA ALMA THRASHER:

Death year may be 1949.

Photo can be found on the Turner County, GA history book with the DAR girls.

Ola moved to Ashburn, Turner County, GA after the death of her husband in Moultrie, GA. Her two brothers, Barton Edmund Thrasher ( as her attorney ) and Dr. T.H. Thrasher, went to Moultrie to settle Francis Jackson's affairs. Ola bought a house on Rainey St. in Ashburn ( see scrapbook ) and opened Hotel Jackson. The second floor of the house later burned and she left the hotel business. The second floor was never rebuilt as they did not need it for the family's use. Around 1910, she was trained as a nurse in Cordele, Crisp County, GA and helped her brother as a midwife around Turner County, GA.

#### More About OLA ALMA THRASHER:

Fact 1: Jug Tavern is near Winder, GA

#### Notes for WILLIAM FRANCIS JACKSON:

Buried by himself in Winder, Barrow Co, GA.

#### More About WILLIAM FRANCIS JACKSON:

Burial: Winder, GA

#### Marriage Notes for OLA THRASHER and WILLIAM JACKSON:

Marriage year may be 1886.

#### Children of OLA THRASHER and WILLIAM JACKSON are:

2. i. VERA STELLA<sup>6</sup> JACKSON, b. December 27, 1888, Winder, GA; d. March 01, 1979, Ashburn, GA.
3. ii. MARION CLAIR JACKSON, b. August 20, 1890, Winder, GA; d. February 01, 1958, Ashburn, GA.
- iii. RALPH JACKSON, b. April 1893; m. ROCHELLE SEARCY.

#### Notes for RALPH JACKSON:

One of the first students to attend ABAC in Tifton, GA. Classes started February, 1908.

4. iv. WILLIAM JACKSON, b. September 1894.

### *Generation No. 2*

2. VERA STELLA<sup>6</sup> JACKSON (*OLA ALMA<sup>5</sup> THRASHER, BARTON CLOUD<sup>4</sup>, ISAAC<sup>3</sup>, JOHN<sup>2</sup>, JOHN<sup>1</sup>*) was born December 27, 1888 in Winder, GA, and died March 01, 1979 in Ashburn, GA. She married DON MCRACKIN BALDWIN November 25, 1908 in Ashburn, GA.

#### More About VERA STELLA JACKSON:

Burial: Ashburn, GA

334

Marriage Notes for VERA JACKSON and DON BALDWIN:  
Reverend F. M. Blalock officiating.

Children of VERA JACKSON and DON BALDWIN are:

- i. DON MCRACKIN<sup>7</sup> BALDWIN, b. June 30, 1910; d. February 02, 1989; m. ELLA GUMMER, January 24, 1942, Baltimore, MD.

More About DON MCRACKIN BALDWIN:  
Burial: Quantico National Cemetery

Marriage Notes for DON BALDWIN and ELLA GUMMER:  
MonSenior Mann officiating.

5. ii. WILLIAM GASTON BALDWIN, b. June 08, 1917, Ashburn, GA.
6. iii. RALPH JACKSON BALDWIN, b. July 20, 1919; m. JO MAXWELL, October 13, 1950, Savannah, GA.
- iv. CHARLES DAVID BALDWIN, b. September 25, 1923, Ashburn, GA; d. August 16, 1986.

3. MARION CLAIR<sup>6</sup> JACKSON (*OLA ALMA<sup>5</sup> THRASHER, BARTON CLOUD<sup>4</sup>, ISAAC<sup>3</sup>, JOHN<sup>2</sup>, JOHN<sup>1</sup>*) was born August 20, 1890 in Winder, GA, and died February 01, 1958 in Ashburn, GA. She married PORTER RUSSELL HUDSON December 30, 1908 in Ashburn, GA.

Notes for PORTER RUSSELL HUDSON:

Owned first Harley Davidson motorcycle dealership in Ashburn, GA.  
Leader in the Volunteer Fire Department.  
First telephone operator in Ashburn, GA.  
Started delivering mail by horseback then bicycle, then motorcycle, then auto.

More About PORTER RUSSELL HUDSON:

Census: April 1910, Raney St, Ashburn, Turner Co., GA<sup>1</sup>

Children of MARION JACKSON and PORTER HUDSON are:

7. i. RUSSELL JACKSON<sup>7</sup> HUDSON, b. October 31, 1909, Ashburn, GA; d. July 27, 1998.
8. ii. DOROTHY CLARE HUDSON, b. February 22, 1911, Ashburn, GA.

4. WILLIAM<sup>6</sup> JACKSON (*OLA ALMA<sup>5</sup> THRASHER, BARTON CLOUD<sup>4</sup>, ISAAC<sup>3</sup>, JOHN<sup>2</sup>, JOHN<sup>1</sup>*) was born September 1894. He married (1) BESSIE CRISWELL. He married (2) EMILY CLAIRE.

Child of WILLIAM JACKSON and BESSIE CRISWELL is:

9. i. WILLIAM PINKNEY<sup>7</sup> JACKSON.

Child of WILLIAM JACKSON and EMILY CLAIRE is:

- ii. EMILY CLAIRE<sup>7</sup> JACKSON, m. DON W. FITTON.

More About EMILY CLAIRE JACKSON:

Residence: 2001, 140 Heathwood Ln., Hamilton, OH 45013 (513) 863-4128

Generation No. 3

5. WILLIAM GASTON<sup>7</sup> BALDWIN (*VERA STELLA<sup>6</sup> JACKSON, OLA ALMA<sup>5</sup> THRASHER, BARTON CLOUD<sup>4</sup>, ISAAC<sup>3</sup>, JOHN<sup>2</sup>, JOHN<sup>1</sup>*) was born June 08, 1917 in Ashburn, GA. He married LOUISE DALE October 07, 1939 in Athens, GA.

335

More About LOUISE DALE:

Burial: Ashburn, GA

Child of WILLIAM BALDWIN and LOUISE DALE is:

10. i. CAROLE DALE<sup>8</sup> BALDWIN.

6. CHARLES DAVID<sup>7</sup> BALDWIN (*VERA STELLA<sup>6</sup> JACKSON, OLA ALMA<sup>5</sup> THRASHER, BARTON CLOUD<sup>4</sup>, ISAAC<sup>3</sup>, JOHN<sup>2</sup>, JOHN<sup>1</sup>*) was born September 25, 1923 in Ashburn, GA, and died August 16, 1986. He married BETTY STARK July 16, 1950 in Abilene, TX.

Children of CHARLES BALDWIN and BETTY STARK are:

i. DAVID<sup>8</sup> BALDWIN.  
11. ii. PAUL BALDWIN.

7. RUSSELL JACKSON<sup>7</sup> HUDSON (*MARION CLAIR<sup>6</sup> JACKSON, OLA ALMA<sup>5</sup> THRASHER, BARTON CLOUD<sup>4</sup>, ISAAC<sup>3</sup>, JOHN<sup>2</sup>, JOHN<sup>1</sup>*) was born October 31, 1909 in Ashburn, GA, and died July 27, 1998. He married SARAH WYNELLE WHEELLESS December 21, 1931 in Augusta, GA.

Child of RUSSELL HUDSON and SARAH WHEELLESS is:

12. i. WYNELLE ELAINE<sup>8</sup> HUDSON, b. July 17, 1937, Louisville, KY.

8. DOROTHY CLARE<sup>7</sup> HUDSON (*MARION CLAIR<sup>6</sup> JACKSON, OLA ALMA<sup>5</sup> THRASHER, BARTON CLOUD<sup>4</sup>, ISAAC<sup>3</sup>, JOHN<sup>2</sup>, JOHN<sup>1</sup>*) was born February 22, 1911 in Ashburn, GA. She married JULIAN STONE TOLBERT January 04, 1930 in Dunnellon, GA.

Children of DOROTHY HUDSON and JULIAN TOLBERT are:

13. i. DOROTHY JEAN<sup>8</sup> TOLBERT, b. September 01, 1930, Atlanta, GA.  
14. ii. JULIAN HUDSON TOLBERT, b. March 19, 1938, Charlotte, NC; d. June 12, 1978, Macon, GA.

9. WILLIAM PINKNEY<sup>7</sup> JACKSON (*WILLIAM<sup>6</sup>, OLA ALMA<sup>5</sup> THRASHER, BARTON CLOUD<sup>4</sup>, ISAAC<sup>3</sup>, JOHN<sup>2</sup>, JOHN<sup>1</sup>*).

Child of WILLIAM PINKNEY JACKSON is:

i. MARGARET<sup>8</sup> JACKSON.

Generation No. 4

10. CAROLE DALE<sup>8</sup> BALDWIN (*WILLIAM GASTON<sup>7</sup>, VERA STELLA<sup>6</sup> JACKSON, OLA ALMA<sup>5</sup> THRASHER, BARTON CLOUD<sup>4</sup>, ISAAC<sup>3</sup>, JOHN<sup>2</sup>, JOHN<sup>1</sup>*). She married RICHARD BURNETTE.

Children of CAROLE BALDWIN and RICHARD BURNETTE are:

i. LEE<sup>9</sup> BURNETTE, b. 1972.  
ii. LISA BURNETTE, b. 1975.

11. PAUL<sup>8</sup> BALDWIN (*CHARLES DAVID<sup>7</sup>, VERA STELLA<sup>6</sup> JACKSON, OLA ALMA<sup>5</sup> THRASHER, BARTON CLOUD<sup>4</sup>, ISAAC<sup>3</sup>, JOHN<sup>2</sup>, JOHN<sup>1</sup>*). He married DEBBIE.

Children of PAUL BALDWIN and DEBBIE are:

i. JENNY<sup>9</sup> BALDWIN, b. 1979.  
ii. JOHN BALDWIN, b. 1982.

12. WYNELLE ELAINE<sup>8</sup> HUDSON (*RUSSELL JACKSON<sup>7</sup>, MARION CLAIR<sup>6</sup> JACKSON, OLA ALMA<sup>5</sup> THRASHER, BARTON CLOUD<sup>4</sup>, ISAAC<sup>3</sup>, JOHN<sup>2</sup>, JOHN<sup>1</sup>*) was born July 17, 1937 in Louisville, KY. She married ROBERT WILSON SEILER June 15, 1957 in Baltimore, MD.

336

Children of WYNELLE HUDSON and ROBERT SEILER are:

15. i. LAUREN ELAINE<sup>9</sup> SEILER, b. October 21, 1958, Syracuse, NY.
16. ii. SUZANNE CAROL SEILER, b. September 20, 1960, Baltimore, MD.
- iii. WYNELLE ELIZABETH SEILER, b. April 08, 1965, Baltimore, MD; m. DARREN CARROLL, August 07, 1999, Lutherville, MD.
17. iv. PHILLIP ROBERT SEILER, b. March 04, 1969, Baltimore, MD.

13. DOROTHY JEAN<sup>8</sup> TOLBERT (*DOROTHY CLARE<sup>7</sup> HUDSON, MARION CLAIR<sup>6</sup> JACKSON, OLA ALMA<sup>5</sup> THRASHER, BARTON CLOUD<sup>4</sup>, ISAAC<sup>3</sup>, JOHN<sup>2</sup>, JOHN<sup>1</sup>*) was born September 01, 1930 in Atlanta, GA. She married RIGHTON LYNDON November 21, 1953 in Macon, GA.

Child of DOROTHY TOLBERT and RIGHTON LYNDON is:

- i. ANNE CLAIR<sup>9</sup> LYNDON, b. January 21, 1963.

14. JULIAN HUDSON<sup>8</sup> TOLBERT (*DOROTHY CLARE<sup>7</sup> HUDSON, MARION CLAIR<sup>6</sup> JACKSON, OLA ALMA<sup>5</sup> THRASHER, BARTON CLOUD<sup>4</sup>, ISAAC<sup>3</sup>, JOHN<sup>2</sup>, JOHN<sup>1</sup>*) was born March 19, 1938 in Charlotte, NC, and died June 12, 1978 in Macon, GA. He married HELEN ROBERTS ROSS June 08, 1963 in Macon, GA.

Children of JULIAN TOLBERT and HELEN ROSS are:

- i. JULIAN HUDSON<sup>9</sup> TOLBERT, JR, b. March 12, 1965, Atlanta, Ga; m. JOLENE SUZANNE WILLMAN, August 10.
- ii. THOMAS ROSS TOLBERT, b. October 03, 1967, Atlanta, Ga.

#### Generation No. 5

15. LAUREN ELAINE<sup>9</sup> SEILER (*WYNELLE ELAINE<sup>8</sup> HUDSON, RUSSELL JACKSON<sup>7</sup>, MARION CLAIR<sup>6</sup> JACKSON, OLA ALMA<sup>5</sup> THRASHER, BARTON CLOUD<sup>4</sup>, ISAAC<sup>3</sup>, JOHN<sup>2</sup>, JOHN<sup>1</sup>*) was born October 21, 1958 in Syracuse, NY. She married STEVEN SHIPLEY August 25, 1979 in Lutherville, MD.

Child of LAUREN SEILER and STEVEN SHIPLEY is:

- i. JESSICA KENDALL<sup>10</sup> SHIPLEY, b. September 14, 1982, Baltimore, MD.

16. SUZANNE CAROL<sup>9</sup> SEILER (*WYNELLE ELAINE<sup>8</sup> HUDSON, RUSSELL JACKSON<sup>7</sup>, MARION CLAIR<sup>6</sup> JACKSON, OLA ALMA<sup>5</sup> THRASHER, BARTON CLOUD<sup>4</sup>, ISAAC<sup>3</sup>, JOHN<sup>2</sup>, JOHN<sup>1</sup>*) was born September 20, 1960 in Baltimore, MD. She married WILLIAM SYNYARD PATTERSON III August 28, 1982 in Timonium, MD.

Children of SUZANNE SEILER and WILLIAM PATTERSON are:

- i. ROBERT WILLIAM<sup>10</sup> PATTERSON, b. May 11, 1986, Baltimore, MD.
- ii. BRENDAN ANDREW PATTERSON, b. February 27, 1989, Baltimore, MD.

17. PHILLIP ROBERT<sup>9</sup> SEILER (*WYNELLE ELAINE<sup>8</sup> HUDSON, RUSSELL JACKSON<sup>7</sup>, MARION CLAIR<sup>6</sup> JACKSON, OLA ALMA<sup>5</sup> THRASHER, BARTON CLOUD<sup>4</sup>, ISAAC<sup>3</sup>, JOHN<sup>2</sup>, JOHN<sup>1</sup>*) was born March 04, 1969 in Baltimore, MD. He married KATHLEEN MARIE PETRI October 12, 1991 in Lutherville, MD.

Children of PHILLIP SEILER and KATHLEEN PETRI are:

- i. ALEXANDRA NOEL<sup>10</sup> SEILER, b. November 17, 1995, Salt Lake City, UT.
- ii. COLIN RUSSELL SEILER, b. January 1999.

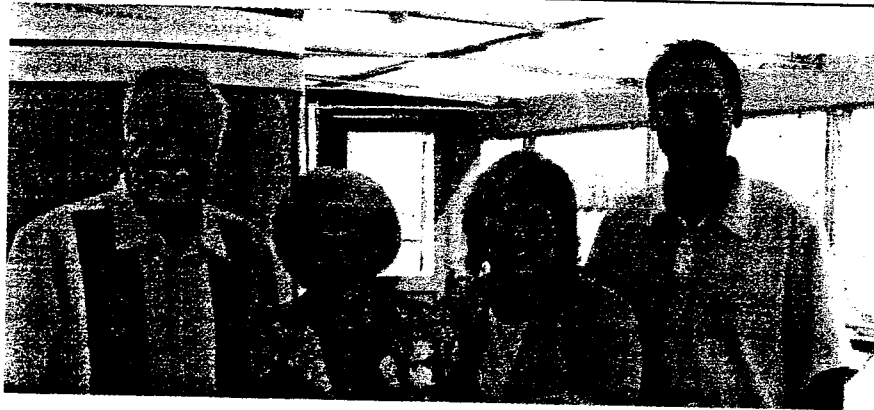
#### Endnotes

1. Turner Co., GA 1910 Census.

337



# News and Notes



*Left to right: Jack and Thais Sykes, their oldest daughter Lori, and Lori's husband, Steve Ardis.*

## News from a California Cousin

John E. Thrasher received a nice letter from long-time association member Thais Sykes along with the picture above, which was taken on the occasion of Thais' 80th birthday!

In her letter, Thais reminisced about growing up in the Topanga Canyon of California, where they are now making a state park of the land where her family lived. Two reporters from the Topanga Messenger interviewed Thais and her husband Jack for material for a history of Topanga. Thais wrote "this has really kept me busy remembering! Also digging out all the old photos of family, neighbors, etc."

John E. had previously written Thais about the DNA study -- Thais responded "The only Thrasher male I knew of was George. I tried to call him but his number was out of order. The last time I talked to him he wasn't feeling well so I looked at the SSDI and found that he passed away on 2 March 2004. His middle name was Benton and he was born 6 May 1918. Father was George Thrasher and mother was Goldie Brown. He lived in Tulare, Calif."

\*\*\*\*\*

## A Research Query

David Sumner received the following query from a Thrasher researcher:

"I am a doctoral candidate in the Department of Communication at the University of Washington in Seattle, and I hope you can help me with something

regarding your 2000 Georgia Historical Quarterly article on your relative John J. Thrasher. My dissertation research involves the Confederate Press Association and its principals, mainly Superintendent John Sidney Thrasher. The Press Association was based in Atlanta during the Civil War, but I know that J.S. Thrasher was originally from Maine. Do you know whether he was kin to John J.?

John S. lived his later years (postwar, that is) in Galveston, Texas, and died there, but apparently he didn't leave much of anything behind in the way of personal papers, documents, diaries, correspondence, etc.

I keep hoping I'll come across some previously undiscovered cache of material or a descendant, such as yourself, who knows where such archives might be.

Any assistance, advice or guidance you can provide will be greatly appreciated. I look forward to hearing from you."

Leighton Wingate  
Seattle

John E. Thrasher has already referred Mr. Wingate to Dr. Marion Thrasher's book, where there is some information, but if anyone has anything more e-mail Mr. Wingate at <flwingate@earthlink.net>.

\*\*\*\*\*

## Santa's Helper!!

In December Frankie Goldsby's son Joey Wubbena presided over the annual Christmas Parade in Dade City. Joey is president of the Dade City Chamber of Commerce, the sponsor of the parade.

\*\*\*\*\*

# More News and Notes

## Wedding Bells in Arizona!

Congratulations to Dianne Wallace and Robert "Bob" George Wason who were married on 1 October, 2005 in Sun City, Maricopa County, Arizona. According to Wallace and Wason traditions, the wedding was a Scottish affair with the men all wearing kilts and the ladies wearing the proper Scottish tartans for the two clans. Dianne and Bob now live in Glendale, Arizona.

Not only was Dianne a bride, but recently she also became a grandmother for the first time. Her daughter and son-in-law, Julie Marie Kuntz and "Willie" Von Fuhrherr's daughter, Jordan Wallace Von Fuhrherr, was born on 17 August 2005 in Phoenix, Maricopa County, Arizona.

Congratulations to the proud parents and grandparents!

\*\*\*\*\*

## Directory Changes/Additions

There are quite a few directory changes this time, as well as several new members. Please note them in your directories.

Welcome to the following new members:

Shirley Brewer  
189 Cedric Hendrix Lane  
Parsons, TN 38363  
731-847-6768  
shirley-brewer@hotmail.com

Suzanne Patterson  
7055 Amberleigh Way  
Duluth, GA 30097  
770-354-1666  
sspatt@mindspring.com

Billy Huse Thrasher  
1010 Coliseum Ave.  
Live Oak, FL 32064  
386-364-4953  
oldclockdoctor@alltel.net

Helen Raye Thrasher, MD  
4316 Corinth Drive  
Birmingham, AL 35213-1814  
205-871-6980  
dockieoo@bellsouth.net

Patrick Thrasher  
7612 Rozzini Lane  
Naples, FL 34114  
239-430-9410  
msminflorida@aol.com

### Address Changes:

Pauline Gates  
16301 Halsey St.  
Granada Hills, CA 91344  
818-832-6706  
gatesp@verizon.net

Patti Bishop Savelle  
212 Saxton Place  
Leesburg, GA 31763  
229-883-1755  
psavelle@bellsouth.net

### New e-mail addresses:

Joe and Angie Grooms  
grooms75@bellsouth.net

Sandy Thrasher Harbison  
AFmomto2@ao.com

Barbara Thrasher Hill  
elmerc.hill@earthlink.net

Melba S. Oakes  
caso56@aol.com  
Celestea Sharp  
celesteasharp@nyc.rr.com

David Sumner  
sumner#teachers.org

Al and Peggy Thrasher  
althras@cgemc.net

Robert H. Thrasher  
thrasher06@earthlink.net

### Phone changes:

Robert Eger  
303-589-7885

Jo Ellen LaVeigne  
352-333-0127

Mary Wilson  
330-644-1681

# Bits and Pieces

## More on Directory Changes

Between the association officers and the newsletter editor, we try to keep the directory up to date. If anyone has other changes, please send them to the address in "Editor's Corner."

## Rabun County Website

If you want to know more about this year's reunion location, there is a great website that Bill Thrasher found. It is <<http://www.gamountains.com/content/>>. Check it out and get your plans made soon!

\*\*\*\*\*

## Thrashers in Early Education

The following items are from the Summary of {Pasco County, Florida} School Board Minutes originally compiled by Frank McCormick and posted with his permission on <<http://fivay.org/education.html>>. This web site has all kinds of interesting tidbits about the beginnings of the Pasco County public schools.

Sept. 5, 1887:

Townsend House and Willow Oak or Providence schools were discontinued. Jesse Thrasher petitioned on behalf of the patrons of Lake Buddie. The school was granted to be known as Lake Buddie school, No. 27.

May 2, 1904:

Superintendent D. O. Thrasher's salary was increased from \$54.00 to \$60.00 per month.

\*\*\*\*\*

## STRANGERS IN THE BOX

*Author Unknown*

Come, look with me inside this drawer,  
In this box I've often seen,  
At the pictures, black and white,  
Faces proud, still, serene.  
I wish I knew the people,  
These strangers in the box,  
Their names and all their memories  
Are lost among my socks.  
I wonder what their lives were like,  
How did they spend their days?  
What about their special times?  
I'll never know their ways.  
If only someone had taken time  
To tell who, what, where, or when,  
These faces of my heritage  
Would come to life again.  
Could this become the fate  
Of the pictures we take today?  
The faces and the memories  
Someday to be passed away?  
Make time to save your stories,  
Seize the opportunity when it knocks,  
Or someday you and yours could be  
The strangers in the box.

*Just a reminder to the many who put off labeling pictures (me among them)!*

\*\*\*\*\*

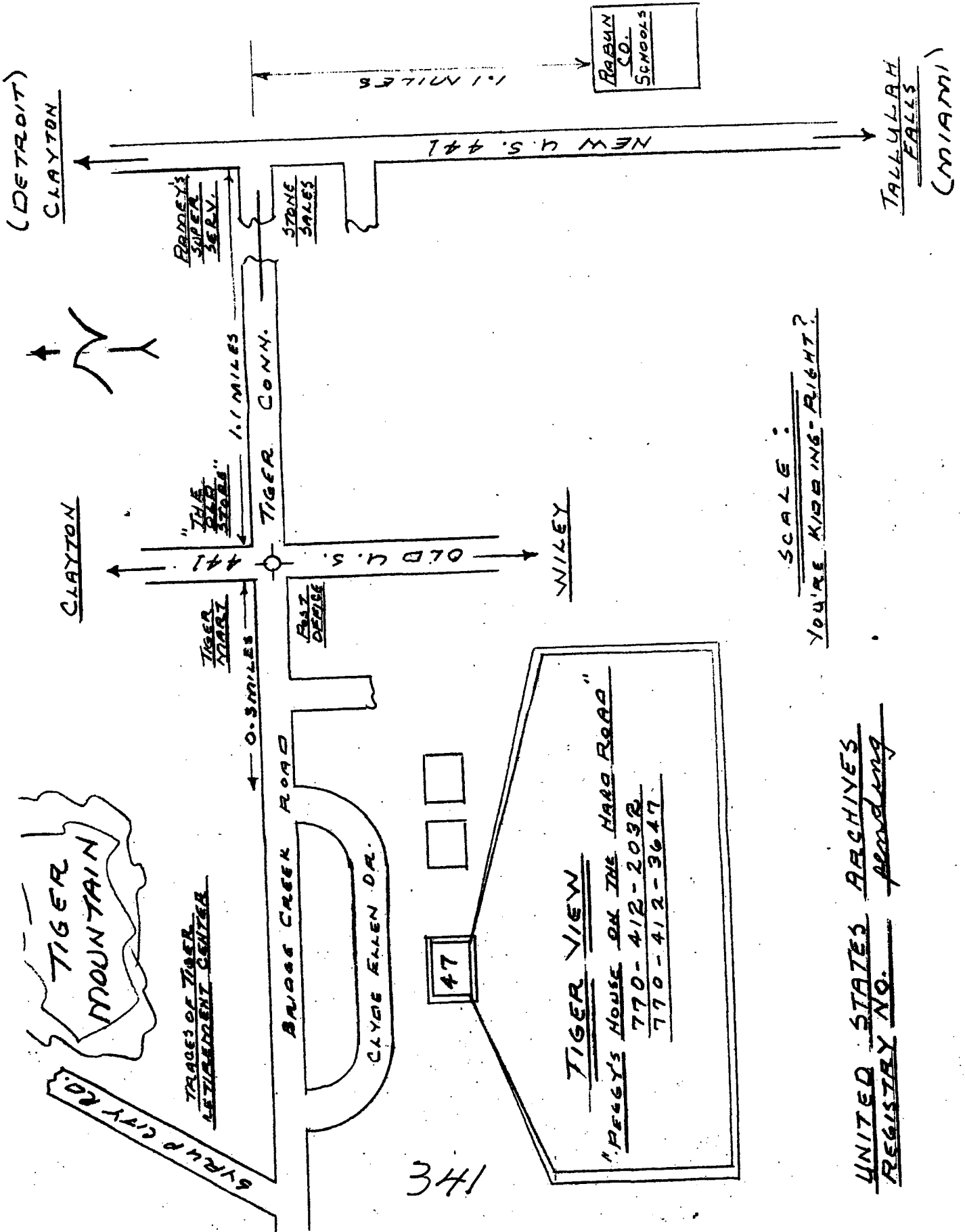
## EDITOR'S CORNER



It hardly seems possible that we are now six years into a new century, and so far it has certainly managed to be a memorable one -- although too many of those are not happy memories. But let's look forward to a more hopeful time in 2006, with peace for as much of the world as possible and maybe fewer disasters?? We have certainly had our fill of hurricanes, tornados, tsunamis and such.

On a happier note, the "scoop" on this year's reunion is in this issue, so start planning now to be there to share in the family fun. The DNA results should be front and center for discussion; it is so much more satisfying to go over something like that "live." Attendance has been down for the last few reunions; that's part of the reason the date is returning to June. Let's try for a really good turnout this year!

I'm still begging for material! Send your family news in in time for the next issue (deadline for submissions is May 1). 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](mailto:beger@earthlink.net)>.



# *The Thrasher Newsletter*

Editor: Barbara Eger Circulation: John E. Thrasher III Volume 24 No. 3 May 2006

## **TIME IS RUNNING OUT FOR MAKING REUNION PLANS**

Heads up, everyone! The deadline for reunion motel reservations at the special \$69.99 plus tax rate arranged by reunion hosts Al and Peggy Thrasher will probably be a little less than a week away when you receive this newsletter. That means you need to get busy and do something if you don't want to miss all the fun!

There is a little more time to let Al and Peggy know about Friday and Saturday dinners and the boat tour, but not a lot, so act now. The motel deadline is May 15 and the meal/boat ride deadline is June 1.

In case you have misplaced your reservation form for those, there is another one at the end of this issue! If you find you can attend after the motel deadline you can still make a reservation if the motel has rooms available; however, they may not honor the group rate.

There is a LOT to see and do in the area in addition to all the reunion fun. Maybe we'll even see a Tater Gun or two?

The motel has a toll-free number (1-800-334-2214). This number has one small hitch; it is also a fax number. However, when I made my reservation the reservation clerk said that the fax tone only kicks in if they are slow getting to the phone. If you stay on the line after the tone they will pick up. If all else fails the regular number is 1-706-782-2214.

\*\*\*\*\*

## **MEMORIAL FOUNTAIN IN HUNTSVILLE NEARLY COMPLETE**

The fountain being erected in downtown Huntsville in memory of Tom Thrasher is nearing completion and according to a recent article in *The Huntsville (AL) Times*. Thank you to Nancy Cherry for spotting this and sending it on.

Funding for the fountain was provided by a donation from Tom Thrasher's family. The November 2005 *Thrasher Newsletter* has another article about the fountain.

Dr. Mary Jane Caylor, a state school board member and executive director of Huntsville's Big Spring Partners downtown development group, said the main fountain components will be delivered in about three weeks. Officials hope to complete the mammoth fixture before the planned fall opening of the 300-room Embassy Suites convention hotel.

Caylor talked about the fountain construction timetable after the City Planning Commission approved its design Tuesday night. The \$284,000 fountain project is a gift from the Thrasher family in memory of the late Tom Thrasher, a business and civic leader who died in 1999.

"The fountain will be in a basin in the new canal extension off Big Spring Lagoon that threads between the Von Braun Center and Embassy Suites.

"It will add an ambiance to downtown" Caylor said, adding, "Water just has a calming effect and is symbolic of recreation and enjoyment. It will be a wonderful tribute to a man that did so much for this community."

The fountain contractor, Southern Aquatics of Jacksonville, Fla., designed the fountain that was dedicated last year in Huntsville's Bicentennial Park downtown.

The Thrasher fountain will feature colored lights and multiple layers of spray that can be choreographed to numerous patterns. The plumes can be adjusted to shoot up several stories.

A large portion of this story is reprinted from the April 26, 2006, issue of *The Huntsville (AL) Times*

342  
\*\*\*\*\*

# News and Notes

## Al Thrasher Cracks a Whip?

Beginning April 29 and continuing through May 1, our own Al Thrasher had a starring role in the celebration of Indian Spring State Park's 75th Anniversary. Located in Butts County, Ga., historical preservation of the park is a project of the Butts County Historical Society.

"Ocmulgee Al," stagecoach driver, presented a program on "Tracks Across Butts County" which talked about the Indian trails and old stagecoach roads across Georgia. Included were such long-gone travel routes as the Alabama Road, Oakfuskee Path, McIntosh Trail, and some railroads, including the "Dummy Train."

How about we ask "Ocmulgee Al" to tell some of his stories at the reunion, maybe after Friday night's dinner?

\*\*\*\*\*

## Ocmulgee Al in all his glory!



Can we trust this guy to keep those highwaymen away??

## John E. in the News!

John E. Thrasher III was one of those interviewed in a recent article in *Life in the Heart of Florida*, a special publication of the *Ocala (Fla.) Star Banner*.

John's interview and a very nice picture are on the first page of a very interesting article about the town of Micanopy.

Take a minute next time you are on-line and check it out. <http://www.ocala.com/apps/pbcs.dll/section?Category=LHOF0306&mode=2&Page=30>

\*\*\*\*\*

## Graduation News

John Patrick Thrasher, son of John F. and Kathy Thrasher and grandson of John E. and Eleanor Thrasher, will graduate from Newberry High School, Newberry, Fla., June 1.

John Patrick will attend the University of Florida beginning with the summer session. He is the eighth Thrasher family Gator!!

\*\*\*\*\*

## Indexed Newsletters Available

John E. Thrasher bravely undertook the task of indexing Volumes 14 through 23 of the Thrasher Newsletters. These cover the period from November 1995 to July 2005.

If you would like a set of the indexed newsletters, John will provide it for only the cost of photocopies and postage. If you are attending the reunion, he will bring it there if you will email or snail mail him and you can save the cost of shipping. Contact him at <fish\_jet@bellsouth.net>, or write to the address in the directory.

This is your chance to not only have the full set of newsletters, but also be able to simply look up what you want in the index.

\*\*\*\*\*

# More News and Notes

## Winning Ways in the Surf



John E. and Eleanor Thrasher's grandson Billy Harris recently was in the news with a firstplace victory in the NSSA (National Scholastic Surfing Association) College State Championships held at Church's in San Onofre on March 10th 2006.

Billy is a college freshman at Mira Costa Community College and lives in Del Mar, Calif., with his parents, Bill and Gretchen (Thrasher) Harris, and his sister.

He is currently ranked second overall in the 2005-2006 NSSA college series in men's longboard.

Billy also will make a trip to Japan in connection with his surfing. The company that has provided his individualized wet suits for the past few years is sending him to Japan for a week to do demonstrations and to be in an advertisement for the company.

Congratulations, Billy!!

\*\*\*\*\*

## Wedding Bells Ring Out

Dale and Trudy Thrasher sent word of the wedding of their youngest daughter Christine to Stephen Hamilton of Virginia Beach, Va.

The ceremony was held April 1 at the bride's home in King George, Va.

Family, friends and neighbors attended the ceremony, which was followed by a garden buffet.

The couple will honeymoon on a Caribbean cruise and will reside in King George after their return.

Sale said the bride commented that their wedding anniversary should be an easy date to remember!

Congratulations and best wishes to the couple.

\*\*\*\*\*

## More Travelers to Japan

Bill and Velma Thrasher will return May 5 from a two-week vacation trip to Tokyo and Misawa, Japan. Their great-granddaughters, Jade Marie Thrasher and Saige Noel Thrasher, live with their mother Kayla and stepfather Sergeant Joel Booth at Misawa Air Force Base, Japan. Great vacation trip, you two! Know you had a good visit with the girls, as well.

\*\*\*\*\*

## Send your directory updates!

Association directories are usually printed every other year. Since one was done prior to the St. Augustine reunion last year there would not ordinarily be one this year. However, we have had so many changes to current members' information and there are several new members as well, there will be a new one printed prior to this year's reunion. So if you have any changes that have not appeared as a correction in a newsletter, sit down now and let either John E. Thrasher or Barbara Eger know. Our email and snail mail addresses are in your current directory!

\*\*\*\*\*

344

# And More News and Notes

## A Great Program for Our Reunion!

Celestea Sharp will be attending the reunion this year and has agreed to take part in our program. She has film footage of the Thrasher Cemetery in Ocoee County, Ga., and said she probably can locate some other footage of interest to our group.

Much of the area's history is threatened by development, as it is in so many places today. In a recent email to John E., Celestea wrote that area residents are trying to fight a 14-acre truck stop proposed for Highway 441 immediately south of the town of Farmington. She also said the property surrounding the Isaac Thrasher cemetery has been rezoned and is slated to be the site of a large subdivision. In light of this, her program should be especially interesting.

Celestea is a long-time member of our association and is an authority on the history of Ocoee County. She also is deeply interested in the preservation of that history.

She is the author of "Bishop, Georgia: The Ancient Roots, Rich History and Enduring Spirit of a Southern Crossroads Community," and has had much other historical material published as well.

\*\*\*\*\*

## A Possible Reunion-time Side Trip

A series of exhibits about Cherokee culture is opening in Great Smoky Mountains National Park, highlighting the tribe's traditions and beliefs.

The seven wayside panels along the Oconaluftee River Trail (you Floridians thought you had a monopoly on tongue-twisting river names, didn't you??) will have information in English and Cherokee. They will also include the work of Cherokee artists.

The park has always been a wonderful place to visit and these exhibits will make it even better. For more information, got to <[www.nps.gov/grsm](http://www.nps.gov/grsm)>.

(This information came from the April 30, 2006, travel section of the St. Petersburg Times.)

\*\*\*\*\*

## And There Will Be a Meeting!

There will be a brief business meeting on Saturday.

Our current officers were elected for a period of one year in St. Augustine in May 2005. New elections will be held at this year's meeting. Current officers are John E. Thrasher III, chairman; Bill Thrasher, treasurer; and Nancy Thrasher Cherry, recording secretary. There are no term limits, so they may be renominated, but other nominations are welcome (also volunteers!).

If you have any other items you would like to have put on the agenda, let John know prior to the meeting, which will be held Saturday afternoon before we go to dinner.

\*\*\*\*\*

## Thrasher Names Pop Up a Lot

Nancy Thrasher Cherry subscribes to an on-line clipping service for any item with the name Thrasher. This produces some interesting material, even if sometimes puzzling.

Recently she forwarded these tidbits:

In Spring Hill, Fla., units from several different fire companies fought a brush fire near U.S. 19 and Thrasher Road. This one is particularly interesting because of the story that "Cousin John" Thrasher made salt for the Confederacy and this could possibly be the area where he did it. Hernando County is the next county north of Pasco County, where he later settled.

This next one is really not very cheerful, but it does point out that there are still Thrashers in the area that we don't know about. Alex Clayton Thrasher, 19, was involved in a head-on collision in Lakeland, Fla., in which an elderly woman in the other car was killed. There also is a Thrasher Road in Lakeland; is Alex perhaps from the family after whom the road was named?

\*\*\*\*\*

345



## Georgia House Remembers John A. Thrasher

Long-time member Jodie Thrasher lost his son John Albert Thrasher last year. On January 31 this year the Georgia House of Representatives passed the following memorial resolution, a truly touching tribute to his life.

House Resolution 1194

By: Representatives Rogers of the 26th, Heard of the 114th, Kidd of the 115th, and Benton of the 31st

### A RESOLUTION

Remembering and honoring the life of John Albert Thrasher; and for other purposes.

WHEREAS, Mr. John Albert Thrasher was born to Jodie and Charlotte Thrasher and spent his childhood in Macon; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Thrasher graduated from the University of Georgia in 1973 and was a beloved member of the Athens community for 25 years before his move to Commerce in April of 2005; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Thrasher had a distinguished 30 year career as an insurance adjuster, having been a Senior Field Claim Representative, an Associate in Claims, and a Chartered Property Casualty Underwriter, and was employed with Auto Owners Insurance Company for the last 15 years of his life; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Thrasher leaves behind a loving and devoted family, including his wife, Pam Thrasher; his daughters and sons-in-law, Amber and Tommy Wilkerson and Wendy and Mickey Payne; his parents, Jodie and Charlotte Thrasher; his brother, Tommy Thrasher; and his granddaughter, Ansley Jewell Payne; and

WHEREAS, the State of Georgia lost a most estimable citizen on June 13, 2005, with the passing of Mr. John Albert Thrasher.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that the members of this body join together to express their deepest regret at the passing of Mr. John Albert Thrasher and extend their most sincere condolences to his family and friends.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized and directed to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to Mrs. Pam Thrasher.

### EDITOR'S CORNER



Have you made your reservations yet for the reunion? If not, get busy or you will miss out on all the fun when the "cousins" get together.

The DNA project continues to grow -- some of the connections found to date have been interesting and if more of the men with the Thrasher surname choose to participate, who knows what we will find? If you are interested in joining the project contact Nancy Thrasher Cherry at <NancyTC@aol.com> or write her at 3100 Elkridge Ct., Beltsville, MD 20705-3239.

Don't forget -- family news or research is always welcome, so send your items to Barbara Eger, 13318 Omega Ct., Dade City, FL 33525; or send an e-mail to <beger@earthlink.net>.

346

(DETROIT)  
CLAYTON

TALLULAH  
FALL

REBUN  
CO.  
SCHOOLS

NEW U.S. 441

1.1 MILES

RODNEY'S  
SUPER  
SERV.

STONE  
SALES

TIGER CONN.  
1.1 MILES

"THE  
OLD  
STORE"

CLAYTON

OLD U.S. 441

WILEY

TIGER  
MART

POST  
OFFICE

0.3 MILES

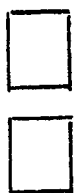
BRIDGE CREEK ROAD

CLYDE ELLEN DR.

TIGER  
MOUNTAIN

TRACES OF TIGER  
RETIREMENT CENTER

6744 P CITY RD.



47

TIGER VIEW

"PEGGY'S HOUSE ON THE HARD ROAD"

770-412-2038

770-412-3647

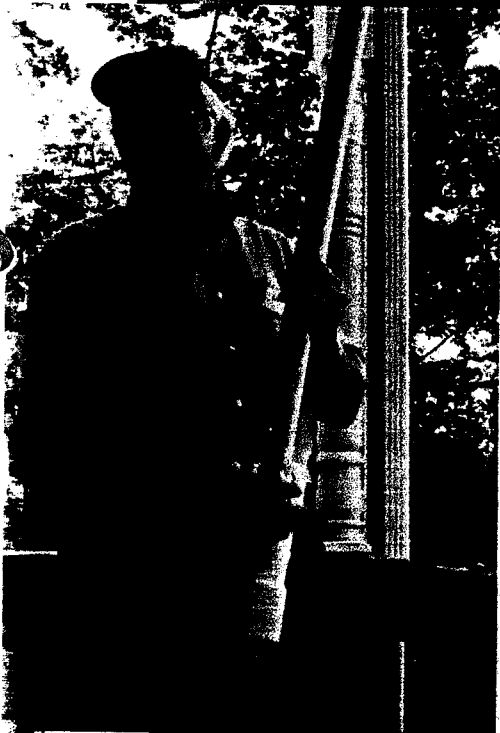
SCALE :  
YOU'RE KIDDING - RIGHT?

UNITED STATES ARCHIVES  
REGISTRY NO. pending

347

# The Thrasher Newsletter

Editor: Barbara Eger Circulation: John E. Thrasher III Volume 24 No. 4 August 2006



**REUNION 2006  
CLAYTON, GA**



348



Page 1 pictures clockwise from top left: Bill Cherry, Robert H. and Ginny Thrasher; Joe and Angie Grooms; Celestea Sharp and Anna Sutherland; Robert H. Thrasher, Suzette Rainer and Ginny Thrasher; Ray and Suzette Rainer; at the flea market l. to r. Velma Thrasher, Barbara Eger, Eleanor Thrasher, Nancy Cherry, Lester Thresher, Bill Thrasher and John E. Thrasher; Al Thrasher and The Tater Gun!!; center picture, Frances Leitner.

Page 2 clockwise from top left: Helen Raye Thrasher and Glenda Thrasher; boaters Al Thrasher, Denise Clark, Celestea Sharp, Bill Cherry and Walt Crosland; Bill and Velma Thrasher; dinner table clockwise from top: Robert P. Thrasher, Helen Raye Thrasher, Robert H. Thrasher, Ginny Thrasher, Eleanor Thrasher, Velma Thrasher, Barbara Eger, and Glenda Thrasher; Robert P. Thrasher, Nancy Cherry and Glenda Thrasher; winery visitors l. to r. Bill Cherry, Velma and Bill Thrasher, Lester Thresher, Nancy Cherry, Barbara Eger, John E. and Eleanor Thrasher.

## Another Successful Thrasher Family Reunion!

What a great reunion weekend! Even the weather cooperated for the most part -- one very heavy downpour at a time when it really didn't interfere with any of the activities. Al and Peggy Thrasher went to great lengths to make sure a good time was had by all, and it was!

The weekend was off to a really good start with Friday's dinner at Al and Peggy's beautiful new home which sits in the middle of some of the most spectacular mountain scenery imaginable. And a low country boil is one of the tastiest meals going -- shrimp, sausage, corn on the cob, new potatoes and slaw had everyone just sort of groaning in contentment. Both before and after dinner, members compared notes on their family research and shared information. There were several displays brought by members as well.

Saturday morning found several souls willing to rise early enough to take a boat tour of the lake with Al; later groups took in a local flea market, which had something for all tastes. Afternoon found a group visiting the local winery, which was hosting a variety of artisans working in several different media.

Then it was back to Al and Peggy's for the program and annual meeting. Celestea Sharp has produced a video of old cemeteries in Oconee County, Georgia, including Thrasher graves, which she showed and narrated for us. Al Thrasher spoke about his portrayal of stagecoach driver "Ocmulgee Al" for an outreach program of the Butts County, Georgia, Historical Society.

Saturday's events wound up with dinner at the Dillard House Restaurant --

good food served family style. There must not be anywhere in Rabun County without spectacular mountain views; huge window walls on two sides of the dining room provided great scenery to go with dinner!

The annual meeting was informative and productive; be sure to read the minutes so that you are up-to-date if you were unable to be at the reunion. Also, if you were not at the reunion, your new directory is enclosed.

It was really great to welcome several first-time attendees as well as some long-time members who had been unable to attend for several years. Everyone is looking forward to seeing all of them at future reunions.

Remember that next year's reunion will be held in Maryland and will be a joint reunion with the Middle Atlantic Thrasher Association, hosted by Nancy and Bill Cherry. Make your plans now to be there. The reunion dates are June 8, 9 and 10, but since there is so much to do in the area maybe some extra time for sightseeing would be a good idea.

\*\*\*\*\*

### Renewal Reminder

Don't forget that this is the last issue of the current membership year. Membership in the association runs July 1 through June 30. A renewal form is included in this mailing. Don't miss out on upcoming news and family information; send your dues and form to our treasurer, Bill Thrasher, soon!

### EDITOR'S CORNER



Well, thanks to Peggy and Al, we can celebrate another very successful reunion with lots of food, fellowship, fun and sharing of information on people's family research. Hope some new links can be hooked up!

In the meantime, thank you to Walter Carmichael, John E. Thrasher, Helen Raye Thrasher and Nancy Cherry for sharing their reunion pictures.

There are already three directory changes; don't forget to look at the end of the meeting minutes for them so that you can enter them in your copy.

Don't forget -- any family news or research you are willing to share will be very welcome! Send your items to me (Barbara Eger) at 13318 Omega Ct., Dade City, FL 33525; or send an e-mail to <beger@earthlink.net>.

350

# News and Notes

## A Trip to Japan

Velma and Bill Thrasher departed April 21 for a trip to Japan and a chance to visit with family members living there. Their great-granddaughters Jade and Saige Thrasher live in Misawa, Japan, with their mother and step-father. The following is Bill's account of their trip:

"We arrived in Tokyo on April 22 after a 14-hour trip. Crossing the International Date Line we lost a day.

"We spent the first three days sightseeing in Tokyo where we had been stationed nearly 50 years before. On the following Wednesday we boarded the Japan Rail Lines bullet train for Misawa. It was a 3-hour trip with very comfortable accommodations.

"The family met us in Misawa and we visited with them for the next 6 days. During that time we attended the Cherry Blossom Festival in Aomari, Japan. On the way we stopped to see a replica of our Statue of Liberty, which coincidentally is on the same latitude as New York City. We also stopped at a festive garden where there is what is reportedly the largest statue of Buddha in Japan.

"Back in Misawa we visited a place called Strawberry Paradise. We paid 800 yen or about eight dollars each to eat all the strawberries we could in 30 minutes. There were several varieties and one of them tasted like a mixture of strawberry, peach and lemon flavors.

"We left Misawa on May 2 and returned to Tokyo where we continued sightseeing along with lunches in sidewalk cafés. We departed Tokyo on May 5 and arrived back in Atlanta on May 5, gaining back our 'lost day.' Our trip was an exciting adventure and made memories that we will have forever."

\*\*\*\*\*

## And One to China!

Robert H. and Ginny Thrasher of Mt. Dora, Florida, were traveling as well. They returned from a trip to China shortly before the reunion. They reported that they thoroughly enjoyed it, although they came home tired!

Everyone at the reunion was glad they got rested up enough to attend!

\*\*\*\*\*

## Graduation Congratulations!

Caroline Elizabeth Thrasher graduated from East Coweta High School in Newnan, Georgia, on Saturday, May 27. She plans to attend Columbus State University in Columbus, Georgia, where she will major in Theatre Performance.

Caroline is the daughter of Paula and John Paul Thrasher of Newnan, Georgia. Caroline and Warren Thrasher of Athens, Georgia, are her paternal grandparents. Her maternal grandparents are Alice Keown Crouch of Summerville, Georgia, and the late Paul Monroe Crouch.

Caroline's father said he is sure that Caroline's choice of major will come as no surprise to those that remember little Caroline at age 5 singing the Star Spangled Banner at the Thrasher reunion in 1993 or 1994. The reunion was held in McDonough, Georgia, as he recalls.

\*\*\*\*\*

## DNA "Scholarships" Get Boost

As if it wasn't enough that they were superb reunion hosts, Al and Peggy Thrasher chose to donate their hosting stipend to the DNA project! This will provide funding for two of the "scholarships" voted in at the meeting.

Frances Leitner and John E. Thrasher have donated as well, so the Scholarship Fund is off to a good start. Thank you all!

\*\*\*\*\*

## Membership Growth

The Scholarship Fund is not the only thing increasing. Our association is growing as well. Bill Thrasher reports that eight new members have joined since the reunion. This is really good news. A warm welcome to all.

\*\*\*\*\*

351

## MINUTES

### **The Thrasher Family Association Meeting of June 24, 2006 Tiger, Rabun County, Georgia**

Attending: Candee Carmichael, Walter Carmichael, Nancy and Bill Cherry, Denise Clark, Walt Crosland, Barbara Eger, Angie and Joe Grooms, Frances Leitner, Suzette and Ray Rainer, Celestea Sharp, Anna and Ken Sutherland, Albert and Peggy Thrasher, Bill and Velma Thrasher, Helen Raye Thrasher, John E. and Eleanor Thrasher, Robert H. and Ginny Thrasher, Robert P. (Buddy) and Glenda Thrasher, Lester Thresher.

The annual business meeting of the Thrasher Family Association (TFA) was called to order by Chair John E. Thrasher, III, at 4:30 p.m. on June 24, 2006, at the home of Al and Peggy Thrasher in Tiger, Georgia.

After welcoming everyone, John E. introduced TFA member Celestea Gentry Sharp, who, with her photographer, Chuck Moore, has videotaped old cemeteries in Oconee County (GA) for an upcoming magazine article. Celestea narrated a videotape of Thrasher graves in the cemeteries, and spoke of efforts to fend off pending development that is threatening the cemeteries.

Celestea's program was followed by that of Al Thrasher, who for several months portrayed stagecoach driver "Ocmulgee Al" for the Butts County (GA) Historical Society in an effort to save an old hotel and a state park. Al reported that he had talked to 26 groups of people, a total of 1338 individuals in 9 counties, and that he had helped kick off the state of Georgia's 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of state parks.

Chairman John E. then opened the business portion of the meeting by commending Barbara Eger for her consistent and informative newsletter. Barbara requested that family members send both genealogical and current news items to be included in the newsletter.

Barbara has also updated the membership directory. This was done a year early, rather than on the usual biennial schedule, because of numerous changes in contact information and increased membership. John distributed the new directories, but members noted additional changes needed. These changes appear at the end of these minutes.

Treasurer Bill Thrasher reported that the treasury has grown from \$600 on June 1, 2005, to \$1,365.11 on June 1, 2006. The treasurer's annual report, as well as minutes of the annual business meeting, will be printed in the July issue of the Thrasher Newsletter.

There was discussion about adding a third name to the TFA bank account as a safeguard, should anything prevent Bill and Velma from signing checks. Peggy Thrasher agreed to serve in this capacity. Eleanor Thrasher offered a motion to accept this change; Celestea Sharp seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

John recognized Nancy Cherry for her work both as secretary for the TFA and coordinator of the DNA project. In her DNA report, Nancy said that 19 men are now participating in the

Thrasher/Thresher DNA study, and that results to date have confirmed the connection between the descendants of Isaac H. Thrasher and William Thrasher of Tennessee and the descendants of John Thrasher and Ruth Cloud. The DNA results also seem to prove the link with one group of Alabama Thrashers to the John/Ruth Cloud Thrasher line through their Isaac. Surprisingly, results have disproved the long-suspected link between the descendants of John Thrasher and Ruth Cloud and the descendants of Benjamin Thrasher and Mary Hook of Maryland.

The testing company, Family Tree DNA of Houston, Texas, has introduced a more refined test of the Y-chromosome. The Thrasher Family Association will continue to use the Y-37 marker test, now priced for those in the Thrasher/Thresher group at \$189, although members may choose to upgrade to the Y-67 at a cost of \$99 and new participants may choose the Y-67 at \$ 269.

The group discussed the possibility of creating "scholarships," "sponsorships," or "matching funds" to defray part of the cost for DNA tests for those men who find the price a hardship or for those whose DNA results are key to discovering relationships. Al Thrasher moved that the TFA set aside monies to fund up to three \$100 "scholarships" per year. Joe Grooms seconded Al's motion, and the motion passed unanimously. Frances Leitner reminded the group that anyone could donate and earmark additional funds for the project. Budd Thrasher questioned the criteria to be used for "scholarships," but this has yet to be determined.

A question had arisen as to whether the membership fee, considered a family or household membership, included one or more votes, particularly when the household in question included adult children or other adults. Peggy Thrasher introduced a motion that the by-laws be clarified to establish that the membership fee include one vote for a single member and two votes for a couple when both are present for the voting. No one else in the household would have a vote. Peggy's motion was seconded by Frances Leitner and approved by the membership unanimously.

John E. offered indexes to the Thrasher Newsletter, Volumes 14 through 23, at the cost of copying. Barbara suggested that copies of this index be hardbound and sent to the state Archives in Atlanta. Ray Rainer reminded John E. that the material should be copyrighted before being sent to the Archives. Barbara Eger moved that John E. Thrasher, on behalf of the TFA, pursue this project without hesitation if the costs did not exceed \$100. Frances Leitner seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Elections were announced, and immediately Barbara Eger moved to nominate the current slate of officers for re-election. The membership seconded the motion unanimously and signaled their appreciation for the successful first term by a round of applause.

John informed the group of several new or revived areas of interest in the family history. Frances is gathering data on her line, which includes descendants of Thomas Earl Thrasher of Quitman (GA). John and Eleanor are meeting early next week with Loyd and Roger Thrasher. Buddy and Helen are working on their line, and so is Bill Boyd Thrasher in Arizona. Bill and Les and Dale are working with the Tennessee lines. We know that Isaac H. Thrasher completed a pension application in 1872 in which he included a 2-page declaration about his Revolutionary War involvement. He was in Guilford County, N.C.



(now Rockingham County, N.C.) during the Revolution. This means that the William William Thrasher line and the John Thrasher line were probably only about 18 miles apart. William William and John could have been brothers, cousins, or father and son.

John directed attention to several displays: he commended Frances for the poster of her family and called attention to an article in a magazine from 1976 about Al and Peggy, Carmie Thrasher Cochrane, and other family members. Eleanor has compiled a photo album of scenes from the last four reunions, and she appealed to anyone who might have good snapshots to send her copies for the album.

Next year's reunion will be the weekend of June 8-9, 2007 in Frederick County, Maryland, hosted by the Cherrys on behalf of the Mid-Atlantic Thrasher Association. Nancy Cherry suggested that attendees plan to spend several days in the area, as it is an easy drive from there to Annapolis, Gettysburg, Antietam, Harpers Ferry, Washington, DC and other historic or recreational sites. The official activities will include a restaurant meal on Friday night in Frederick, with Bill Cherry providing lessons for those who choose to tackle steamed crabs; tours of Frederick city and the National Museum of Civil War Medicine on Saturday; displays and socializing all day at the Community Center in Jefferson (about 8 miles from Frederick); a workshop for serious genealogists; a business meeting Saturday afternoon at the Community Center; and a dinner Saturday evening on the lawn of the Thrasher farm in Jefferson. Nancy is inviting Thrasher descendants and researchers from any Thrasher/Thresher line to join us. Several descendants of James and Mary Lee, parents of Martha Lee who married Thomas Thrasher in 1748 (Nancy's 5th great grandparents) are also expected to attend, as they will be gathering Sunday in Silver Spring (MD) to dedicate a bench on parkland that once was part of the Lee plantation known as Chestnut Ridge.

The Chair reminded everyone to return their membership forms to Bill Thrasher. Membership dues for the 2006-2007 year remain \$20 for individuals or couples.

Cards of well-wishes were signed by everyone for David Sumner, who seriously injured in a bicycle accident, and Richard Goldsby, who is seriously ill.

The meeting adjourned, and attendees drove to the Dillard House Restaurant for a bountiful and delicious dinner at 7 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Thrasher Cherry  
Recording Secretary

Changes needed in the Membership Directory for 2006-2007 are as follows:

For Al and Peggy Thrasher: Change to [Althras@cgemc.net](mailto:Althras@cgemc.net)

For Ken and Anna Sutherland: Change to [Kenannas2@earthlink.net](mailto:Kenannas2@earthlink.net)

For Frances Leitner: Change phone number to 912-882-8893. The number printed in the directory is her fax number.

354

## Thrasher Family Association Financial Report 6/1/2006

Beginning Balance: 6/01/200~~6~~<sup>5</sup> \$600.00

### Receipts:

Donations: \$200.00

Received from renewals/dues: \$1,020.00

Total Receipts Received: \$1,200.00

### Disbursements:

Newsletter Expenses: \$454.89

Ending Balance June 1, 2006 \$1,365.11

William S. Thrasher  
Treasurer

355