

The Thrasher Newsletter

Editor: Barbara Eger Circulation: John E. Thrasher III Volume 27 No. 1 November 2008

Report on the Thrasher DNA Project

By Nancy Cherry

The AARP magazine issue for November/December 2008 contains a story about a virtual family reunion by e-mail. The family gathering was composed of people who knew they were related, but didn't know how.

Ancestry magazine carried a similar article in its November/December 2008 issue, but in this case, the "family" actually met in Chicago, coming from as far away as London and California. Like the gathering described in AARP magazine, this group, too, was made up of strangers who just happened to have had their DNA analyzed and discovered that they matched one another in varying degrees. They've pondered on how to describe their relationship, maybe as "genetic cousins" but — since all cousins are genetic cousins — they are playing around with new terms: Genekin? Genetikin? Cousene?

The important thing is that they are sharing information, widening their search, and bit-by-bit assembling their family histories. The process started when their DNA marker values (and probably their gedcoms) were listed on the web so that

others who matched them genetically could find them.

So once again, I am encouraging you to put your DNA information on-line. Making your marker values available on-line to others isn't going to reveal anything about your health status or predispositions to anyone. But entering data on YSearch (supported by our testing company FamilyTreeDNA) and perhaps on YBase (another public-access Y-chromosome database) could find you one or more "genekins" to swap information with. The Sorenson's SMGF.org is another Y-marker database. Just be careful, though, on any sites that require manual entry of marker values. This is an easy way for error to creep into the process. Who knows? You might get a lead on a missing great-great-uncle!

And while you are on-line, use the Surname Search to find other Thrasher/Threshers or use the Values Search to find others who are decidedly close to you genetically but do not carry the surname. Adoptees are now using this

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Merry Christmas



and a happy new year

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DNA Report

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method to find their true identities.

And enter your gedcoms. If this sounds bewildering, go to www.ysearch.org to let them walk you through the process. If you don't want to use the gedcom creator that came with the genealogy software you've been using, the YSearch offers a gedcom generator called yGED. Remember, though, that YSearch and the other databases will post your name and e-mail address. After all, that is how your "genekins" will contact you.

Of the 36 Y-marker participants in our project, 8 have uploaded their marker data to Y-search and 7 have uploaded their gedcoms.

In 2009, the revised Thrasher website, www.thrasher.org will contain a page displaying all Y-marker values in the Thrasher/Thresher project, but participants will be identified by a code, rather than by name or address, and Thrasher.org will not provide any contact information. If anyone contacts Thrasher.org asking for contact information for any of our project participants, they will be told that their request will be transmitted to the participant, and that it will be up to the participant to contact the requester. (As you know, Thrasher.org has been off the air since Mother's Day 2008, but we have high hopes of re-instating it by the beginning of the 2009.)

I recently attended an all-day conference on DNA testing sponsored by the Maryland Genealogical Society. Speakers were Dr. Thomas Shawker, known nationally for his lecture on the basics of DNA testing and for his book Unlocking your Genetic History: A Step-by-step Guide to Discovering your Family's Medical and Genetic Heritage, which is in the National Genealogical Society book series; Donn Devine, who has served on the Board for Certification of Genealogists and the National Genealogical Society board; Robert D. McLaren, the Clan Genealogists for the Clan MacLaren Societies of North America and Scotland and the founder of one of the largest DNA surname projects

in the world; and Alastair Greenshields, founder and Principal of DNA Heritage, a DNA testing company, who spoke to us by remote hook-up. Of the first three speakers, all agreed that FamilyTreeDNA was the best in the business.

The Thrasher Family Association is poised for future breakthroughs of the proverbial brick walls in that it has wisely allocated funds for "scholarships." These full or partial sponsorships will be of tremendous value in confirming research data or in pointing out new leads to follow. And as DNA Project Administrator, I think I can speak for the whole TFA in sending a huge thank-you to author Grady Thrasher for the donation of his delightful children's books. The sale of those books at the June reunion added significantly to our "scholarship" fund. As the economic picture darkens, we will have the luxury of being able to fund testing for appropriate individuals. Our biggest challenge now is recruiting participants and then doing the "paper" research to document it.

Notes on this article and the one following:

Nancy Thrasher Cherry has worked tirelessly as coordinator of the Thrasher DNA Project and her efforts are truly appreciated. This current article tells how others are using results to make connections that would otherwise be impossible and also how you can take part in increasing the reach of our project. Please, if you are Thrasher-surnamed male and aren't a participant, consider joining the project. Contact Nancy for more information.

David Sumner's profile of Warren Thrasher originally was printed in the October 2000 newsletter. For those of you who did not have the pleasure of knowing him before he passed away, this will give you some insight into one of the founders of the association. For we who did know him, it will bring back good memories.

Warren Thrasher - Elder Statesman of the Family

Reprinted from the October 2000 Thrasher Newsletter

By David A. Sumner

Warren and Caroline Thrasher now joke about their two marriages. The first marriage—a secret elopement—occurred Dec. 26, 1940, in Tallahassee. The second marriage took place June 26, 1941, and was primarily for the benefit of her parents. Warren, who by then was on active duty in the Army, was able to get only an afternoon leave to fly from Ft. Knox to Nashville for the second ceremony. They never told her parents until years later that they had been secretly married prior to the Nashville wedding.

“The night before our first wedding, I popped the question. I said ‘Will you marry me if we drive down to Tallahassee?’ She said, ‘It will have to be secret if we get married because my mother would just be heart-broken if I got married, and she wasn’t able to host a big garden wedding.’ So we told them we were going down to Tallahassee that night to eat fish, but we got married,” said Warren.

Warren Atticus Thrasher, born Feb. 8, 1914, is a founding member of the Thrasher Association. He and Caroline attended the first get-together in 1974 and later hosted reunions in Athens in 1977, 1991 and 1994. He was primarily responsible for the establishment of the John J. Thrasher historical monuments in Atlanta and Norcross. He and Caroline attended the Thomasville reunion in May 2000 with their son John Paul. After the festivities, Warren and John Paul sat down with me for a conversation about his illustrious military career and the Thrasher family heritage.

His father, the Rev. John Bugg Thrasher, was a Methodist minister in Ashburn, Georgia. He was attending a church conference in Atlanta at the time of his untimely death in 1922 when Warren was only eight years old. Although his mother worked hard to raise the six children alone, times were difficult.

By the time Warren graduated from high school in 1932, the Depression had arrived. “We were struggling like hell during the Depression,” he said. Al-

though his mother, father, grandmother and grandfather were college graduates, “Here I was graduating in 1932 and not able to go to college. I had taken the college prep course in high school, and I just didn’t have the money to go. So for the next four years, I did all kinds of work. I went to California for a short time and wisely decided to come back to Georgia.”

By 1936, he had saved enough money to attend the University of Georgia and entered that fall. He joined the ROTC and became cadet commander by the time he graduated in 1940. His most significant influence in choosing a military career was his older sister Mamie Sue’s husband-Arnold J. Funk. Funk was a World War I veteran and later fought in World War II. He became a Brigadier General and commanded the 57th infantry on Bataan. He made the Bataan Death march and became a Japanese war prisoner for three years.

In World War II he participated in six campaigns and many battles. Integrated into the regular Army following World War II, Colonel Thrasher served as senior adviser to two Korean Infantry divisions in Korea. He also served as an adviser to the Imperial Iranian Gendarmerie from 1952 to 1954, a period which included the Mossadegh Revolution in Iran. For four years in the Pentagon he had worldwide responsibilities involving the development of the U.S. Army Special Forces, better known as the Green Berets. During this period he served as the chief project officer for the development of a small atomic bomb for possible use by the Green Beret troops. Later he returned to the Pentagon as chief of the Long Range Planning Division and was in charge of developing the worldwide, long range strategic plan for the U.S. Army. As a General Staff member of the Operations Directorate in the Pentagon, he was involved in planning and operations for both the Congo-Katanga Conflict and the Cuban Missile Crisis. He has been decorated by the Italian, Iranian and Korean governments. His U.S. decorations include the Legion of Merit, Bronze Star

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Colonel Warren Thrasher

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Medal for Valor, Army Commendation Medal with Oak Leaf Cluster, the Purple Heart Medal and six campaign stars.

Warren Thrasher initiated the process that led to the approval of the John J. Thrasher federal historic marker in 1992 on Atlanta's Marietta Street as well as the Thrasher Park monument in Norcross. The Atlanta marker, titled, "Thrasherville: Where Atlanta Began," explains John J. Thrasher's role in the establishment of the railroad settlement of Thrasherville. It notes that "Atlanta's first religious service, labor trouble, social event and baby are associated with this settlement."

He worked closely with Franklin Garrett, author of *Atlanta and Its Environs*, who was Atlanta's best-known historian until his death in 1999. Warren created the wording from Garrett's book that eventually appeared on the marker. Garrett wrote Thrasher in a letter dated Dec. 26, 1991, saying, "I have had time to read it carefully and will say that the wording for the proposed text concerning Thrasherville is in good order."

Warren's son John Paul added, "One of the biggest assets we had in any of this, unbeknownst to us, was Franklin Garrett. He had all these personal Cousin John stories. Cousin John was his favorite character in Atlanta history. Dad had a powerful ally in going through the approval process in Franklin Garrett"

My wife, Elise, and I first met Colonel Thrasher at the 1992 Thrasher reunion in Columbus. Later we visited with him and Caroline in 1994 when we traveled to Athens to interview for a faculty position at the University of Georgia. They gave us a tour through the neighborhoods where we might live if we moved to Athens. Unfortunately, I didn't get the job. But we made new friends and I felt like I had met the "elder statesman" of the Thrasher family. And I had.

Dr. David E. Sumner is professor of journalism at Ball State University, Muncie, Indiana, where he has taught since 1990. His website is www.davidesumner.com.

In Memorium

Thomas David "Tommy" Thrasher

Thomas David Thrasher, 55, died at home following a lengthy illness on Thursday, November 13, 2008. Tommy was born on May 20, 1953, in Macon, GA. A graduate of Willingham High School in Macon, he earned a B.A. degree in history and a B.S. degree in computer science from Georgia College and State University, as well as a master's degree in logistics. After 24 years of federal service, Mr. Thrasher retired from Robins Air Force Base, GA, on May 31, 2007.

He was a member of Andrew United Methodist Church in Kathleen and Grace Fellowship Church in Warner Robins. He was also a member of Tyrian Masonic Lodge #111 of Warner Robins. Tommy enjoyed composing music and playing drums with several bands. His other hobbies and interests included canoeing, photography and stained glass art work. Survivors include his wife, Mary Washburn Thrasher of Kathleen, GA; his son, David Ryan (Angela) Thrasher of Warner Robins, GA; his parents, Mr. Jodie T. Thrasher and Mrs. Charlotte Burnett Thrasher of Warner Robins, GA; and several nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his brother, John A. Thrasher. A memorial service was held on November 18 at Andrew United Methodist Church. The Reverends Baxter S. Hurley and Bruce Brookshire presided. Memorial contributions may be made to Vanderbilt Shy Drager Research Fund, Vanderbilt University Medical Center, In Memory of Tommy Thrasher, AA-3228 Medical Center North, Nashville, TN 37232-2195; or the Tommy Thrasher Memorial College Scholarship Fund, In care of Andrew United Methodist Church, 2430 Highway 127, Kathleen, GA 31047.

Excerpted from The Telegraph, Macon, GA

Sincere condolences to members Jodie and Charlotte Thrasher from the Thrasher Family Association.

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News and Notes

Award-Winning Author

Association member Grady Thrasher received the 2008 Georgia Author of the Year Award (GAYA) from the Georgia Writers Association for best children's picture book for "Tim and Sally's Vegetable Garden," which was published last year. He also won the 2008 Independent Publisher Book Awards (IPPYs).

He and his wife, artist Kathy Prescott, live in Athens and Watkinsville, GA. "Tim and Sally's Vegetable Garden" illustrator Elaine Hearn Rabon also lives in Athens.

Grady also has written a sequel, "Tim and Sally's Beach Adventure."

Send Good Thoughts

Passed on by John E. Thrasher:

Glenda Thrasher is recovering from recent surgery and says she is doing OK.

Shari Thrasher has been ill and will be having surgery.

Best wishes and good thoughts to both of you.

Caroline Thrasher has been seriously ill since September. Her daughter, Peggy Thrasher Law, has asked for our prayers for Caroline's well-being.

Travel, Celebrations and Such

Bill and Nancy Cherry enjoyed a well-earned vacation to the West Coast last month, visiting Oregon, Washington and Vancouver, B.C. Heard they had a good time and enjoyed some great scenery and good food!

Dale and Trudy Thrasher report that they have had a lot going on in their family. They have some new great-grandchildren -- Maeva Ann Rounds was born March 13, 2008 to Andrea (Thrasher) and Lorin Rounds. Kendra

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Dale Fox arrived April 23, 2008; her parents are Marissa (Thrasher) and Jason Fox. Andrea and Marissa are the daughters of Clifford and Patty Thrasher.

Other news in their family: One of Dale and Trudy's granddaughters, Amanda Tallhamer, married Michael Cottrill on May 17, 2008. And grandson Andrew Brady, a corporal in the Marine Corps, is currently stationed at Camp Lejeune, N.C. He previously served two tours aboard aircraft carriers in the Middle East. Andrew and his wife Michelle had a daughter on February 5, 2008. This makes three new great-granddaughters for Dale and Trudy this year!

George C. and Gloria Thrasher's granddaughter Lauren Thrasher is a winning pitcher for the Camden Cats. The Cats are a 14-and-under traveling softball team that brought home the third-place trophy in a recent tournament. Congratulations!

David and Elise Sumner celebrated their 25th wedding anniversary in August. Congratulations and best wishes for many more.

Paige Harris is a freshman at the University of California at Santa Cruz and Anna Thrasher is a freshman at Santa Fe Community College in Gainesville. Both are granddaughters of John E. and Eleanor Thrasher.

Directory Changes

Addition:

Mrs. Ray Thrasher (Marjorie)
4211 N. Eastern Ave.
Moore, OK 73160
(405-794-7394)

New E-Mail Addresses:

Ken and Anna Sutherland
Kenannas2@att.net

Eleanor Thrasher
Eleanorthrasher@bellsouth.net

Show Wounded Vets We Care

The following suggestion passed on to me by a friend and it seems like a great idea:

When you do your Christmas cards this year take one extra card and send it to the following address:

A Recovering American Serviceman
c/o Walter Reed Army Medical Center
6900 Georgia Ave., NW
Washington, D.C. 20307-5001

If you know of others who might also wish to include one of these men and women in their holiday greetings, please pass the word.

Reunion Dates

Buddy and Glenda Thrasher have set the dates for the 2009 reunion. Unless something necessitates a change, we will gather in Vicksburg, MS, the weekend of June 12 - 14. It may seem like a long way off now, but you don't want to miss it; mark your calendars now. If you have the date reserved now, it will help avoid a conflict later. This is a beautiful area packed with history and you really don't want to miss being there!

There will be more information about this, including some touring highlights in the next newsletter. Stay tuned!

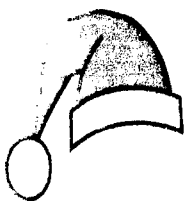
Last Call for Recipes

Eleanor Thrasher has finished entering all of the recipes you sent her for the Thrasher cookbook. Before she begins setting up the final copy she'd like to know if anyone has any other cooking goodies to contribute! And a reminder: if you sent in a recipe from a generation or two back and didn't send a brief story with it, please do it now.

Between sitting at a keyboard entering all of them, contacting senders with any questions, and even testing some that sounded really tasty, Eleanor has put a huge amount of effort in to this project and it is appreciated.



EDITOR'S CORNER



Here's wishing all of you all the happiness and blessings of the season. I hope you all had a good Thanksgiving and didn't overdose too much on turkey and all the other goodies. After all, you have to save some space for Christmas!

Thanks to David Sumner and Nancy Cherry for their contributions. Contributions like this are a lot of what keeps the newsletter going!

Dale Thrasher gets a thank you as well. He obviously took my constant pleas seriously. I only wish some more of our members would. Your current family news AND any research you are doing are important. Please send what you have to:

13318 Omega Ct., Dade City, FL 33525; or send an e-mail to <beger@earthlink.net>.

Pictures are also very welcome. If you have them on your computer, JPEG format usually works best with my software, but TIFF and GIFF also are OK. If you have a hard-copy print (photocopies won't work) and mail it to me I promise to return it unharmed!

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Descendants of William H. Thrasher

Generation No. 1

1. WILLIAM H.⁴ THRASHER (*ISAAC (I. HITE)*³, *JOHN*², *JOHN*¹) was born Abt. 1826 in Clarke Co. GA, and died 10 October 1885 in Oconee Co. GA. He married MARY ANN RADFORD, daughter of JOHN RADFORD and ELIZABETH PRIOR. She was born 24 June 1832 in GA, and died 1900 in GA.

More About WILLIAM H. THRASHER:

Burial: Thrasher Cemetery on Whitlow's Hill, Oconee Co. GA

Child of WILLIAM THRASHER and MARY RADFORD is:

2. i. JAMES OLIVER ANDREW⁵ THRASHER, b. 02 March 1867, Clarke Co. GA; d. 23 May 1932, Tift Co. GA.

Generation No. 2

2. JAMES OLIVER ANDREW⁵ THRASHER (*WILLIAM H.*⁴, *ISAAC (I. HITE)*³, *JOHN*², *JOHN*¹) was born 02 March 1867 in Clarke Co. GA, and died 23 May 1932 in Tift Co. GA. He married OLIVE COOK 15 November 1889. She was born October 1869.

Notes for JAMES OLIVER ANDREW THRASHER:

From his Obituary: James moved to Tift County, Georgia twenty eight years ago and was engaged in the mercantile business for a time. He served as Bailiff, Marshal, as a member of the Tifton Police force, was for twelve years Chief of Police of Tifton, and was serving his eight year as Sheriff of Tift County. Sheriff Thrasher was one of the best known officers in this section. He was courageous and fearless and an able detective. He was a member of the Methodist Church, a Mason and a Woodman. As an officer he was fair, courageous, and impartial and as a man he was kind, courteous, friendly and generous.

References:

"Our Thrasher Heritage" pages 211-212

1870, 1880, and 1900 Census for Clarke and Oconee Counties, GA

1910, 1920, and 1930 Census for Tift County, Georgia.

His grandson, James William Thrasher Jr. 2006

Children of JAMES THRASHER and OLIVE COOK are:

3. i. JAMES WILLIAM THRASHER⁶ SR., b. 06 February 1893, Farmington, Oconee Co. GA.; d. 31 March 1960.
4. ii. ROY THRASHER, b. 11 September 1895, Oconee Co. GA; d. 05 March 1951. Tifton, Tift Co. GA.
5. iii. FANNIE LEE THRASHER, b. September 1896, Oconee Co. GA; d. 17 June 1925.
6. iv. SIDNEY C. THRASHER, b. 1901, Oconee Co. GA.

Generation No. 3

3. JAMES WILLIAM THRASHER⁶ SR. (*JAMES OLIVER ANDREW*⁵ *THRASHER*, *WILLIAM H.*⁴, *ISAAC (I. HITE)*³, *JOHN*², *JOHN*¹) was born 06 February 1893 in Farmington, Oconee Co. GA., and

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died 31 March 1960. He married VANNIE WILLIS GOGGINS, daughter of NATHANIEL GOGGINS and SARAH GIBSON. She was born 1889 in GA., and died 30 April 1977 in Tifton, Tift Co. GA.

Notes for JAMES WILLIAM THRASHER SR.:

References: 1920 and 1930 Census for Tift Co. GA
Son, James William Thrasher Jr.

Children of JAMES SR. and VANNIE GOGGINS are:

- i. HELEN⁷ THRASHER, b. 07 June 1918, Tifton, Tift Co. GA; d. October 2003; m. WILSON ALLEN.
7. ii. JAMES WILLIAM THRASHER JR., b. 11 November 1922, Tifton, Tift Co. GA; d. 08 April 2007, Pensacola, Escambia County, Florida.
- iii. RUTH THRASHER, b. 12 March 1926, Tifton, Tift Co. GA; m. WILLIAM MCCORMICK.

4. ROY⁶ THRASHER (*JAMES OLIVER ANDREW⁵, WILLIAM H.⁴, ISAAC (I. HITE)³, JOHN², JOHN¹*) was born 11 September 1895 in Oconee Co. GA, and died 05 March 1951 in Tifton, Tift Co. GA. He married GENEVA V.. She was born 1905, and died 04 June 1947 in Tifton, Tift Co. GA.

Child of ROY THRASHER and GENEVA V. is:

- i. JO ANNE⁷ THRASHER, b. Tifton, Tift Co. GA.

5. FANNIE LEE⁶ THRASHER (*JAMES OLIVER ANDREW⁵, WILLIAM H.⁴, ISAAC (I. HITE)³, JOHN², JOHN¹*) was born September 1896 in Oconee Co. GA, and died 17 June 1925. She married FRANK GOGGINS 1919 in Tifton, Tift Co. GA, son of NATHANIEL GOGGINS and SARAH GIBSON. He was born 1896 in Monroe Co. GA, and died in Lenox, GA.

Child of FANNIE THRASHER and FRANK GOGGINS is:

- i. JAMES FLOYD⁷ GOGGINS, b. 1920, Tifton, Tift Co. GA.

6. SIDNEY C.⁶ THRASHER (*JAMES OLIVER ANDREW⁵, WILLIAM H.⁴, ISAAC (I. HITE)³, JOHN², JOHN¹*) was born 1901 in Oconee Co. GA. He married ALICE. She was born Abt. 1903.

Notes for SIDNEY C. THRASHER:

Reference: 1920 and 1930 Census for Tift Co. GA

Children of SIDNEY THRASHER and ALICE are:

- i. SUZANNE⁷ THRASHER, b. Abt. 1926.
- ii. ROBERT THRASHER, b. Abt. 1928.

Generation No. 4

7. JAMES WILLIAM THRASHER⁷ JR. (*JAMES WILLIAM THRASHER⁶ SR., JAMES OLIVER ANDREW⁵ THRASHER, WILLIAM H.⁴, ISAAC (I. HITE)³, JOHN², JOHN¹*) was born 11 November 1922 in Tifton, Tift Co. GA, and died 08 April 2007 in Pensacola, Escambia County, Florida. He married NANCY ROBERTS 15 September 1951 in Atlanta, Fulton Co. GA, daughter of I. ROBERTS and RHODA. She was born 12 May 1927 in Arvida, Quebec, Canada.

Notes for JAMES WILLIAM THRASHER JR.:

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Jim attended Wheaton College and then earned an engineering degree from Georgia Tech after serving in the Navy for two years (1944 - 1946). After twenty two years with the Monsanto Company in Pensacola, Florida, he and his wife, Nan, spent twelve years in New Guinea with Wycliff Bible Translators as full time missionaries.

Reference: 1930 Census Tift Co. GA

Two personal "books" about his life and work in New Guinea (30 March 2001)

Children of JAMES JR. and NANCY ROBERTS are:

8.
 - i. STEPHEN W. THRASHER⁸ SR., b. 13 January 1953, Atlanta, Fulton Co. GA.
 - ii. DEBORAH LYNN THRASHER, b. 28 December 1955, Pensacola, Escambia County, Florida.

Generation No. 5

8. STEPHEN W. THRASHER⁸ SR. (*JAMES WILLIAM THRASHER⁷ JR., JAMES WILLIAM THRASHER⁶ SR., JAMES OLIVER ANDREW⁵ THRASHER, WILLIAM H.⁴, ISAAC (I. HITE)³, JOHN², JOHN¹*) was born 13 January 1953 in Atlanta, Fulton Co. GA. He married MARILYN GRIMES in Duncanville, Texas, daughter of JOSEPH GRIMES and BARBARA. She died 12 November 2000 in Wilson, N. C.

Children of STEPHEN SR. and MARILYN GRIMES are:

9.
 - i. JAMES JOSEPH THRASHER⁹ SR., b. 14 January 1979, Duncanville, Texas.
 - ii. STEPHEN N. THRASHER JR., b. 16 April 1980, Duncanville, Texas.
 - iii. THOMAS CHRISTIAN THRASHER, b. 02 April 1987, Seoul, Korea.

Generation No. 6

9. JAMES JOSEPH THRASHER⁹ SR. (*STEPHEN W. THRASHER⁸, JAMES WILLIAM THRASHER⁷ JR., JAMES WILLIAM THRASHER⁶ SR., JAMES OLIVER ANDREW⁵ THRASHER, WILLIAM H.⁴, ISAAC (I. HITE)³, JOHN², JOHN¹*) was born 14 January 1979 in Duncanville, Texas. He married SARAH CARRELL in Raleigh, N. C. She was born 23 October 1979 in Raleigh, N. C.

Children of JAMES SR. and SARAH CARRELL are:

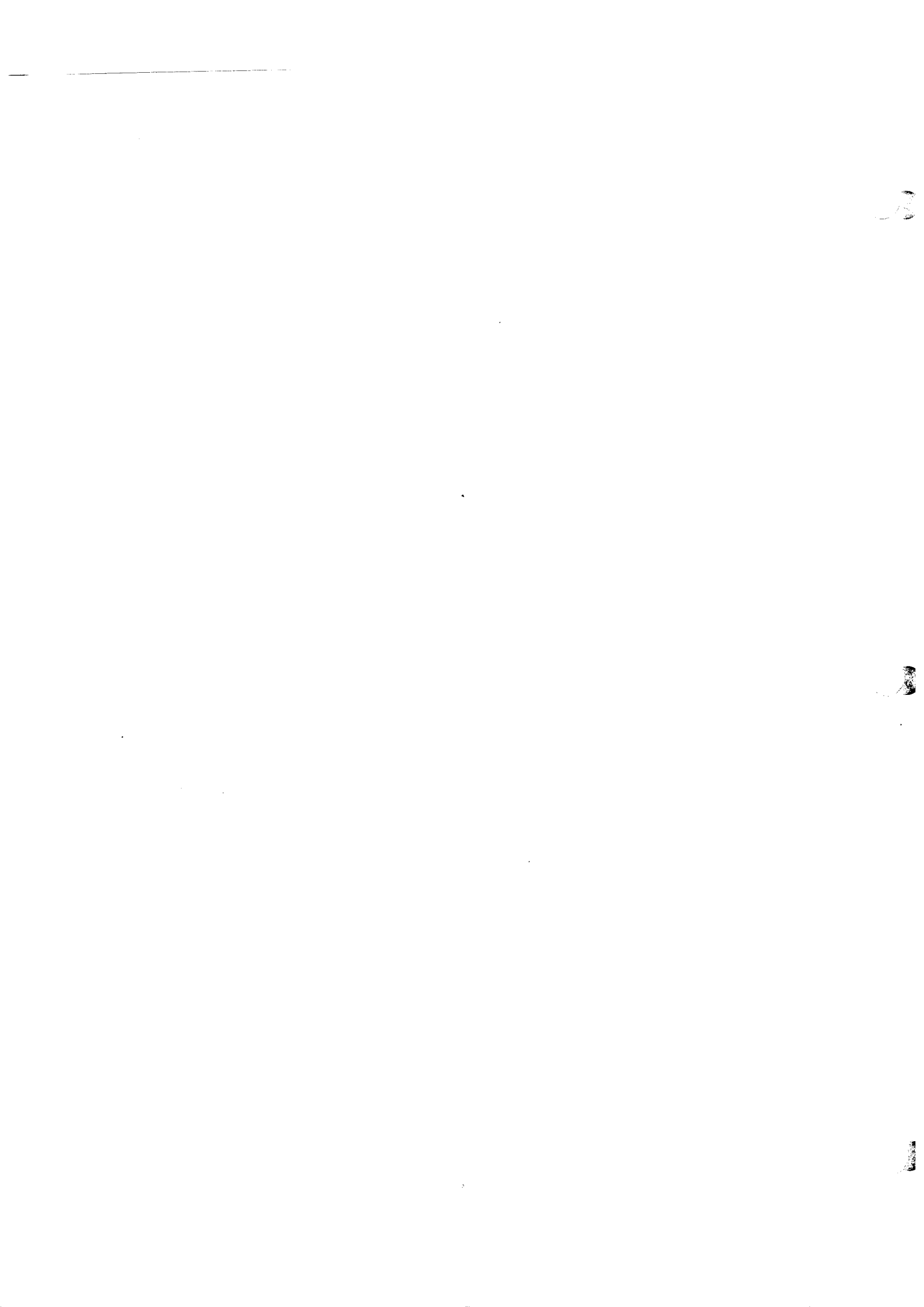
- i. JAMES JOSEPH THRASHER¹⁰ JR., b. 06 March 2003, Raleigh, N. C.
- ii. EMILY ROSE THRASHER, b. 16 May 2005, Raleigh, N. C.

Since the genealogy of the John and Ruth Cloud Thrasher family was well documented in "Our Thrasher Heritage" by D. S. Pruett and "Henry County, Georgia, Mother of Counties" by Vessie Thrasher Rainer, the genealogy continuation printed above begins with William H. and Mary Ann Radford Thrasher. William H. (1826 - 1885) was the son of Isaac and Elizabeth Hester Thrasher, John and Ruth Cloud Thrasher's son and daughter in law.

William H. and Mary Ann had other children, but this continuation introduces their son James Oliver Andrew Thrasher, about whom nothing was known until recently.

I had the pleasure of getting to know James "Jim" William Thrasher Jr., grandson of James O. A. Thrasher. He and I were collaborating on his genealogy when he died suddenly. It was his intention that the update be published in the Thrasher Newsletter.

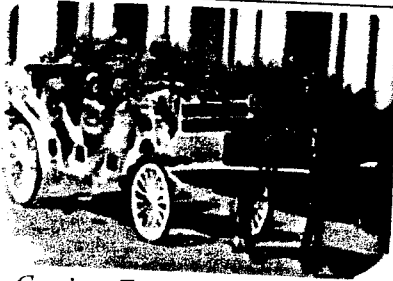
John E. Thrasher III



The Thrasher Newsletter

Editor: Barbara Eger Circulation: John E. Thrasher III Volume 27 No. 2 March 2009

Reunion Time Is Getting Close -- Make Your Plans Now!



Carriage Tour in Old Vicksburg

Buddy and Glenda Thrasher have really picked a great reunion site. Vicksburg has all sorts of things to offer, and you should make your plans now to be there from June 12 to June 14, with a few extra days added to enjoy Vicksburg.

A block of rooms at the Holiday Inn Express Hotel and Suites has been reserved at the rate of \$90/night plus taxes, which is a really good rate for this destination in the tourist season. Call the hotel direct at (601) 634-8777 and ask for a reservation with the Thrasher Reunion group. The hotel is located near the National Military Park and the USS Cairo Museum as well as shopping and a golf course. Breakfast, which includes hot items as well as the usual hotel buffet offerings, is included in the room rate. Scrambled eggs, cheese omelets, bacon, sausage, etc., will give us all a good start to the days! Located at 4330 S. Frontage Rd., it provides easy access from I-20.

Friday dinner will be at Gregory's Kitchen, which offers a Southern home-cooking menu. Saturday night we will be at the Beechwood Restaurant for steak or seafood. Buddy and Glenda had dinner there when checking out arrangements recently and say the food was very good. Both nights diners will order from the menu and will get individual checks. However, a \$5/person deposit is necessary for each night to hold the tables (see reservation form on the last page).

Vicksburg's diverse history evolves from its position on the Mississippi River. Barges moved cotton up and down the river during the time of King Cotton. The Civil War saw Vicksburg's landscape dominated by

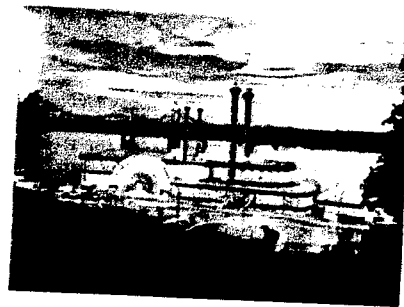
gunboats and soldiers. Visitors will find a rich tapestry of culture weaving through Vicksburg's varied museums and historic tours.

The impact of the river, King Cotton and the Civil War can be traced in the various museums' collections and interpretations and in the lore of historic sites. The city's past is shown in the preservation of churches, government buildings and scores of homes - many dating to the 19th century.

Several museums and landmarks in the Downtown Central Business District include: The Old Court House Museum, The Southern Cultural Heritage Center, The Biedenharn Coke Museum, Yesterday's Children Doll Museum, and the Waterfront Murals.

In the Biedenharn museum, tourists can see the first place in the world where Coca-Cola was bottled and its collection of Coke memorabilia. Kids of all ages enjoy the doll museum's vast collection of antique dolls and toys. Adults can find "grownup play" at the four river casinos. The 16-mile tour of the Vicksburg National Military Park and a visit to the U.S.S. Cairo Museum are musts for history lovers. Carriage rides, garden strolls, ghost tours and river tours round out the Vicksburg experience.

There are so many options that a weekend is NOT enough. Since the Thrasher Reunion hotel rate is available both before and after the reunion weekend, plan on several extra days to enjoy all that Vicksburg has to offer.



Ameristar Casino

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Buddy and Glenda Thrasher: 2009 Reunion Hosts

By David E. Sumner

Robert ("Buddy") and Glenda Thrasher will host the 2009 Thrasher reunion in Vicksburg, Mississippi, on June 12-14, two weeks before they celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary on June 28. Although they live in Columbus, Miss., they decided to host the reunion in Vicksburg because of its historic connection to the Civil War and its many tourist attractions.



2009 Reunion Hosts Buddy and Glenda Thrasher

They have been active in the Thrasher association since 2005 when they attended the Thrasher/Thrasher reunion in Jackson, Tenn. He first learned about the Thrasher Family Association in 2004 by a contact with John E. Thrasher through an online request at the Ancestry.com website. "John told me about the association and invited us to the next reunion."

Buddy is descended from John C. Thrasher, who was a son of Isaac Thrasher. Isaac Thrasher was one of the sons of John and Ruth Cloud Thrasher.

Born March 21, 1936, in Pickens, Alabama, Buddy spent almost 45 years as an engineer with United Technical Corporation. He started working for the company in Columbus, Miss., in 1958 before it assigned him to Detroit for 10 years and then Brownsville, Texas, for five years before retiring in 2002. He was a lab engineering manager and did direct current motor development and testing for the company, which produces small dc motors for the automotive and recreational industries. He served three years in the National Guard before joining the U.S. Army from 1955 to 1958 and he is a member of American Legion Post 69.

Buddy and Glenda were married in Corinth, Mississippi, on June 28, 1959. They have two sons who both live in Columbus. Bobby, 47, is a construction superintendent, and Marshall, 40, is a youth and music minister for Immanuel Baptist Church. Their daughter, Patricia, died three years ago. Bobby and Glenda have eight grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

They are active members of Mount Vernon Baptist Church, where he is a member of the board of deacons. A Mississippi State alumnus, Buddy enjoys rooting for the Bulldogs and the New Orleans Saints.

Buddy is looking forward to hosting the Vicksburg reunion and is still working to finalize details for hotel and meal arrangements. "I just enjoy the fellowship at the reunions. We always have a lot of fun getting to know everyone in the group," he says.

News and Notes

In a recent e-mail to John E. Thrasher Ken Sutherland wrote that his mother and stepfather, association members Max and Marie Senn, were not up to making the trip south this year. We wish them all the best and hope their health improves.

Ken also said he is doing an outreach radio show with his pastor every Sunday.

You can tune in on-line at <radiofreejax.com>; click on "listen live." According to Ken they hope the show can reach people who have had a bad church experience and "emphasize the difference between spirituality and religion" for those listeners.

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More News and Notes

Caroline Thrasher Wins Regional Theater Competition

Columbus State University theater student Caroline Thrasher and her acting partner, Jim Pharr, won the Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival Region 4 Irene Ryan acting competition, and will go to Washington, D.C., in April to compete for the national title.



Caroline E. Thrasher

Caroline graduated from East Coweta HS in Newnan, Georgia, in 2006 and is currently a Junior at Columbus State University in Columbus, Georgia, majoring in Theatre Performance. She is the daughter of Paula and John Paul Thrasher of Newnan, Georgia, and the granddaughter of Caroline B. Thrasher and the late Col. Warren A. Thrasher of Athens, GA.

The Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival's Region 4 consists of schools from Virginia, West Virginia, Kentucky, Tennessee, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, Alabama

and Mississippi. Out of thousands of participants in college productions in these states, nearly five hundred graduate and undergraduate students were nominated for the competition for their superior work in college productions, including 12 from Columbus State.

Caroline and her partner will represent Columbus State at the national festival. They will receive an all-expense paid trip to Washington, where they will participate in workshops and seminars with Tony Award-winning directors, authors and playwrights. On April 18, they will perform on the Kennedy Center stage for a chance to win the national title. The Irene Ryan acting Award is the highest collegiate acting award in the country. Ryan is best known for playing Granny on the long-running television series, "The Beverly Hillbillies."

Directory Changes

Louise Thrasher Carpenter: thuweez@cox.net
Frances Leitner: leitnerf@bellsouth.net
Marie and Max Senn: msenn1@att.net
Ken and Anna Sutherland: kenannas3@att.net
Bill Huse Thrasher: oldclockdoctor@windstream.net
Meredith and Stanley P. Thrasher: smthrasher@earthlink.net
Elizabeth and Roger Thrasher: elizabeth.thrasher@yahoo.com

EDITOR'S CORNER



Well, I guess the first thing I need to get used to is that it is 2009; can you believe that we are almost through the first decade of a new century? This June will bring the 36th Thrasher reunion!

Many, many thanks to David Sumner and to Nancy Cherry for their contributions to this issue.

Even though he is a published professor with a full load at Ball State University, David has once again found time to do an interview and write a profile, this time of Buddy and Glenda Thrasher.

Nancy has done endless work coordinating and writing about the DNA project. Her piece on mitochondrial DNA in this issue explores another facet of genealogical DNA — the maternal side. She also tirelessly searches the World Wide Web for Thrasher tidbits -- there will be an article taken from her MATA Data newsletter on Thrasher-related sports awards in a coming issue.

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).

MtDNA: Another Genealogy Research Tool

by Nancy Thrasher Cherry

What is mtDNA and how can it help in genealogy research?

We know that the Y-chromosome markers that our project compares come from inside the cell nucleus, and that only males have them. However, each of us has a second kind of DNA, known as mitochondrial DNA or mtDNA. This is found in the mitochondria, which are tiny structures that help produce energy for the cell. The mitochondria are located in the cytoplasm, outside the nucleus, in non-functioning control regions of the cell (not gene-containing areas). This mtDNA passes from a mother to all her children, male and female. The mtDNA mutates extremely slowly, so each of us can be fairly certain that our mtDNA markers are identical to those of our mother's mother's mother's mother's mother, etc.

Females continue to pass along their mother's mtDNA to their daughters, just as males pass along Y-chromosomes to their sons that were received from their fathers. On the other hand, when females pass along their mtDNA markers to their sons, those sons do not pass along mtDNA; instead, the sons' children inherit mtDNA from their mothers.

Our testing company, FamilyTreeDNA, offers mtDNA tests. Individual mtDNA testing reports differences between the tested sample and a reference sample called the Cambridge Reference Sequence. Most of the variation in mtDNA between individuals is found in two regions of the mtDNA molecule called HVR1 and HVR2. The differences with the reference sample are reported as changes in a SNP (single nucleotide polymorphism) - in other words, substitution of one DNA base for another. For instance, at a particular base location, a T

(thymine) may be substituted for a C (cytosine) or a G (guanine) for an A (adenine). The base locations are numbered 16024 through 16324 for HVR1 and 63 to 322 for HVR2. The report on a sample will name the position on the circular molecule where the difference occurs and show the base that varies. As an example, a report might read as follows: "16093 C."

Mitochondrial DNA testing can be used to assign daughters, born from different wives, to the correct mothers; to prove a female was adopted into a household; to determine if women of unknown parents or uncertain birth names were siblings; to confirm documented maternal lineage; or to reveal a female line as originating from an ethnic group. Often it will involve tracking down descendants of a long-ago great-grandmother in your maternal line to compare that person's mtDNA with yours or with that of the person you are studying.

Males and females may request mtDNA tests as part of our Thrasher/Thresher project. The cost for the basic test is \$89 with higher resolution tests available.

Of the 37 participants in our DNA project, one of them is female and is in the study for her mtDNA test. A few of the men have also been tested for their mtDNA results. The most recent two men to join the study are not expected to show any relationship to Thrashers. They are my son and my brother-in-law, who took advantage of FTDNA's recent sale on Y-37 testing. My son also took the mtDNA testing while it was discounted; from his results we will know my husband's Y-markers and my mtDNA profile.

Upcoming!

Eleanor Thrasher has finished compiling all of the recipes you contributed for the Thrasher Association cookbook and it will be going to print soon. She expects the cost will probably be around \$10. Details on ordering your copy will be in the next newsletter!

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In Memoriam

William Boyd "Bill" Thrasher



William Boyd "Bill" Thrasher

On Feb. 14, 2009, William Boyd (Bill) Thrasher passed away in Tucson, Ariz., at the age of 80 due to pneumonia. He will be remembered as a great husband, father, teacher and coach. For anyone fortunate enough to know Bill, his family is sure you will remember him as a quiet person that you would be happy to consider a friend.

Bill was born Sept. 25, 1928, in Sapulpa, Okla., son of James Frank and Myrtle (Crumby) Thrasher. He grew up in Sherman, Texas, graduating from Sherman High School and attending Austin College in Sherman and Ventura College in California.

He was an Eagle Scout and served in the U.S. Navy. After retiring from the Navy, he spent nearly 40 years as an electronic engineer for Raytheon Manufacturing Co. in California and Massachusetts. In addition to his parents, he was prede-

ceased by his sister, Genevieve Russell, and his older brother, James. Bill is survived by his wife, Shari (Stilwell) Thrasher, of Marana, Ariz.; two sons, Bret Thrasher of Broomfield, Colo., and Curt Thrasher of Ventura, Calif.; one daughter, Nicole, of Camarillo, Calif.; and two grandchildren, Cole and Lexi Thrasher of Ventura.

Bill and Shari moved to Heritage Highlands in Marana in 1998. He was an avid golfer and all-around sports fan, and he enjoyed volunteering for the Diamondbacks' spring training baseball.

Inurnment of Bill's ashes will be at Ivy Lawn Memorial Park in Ventura, Calif., at a later date.

Information from the Ventura County Star

Sarah Elizabeth Thrasher Baldwin

Mrs. Sarah Elizabeth Thrasher Baldwin, 95, died March 11, 2009. She was born October 27, 1913, in Atlanta. She was the daughter of Barton Edmonds Thrasher and Hattie Belle Quillian Thrasher. A graduate of Decatur High School and Agnes Scott College, she was an accomplished pianist, having also studied at the Atlanta Conservatory of Music and Agnes Scott College. She was a member of Madison First United Methodist Church where she was a member of the Loyal Daughters Sunday School class and the Elizabeth Harris Baldwin circle. Over the years she taught Sunday school, was a MYF counselor and held several offices on the church council. She was a member of the Madison-Morgan Cultural Center, Madison-Morgan Historical Society, the AAUW, Eastern Star and a past member of the DAR and UDC. Elizabeth and her late husband, Asbury, were long-time Thrasher Association members.

Elizabeth was preceded in death by her husband, Asbury, her parents and three brothers, Edmonds, Robert and William Thrasher. She is survived by three sisters-in-law: Mattie J. Thrasher, Helen Thrasher and Mary Baldwin Harris; also a daughter and two sons: Anne B. Satterfield and husband Jack; Judge A. Quillian Baldwin, Jr. and wife Judy; and Barton W. Baldwin and wife Brenda; eight grandchildren, ten great grandchildren and two great-great grandchildren and a number of nieces, nephews and cousins.

Donations in her memory may be made to the New Building Fund at Madison First United Methodist Church, P.O. Box 350 Madison, GA 30650. A memorial service was held Saturday, March 14, at Madison First United Methodist Church.

Excerpted from the Atlanta Journal-Constitution

Descendants of JOHN C. THRASHER, SR.

Generation No. 1

1. JOHN C.⁶ THRASHER, SR. (ISAAC CLOUD⁵, JOHN⁴) was born 1787 in South Carolina², and died 09 Aug 1871 in Woodstock, Bibb County, Alabama³. He married MARY ANN EVANS³ Abt. 1809 in Tennessee. She was born 21 Feb 1795 in South Carolina, and died 11 Feb 1855 in Bibb County, Alabama³.

Notes for JOHN C. THRASHER, SR.:

When the 1860 US Census was taken on the 11th of June 1860, JOHN THRASHER, age 73, is listed as a farmer with the value of real estate as \$2500 and personal property totaling over \$15,000 on the West Side of the Cahaba River, Bibb County, Alabama. Living with him is his wife, AMANDA M., age 39. Both having been born in South Carolina. By 1870 AMANDA is living in Kingdom Beat, Bibb County, Alabama, her occupation is listed as a farmer with daughter MARGARET, age 7.

"The THRASHER Cemetery is located on THRASHER Road, just off County Road 27. THRASHER Road runs along one edge of the original JOHN THRASHER property." (notes from Helen Thrasher, Birmingham, Jefferson County, Alabama, 3-28-2005.

According to the Widow's Pension (War of 1812) filed by AMANDA M. THRASHER, of Bibbville, Bibb County Alabama #35,804 widow of JOHN THRASHER, Tennessee Militia, JOHN THRASHER is listed as having died 9 August 1869 instead of 9 August 1871 as recorded on his tombstone. He died at his residence.

JOHN THRASHER served in the War of 1812 in the Tennessee Militia under General Andrew Jackson at Horseshoe Bend on the Tallapoosa River in Creek Indian country in Alabama. His service time was 18 December 1813 to 6 April 1814 which included the date of the Horseshoe Bend Battle 14 March 1814. Length of service was 110 days. He was a private with Lieut. Barrett's Co., Tennessee Militia.

JOHN THRASHER volunteered in Bedford County, Tennessee and drew land warrant No. 93851 for his service. AMANDA received a pension of \$8.00 per month. He was described as having a dark complexion, black yeys, black hair and medium height.

More About JOHN C. THRASHER, SR.:

1850 Census: 1850, W. C. River, Bibb County, Alabama

1860 Census: 1860, West Side Cahaba River, Bibb County, Alabama

Burial: Aug 1871, THRASHER Family Graveyard near Woodstock, Bibb County, Alabama⁴

Military service: War of 1812

Occupation: Farmer

Relationship: 3rd GREAT GRANDFATHER of WILLIAM BOYD THRASHER

More About MARY ANN EVANS:

Burial: Feb 1855, Caffee Community (THRASHER) Cemetery, West Blocton, Bibb County, Alabama

Relationship: 3rd GREAT GRANDMOTHER of WILLIAM BOYD THRASHER

Child of JOHN THRASHER and MARY EVANS is:

2. i. JOSHUA⁷ THRASHER, b. 1812, Tennessee; d. 1900.

Generation No. 2

2. JOSHUA⁷ THRASHER (JOHN C.⁶, ISAAC CLOUD⁵, JOHN⁴) was born 1812 in Tennessee^{9,10}, and died 1900. He married ADALINE ROLING¹¹ 07 Nov 1832 in Tuscaloosa County, Alabama¹². She was born 18 Sep 1812 in Tennessee, and died 30 Aug 1851 in Bibb County, Alabama.

Notes for JOSHUA THRASHER:

JOSHUA, the 2nd Great-Grandfather of WILLIAM BOYD THRASHER, was the first child born to JOHN AND

MARY ANN THRASHER. He was born in Tennessee in 1812. He spent most of his life living in Alabama and was a farmer. His first marriage was to ADALINE ROLING on the 7th of November 1832 in Tuscaloosa County, Alabama. They became the parents of 9 children, 2 girls and 7 boys. Their 3rd son, JOHN C. THRASHER was the Great-Grandfather of WILLIAM BOYD THRASHER. Their last child, JOSHUA A. was born in May of 1850 and a little over a year later ADALINE had passed away in August 1851.

JOSHUA married for the second time to MARY E. RILEY on the 14th of February 1852 also in Tuscaloosa County, Alabama and they became the parents of 3 more children. In 1853, JOSHUA and MARY E. THRASHER deeded land for \$4,075 in Thirty-three Quarter Section, Township Twenty-one, Range Six, in the Tuscaloosa, Alabama Land District. (Bk G, pg. 585). MARY probably died after the birth of her third child in 1860 and JOSHUA married for the third time to MARGARET SMITH on the 4th of December 1864 in Bibb County, Alabama and they had 5 more children, for a total of 17 children. MARGARET was 27 years younger than her husband. JOSHUA is believe to have died before 1900 in Tennessee. MARGARET outlived her husband and died in Bibb County at the age of 80.

More About JOSHUA THRASHER:

1850 Census: 1850, W C River, Bibb, Alabama¹³

1860 Census: 1860, Reform Beat, Pickens County, Alabama

1870 Census: 1870, Centerville, Kingdom Beat, Bibb County, Alabama

Occupation: Farmer

Relationship: 2nd GREAT GRANDFATHER of WILLIAM BOYD THRASHER

More About ADALINE ROLING:

Burial: 1851, Caffee Community (THRASHER) Cemetery, West Blocton, Bibb County, Alabama

Relationship: 2nd GREAT GRANDMOTHER of WILLIAM BOYD THRASHER

Marriage Notes for JOSHUA THRASHER and ADALINE ROLING:

Married by James L. Hogg, Justice of the Peace.

Child of JOSHUA THRASHER and ADALINE ROLING is:

3. i. JOHN C.⁸ THRASHER, b. 1837, Alabama; d. Bef. 1875, Probably Mississippi.

Generation No. 3

3. JOHN C.⁸ THRASHER (JOSHUA⁷, JOHN C.⁶, ISAAC CLOUD⁵, JOHN was born 1837 in Alabama^{15,16}, and died Bef. 1875 in Probably Mississippi. He married CAROLINE "CALLIE" Abt. 1861. She was born Jan 1848 in North Carolina, and died Aft. 1900.

Notes for JOHN C. THRASHER:

JOHN C. THRASHER was born in Alabama in 1837, however not allot of information about him or his family has come to light at this time. We do know that when the 1870 census was taken JOHN was 32 years old, the father of four children, and his occupation was listed as a 'Wheelwright'. He could neither read nor write which leads us to believe he never attended school as a child. By 1880 we find his wife CALLIE in Titus County, Texas, age 37, the mother of 6 children. The last child, HENRY (HARVEY), was born in 1875 in Mississippi but there was no mention of JOHN. He apparently died sometime between 1875 and 1880 when the census was taken or was out of the county. Perhaps she moved to Texas to be near family after JOHN's death.

The initial "C" in JOHN'S name may be CLOUD as many of his ancestors have that as a middle or surname.

More About JOHN C. THRASHER:

1850 Census: 1850, W. C. River, Bibb County, Alabama

1870 Census: 13 Jun 1870, Salem Township, Tippah Co. Mississippi, pg. 22.

Relationship: GREAT GRANDFATHER of WILLIAM BOYD THRASHER

Residence: 1870, Township 2 Range 1, Tippah, Mississippi¹⁶

Notes for CAROLINE "CALLIE ":

Very little is known of CALLIE other than what was recorded in the 1870 census of Salem Township, Tippah County, Mississippi she is listed (with her husband) as 25 years old, mother of 4 children, had attended school for

one year and was born in North Carolina. By the 1880 census she is found living in Titus County, Texas (E.D. 107 - Vol. 30, sheet 20, line 38, Pct. #1) where she is listed as head of household, age 37 born in North Carolina. There was no mention of her husband. Her children ranged in age from 15 to 5 years.

From the 1880 US Census of Precinct 1, Titus, Texas (Family History Library Film 1255328):

CALLIE is listed as a 'widow, age 37, birthplace as North Carolina as well as both her mother and father. She was the mother of 6 children, FRANK, age 15 born Mississippi, occupation farming, father born Alabama and mother N.C.; also EDWIN, age 13 born Tennessee, occupation farm hand; LULA, age 11 born Ms., at school; MINNIE, age 8, born Ms.; ELLA, age 7, born Ms. and HARVEY, age 5, born Ms. Also living with them was Lizzie Fowler, married, white, age 22 born in Texas.

From the 1900 Titus County, Texas Census
Enumeration Dist. 116, Precinct 1, page 151a:

Living in a home with her daughter Minnie and son-in-law JAY BUTTON:

CALLIE THRASHER is listed as 57 years old, widow, gave birth to 7 children but only 4 living. It was again stated she was born in North Carolina as were both her parents. There was a boarder living with them: LOTTIE ROUNTREE, white, female, age 12, born November 1887, single, born Texas, father born in Mississippi and mother also born in Mississippi. (Obviously CALLIE 'S granddaughter). Mother was LULU THRASHER who married JAMES ROUNTREE and had died by the time the 1900 census was taken.

What became of this family is still a mystery. No pictures are known to exist of this family.

More About CAROLINE "CALLIE ":

1870 Census: Salem Township, Tippah Co. Mississippi

1880 Census: Titus County, Texas

1900 Census: Titus County, Texas

Lived: Salem Township, Tippah Co. Mississippi

Occupation: Housewife

Relationship: GREAT GRANDMOTHER of WILLIAM BOYD THRASHER

Child of JOHN THRASHER and CAROLINE " is:

4. i. FRANKLIN "TONTO" THRASHER, b. 24 Oct 1864, Granada. Benton County, Mississippi; d. 16 Oct 1943, Garland Township, Texarkana, Miller County, Texas.

Generation No. 4

4. FRANKLIN "TONTO" THRASHER (JOHN C.⁸, JOSHUA⁷, JOHN C.⁶, ISAAC CLOUD⁵, JOHN⁴,
was born 24 Oct 1864 in Granada. Benton County, Mississippi, and died 16 Oct 1943 in Garland Township, Texarkana, Miller County, Texas. He married ELIZABETH ROYSTER 27 Apr 1892 in Sherman, Grayson County, Texas, daughter of JAMES ROYSTER and HESTOR HARTSELL. She was born 21 Apr 1872 in Granada, Benton County, Mississippi¹⁷, and died 02 Jan 1963 in Sherman, Grayson County, Texas.

Notes for FRANKLIN "TONTO" THRASHER:

FRANKLIN THRASHER was the second child born to JOHN & CALLIE THRASHER. He had 3 brothers and 3 sisters. Not much is known about his early history or schooling. He married twice. His first wife (name unknown) was the mother of 3 sons: LUTHER, CHESTER and IVAN. She passed away sometime between 1886 and the 27th of April 1892 when he married 'LILY ROYSTER his second wife. He was 28 years old. Eleven months later they became the parents of their first child, JAMES FRANKLIN THRASHER. LILY was just 21. Two years later they had a second son, ZED THRASHER.

FRANK worked for the Cotton Belt Railroad. FRANK & LILLY had been married 51 years when FRANK died at the Cotton Belt Hospital at the age of 78 years, 11 & 22 days. Cause of death was attributed to gastric hemorrhages & prostatic resection at approximately 10 AM on the 16th of October 1943 in Texarkana, Texas. At the time of his death his home address was recorded as 615 South Maxey Street, Sherman, Texas.

From the Sherman, Grayson County, Texas 1900 Census Records,
Roll 1639, Book 2, Page 149
Genealogy.com Family Archive Image:

South Maxey Street, rented home

THRASHER, FRANK, W M Oct 1864, age 35, married 8 years, born Ms., father Ms., mother N.C., Yardmaster
RR

ELIZABETH, W F Apr 1872, age 18, mother of 2 children (2 living), born Ms., father Alabama, mother
Mississippi.

LUTHER, son, W M, born Jan 1883, age 17, born Texas, father Ms., mother Texas

CHESTER, son, W M, born Jan 1884, age 16, born Texas, father Ms., mother Texas (at school)

IVAN, W M, born Feb 1886, age 14, born Texas, father Ms., mother Texas (at school).

— JAMES F., son, W M, born Mar 1893, age 7 born Texas, father Ms., mother Ms.

WILLIAM J. son W M, born Aug 1895, age 4 ""

HART, Munroe, boarder, B M, born Aug 1866, age 33, married 7 yrs. born Tx., day laborer

HART, Jessy, boarder, B M, born May 1894, age 6, born Texas

** WILLIAM J. must be ZED THRASHER as birth dates match and no mention of ZED in census.

From the files of the Sherman Daily Democrat, 15 September 1912:
A Look into Sherman's Past:

"Earnest Arnoldi, Chief of the fire department, George Hamblin, Captain of the central station and FRANK
THRASHER, chairman of the fire committee of the council, left yesterday for Denver, Colorado to attend the Fire
Chiefs' convention. Sherman is in the market for some improvements in the fire department and these gentlemen
are to instruct themselves for the benefit of the city. They will be away about 10 days."

Obituaries from the Sherman Democrat, 18 October 1943:

FRANK THRASHER

Word has been received here that FRANK THRASHER, former yardmaster for the Cotton Belt here, died
Friday in a Texarkana hospital. The body will be brought to Sherman for burial, with Dannel-SCOTT handling
local arrangements.

Mr. THRASHER began work for the Cotton Belt in Sherman on 4 April 1889, and made his home here until
1931 when the local Cotton Belt and Southern Pacific offices were consolidated, and he moved to Fort Worth.

FRANK THRASHER Services Today

Funeral services for FRANK THRASHER, 78, who died Saturday at 10 A.M. in a Texarkana hospital were
held Monday at 4 P.M. at the First Baptist church with Dr. J. A. Ellis, pastor, officiating. Internment was in West
HILL directed by Dannel-SCOTT. Deacons of the First Baptist were pallbearers with railroad officials and
employees as honorary pallbearers.

Mr. THRASHER was born October 24, 1864 in Mississippi, a son of JOHN and CALLIE THRASHER. He
came to Sherman in 1889 from Mt. Pleasant and married Miss ELIZABETH ROYSTER here in 1892.

He was yardmaster for the Cotton Belt railroad here for 42 years and in 1931, when the office and Southern
Pacific office was consolidated, moved to Fort Worth in the same position. After his retirement in 1942, he
returned to Sherman to make his home at 615 South Maxey. He was a deacon in the First Baptist Church.

Survivors include his widow; three sons, J.F. THRASHER of Sherman, ZED THRASHER of Houston and
LUTHER THRASHER of Fort Worth; a sister, Mrs. T. C. JONES of Sapulpa, Oklahoma; five grandchildren and

five great-grandchildren.

More About FRANKLIN "TONTO" THRASHER:

1870 Census: Salem Township, Tippah Co. Mississippi

1880 Census: Titus County, Texas

1900 Census: Sherman, Fannin County, Texas

Burial: 18 Oct 1943, Sherman, Grayson County, Texas

Cause of Death: Surgical shock following gastric hemorrhage due to prostatic resection.

Nickname: "Tonto" given to FRANK by EARL when he was very young.

Notes: A baby girl was born to FRANK & Lilly, dying at birth.

Occupation: Station master for the Cotton Belt Railroad

Religion: Baptist

Residence: 615 South Maxey St., Sherman, Texas

Notes for ELIZABETH ROYSTER:

ELIZABETH 'LILY' ROYSTER THRASHER was the mother of two sons and was a housewife all her life. She was 20 years old when she married 'TONTO'. She outlived her husband by 20 years and at the age of 90 she passed away at the Huggins Rest Home. Cause of death was arteriosclerotic heart disease. Before her death she made many handwritten notes of the ancestors of both the ROYSTER and THRASHER families. Her home address was 1215 West Houston Street, Sherman, Texas.

Obituary from the Sherman Democrat, 3 January 1963:

Funeral services will be held at 10 A.M. Friday in Dannel Funeral Chapel here for Mrs. FRANK THRASHER, 90, of 1215 W. Houston, who died at 1:40 P.M. Wednesday in the Huggins Rest Home.

The Rev. WILLIAM Young of the First Baptist Church will conduct the services. Burial will be in West HILL Cemetery. Ed Pedigo, Wayne Atkins, Homer Turley, Ennis Hufstedler, Eugene Russell and W. W. Shaw, will be pall bearers.

The family will be at the Dannel Funeral Chapel from 7 to 8:30 P.M. Thursday.

Mrs. THRASHER was born April 21, 1872 in Granada, Mississippi, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. B. ROYSTER. She married Mr. THRASHER in 1892 in Sherman. He died in 1943. She was a member of the First Baptist Church and the Women's Benefit Association.

Survivors are two sons, FRANK THRASHER of Sherman and ZED THRASHER of Houston; a brother Jack S. THRASHER of Los Angeles, Calif., three grandchildren, eight great-grandchildren and one great-great-grandchild.

More About ELIZABETH ROYSTER:

Burial: 04 Jan 1963, West HILL Cemetery, Sherman, Grayson County, Texas

Cause of Death: Arteriosclerotic heart disease

Lived: 615 Maxey Street, Sherman, Texas

Occupation: Housewife

Religion: Baptist

Residence: 1880, Sherman, Grayson, Texas¹⁷

Child of FRANKLIN THRASHER and ELIZABETH ROYSTER is:

- i. JAMES FRANKLIN¹⁰ THRASHER, b. 23 Mar 1893, Sherman, Grayson County, Texas¹⁶; d. 08 Jul 1975. Sherman, Grayson County, Texas; m. MYRTLE CRUMBY, 26 Nov 1912, McKinney, Collen County, Texas; b. 05 Sep 1892, Bonham, Fannin County, Texas; d. 04 Oct 1975, Sherman, Grayson County, Texas.

Notes for JAMES FRANKLIN THRASHER:

FRANK THRASHER was the first child born to FRANKLIN & "LILY" ROYSTER. He spent his early years growing up and attending school in Sherman. When he was 19 years old he married MYRTLE CRUMBY, who was 6 months older than FRANK. They became the parents of three children: a son, JAMES ERLE THRASHER who was born 10 months after their marriage, a daughter GENEVIEVE born 5 years later and a second son, WILLIAM BOYD, born 10 years after his sister. FRANK was 36 years old when Boyd was born.

FRANK worked for the railroad all his life, his last position being conductor for the Frisco RR. He and his wife had been married 63 years when FRANK passed away at the age of 82 at the Sherman Community Hospital due to an acute myocardial infarction. His wife, MYRTLE, passed away 3 months later at the age of 83 also at the Sherman Community Hospital with the same cause of death as FRANK, myocardial infarction. They lived for many years at 1202 North Grand Avenue in Sherman in a house FRANK had built. After his death and that of his wife MYRTLE, the home on No. Grand sold for \$10,500.

Obituary from the Sherman Democrat:

Graveside services will be held at 10 A.M. Thursday at West HILL Cemetery for James F. THRASHER, 82, of 1202 N. Grand Avenue. He died Tuesday at a Sherman hospital.

Services will be conducted by Re. Paul Wheelus of the North Park Baptist Church with burial under direction of Waldo Funeral Home.

Mr. THRASHER was born in Sherman, son of the late Mr. and Mrs. FRANK THRASHER. He was married to the former MYRTLE CRUMBY in 1911 in McKinney and had been a Sherman resident all of his life. He was a conductor for the Frisco Railroad for more than 60 years prior to retirement several years ago.

Survivors are his wife; sons, James EARL THRASHER of Sherman and W.B. THRASHER of Camarillo, California; daughter Mrs. Eugene Russell of Sherman; brother ZED THRASHER of Sherman; eight grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

The family will be at the funeral home from 7:30 to 8:30 P.M. Wednesday and other times at the Eugene Russell residence, 1219 N. Grand Ave.

In 1920, FRANK, MYRTLE and EARL (age 6) were living in Commerce, Hunt County, Texas. His occupation was listed as a freight train conductor.

More About JAMES FRANKLIN THRASHER:

1920 Census: Commerce, Hunt County, Texas

1970 Census: 1202 N. Grand Avenue, Sherman, Texas

Burial: 10 Jul 1975, West HILL Cemetery, Sherman, Grayson County, Texas

Cause of Death: Myocardial infarction.

Notes: During the depression he worked for a planning mill.

Occupation: Conductor for the Frisco Rail Road

Religion: Baptist

Residence: 1920, Commerce, Hunt, Texas^{18.19}

Notes for MYRTLE CRUMBY:

Obituary from the Sherman Democrat:

Graveside services will be held at 4 P.M. Monday at West HILL Cemetery for MYRTLE THRASHER, 83 of 1202 N. Grand who died Saturday morning in a Sherman Hospital.

Services will be conducted by Rev. Paul Wheelus of the North Park Baptist Church, under the direction of Waldo Funeral Home.

Mrs. THRASHER was born in Ravenna, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. DAVE CRUMBY. She was married to James F. THRASHER in 1911 in McKinney. She was a Baptist.

Survivors are sons, James EARL THRASHER of Sherman and W. B. THRASHER of Camarillo, California; daughter Mrs. EUGENE RUSSELL of Sherman; brother, EARL CRUMBY of Chickasha, Oklahoma; sister, Mrs. W. T. CALHOUN of Sherman; eight grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

The family will be at the funeral home from 3 to 4 P.M. Sunday and other times at 1219 N. Grand, the Eugene Russell residence.

More About MYRTLE CRUMBY:

1920 Census: Commerce, Hunt County, Texas

1970 Census: 1202 N. Grand Avenue, Sherman, Texas

Burial: 06 Oct 1975, West HILL Cemetery, Sherman, Grayson County, Texas
Cause of Death: Myocardial infarction.
Occupation: Before marriage worked as telephone operator.
Religion: Baptist

Endnotes

1. Family Search IGI Genealogical Index 5.0.
2. 1860 United States Federal Census.
3. Amanda M. Thrasher's Widow Application, War of 1812.
4. 'Our THRASHER Heritage' by Dorothy Sturgis Pruett, 1986.
5. Family Search IGI Genealogical Index 5.0.
6. 1860 United States Federal Census.
7. Alabama Marriages, 1807-1902, Hunting For Bears, comp. Alabama Marriages, 1807-1902 [database online]. Provo, Utah: MyFamily.com, Inc., 2004. Original data: Alabama marriage information taken from county courthouse records. Many of these records were extracted from copies of the original records in microfilm, microfiche, or book format, located at the Family History Library.
8. Marriage Index: Alabama., Ga., SC., 1641-1944, CD #3, Family Tree Maker.
9. 1860 United States Federal Census.
10. 1870 United States Federal Census.
11. Sec. II, Ch. 31, Tuscaloosa County, Alabama Marriages (1821-1860).
12. Marriage Index: Alabama., Ga., SC., 1641-1944, CD #3, Family Tree Maker, Sec. II, Ch. 31, Tuscaloosa County, Alabama (1821-1860).
13. 1850 United States Federal Census.
14. 1870 United States Federal Census, Ancestry.com. 1870 United States Federal Census. [database on-line] Provo, UT: MyFamily.com, Inc., 2003-. Indexed by Ancestry.com from microfilmed schedules of the 1870 U.S. Federal Decennial Census. 1870 United States Federal Census. [database online] Provo, UT: MyFamily.com, Inc., 2003. Original data: Data imaged from National Archives and Records Administration. 1870 Federal Population Census. M593, 1,761 rolls; part of Minnesota T132, 13 rolls. Washington, D.C.: National Archives and Records Administration. Township 2 Range 1, Tippah, Mississippi, post office Salem, roll 750, page 17, image 35.
15. Ancestry World Tree Project. Updated ELLIOTT Ancestry, Debra ELLIOTT, (knighttrider35215@yahoo.com).
16. 1870 United States Federal Census, Ancestry.com. 1870 United States Federal Census. [database on-line] Provo, UT: MyFamily.com, Inc., 2003-. Indexed by Ancestry.com from microfilmed schedules of the 1870 U.S. Federal Decennial Census. 1870 United States Federal Census. [database online] Provo, UT: MyFamily.com, Inc., 2003. Original data: Data imaged from National Archives and Records Administration. 1870 Federal Population Census. M593, 1,761 rolls; part of Minnesota T132, 13 rolls. Washington, D.C.: National Archives and Records Administration. Township 2 Range 1, Tippah, Mississippi, post office Salem, roll 750, page 17, image 35.
17. 1880 United States Federal Census.
18. 1920 United States Federal Census.
19. World War I Draft Registration Cards, 1917-1918.

The Descendants of John C. Thrasher

The genealogy of some of the descendants of John C. Thrasher as printed above was compiled by William Boyd Thrasher and his wife Shari of Marana, Arizona.

This John C. Thrasher, we now believe, was a son of Isaac Thrasher, son of John and Ruth Cloud Thrasher who are the earliest documented Thrashers of this family line.

For many years we referred to this Isaac as the "missing Isaac." Known facts about Isaac's whereabouts and evidence from DNA testing now link this John C. to other descendants of the son of John and Ruth Cloud Thrasher, the John Thrasher who married Susan Barton.

There are other recently proven descendants of John C. Thrasher who also are linked by DNA to the John/Ruth Thrasher family. We hope to publish their genealogies also in the near future.

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The Thrasher Newsletter

Editor: Barbara Eger Circulation: John E. Thrasher III Volume No. 27 No. 3 May 2009

Hurry, Hurry, Hurry, Before It's Too Late!

Do not procrastinate! The reunion deadlines are close. If you have misplaced your meal reservation form there is another on the last page of this issue. The block of rooms reserved for us at the Holiday Inn Express Hotel and Suites is filling up. Remember that the rate of \$90/night plus tax is a good deal during this time, the start of tourist season. Call the hotel direct at (601) 634-8777 and ask for a reservation with the Thrasher Reunion group. The hotel is conveniently located just off Interstate 20 in Vicksburg.

Vicksburg, according to their website, "invites you to take the time to get to know us. Attitude is everything and in Vicksburg ours is friendly and neighborly. The City of Vicksburg invites you to visit the 'Red Carpet City of the South' where Southern Hospitality is alive and well and awaiting your arrival."

From the specialty shops of historic downtown to the outlet mall, Vicksburg offers a broad Variety for those of you who are shoppers. For history or engineering buffs, the Vicksburg National Military Park captures a piece of American history while the Waterways Experiment Station beckons you to encounter tomorrow's engineering marvels up close.

The Art Park at Catfish Row is a creative adventure into the history of the Mississippi River and the fabulous paddle wheel steamboats that once traveled its waters. Enjoy all the sights and musical sounds within the park and imagine the Mississippi River life that once flourished along these waterways. You can listen to historical narration about Vicksburg's rich history or explore gardens, children's art, murals and unique exhibits.

There are two automobile tour routes. Blue shield-shaped signs lead the way from the Vicksburg National Military Park to African American History, 1830 - 1870 period homes, churches, the Old Court House Museum, restaurants, unique shops, the mural history at the city waterfront, and casinos and ends with a view of the present-day Mississippi River.

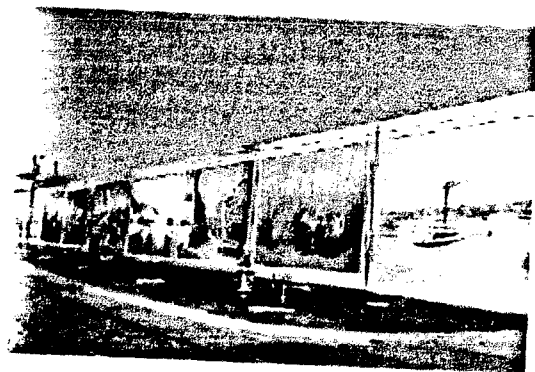
Marked by red shield-shaped signs, the second is a historic driving tour which begins with a view of the mighty Mississippi River at the

Mississippi State Welcome Center. From there you will begin an unforgettable tour of "Historic Vicksburg," beginning with a section of the Confederate defense lines set up around the city in 1863. Then the tour sends you past early 1900 period homes, churches, a unique shopping area complete with street lights, restaurants, museums and more historic homes, then ends at the Vicksburg National Military Park.

Both sound too good to miss, so try to plan an early arrival or late departure date to allow extra time for these and other points of interest.



The Biedenharn Museum



The Floodwall Murals

The Thrasher Family in Dade City, Florida

by David E. Sumner
© 2009

This article was originally written for the book "Pasco County—Its History and Its People" to be published by the Pioneer Florida Museum Association in Dade City, Florida. Publication has been delayed due to the death of the editor.

David Oliver Thrasher (1848-1912) and Barton Conway Thrasher were Atlanta natives and sons of a prominent Atlanta merchant and railroad builder who was also one of the founders of that city. Their father, John James Thrasher (1818-1899), built the first railroad through the village originally known as "Thrasherville" and then "Terminus" and "Marthasville" before it was officially incorporated as "Atlanta" in 1845. John J. Thrasher had lost his wealth and his home during the Civil War, which forced the family to leave and seek their fortunes elsewhere.¹

The exact date of Barton and David Oliver Thrasher's move to Dade City isn't known, but it was probably during the 1870s. Their move was followed by their father's move to Dade City—probably in the 1880s. Other children of John J. Thrasher and Margaret Scaife Thrasher (1826-1898) included: Jesse Scaife (1845-1927); John Joseph (1853-1962); Margaret V. (1843-?); Mamie D. (1857-?); Ellen B. (1859-1894); and Willis Edgar (1862-1934). David Oliver, Barton,



D. O. Thrasher during his tenure as Superintendent of Schools

and John J. Thrasher are all buried in the Dade City Cemetery.

David O. Thrasher became county judge in 1887, the third superintendent of schools for Pasco County in 1896, and was elected Dade City mayor on Feb. 6, 1905.² The 1907 directory of the College Avenue Baptist Church (now First Baptist) lists him as a deacon. Barton Thrasher became a pharmacist and drug store owner. Little else is known about Barton or his family. David O. Thrasher's daughter, Frankie Thrasher (1880-1922), married my grandfather David Edwin Sumner in 1897. I have a copy of their marriage license, which was issued by County Judge J.K. Davis on Feb. 24, 1897. Other children of D.O. Thrasher included: Marguerite Warren Thrasher (1869-1919); John Wylie Thrasher (1870-1891); David LeLand Thrasher (1872-1953); Robert Toombs Thrasher (1881-1945); and Ellen M. Thrasher (dates NA).

Four Thrasher families were recognized among official "founding families" in the 1998 re-dedication of the Pasco County Courthouse. They included David Hughey and Sarah Harper Thrasher, Judge David O. and Ellen Mason Thrasher, John James and Margaret B. Scaife Thrasher, and Willis E. and Pallen Cochrane Thrasher. After his move to Dade City, there is some evidence that John J. Thrasher played a role in bringing the first railroad to the area. A family history published in 1977 says: "Thrasher was always promoting railroads. He was next traced to Dade City, Florida. In 1946, an interview with an elderly gentleman, Mr. Jasper C. Carter of Dade City, who knew John J. Thrasher, told how Thrasher made speeches and helped get a railroad through that town."³

When John J. Thrasher (also known as "Cousin John") died on Nov. 13, 1899, the *Atlanta Constitution* published his obituary the next day, which read in part: "Cousin John Thrasher, one of the best-known and oldest citizens of Atlanta, died in Dade City, Florida, yesterday

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Cont. on p. 3

The Thrasher Family in Dade City

Cont. from p. 2

afternoon at 3 o'clock at the advanced age of eighty-two years.... He was a prominent figure in the old days of Terminus and Marthasville, as well as later when Atlanta became the greatest southern city, and now his death carries away next to the last of the three famous pioneers who were here before any of the people making this their home had ever heard of the place." He and his wife are buried on the western edge of the Dade City Cemetery closest to the railroad line he helped bring to the city.

David Edwin Sumner and Frankie Thrasher had three children: Edwin Mason Sumner (1897-1963), Susan Bugby (1902-1989) and Joseph David Sumner (1913-1959). Frankie Thrasher died of an illness at the age of 42, and D.E. Sumner later re-married. The children of Joseph David Sumner included this author (b. 1946) and his two sisters: Frankie Goldsby (b. 1939) and Joann Bandy (b. 1938).

While a few Thrashers settled in Florida, the family's roots remain in Georgia where the Atlanta hockey team is known as the "Thrashers" and the Brown Thrasher is the official state bird. The Thrasher Family Association sponsors an annual reunion and publishes a quarterly newsletter. The newsletter editor is Barbara Eger, a Thrasher descendent now living in Dade City.

(Endnotes)

¹ For a biography of John J. Thrasher, see "Everybody's Cousin: John J. Thrasher was one of Atlanta's Founders and Most Colorful Figures" by David E. Sumner in the *Georgia Historical Quarterly*, Summer 2000, pp. 295-307.

² See "A History of Education in Pasco County," (<http://fivay.org/education1.html>).

³ Vessie Thrasher Rainer, *Thrasher-Barton Descendants of Georgia* (privately published, 1977).

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The Cookbooks Are Here!!!

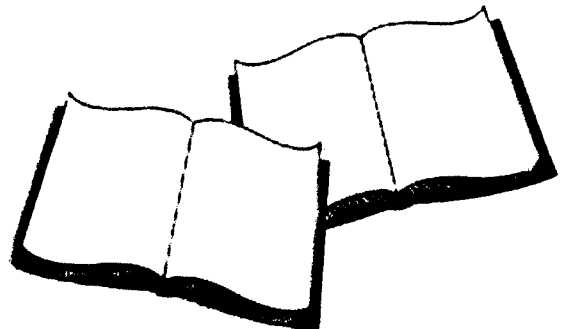
Eleanor Thrasher's hard work has paid off and the Thrasher Family Association cookbooks have arrived! In addition to the cookbook itself, Eleanor compiled a second volume with all of the stories that you sent in with your recipes. Here is what led her to do that:

"Much to my disappointment the cookbook publisher's policies limit each recipe's comments to two or three lines. These "extra lines" are what make this cookbook personal and interesting. As you will see, some take a whole page. While some are stories, others are detailed recipes which were too long for the book.

I was not willing to sacrifice these additions, nor was I willing to condense them or even delete some of the information. We worked too hard to make the cookbook also a genealogy book and to preserve our ancestors' treasures. That is when I got the idea of a supplement and thus this has become a two-volume publication.

I hope you enjoy the cookbook as much as I have enjoyed putting it together. If you find any errors, I do not want to hear about them!!"

The two books will be sold only as a set and will be available at the reunion. The price will be \$15.00 (plus \$2.50 for packing and mailing if you are not able to be at the reunion). Not only will this be something you will want for yourself, but a set will make a great gift for friends or family. To order by mail send \$17.50 for each set ordered to: Eleanor Thrasher, 6424 S.E. 169th Ave., Micanopy, FL, 32667.



News and Notes

Happy Anniversary!



Trudy and Dale Thrasher Renewing Their Vows

Congratulations!!

Dale and Trudy Thrasher celebrated 60 years of marriage with a renewal of their vows followed by a wonderful party hosted by their children.

While the actual anniversary date was February 19, the Mechanicsville, Maryland gathering was March 21, and from all accounts, a good time was had by all!

Dale and Trudy have ten children (all married), 29 grandchildren and 14 great-grandchildren. Best wishes to the two of you for many more years of happiness.

Send Thoughts and Prayers

Linda Burkhalter wrote that her mother is very seriously ill and receiving Hospice Care. Ruth Thrasher is the widow of Rastus Thrasher and they were association members for many years. Linda is also a long-time member. Please keep Ruth in your prayers.

Bill Thrasher (William S.) has been very ill as well, and was hospitalized several times over the past couple of months. He is at home right now, but being carefully watched for relapses. His wife Gail hopes that he will continue to improve so that they can make the trip to Vicksburg. You can send good wishes <bill142@charter.net>.

And this is a "good news" ending to some originally very bad news. Shirley Brewer was diagnosed in March with cancer of the mouth and it was very advanced. She had surgery May 5 and

the outcome was excellent. Her surgeon said he got all of the cancer, will not need chemo or radiation and should make a good recovery. Let her hear from you while she recovers — <shirley_brewer@hotmail.com>.

Update from David Sumner

A second edition of David Sumner's journalism textbook "Feature and Magazine Writing" has been scheduled for a spring release. David wrote that the first edition, which came out in 2005, did very well and so the publisher has asked David and his co-author to do a new edition. He also said he has a new personal web site he uses to offer news resources for magazine students and to promote his textbooks. Even with demands on his time from teaching and writing books and articles for publication David has been a generous contributor to the newsletter with his profiles of association members and articles on Thrasher history. Recently, David told that due to other demands on his time he will no longer be able to do this. So, unfortunately, "The Thrasher Family" piece in this issue will be the last of David's contributions. He will remain an association member and promises to keep in touch. Thank you, David, for all your contributions to the newsletter.

Conference Travel Plans

Nancy Cherry is attending The 2009 National Genealogical Society Family History Conference in Raleigh, N. C., May 13 - 16. A major genealogical event, the conference schedule is overflowing with lectures and workshops on such a variety of topics Nancy is torn as to where to spend her time. While he is going along to Raleigh "for the ride," Bill Cherry, however, plans to spend the time relaxing and seeing what the city has to offer.

We expect an interesting report from you at the reunion, Nancy!

More News and Notes

Directory Changes

Walter and Marlene Hoskins have a new address and phone:
2337 Vineyard Heights Lane
Pleasanton, CA 94766
408-236-8209

Ken and Anna Sutherland's house number is incorrect. Despite several pairs of eyes proofing copy, the last two numbers have been transposed since the first directory! Please change it to 7097.

Louise Carpenter's e-mail address has changed to <thuweez@aol.com>.

Just for Fun

What was your money worth in the old days? Here's a site to calculate the value of U.S. currency since 1913. For example, \$1.00 in 1951 had about the same buying power as \$8.31 in 2008. <http://www.dollartimes.com/calculators/inflation.htm>

IMPORTANT, IMPORTANT!

Buddy Thrasher sent word that the block of rooms at the Holiday Inn and Suites is almost full. However, the hotel agreed to continue offering the special rate until a week before the reunion, providing they have space available. Remember this is summertime — don't wait until there is no more room. Call and make your reservation now! The number again: (601) 634-8777.

Some Fun "Thrasher" Contests

By Nancy Cherry

Googling our surname finds stories on birds, sharks, submarines, skaters, bikers, weed-trimmers, magazines, and ice hockey teams. But now we can add sports awards.

The Thrasher Cup is awarded to the champion of a two-day college team ice-hockey tournament, the Memorial Health Hockey Classic, held every year in January in Savannah, Georgia. The University of Georgia, Florida State University, the University of Florida, and Georgia Tech compete. The cup is named for the NHL franchise in Atlanta. The winning team keeps the engraved trophy for a year.

The tournament, which began in 1999, is a showcase of hockey and the long-running sports rivalry between the four schools. Memorial Health, a hospital, clinic and EMS provider based in Savannah, is the major sponsor of the event.

Until the 2008 event, the University of Georgia had won the Thrasher Cup five times and Georgia Tech, four. Florida State University and the University of Florida played for the title for the first time in 2008, with Florida State winning 5-4 in overtime. This year, Georgia Tech skated to a win over Georgia in the Championship game.

The name "Thrasher" also appeared at a California high school's competition to build the best gingerbread house. The task is one of the various tasks that Pioneer High School in Redding uses to teach skills necessary for working with others.

"Team Thrasher" was one of 20 teams involved in the competition. After being judged by district officials, the gingerbread houses were sent to the Good News Rescue Mission to serve as table centerpieces for the mission's holiday meals.

According to a student at Pioneer, Team Thrasher took its name because the advisor's son works for *Thrasher Magazine*.

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Fond Memories of My Grandfather

By Barbara Eger

My grandfather, Wallace Crawford Thrasher, died more than 50 years ago, but he is still so very alive in my thoughts and memories. He and my grandmother, Mae (born Mary Ellen Edwards) raised me after my parents separated in the late 1930s. Always warm and loving, theirs is the only home I remember for most of my growing up years.

My grandmother worked hard at making your basic tomboy behave "like a lady," but Grandpie must have really frustrated her! He taught me all kinds of "ungirly" things - from how to fish (including putting the worm on without flinching!), how to shoot reasonably straight, and how to whistle. I cannot even begin to guess how many times I heard "a whistling woman and a crowing hen will surely come to some bad end" from Dearie. Grandpie taught me other skills that were even more valuable in adulthood, such as how to drive a nail straight, measure and saw a board, and read a blueprint, along with the basics of how electricity and plumbing worked.

The oldest son of Willis Edgar Thrasher and Pallen Cochrane Thrasher, he grew up in Pinellas County, Florida, when it was still a part of Hillsborough County. He married and then left Florida sometime around 1912 or 1913 with one of his brothers because the Florida economy was bad (anyone hear history repeating itself?). My mother was born in Moline, Ill., their first stop. Evidently his brother

Edgar later returned to Florida and my grandparents moved to Pennsylvania, where they remained until their deaths. My grandfather never stopped missing his home state, and I remember him always saying proudly that he was a Florida Cracker! He played the piano, favoring Stephen Foster songs and, in season, Christmas carols.

Today it occurs to me to wonder how things like fresh oranges and grapefruit got to our table - there weren't super-market produce sections during WWII! I've come to the conclusion that somehow family in Florida must have sent fruit in season - although where it came from the rest of the year I have no idea. My grandmother had a little dwarf kumquat tree that she took tender care of, letting it enjoy the outdoors in warm weather but installing it by a sunny dining room window in cold. However, I know that plant, which was small even to my childish eyes, didn't produce any great number of fruits!

Unfortunately, it was years after Grandpie's death before I realized how unusual he was. Born in 1885, he was of a generation that had sharply defined roles for boys and girls. This evidently simply never crossed his mind. A believer that girls could do anything that boys could, he truly was a man before his time. I wish I had been quicker to realize this and tell him how grateful I am and how much I still love and miss him.

EDITOR'S CORNER



I'm going to really be nagging at the reunion. Other than a few faithful souls, the record of member newsletter contributions is really dismal! I know you all are doing things, going places, etc., or have some family pictures that might be of interest. What about genealogical material such as deeds, marriage or pension records and such? Please think about it.

Did you know? The Union siege lines and Confederate defensive lines were marked during the first decade of the 20th century by many of the veterans who fought at Vicksburg, thus making Vicksburg National Military Park one of the most accurately marked military parks in the world.

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>.

The Thrasher Newsletter

Editor: Barbara Eger Circulation: John E. Thrasher III Volume 27 No. 4 August 2009



Thrasher Family Association
June 2009
Vicksburg, MS

Group photo by Billy H. Thrasher



Clockwise from upper left: George C. and Gloria Thrasher; Buddy Thrasher and Lester Thrasher; Tom and Sande Thrasher; Juanita and Billy H. Thrasher, Jim Moule and Gail Thrasher; Eleanor and John E. Thrasher; Trudy Thrasher, Shirley and Charlie Brewer, Helen Raye Thrasher, Buddy Thrasher, Marshall Thrasher, Glenda Thrasher and Dale Thrasher; Helen Raye Thrasher,



Another Year, Another Reunion -- But Oh What Fun We Had!

The reunion dates were Friday through Sunday, but if early arrivals are any indication, the reunion gets more popular every year. There were several Thursday arrivals and even two on Wednesday. It was especially nice to see Shirley Brewer, Glenda Thrasher and Bill S. Thrasher able to be with us after all three had suffered serious health problems during the past year.

Buddy and Glenda Thrasher hosted a successful event that had something for everyone. The National Military Park was probably the most popular site, with its driving tour of the battle sites and the cemetery and also the USS Cairo Museum, but the levee murals and other attractions garnered their share. The casinos even got a "look-see."

The Holiday Inn Express staff went out of their way to be welcoming and seemed to come up with a solution for every request. The weather was hot (it was, after all, Mississippi in June!), but the only time there was rain was at an hour when it didn't matter.

On Friday evening the Walnut Hills restaurant in the Historic District not only lived up to its promise of good old-fashioned Southern home-cooked food, but was a really interesting venue. Located in a restored house, the large round-table seating let everyone in the group visit over dinner. The family-style food service offered a large selection of tasty dishes. Saturday night at the Beechwood provided another really good dinner. With choices ranging from crab cakes to steak and everything in between, no one went back to the motel hungry.



Saturday night at the Beechwood -- everyone's ready to eat!

Saturday afternoon everyone gathered for a brief program followed by our business meeting.

Jim Moule gave a presentation on the migration of the Mid-Atlantic Thrashers across the country and also on their service in the Civil War. Then a video was shown of the burial with Full Military Honors of Col. Warren Thrasher at Arlington National Cemetery last September.

The annual meeting took care of regular business, including the unanimous re-election of our officers. John E. Thrasher III, Nancy Thrasher Cherry and Buddy

Thrasher agreed to serve another year. The meeting minutes are included with this issue so that you may learn all the details of the session.

To wind things up there were lots of door prizes, including lovely crocheted items hand-made by Gloria Thrasher. Gloria also made towel favors for the ladies in attendance. Everyone had fun with a game devised by Billy H. Thrasher based on identifying individuals in pictures from last year's reunion.

The Thrasher Family Cookbooks made their debut and were very much admired by everyone. Sales were brisk, not only for personal copies, but quite a few people were buying extra copies for friends and family as well. Eleanor Thrasher did a really spectacular job putting it all together and bringing this project to such a successful conclusion.

There was no one able to make a definite commitment to host the 2010 reunion, so please think about volunteering. If you think you would be interested let John E. know.

News and Notes

50 Years and Counting!

Congratulations go to two TFA member couples, both of whom are celebrating 50 years of marriage. Buddy and Glenda Thrasher's 50th anniversary was in June and Charlie and Shirley (Thresher) Brewer will celebrate theirs later this month. Best wishes for continued happiness to all four!



Buddy and Glenda Thrasher and son Marshall

Buddy and Glenda Thrasher were married June 28, 1959, in Corinth, Mississippi. On June 27 they celebrated their 50th anniversary with a renewal of their vows in the Immanuel Baptist Church Chapel in Steens (Columbus), Miss. Their families and many well wishers attended the ceremony and the reception afterward.

They went to Biloxi for what Glenda said was really their first honeymoon since they didn't get to have one when they were married. She added that while they toured the town and did a little gambling, they mostly just relaxed.

Buddy and Glenda had three children, Bobby Glenn, Patricia Joy, and Marshall Eugene. Descendants of all three children attended the ceremony, which Marshall, a minister, performed. Also attending were both mothers, Ruth Catalanotto and Mary Lorene Pridmore Thrasher.

Charlie and Shirley (Thresher) Brewer will celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary with a reception on Friday August 28, 2009. It will be held in the community room of Community South Bank in Parsons, Tennessee, hosted by their children and their spouses: Eddie & Tammy; Ann; David & Debbie; and Mark & Leia.

Charlie and Shirley were married on Saturday August 29, 1959, at Darden, Tennessee. Shirley's parents were James Oliver and Elma (Hardin) Thresher of Lambethville, Arkansas. James Oliver Thresher's parents were James Leighton and Lula Cindi (Morrow) Thresher. James Oliver's grandfather was George Washington Thresher, son of Samuel Marion Thresher.

Graduation Congratulations

Steven Gary Johnson, son of Robert and Anne Johnson of Lakewood, Calif., graduated from St. John Bosco High School on Saturday, May 23, 2009. In August he will enter Long Beach State University, where he has received a full scholarship. In addition to his academic achievements at St. John Bosco he was a member of the band and was on the golf team.

Steven is the grandson of Hazele Thresher Johnson and great-nephew of Lester Thresher, both of whom are members of the association.

Get Your Cookbooks Now!

The TFA cookbook made its debut at the reunion and was a big success! Everyone agreed that Eleanor Thrasher had done a wonderful job turning all the recipes and stories submitted into a beautiful book and supplement.

If you haven't gotten yours yet, send your order to Eleanor at 6424 S.E. 169th Ave., Micanopy, FL 32667. Cost per copy is \$15 plus \$2.50 mailing expense. And remember this also will make a great gift, and Christmas is coming!

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More News and Notes

Directory Additions and Changes

E-Mail Address Changes:

Shirley Brewer's name should have an underline rather than a dash:
<shirley_brewer@hotmail.com>
Fayra Ray has a new address:
<waynerfayraray@bbl.coop>

New Members:

Peggy Thrasher Law
1200 Trailwood Drive
Watkinsville, Ga 30677
706-474-1650
Peggythrasherlaw@gmail.com

James C. Moule
625 Spruce St.
Berkeley, CA 4707-1729
510-525-1163
jmoule@earthlink.net

David Reynolds Thrasher, Dr.
3518 Oak Grove Circle
Montgomery, Al 36116
334-260-1660
drthrasher@charter.net

George D. and Rhonda Thrasher
59 Trace Chain Rd.
Woodbine, GA
912-729-3073
gdthrasher@tds.net

Kenneth C. Thrasher
726 Racewater Dr.
Myrtle Beach, SC 29588
834-293-4082
kt007@sprynet.com

New Additions to the Family!



Al and Peggy Thrasher have two brand-new grandchildren. Henry Adair and Tessa Florence Stuckey arrived in the world March 1, 2009.

Their parents are Steve and Julielynn (Thrasher) Stuckey.

Al and Peggy went out to Byers, Colorado for the babies' homecoming and then returned home to get their motorhome ready to travel back, spending the month of April there. Note to Peggy: Yes, it snows in Colorado in April and depending on where you are it can even snow in JULY! Congratulations to both the parents and the grandparents!

Softball Champ!

Lauren Amanda Thrasher was selected as one of the top 80 high school softball players in the state by the Georgia Dug-out Club. As one of the players selected she participated in a July tournament in Woodstock, GA. She is the daughter of George D. and Rhonda Thrasher and the granddaughter of George C. and Gloria Thrasher. George C. wrote that this is a special honor since Lauren is only 16 and will begin her junior year in high school in the fall. He added that Lauren may be able to use her softball ability to earn a college scholarship.

Way to go, Lauren! Keep it up!

EDITOR'S CORNER



It was really great to have so much happy news for this issue; send more! Births, marriages, anniversaries, graduations, special accomplishments -- all are very welcome.

Thank you to Helen Raye Thrasher for the report on the Troy reunion and for the information and picture from Buddy and Glenda's celebration. Thanks to Dale Thrasher and Nancy and Bill Cherry for sharing their reunion pictures. A really HUGE thank you goes out to Billy H. Thrasher for once again producing our group picture. His talent for enhancing photos with great background settings and making sure anyone missing from the shot is included is great.

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>.

Report on A Different Thrasher Reunion

(Helen Raye Thrasher was able to attend a reunion of another Thrasher group and this is her report on the event.)

Descendants of three sons of John C. Thrasher (1790 SC -1869 AL) gathered at the "Lazy T Farm" in Troy, Ala., on May 23. The three sons were: Joshua (1810 TN - after 1880 AL), John W. (1813 TN - 1899 AL), and Joseph Theodore, Jr. (1818 AL - after 1880 AL).

Many descendants of John W. Thrasher attended. They were:

1. Descendants of Marvin Thomas Thrasher (gggs)

Patricia (dau) and James Waller
Larry Paul (son) and Catherine Thrasher
Beverly (dau) and Rick Gail
Mary Virginia (dau) and Jack Pelham
Brenda (gdau) and Jenna (ggdau) Pelham
Sandy Lynn Pelham (gdau)
Jack Darren (gson) and Kay Pelham and James (ggson)
Dorothy Lee Thrasher Smith (gdau)

2. Descendants of Jesse Norwood Thrasher (gggs)

James (son) and Frankie Thrasher
Janet (gdau) and Charles Winston and Trey (ggs)
Valerie (gdau) and Randy Moon and Sophie (ggd)

3. Descendants of John Garland Thrasher (gggs)

Kenneth Wayne (son) and Wanda Thrasher
Cindy (gdau) and Michael Sealy and John (ggs) and Katherine (ggd)
Amy (gdau) and Nick DiMario and Sophia (ggd) and Gabby (ggd)

Some family members of Marvin Thomas Thrasher's wife, Ivalee Johnson Thrasher, also attended: Clara Carrington Riley and her daughter, Sherry Riley Smalley.

Helen Raye Thrasher is the daughter of George Martin Thrasher (ggs), descendant of Joseph Theodore Thrasher.

In spite of rain, which continued off and on all day, everyone had a good time touring the farm on a tractor ride, dancing, and playing games. On a serious note each family segment presented their members. Helen Raye Thrasher explained how everyone descended from John Thrasher. Delicious food was provided by all who attended and once again proved that Thrashers are great cooks and enthusiastic eaters.

Robert Patton (Buddy) Thrasher (gggs) of Joshua, his wife, Glenda, and mother, Mary, from Columbus, Miss., had also planned to attend but were involved in an auto accident and could not complete their trip to Troy.

It's that time of year again!

Remember that the membership year for the association ends June 30. This is the last newsletter for the 2008-2009 year and a renewal form is enclosed. Don't miss out on all the news for the coming year -- quite a few of you have already renewed, but if you haven't yet then do it now!!

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Minutes of Thrasher Family Association Meeting June 13, 2009 **Vicksburg, Mississippi**

Attending: Charlie and Shirley Brewer of Parsons, TN; Bill and Nancy Cherry of Beltsville, MD; Barbara Eger of Dade City, FL; Frances Leitner of Jacksonville, FL; Jan Miller of White Oak, GA; Jim Moule of Berkeley, CA; Ken and Anna Sutherland of Jacksonville, FL; Bill S. and Gail Thrasher of Montgomery, AL; Billy H. and Juanita Thrasher of Live Oak, FL; Marshall and Katie Thrasher of Columbus, MS; Buddy (Robert P.) and Glenda Thrasher of Columbus, MS; Dale and Trudy Thrasher of Leesburg, FL; Helen Raye Thrasher of Birmingham, AL; Tom and Sande Thrasher of Villa Park, CA; George C. and Gloria Thrasher of Hampton, GA; John and Eleanor Thrasher of Micanopy, FL; Lester Thresher of Oxnard, CA

The annual business meeting of the Thrasher Family Association (TFA) was called to order by Chair John E. Thrasher III at 4 o'clock p.m. on Saturday, June 13, 2009, in the meeting room of the Holiday Inn Express in Vicksburg, Mississippi. The business meeting had been preceded by a program, is described later in this document.

Anniversaries: After welcoming everyone, Chairman John E. opened the meeting by congratulating two couples celebrating landmark anniversaries this year. Dale and Trudy celebrated their 60th anniversary on February 19 and were honored at a reception, hosted by their children, in Maryland on March 21. Buddy and Glenda will mark their 50th anniversary on June 27 with a renewal of their vows and a reception.

Minutes: Copies of the minutes from last year's meeting were distributed. Dale's motion to accept the minutes as written was seconded by Glenda and passed unanimously. Although no one realized it at the time, the names of Bill and Nancy Cherry were omitted from the list of those attending the 2008 reunion in Kingsland, GA.

Treasurer's Report: Buddy opened an account at Trustmark Bank in Columbus, MS on July 3, 2008 with \$505 collected from dues at the Kingsland reunion plus funds from sale of Grady Thrasher's books. This figure was supplemented by transfer of funds from the previous bank in Montgomery, Alabama, and by the 2008 dues mailed in after the reunion, to create a total of \$3,349.25. Expenditures for checks from the new bank, DNA sponsorships, and newsletter expenses reduced the treasury to \$1,912.72 by the time of the 2009 reunion. Dale offered a motion to accept the treasurer's report, and Barbara seconded it. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote. A copy of the treasurer's report is attached to these minutes.

Committee Reports:

Nancy reported that there are now 42 male participants in the DNA project, two of whom joined in the past week. She circulated an Excel chart showing the marker values for each participant in the tests, but with names and kit numbers removed. Nancy requested that study participants revisit their FTDNA webpages to review and update their indicated preferences regarding disclosure to participants of DNA tests other than in the Thrasher project. This request stems from the fact that we may be missing some matches if we do not allow disclosure beyond the limits of our own surname project. Participants were also reminded that disclosure of their gedcoms on Y-Search is discretionary, but it would be extremely useful to other researchers.

John E. reminded the group that a committee composed of Buddy, Nancy, and John E. approves use of each full or partial DNA "scholarship" (sponsorship) based on the candidate's financial need and on the likelihood that the candidate's results would fill an existing gap in "paper" genealogy or suggest a new avenue for investigation. In the past year, the TFA has paid for two "scholarships," and the association still has \$455 in FTDNA's General Fund to pay for more. George made a motion, seconded by Helen, that we use the money already in the General Fund before depositing more with FTDNA, but that up to three additional scholarships be available after that, if needed this year. The motion passed unanimously.

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Old Business:

John E. commented on the TFA's fine newsletter and thanked Barbara for the quality product that she produces each quarter. Barbara reminded everyone that she needs current family news - graduations, marriages, births, or promotions, for example - to publish. In the past year, genealogical results papers have been printed as special editions, and John E. expects to publish at least one similar special edition this year.

A few years ago, the Association considered placing tombstones on unmarked Thrasher graves. Celestea and John Paul have been checking Oconee and Clark Counties in Georgia and will report on their findings next year. George and Billy also expect to have reports on cemeteries next year.

Members were asked to let Buddy and/or Barbara know of changes to the TFA Directory. A new directory will be created for next year's reunion.

New Business:

Eleanor announced that the Thrasher Family Cookbooks, which she had compiled, are here. They include more than 200 recipes and the printing company has added beautiful full-color artwork on the cover and the section dividers. Since the company did not allow enough space for Eleanor to include the stories that TFA members submitted with their recipes, Eleanor compiled a separate, supplemental cookbook and had it printed. The set of the two volumes, both spiral bound, is priced at \$15. Eleanor will charge an extra \$2.50 for any copies that must be packaged and mailed.

Nancy reported on the recent National Genealogical Society conference. Over four days, the conference offered more than 200 1-hour sessions, plus a variety of lunches and dinners with speakers. Nancy and Vicky Zuverink met two other Mid-Atlantic Thrasher descendants there. This year's conference was held in Raleigh; the 2010 conference will be in Salt Lake City; and the 2011 conference will be in Charleston.

Nancy also reported that she had found several references in old Baltimore newspapers of J. E. Thrasher visiting friends in Maryland and participating in events meant to strengthen commercial ties between businessmen in central Florida and Maryland. John E. acknowledged that his father had made several trips with merchant groups to the Chesapeake Bay area in the early 1900s, and he thanked Nancy for bringing him copies of the newspaper accounts.

The Thrasher Family Association has become an organization devoted to genealogical research on a number of separate Thrasher/Thresher family lines. Dale, Bill S., Shirley and Lester are working on the William William Thrasher line; George, Sande, Jodie, Jim F. and Billy H. on the "Ol' George" line; Helen and Buddy on the "John C. line (John C. Thrasher, son of Isaac and grandson of John and Ruth Cloud Thrasher); Jim Moule and Nancy on the "Ben the First" line; and Tony and Ken are working fervently on the Benedict/Benjamin line from Virginia and Georgia. And, of course, work continues on the rest of the John and Ruth Cloud Thrasher line.

The website www.thrasher.org is now operational, although still evolving. Nancy's defunct website has been revived by Buddy and Glenda's son Marshall. It now allows individuals to create profiles and to submit stories, pictures, queries or blogs, but all material will be screened by the webmaster before being available for public viewing. Future plans include a page showing DNA marker values (without names of participants), a page on immigrant or first-documentable ancestors (to denote the various Thrasher/Thresher "bloodlines"), and a page of announcements for events such as reunions.

Barbara recommended that all reunion attendees take the time to fill out the hotel's "Smiles" cards to commend hotel staff for exemplary service, courtesy, and good-

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nature. In particular, people should recognize Nikki Saxton for dealing with the myriad details of hosting an active and voluble group such as the TFA for several days. John E. brought reports of current and past TFA members who were unable to be with us this year. Al and Peggy are in Colorado, helping out after the birth of twin grandchildren. Ruth, widow of Rastus, is in a nursing home. John has received notes from Irene Williams and from David and Elise Sumner, saying that they would be unable to attend this year. Shirley Brewer also wrote, expressing her thanks for the prayers and notes of well-wishing that she received during her recent bout with cancer. John commented that we were all so happy that Shirley was recovered and able to attend the reunion to thank us personally. He also expressed his pleasure that Bill S. was well enough to travel and that he and Gail were with us at the reunion.

John also announced with sadness three deaths during the past year. Charlotte and Jodie's son, Thomas David Thrasher, died at the age of 55 in November 2008, leaving a wife, Mary Washburn Thrasher of Kathleen, Georgia; a son and daughter-in-law, David and Angela of Warner Robins, Georgia; and his parents.

Elizabeth Baldwin of Madison, Georgia, died in March at the age of 95. Elizabeth and her husband Asbury were long-time Thrasher Family Association members.

Bill Boyd Thrasher of Marana, Arizona, passed away in February. He was 80. He and his wife Shari were TFA members and had flown to Maryland for the 2007 reunion. They had compiled a genealogy of some of the descendants of John C. Thrasher, believed to be a son of Isaac, and their research paper was printed in the TFA newsletter of March 2009. Shari has written to John, saying that there is strong possibility that she may soon move to California where the children are.

John E. thanked everyone for the wealth of displays - charts, books, pictures and albums, slide shows, etc. - for review in the meeting room, and he noted special appreciation to our hosts this year, Buddy and Glenda. Additionally, he thanked Jim Moule for the presentations, Gloria for the handmade gift items, and Bill Cherry for the help with video and electronics. He also thanked Billy H. for last year's composite picture of the attendees at Kingsland.

Election: The next item of business was the election of officers. Barbara offered a motion, seconded by Dale, that the current officers be retained in office. John as Chair, Nancy as Secretary, and Buddy as Treasurer were re-elected by acclaim.

Next Year: Several locations have been mentioned as possibilities for next year's reunion: New Orleans, Savannah, Cedar Key (Florida), Chattanooga. At this point, no one has volunteered to host.

Program: The group had convened at 1 pm for a program which included a presentation by Jim Moule on the migration of the Mid-Atlantic Thrashers across the country and on their service in the Civil War; a video of the burial with Full Military Honors of Col. Warren Thrasher at Arlington National Cemetery last September; a game devised by Billy H. Thrasher and based on identifying individuals in pictures from last year's reunion (won by Barbara, 100%); door prizes and a group photo. Following this session, the group meeting recessed until the beginning of the business session at 4 pm.

The business meeting adjourned at 5:05 p.m., and the participants headed for the nearby Beechwood Restaurant for a delightful dinner of seafood, steaks, and regional favorites.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Thrasher Cherry
Recording Secretary

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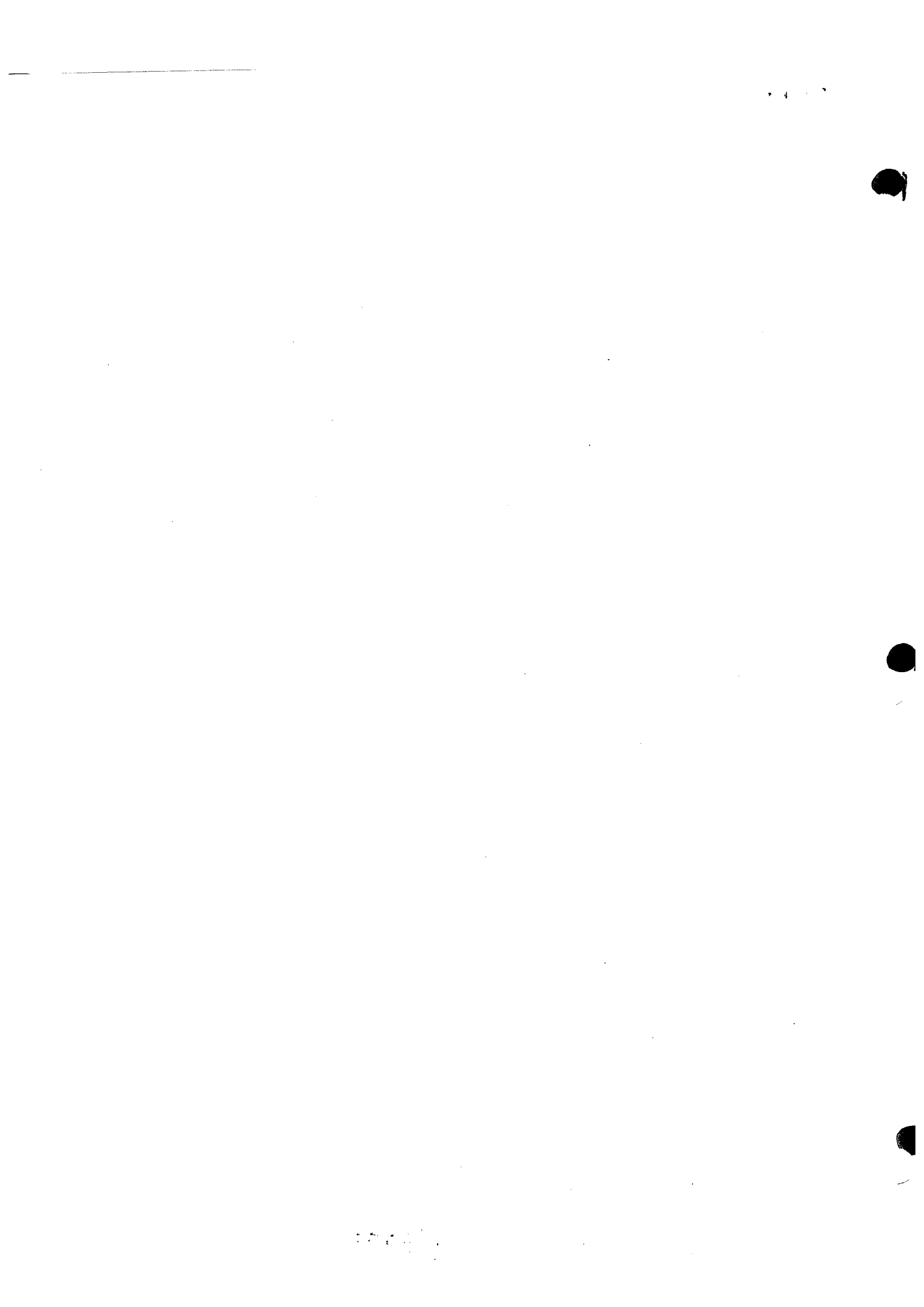
THRASHER FAMILY ASSOCIATION FINANCIAL REPORT 06/12/2009

07/03/2008 Thru 05/31/2009

Transactions	Deposits	Expense	Totals
Opened account at Trustmark Bank Columbus Ms. July 3, 2008 (see note) NOTE: \$200.00 Donation from Grady Thrasher Book sale. NOTE: \$305.00 Dues paid at the Kingsland Ga reunion	\$505.00		
Deposited transfer from Regions Bank Montgomery Al. July 14, 2008	\$1,964.25		
Dues paid (mailed) after 2008 reunion to TFA for 2009	\$880.00		
Total deposits July 3, 2008 thru May 31, 2009			\$3,349.25
Disbursements:			
FTDNA Thrasher/Thrasher general account (see Note)		\$919.00	
NOTE: Balance in FTDNA account 04/29/2009 \$455.00			
Newsletter expense		\$452.43	
Reimbursement of overpaid dues		\$40.00	
THRASHER FAMILY ASSOCIATION Trustmark Checks		\$25.10	
Disbursements 07/03/2008 thru 05/31/2009			\$1,436.53
Balance 5/31/2009			\$1,912.72

Robert Thrasher Treasury


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The Thrasher Newsletter

Editor: Barbara Eger Circulation: John E. Thrasher III Volume 27 No. 4A October 2009

This is a special supplemental issue of *The Thrasher Newsletter*. In publishing Jodie Thrasher's story we wish to recognize one of the longtime members of the TFA with an intimate view of a part of that family's unique history.

Nancy Cherry has fond memories of Thrasher French Fries, as she recalls in the following paragraphs:

"Everyone in the mid-Atlantic region of the East Coast spends some time each year in Ocean City, Maryland, or Rehoboth, Delaware. And almost everyone makes a bee-line for the Thrasher's French Fry stands. Thrasher's French Fries are as much a part of the beach experience as the sand and the surf.

"Southern Magazine called them the "World's Best Fries" in 2007. USA Today gave them a nod as one of the ten best places to get fries in the US. Beachgoers stand in lines 50 or more deep to order at the boardwalk stands. Other than Pepsi and Diet Pepsi, the fries are the only thing on the stands' menu. When the piping hot fries are handed across the counter, many customers choose to douse them in cider vinegar, in the traditionally British way. Ketchup is not an option.

"For years I'd hoped to uncover the origins of the business. No one seemed to know where the business got its name, although I'd been told "England" and "Virginia Beach." So it was with a great deal of excitement that I learned that the keeper of the secret was a member of the Thrasher Family Association. It turns out that Jodie Thrasher has quite a few interesting tidbits to tell, as you'll find out in his story."

When asked for permission to print his story, Jodie Thrasher said "Charlotte and I received so much help from many people in our search for family trees (some of which we found later not to be accurate) that we are happy to share what we have with anyone interested.

"It certainly is okay to share the article about my father's business ventures. He often talked about his situation; with a fourth grade education he had to be in business for himself to make a decent living.

"I remember him going to Bell Bomber Plant north of Atlanta and applying for a job as a security guard. He was told he did not have enough education to be a guard. He told them "I own nine businesses in four states that the War Manpower Commission has declared non-essential to the war effort and can't be opened for the summer season and you say I don't have sense enough to be a guard?"

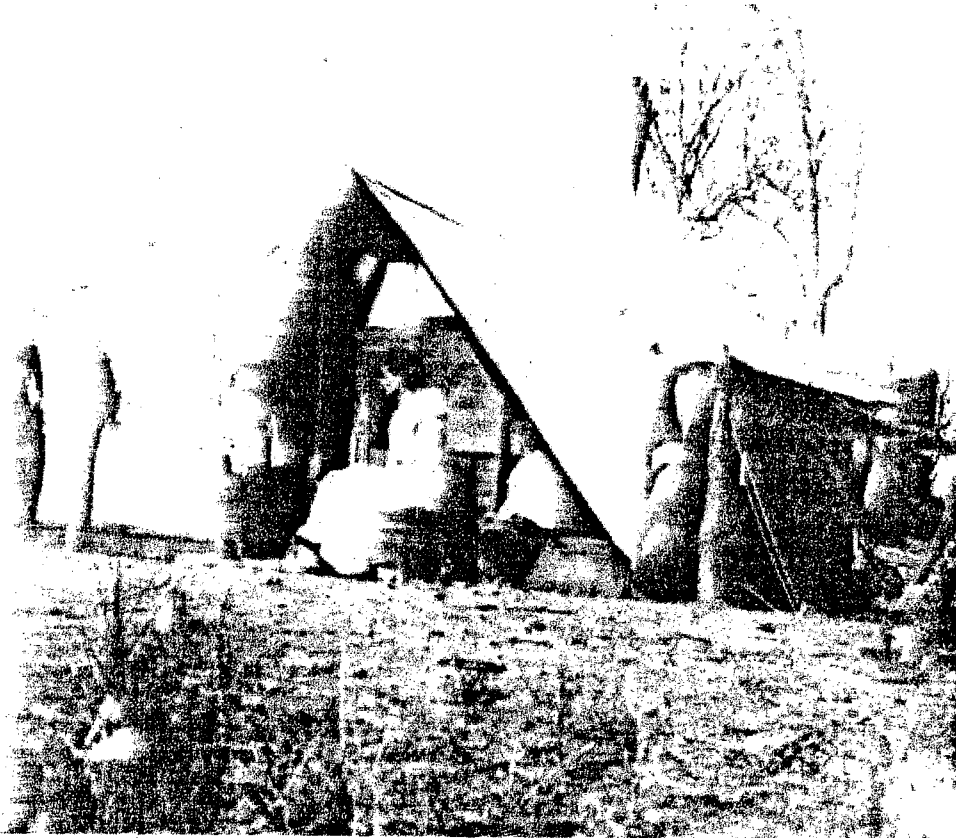
"He returned home to Winder and got a job as a weaver in the cotton mill for \$15 a week until he found a cabinet shop he could buy to build wooden toys and vanity and piano benches until the summer of 1944 when he was allowed to reopen the stores in Ocean City.

"He also built three 500-chick broiler houses and bought 2 milk cows and kept me busy before and after school milking the cows and feeding the chickens. It sure added to my education. During my last year in high school dad had me carry three quarts of milk to the school lunchroom each morning to get three lunch tickets for me and my two sisters."

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Jodie Thomas Thrasher, Sr 1903-1980

Jodie (Joe) Thomas Thrasher, the 4th son of John and Cora Kimberly Thrasher, was born on September 15th 1903 in Bosque Co., Texas. John and Cora were married at the home of her parents Noah Washington and Delila Walden Kimberley in Cleburne Co., Alabama, where their first two sons, Grady and Arthur were born. John's father, William Benjamin Thrasher, a Civil War Veteran, and two brothers Frank and Marshall also moved their families to Texas. William Benjamin Thrasher's wife Martha Jane Brannon died and he married a young girl named Jeannie Taylor on Jan 10, 1904 and bought farm land near Kennedale, TX where he erected a tent to live in.

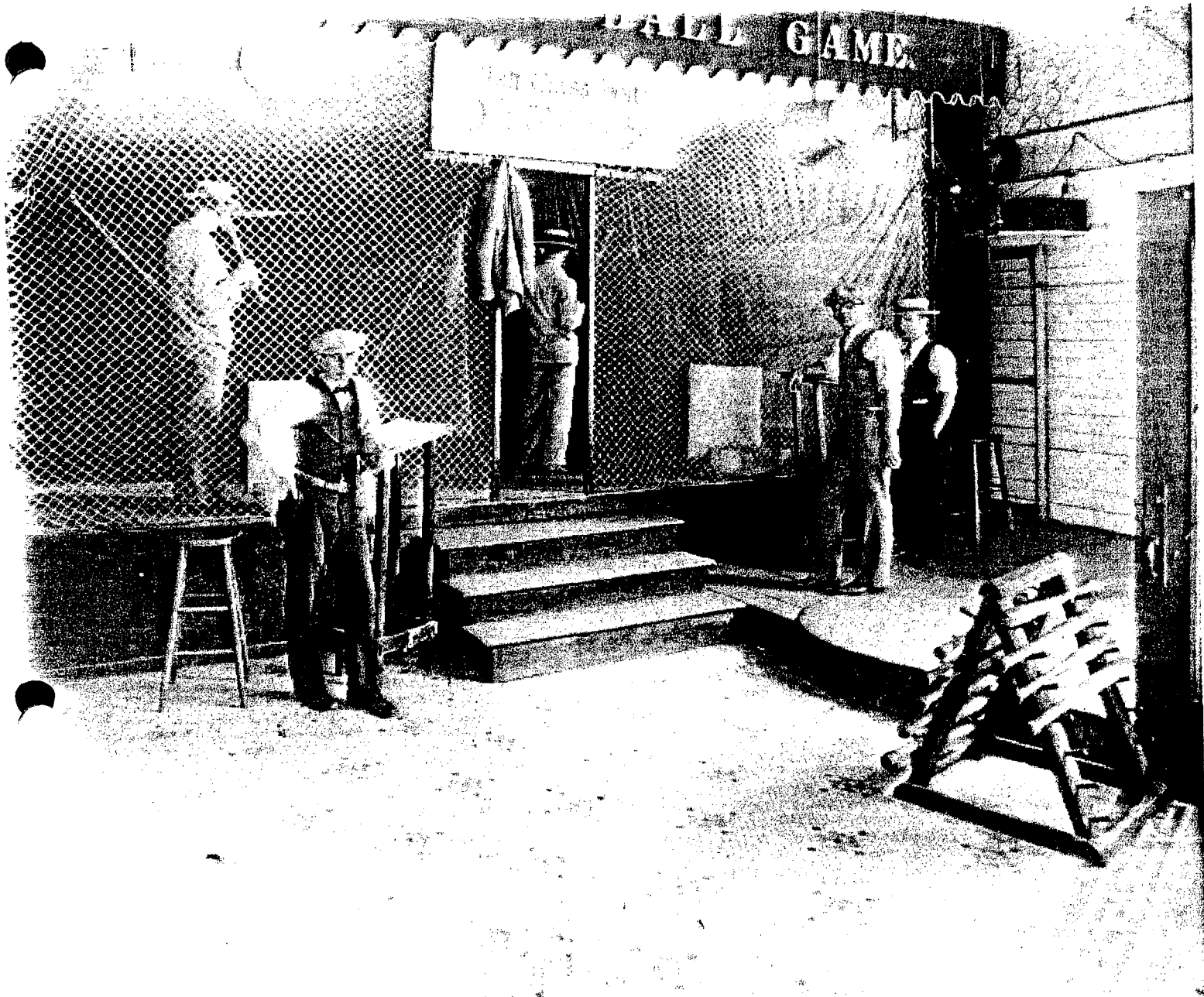


Times were very hard and John and family worked as farm workers and migrant cotton pickers from middle to northern Texas.

In the fall of 1909 a farmer wanted a family who could pick a bale of cotton a day on a farm about 80 miles north of Fort Worth in the Red River Valley. Grady and Arthur lived in a tent. At Christmas 1909 Joe received a cap pistol, Grady dropped and broke it. The next year they moved to Ringold, Texas where Joe attend a school which had seats for 28 students. The next year the cow died and they skinned it and sold the hide.

Then they moved to Birdville, Tx. where Joe attended school. The family worked on a farm known as the Angel place, Dr. Angel was a vet. and ran a stud horse farm. John applied to move onto an Indian Reservation but was disapproved as being only 1/16th Indian. The family moved to Dallas, Tx. by the 1910 census where John worked as a teamster hauling gravel.

The older sons left school at a young age to go to work to help support the family. Jodie only completed four years of school. He worked as a bicycle messenger as a lad and was a Boy Scout. One day in 1916 a truck hit him and there was an out of court cash settlement. He always resented his father for getting the money and keeping it. He repaired his bicycle and was very proud of being able to re-spoke and true the wheels at such a young age which was an indication of his mechanical talents.



Jodie Thrasher wearing glasses

Jodie Thrasher wrote in a letter, "I first went into business in Macon (GA) in a store on Cherry Street about the middle of the block that Dempsey Hotel is, it was there and then was on other side of Cherry Street (552 Cherry Street - McLellan Building). Was only there 5 or 6 weeks and sold the game to a Mr. Beddingfield. The one that owned a farm where the Beddingfield subdivision is now. The Solomon's were in automobile business then and the Dickey family was in the tire business. Mr. Bible and I built another baseball machine and put it up across the street from the Candler building (Atlanta). It was there from 1924 to 1928. I sold it in 1927. The machine was built at the Taylor Iron Works in Macon."

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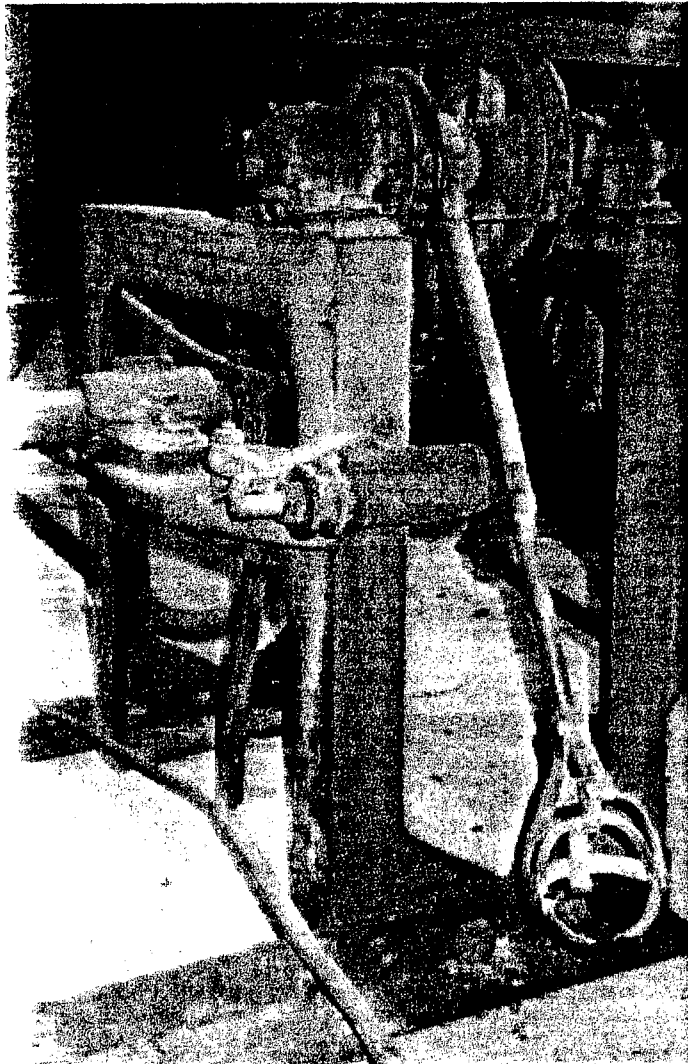
His older brothers Grady, Arthur and Lee went to work for Grinnell Sprinkler Co. as sprinkler fitters. Joe also joined his brothers as a teenage pipe fitter where he learned the pipe trade but the weight of the pipes deformed his shoulder as he was growing. He had most of his suits handmade by tailors because of his shoulder problem. His younger brother Harvey later joined the other brothers and all became union pipefitters traveling the south on construction jobs.

About 1920 Jodie Thrasher was employed by Philip L. Bible in Dallas, Texas as a score keeper in an indoor batting baseball game. The baseball pitching machine was built about 1916. It was partly made of wood and used a watch type spring to power the throwing arm and a door check device to slow the arm to release the ball. The business was very successful and they decided to start a chain of batting ballgames. Mr. Bible offered him 25% ownership to move to Georgia and operate games in Atlanta, Macon and Birmingham.

While in Atlanta, Joe, as he was usually called, employed a man by the name of Leo Farr as a scorekeeper. Leo's wife, Sue Dell Perry Farr, introduced him to her first cousin, Myrtle Sue Robison. They were married on February 27, 1927 at the bride's parent's William Hardin and Susie Pearl Jennings Robison's home in Winder, Ga. and set up housekeeping in Macon, GA. Myrtle graduated from High School in Monroe, GA, attended The State Normal School in Athens where she was trained to be a school teacher and taught in public schools for several years. She kept the books and handled the correspondence for their businesses.

Another baseball pitching machine was built and operated in Macon in 1926 and 1927. They were sued for patent infringement and lost the case. In 1928 they moved to Birmingham, Alabama where their son, Jodie, Jr. was born.

Working with machinists at the steel mills, designed, built and patented a new pitching machine which was all metal, using a Canadian steel spring and a modified motorcycle piston filled with oil to slow the arm to release the ball. It was much more reliable in operation and threw a more accurate ball. Nine double throwing machines were built, an experimental, a prototype and seven production models before the stock market crash of 1929. Their Patent, No. 1,733,394, was granted on October 29, 1929, the actual day of the crash. Due to the depression none of the machines sold were ever paid for.

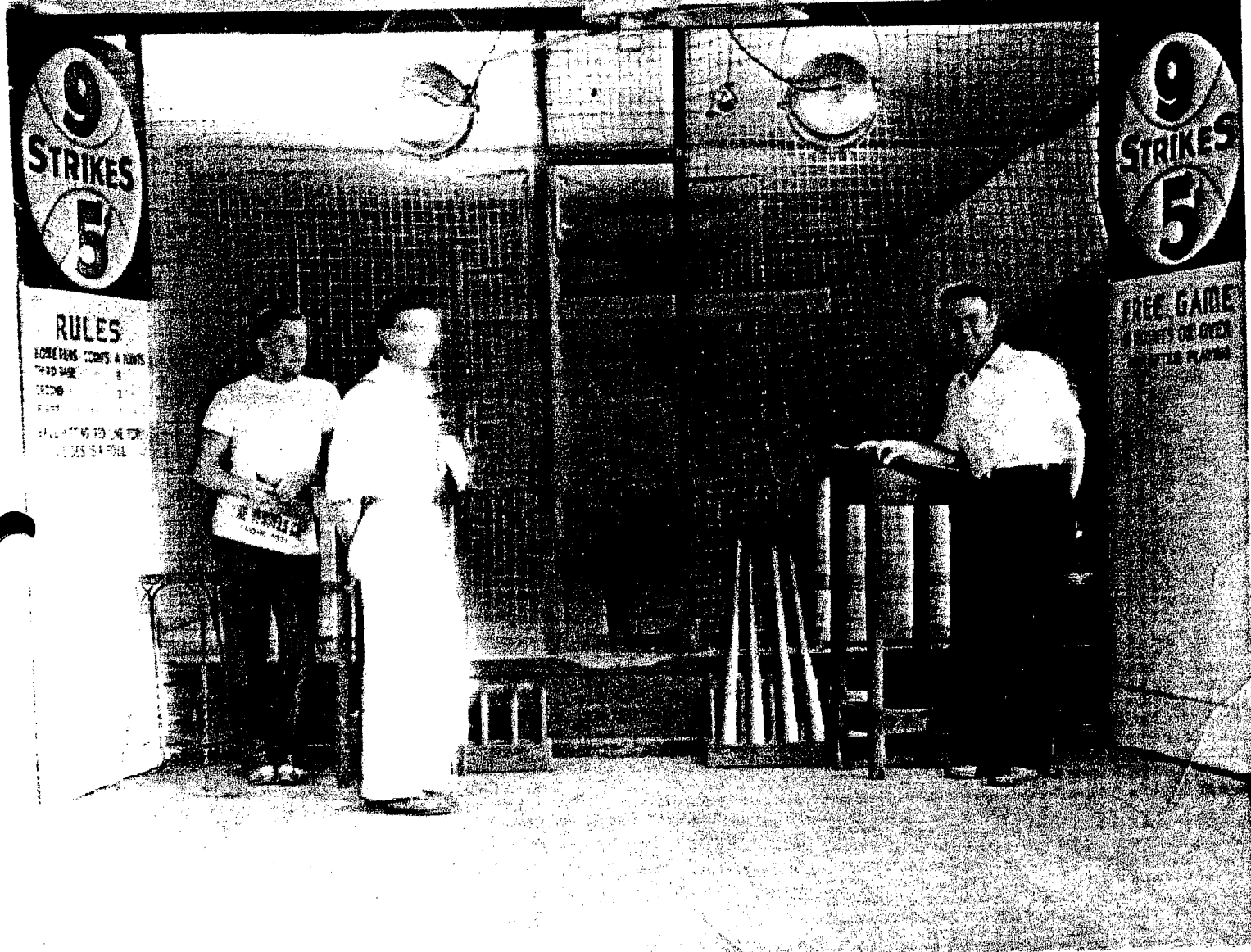


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Joe Thrasher eventually recovered three machines and operated ballgames in Birmingham, Alabama; Little Rock, Arkansas; Louisville, KY; Dayton and Cincinnati, Ohio during 1928 and 1929. Their first daughter, Betty Ann was born in Dayton in December 1929.

During the summer of 1929 he became sick due to the extreme heat in Ohio and a doctor told him about an island on the coast of Maryland where the wind always comes across water making the summer temperatures cool.

In the spring of 1930 he moved the family to Ocean City, MD and opened a ballgame in one of Joe Rappaport's buildings on the boardwalk. He sublet a three-room apartment from Harry and Cora Scott on Dorchester Street over the Bank of Ocean City. In 1931 he moved the ballgame to the Pier Building where it remained until 1957.



Spencer David Blackwelder, Jodie Thrasher, Sr. Joseph H. Hopkins.

About 1931 or 1932 he built a building on the boardwalk in Rehoboth Beach, DE and opened a ballgame there. The family was living in Rehoboth the summer of 1932 when a hurricane hit the Maryland and Delaware coast but suffered no personal loss. Rehoboth being on the mainland and was much warmer in the summer so Joe moved the family back to Ocean City in 1933 and hired Jack and Margaret Dentino who had been operating Rudy Dolle's merry-go-round to operate the ballgame in Rehoboth. About 1935 or 1936 Jack and Margaret's daughter Mary and son-in-law Bill Fisk took over the Rehoboth ballgame and Jack and Margaret became partners with Joe in a new venture with a double ballgame and shooting gallery.

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in Wildwood, NJ. During the winter of 1932-33 he operated a ballgame in Athens, Ga near the University of Georgia campus. Their second daughter Dorothy was born in December 1932 while living in Athens.

Joe rented a second store space in the Pier Building in Ocean City where he designed, built and operated games. These included a pig slide where customers threw balls at a target which tripped doors to elevated pig pens where baby pigs would come out, go down a sliding board and run through a hole to the back where a man named George would catch, feed and put them back into their pens for the next customer, a wagering game with a counter with colored spaces and numbers and a rotating table with cups of corn under holes around the edge. A white rat would be released at the center of the table to run into a numbered and colored hole with the players betting on that number or color would be winners. Another game was called "Break Up the Kitchen" where imperfect china dishes were placed on racks and the customers would throw baseballs to see how many dishes they could break for prizes.

From the fall of 1934 until September 1936 Joe rented a house in West Ocean City from Mae Quillen who soon after sold it to Bill Sinnomin and began part time farming with a garden, chickens and hogs and during the winter worked in the nearby WPA sand pit where a crew of men loaded sand trucks with hand shovels.

In the fall on 1936 Joe began moving the family back to Winder, GA for the winter months while he operated ballgames in Atlanta and various cities in Georgia. About 1938 he began operating a ball game at Funland Park in Miami, FL which was the winter quarters for Endy Brothers Carnival Co. During the winter of 1938-1939 he noticed an elderly couple was selling french fried potatoes in pie plates along with hamburgers. The thought occurred to him that a french fry stand might go over in Ocean City. In 1939 he and Myrtle opened THRASHER'S French Fried potatoes in the same Rapport building the baseball game was in 1930.

Initially they used deep frying pans filled with Wesson Oil sitting over gas burners and sold french fries in cone cups for 10 cents, ½ pint cups for 15 cents and pint cups for 25 cents. Many customers asked for ketchup and vinegar. Ketchup was eliminated very soon because some people would buy a 10 cent cone of potatoes and dump a 25 cent bottle of ketchup on them. In a very short time all the nearby hamburger and hot dog stands took their ketchup off the counters also.

In the early days, they experimented with many varieties of potatoes. The only locally grown potatoes which would brown were the limited supply of red skin potatoes carried over from the previous year which had been covered by straw and mounded over with dirt. However they found Idaho potatoes would brown. After much investigation they learned Idaho potatoes were shipped across the country in refrigerated rail cars. This led to the discovery that refrigeration converted the starch to sugar giving the potatoes a sweeter taste. This led him to the executives at Lays potato chip factory in Atlanta where their problem was just the opposite. They were trying to eliminate the dark caramel rings in their chips. Working together both were able to gain better quality control of their products.

One of the first employees hired was Bertha Purnell who helped clean the frying pots and peeled potatoes each summer season until she lost her life in a house fire.

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Bertha Purnell

From the start the potatoes were peeled partially by machine and hand finished to remove blemishes. Slicing was by using manual hand slicers for the first few years. One winter Joe converted one into a foot operated slicer using a commercial sewing machine clutch he obtained from a first cousin who owned BARROW Manufacturing Co., a men's pants factory in Winder, Ga.

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Al Hall peeling potatoes



Joe Jr slices potatoes

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Myrtle and Irma inspect and finish peeling potatoes

THRASHER'S French Fries were popular and profitable from the start. During the winter of 1939-1940 Joe drew plans for, hired carpenters and other workmen and built a three bedroom brick home with a full basement in Winder, Ga. for the family.



Winder, Ga

In the spring of 1940 THRASHER'S French Fries was moved to the Pier Building. The deep frying pans were replaced with deep fat fryers with built in burners located under the oil reservoirs. The new stoves were much easier to use as they had drain valves. As the business grew so did the need for additional stoves. A used free standing "Deep Sea Fryer" was obtained which proved to cook much faster and the cooking oil was lasting longer. The stove had burner tubes through the cooking area and crumbs fell to the bottom where the oil was cooler.

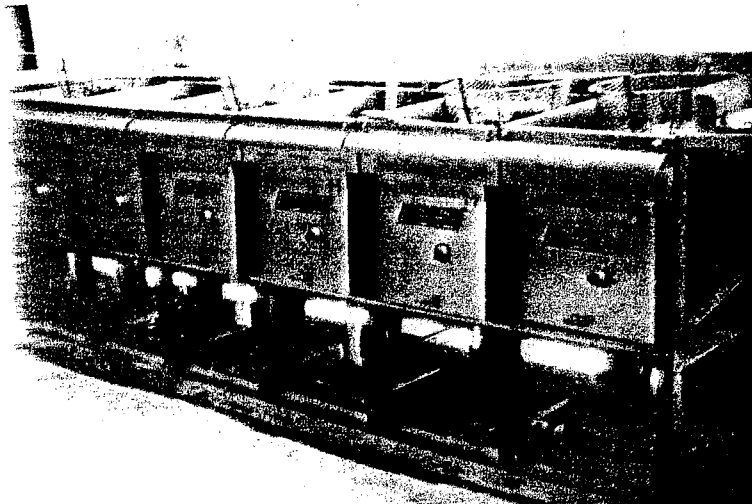
During the summer of 1943 The War Manpower Commission declared the THRASHER'S French Fry business as not essential to the war effort and would not allow the business to open for the summer season.

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The "Deep Sea Fryer" was built by Specialty Appliance Corp. of Chicago, Il. In 1946, after the war was over, eight new stoves was ordered from Specialty Appliance Corp. and shipped to Winder, GA for assembly into a battery of stoves in a new front counter. The new counter was built by the Barrow Cabinet Shop, a new business started by Joe in 1943 which manufactured wooden children's toys, chiffarobes, vanity and piano benches. He also built and operated three chicken broiler houses and a small dairy. While in the broiler business he invented a signal system using a wafer thermostat where if the temperature of the chicken house became too cold or too hot the thermostat would touch an electrical contact and turn on a light in his bedroom.

A customer from Baltimore noticed the new stoves and commented that they were built by his son in Chicago. He introduced himself as Mr. Keating, the father of Dick Keating, President of Specialties Appliance Corp. A few weeks later he brought his son Dick to meet Joe and they became very good friends and consultants to each other. Joe and Myrtle and their Rehoboth partners Jack and Margaret Dentino made about a dozen trips to Chicago to see and work with Dick and his engineers at the factory. Together they developed the Instant Recovery Fryers which cooked food much faster with less oil.

Another modification to the stoves Joe made was to install thermostats to turn on a light when the oil was hot enough to cook potatoes. A competitor had paid a former employee to tell him what temperatures were being used. So all the thermostats were disconnected thereafter.



1946 battery of new stoves

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Thrasher's 1946



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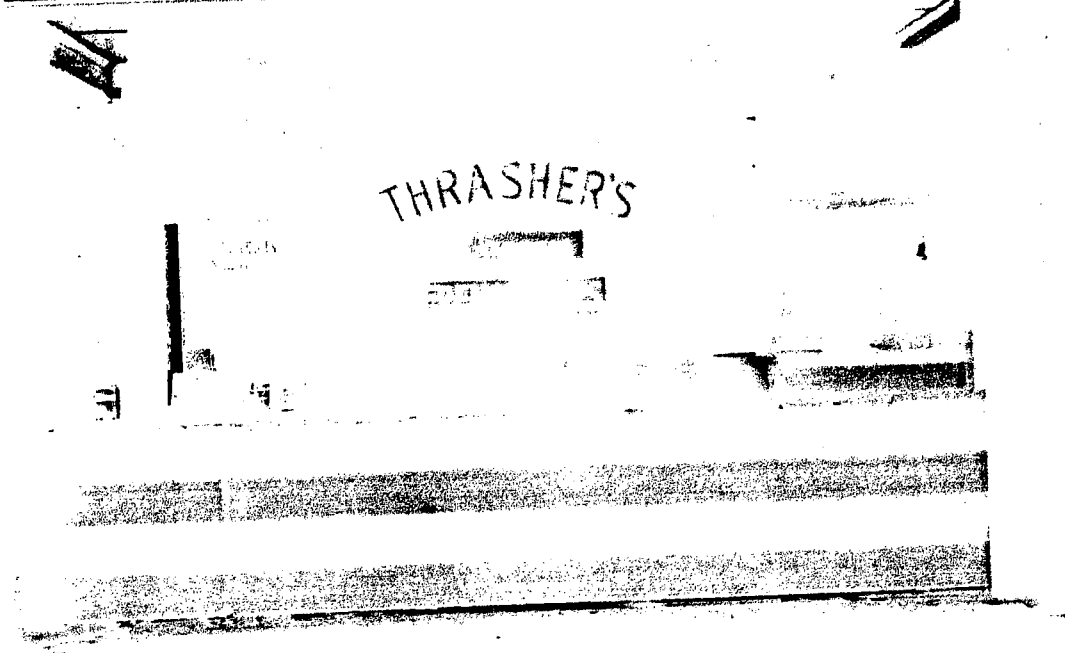


Jodie Thrasher

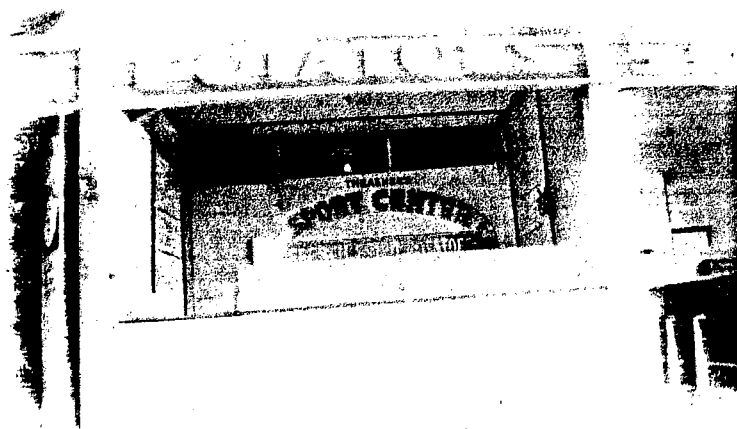
Myrtle Robison Thrasher

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POTATOES



THRASHER'S in Ocean City about 1945



Thrasher's French Fries about 1946 in Rehoboth, Del.

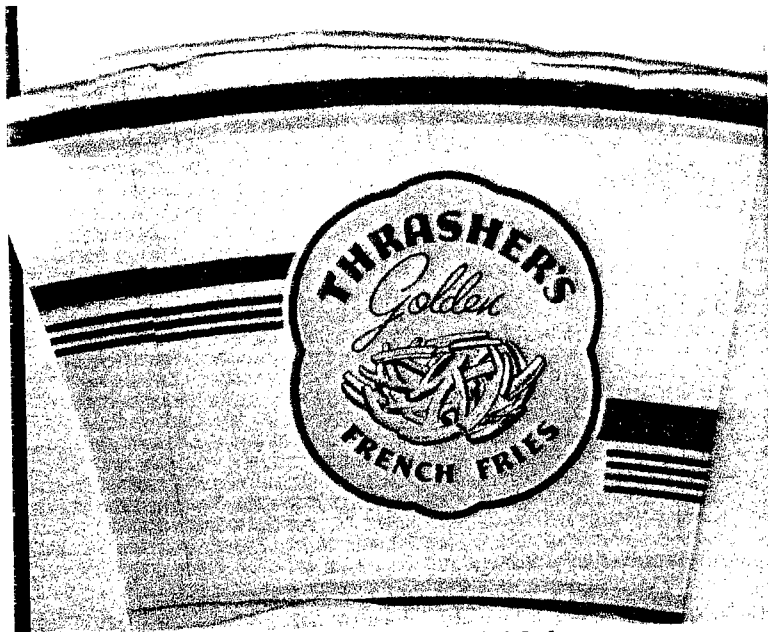
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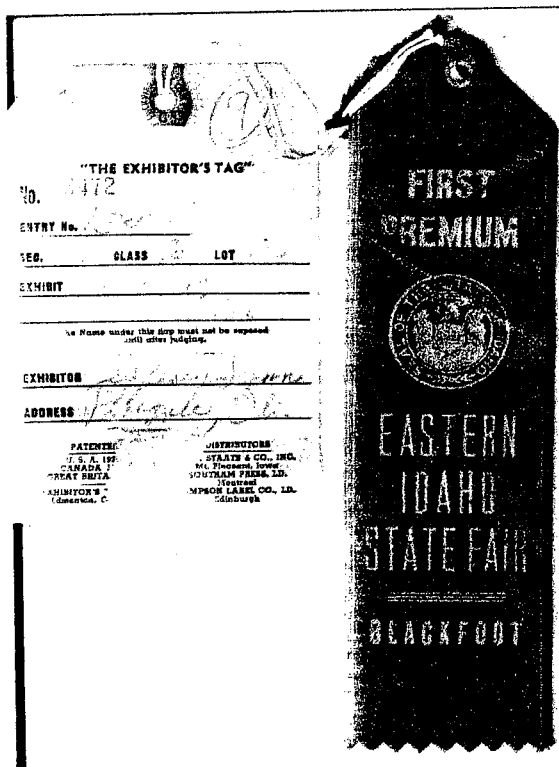
Joe and Myrtle Thrasher's Golden Fries in Ocean City about 1950. All small fryers had been replaced with much more efficient Keating Instant Recovery fryers.

Golden Fry quality was attained by a breakthrough with assistance of the Idaho State Agriculture Commissioner and his staff. The problem was Idaho potato farmers were digging commercial potatoes early to get them to the market and the potatoes were not mature and would not retain their quality. Arrangements were made by the Commissioner of Agriculture with potato distributors to purchase and obtain the mature seed potatoes in October for the following summer season. The potatoes were secretly shipped to Philadelphia for re-bagging and storage so no one would know their source or kind of potatoes they were. The potatoes were very large and averaged 80 potatoes per 100 pound bag. For many years arrangements were made with the Department of Agriculture to purchase the Blue Ribbon and the winning potato at the Blackfoot State Fair for display on the counter the following year. "Thrasher's Golden Fries" were officially trade marked with the U.S. Patent Office.

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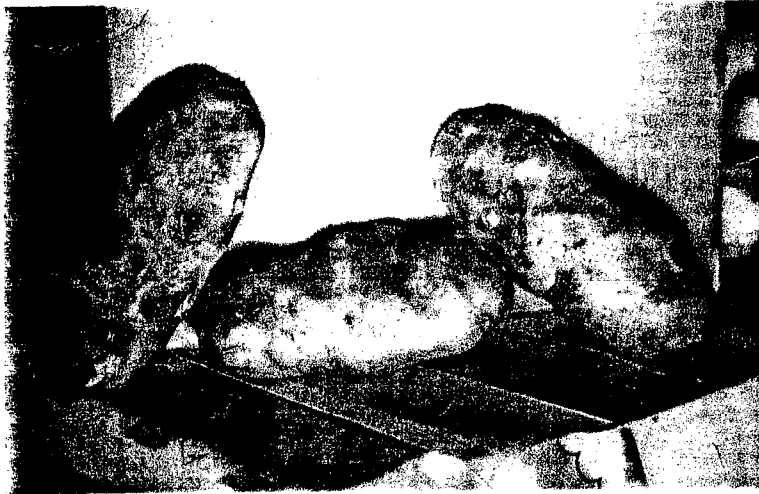


Cup showing Registered Trade Mark



Ribbon awarded to Jeffery Lynn on Sep 9, 1957 along with a cash prize of \$3.00
 For the largest potato entered at the Eastern Idaho State Fair.

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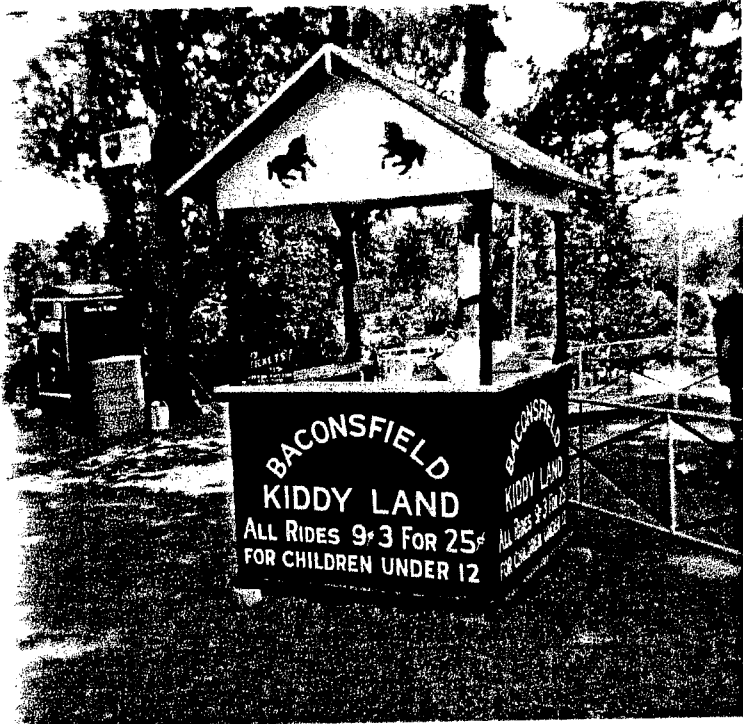
Mature Idaho potatoes. 100 pound bags averaged 80 potatoes

Another improvement was made in cooking oil efficiency through working with the food chemist professors at the University of Georgia. The problem was each batch of potatoes cooked in a pot of oil took longer to cook because oil loses the ability to transfer heat as it breaks down under heat. After three days of use oil had to be changed to speed up cooking time. Dick Keating, President of Specialties Appliance Corp., provided an experimental stove to use in the experiments. They developed a silica compound that could be added to cooking oil and increase the surface tension to extend the life of the oil by two days. They began action to patent the process when a similar process was discovered and patented by one of the major cooking oil companies and today all commercial cooking oils contain preservatives.

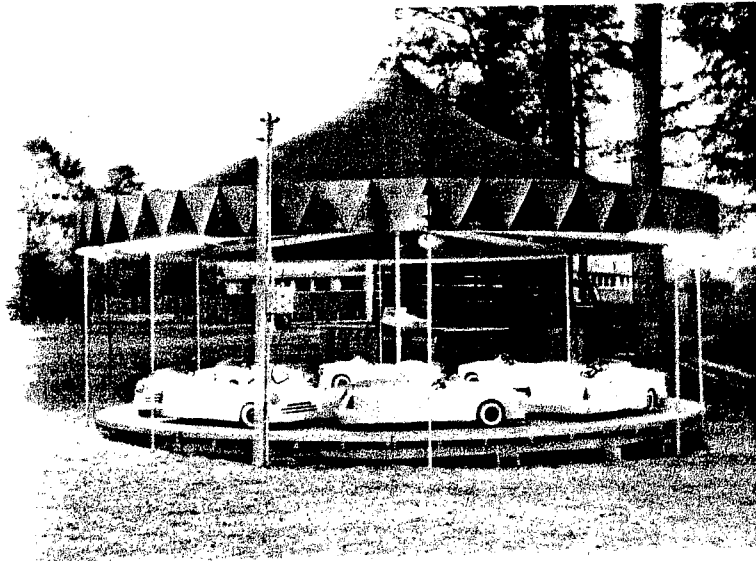
Obtaining temporary summer workers was a problem every summer for all the businesses in Ocean City. During the 1940's Bernie Thrush, a football coach in PA. became manager of the Khor Bros Frozen Custard stand and helped recruit employees for summer work from his school contacts. The daughters Betty and Dot attended Bessie Tift College in Georgia where the school officials would recommend girls for summer employment. An incentive for them to stay until Labor Day was always a free trip to New York City from Tuesday to Friday after Labor Day.

A new company was started in 1949 to continue the manufacture of amusement equipment to take advantage of the baby boomer generation business. Amusement parks of kiddie rides was springing up all over the country. The Dentino's had bought over a dozen rides for the Sports Center in Rehoboth. Trimpers had added several more rides in Ocean City. Joe's former partner Philip Bible opened a large kiddie park in Austin, Texas.

Initially three rides were designed and built for testing. Five shetland ponies and a swing ride were purchased and a kiddieland was opened in a city park in Macon, Ga in April 1950.

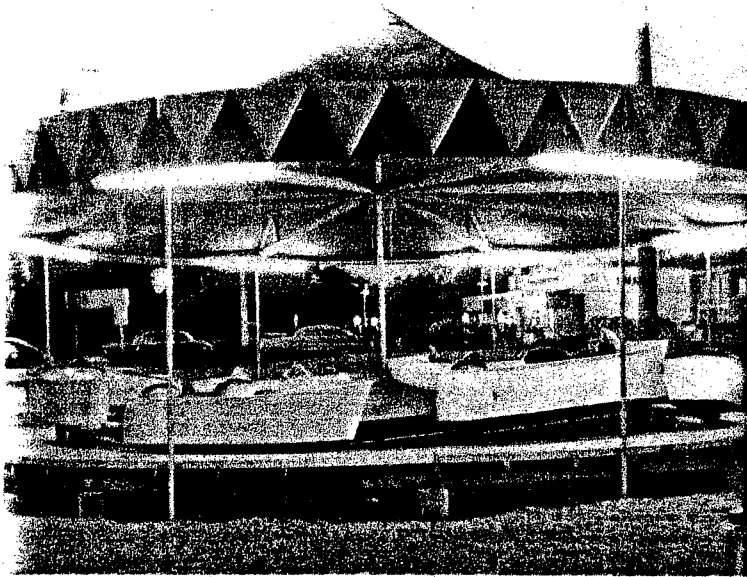


Charlotte Thrasher in ticket Booth

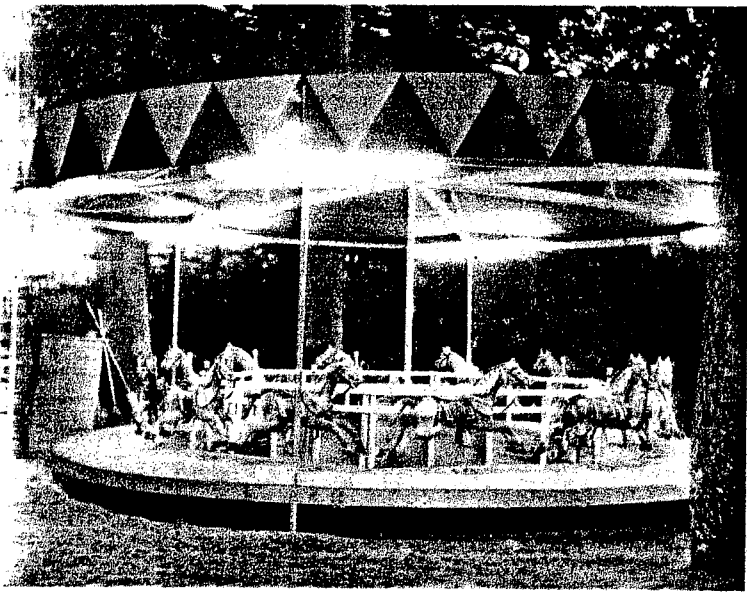


Auto ride 1950

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Boat Ride 1950

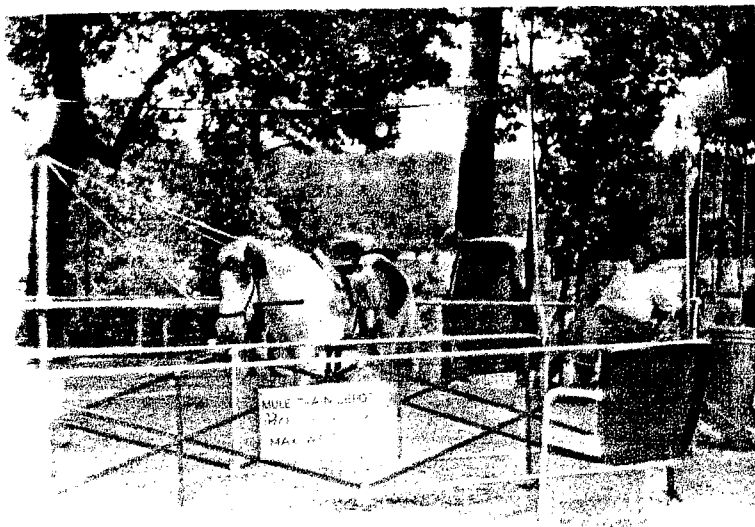


Merry-go-round 1950

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Animal Swing Ride 1950



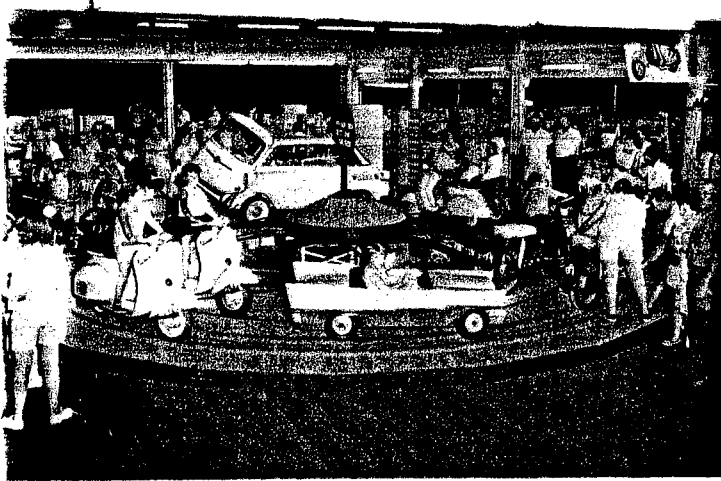
Pony Rides 1950

The Thrasher built park model rides proved to be quality rides, with hydraulic clutches for smooth gentle operation and performed with no maintenance problems.

However, the demand for kiddie rides soon vanished because of the nation wide polio epidemics beginning in 1950 and continued until the discovery of the polio vaccines. The kiddie ride industry has never recovered.

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One additional ride was built for the Sport Center in Rehoboth. The ride used real vehicles imported from Europe.



Rehoboth about 1958 Jack Dentino on right

About 1956 Joe developed a plan to lease the second floor of the Pier Building and the fishing pier to develop a large amusement center that would complement Trimpers amusements and hopefully attract larger crowds. He presented the proposal to the Board of Directors of the Pier Corporation. His proposal was objected to by the Atlantic Hotel owner. I was told they objected because an amusement center would draw "riff raff" and they wanted more refined clientele at the south end of the boardwalk.

Shortly after the presentation, however Cullen Jenkins, Crypt Hastings and their agent Reese Cropper announced they were offering to buy 51% of the Pier Corporation stock for double the current selling price.

After gaining control of the stock, they took over management of the Pier Building and cancelled all leases. Mr. Hastings offered \$5000 for the French Fry stand and the use of the name for five years. An inventory appraisal of the equipment and supplies was \$8600. Attempts to locate another store building were unsuccessful. Mr. Rudy Dolle had a tenant who was two years behind in their rent and offered a building until suddenly someone paid their back rent. A real estate agent was trying to sell the old Plimhimmon Hotel which suddenly was taken off the market. Mr Hastings offered a one year extension on the lease for the baseball batting game if Joe would teach the manager how to cook french fries. He often bragged, "They may have stole my business but they ~~did~~ not get my secrets."

Hastings hired a Mr Colbourne and his wife to manage the stand. Their association did not last long as per the following letter:

Charles Colburne
Pittsville, MD

June 17, 1959

Dear Mr. Thrasher,

I thought you would like to know, we are out of the French Fry business.

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Irma had a stroke and has been in the hospital two weeks. She has been very sick, but is a little better now.

Hastings is really turning one this year. He flew out to Idaho and bought five car loads of potatoes (2150 Bags). He got one carload in about a month ago, and stored them in Roy's basement and half of them rotted. Well he hasn't been pleasant to be around since. He took about all of our room in the back to build storage for the potatoes. We were having to drive back and forth every day. Nothing we did suited him all last week. So Saturday night he stood out in front of our stand, and bawled all the girls out and me included. I thought I had took enough so Monday, after we got our check, I took the keys to Mr. Cropper at the bank and told him we were through.

We moved bag and baggage home.

Roy helped Mr. Hastings with this deal, I think, but I want to tell you they have got something on their hands and don't know what to do with it.

I worked over to Ocean City today putting King in a sink.

Roy and Mr. Hastings have tried to hire the girls we had, but none of them will work for them. Roy has got his brother in there today trying to cook potatoes but don't know one thing about it. He pre-cooked all morning to sell this afternoon and tonight. Roy asked me today if I would do him a personal favor. He wanted to know where to set the stoves so they would cook the potatoes right. I told him I was sorry, but I didn't know.

Just thought you would like to hear about this, after the raw deal they gave you.

I hope you and your family are enjoying good health. When you are up this way stop in to see us.

Sincerely,
Charles Colbourne

After leaving Ocean City Joe and Myrtle returned to their home in Winder, Ga where they built rental apartments to provide them income. Joe became sick soon afterwards and after shock treatments in as Atlanta hospital was awarded Social Security disability, later developing lung problems and a broken leg which could not be set due to his lung problems. Myrtle was stricken with Parkinson's Disease about 1970 and digressed to a walker, wheel chair, and finally to a hospital bed for about 5 years with full time care takers as the paralysis took hold of her body. Myrtle died September 26, 1980 and Joe died August 5, 1981 of Lung Cancer.

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