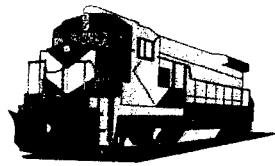


# The Thrasher Newsletter

Editor: Barbara Eger Circulation: John E. Thrasher III Volume 30 No. 1 December 2011

## The Chattanooga Choo-Choo Is Coming!

Plans are falling in place for another great Thrasher Family Association get-together. Buddy and Glenda Thrasher are again acting as hosts and we will be gathering in Chattanooga, Tenn., the weekend of June 22 - 24. They are looking at booking our group at either a La Quinta or a Holiday Inn Express, and will have final information for the next issue. Saturday night dinner will likely be at the Chattanooga Choo-Choo -- yes,



Get on Board for Fun!

there really are restaurants there -- and there are some fun shops to stroll through and there is a real train to climb on. Arrive early for dinner or linger afterwards to stroll through the landscaped gardens, check out one of the world's largest working HO gauge model railroads, the authentic New Orleans trolley and other interesting (and free) things at the site.

If you want to get around the downtown area you don't have to drive or walk long distances. There is a free shuttle that runs from the Aquarium to Chattanooga Choo Choo and stops at every block.

Chattanooga is home to the Tennessee State Aquarium, which explores the inland waterways rather than the oceans. Lookout Mountain has spectacular views of the city and the surrounding countryside. There is a myriad of things to do in the area so come early or stay later!

The Chattanooga Visitors Bureau has a website ([www.chattanooga.com/](http://www.chattanooga.com/)) where you can look up more information, and the next issue of the newsletter will have more information about things to do and see.

# Merry Christmas



# and a happy new year

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## Grave Markers Replaced

At the 2010 reunion a vote was taken to contribute \$150 per marker for three Thrasher graves where the original gravestones were deteriorated and becoming illegible. Bill Thrasher volunteered to obtain them and to place them in the cemetery. Bill sent the following report on his successful completion of the project:

"Five grave markers were installed on August 15 at the Shiloh Primitive Baptist Church cemetery in Marshall County, Alabama. I am attaching photos of the three Thrasher grave markers paid for (at least a good down payment) by the Thrasher Family Association. Julia's (the larger marker) was \$300 and the other two were \$150 each. My cousins, siblings and myself paid the rest plus another \$300 for two Watson markers in the same cemetery. My Thrasher clan really appreciates the TFA for helping sponsor the markers. The dark places on the third marker are simply where the water had not dried yet.

The photos show the original markers with the new markers. As you can see, one can't read the original markers. The first one reads Julie Thrasher. The second one is simply a piece of concrete and has no inscription. The third one reads "Jim Thrasher" for James Martin Thrasher."

Thanks go to Bill for a job done promptly and well!

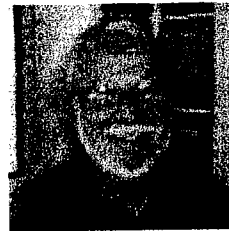


## Happy Birthday to Trudy!

On Aug 20th 2011 the family of Dale and Trudy Thrasher of Leesburg, FL and their ten children and spouses plus some grandchildren gathered at their daughter's (Mary and Eric Lind) waterfront home in Whartonsville, NC, to celebrate Trudy's 80th birthday. It was a weeklong celebration with crab feasts, fishing, crabbing, sailing, water tubing and food feasts. The week was cut a little short by the approaching hurricane Irene. Everyone arrived home safely to Florida, Virginia, Maryland, West Virginia, Ohio, Indiana and California, and a great time was had by all.

## A Very Kind Offer

Grady Thrasher wrote that he is making a documentary about his father's and uncles' exploits after WWII in their "Thrasher Brothers Flying Circus". It was shown in Athens, GA, on December 10 and will have a second showing in Elberton, GA, on January 21. After those showings, Grady has offered to mail a DVD of the film to any subscriber to the Thrasher Newsletter for free if they make a \$10.00 donation to the Thrasher Family Association (in addition to their annual dues).



Grady Thrasher

To see a preview of the documentary go to [www.worldssmallestairport.com](http://www.worldssmallestairport.com).

Grady Thrasher retired from the practice of corporate law and in retirement he has completely changed gears to write the Tim and Sally children's books. In 2008 he was named Georgia Author of the Year for Children's Picture Books. This year saw the publication of Tim and Sally's Year in Poems, and a repeat of the 2008 Author of the Year honor.

## Congratulations on 50 Years!

Bill and Juanita Thrasher celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary in July. After meeting before classes started at the University of Alabama in 1959, Bill Thrasher and Juanita Green were married July 21, 1961, at Crossville, Alabama. Bill was employed by Radiation, Inc. in Melbourne, Florida, until he became a mechanical engineering faculty member of Florida Institute of Technology (Florida Tech.) in 1980.

In 1990 they moved to Longview, Texas, where Bill taught mechanical engineering at LeTourneau University. Juanita enjoyed homemaking, volunteering, and part-time office work. They moved to Live Oak, FL, after retiring in 2001. Bill now enjoys his hobbies of clock repair, photography and golf. Juanita enjoys quilting, gardening and reading.

A daughter, son and daughter-in-love, and granddaughter complete their family. To celebrate their 50 years Bill and Juanita spent time at The Billy Graham Training Center at The Cove in North Carolina.

## Directory Changes/Additions

Please welcome two new members:

Kimberly T. & Karl Walliser  
10322 Walliser Road  
Wimauma, FL 33598-2320

Janna Locinala  
419 Columbus Ave  
New Smyrna Beach, FL 32169

Linda Burkhalter new e-mail address:  
oconeedawg@comcast.net

**Editor's Note:** I'm sorry this issue is so very, very late. I went to Colorado for two weeks to spend Thanksgiving with my son and connect with old friends and didn't get this finished before I left. The new software is still sort of a struggle so that makes me even slower. But with each issue I learn a little more, and things will get better! Meanwhile, I realize June 2012 seems far off, but do mark your calendars now with the reunion weekend of June 22 - 24.

And don't forget — we need your news! Send to Barbara Eger, 13318 Omega Ct., Dade City, FL 33525; or send an e-mail to <beger@earthlink.net>.

## Up-date on the Family of John Peyton Thrasher

By John E. Thrasher III

There are a few of you who may remember our friend and TFA member, John Peyton Thrasher from Maryland. John attended the TFA reunion in Dixie, Brooks County, Georgia in 1983 and that is where I first met him. I saw John again at a "round-up" (reunion) of the Mid-Atlantic Thrasher Association in Jefferson Maryland that was hosted by Nancy and Bill Cherry. John died in 1997.

John was so interested in learning of his family's past. He, along with his distant cousin, Orr Thrasher, submitted the genealogy that they had been able to compile to Dorothy S. Pruett for inclusion in her publication, "Our Thrasher Heritage" (pages 570-2) in 1986.

Several years ago I began a correspondence with Tony Thrasher. It was a pleasure to get to know Tony and then to have him with us Thrasher's at the Savannah, Georgia TFA reunion in June of 2010. Working with Tony, I became very involved in researching his family line. Tony, and later two other descendants ( Paul Thrasher & Leroy Thrasher) of their earliest common ancestor took the Y-DNA test. That common ancestor was Thomas Jack/Jayson Thrasher, son of Randal Benedict Thrasher, son of Benjamin and Sarah White Thrasher.

As this research continued on the Benjamin Thrasher line, I realized that this was John

Peyton's family line too. There are several deeds which show family relationships and along with the census records, it is shown that Benedict's daughter Mary Jane Thrasher was the mother of John Peter Thrasher, not Sabrina Thrasher, her sister, as John Peyton's genealogy stated.

This new research pushed John Peyton's ancestry back two more generations.

In the early spring I received an e-mail from a man named Russ in response to something that I had posted on-line several years ago. He was interested in my assistance on finding information on one Oney D. Thrasher, one of the sons of John Peter Thrasher..

A few years ago, Russ' wife and brother in law, Kathy and John Sullivan, found, after the death of their father, a letter that had been written years earlier that was addressed to their father, John Patrick Sullivan Sr. The letter was from Frances Thrasher's daughter and addressed to John Patrick Sullivan Sr., but opening with the salutation, "Dear Uncle Onnie." John Sullivan became curious and began researching the name "Onnie" and it was not very difficult to find Oney D. Thrasher with a sister named Frances.

A number of things were learned about Oney. He was an army deserter and had been held in the Columbus, Ohio Barracks in 1913. He was married to Maud S. and had a child named Vivian (as shown in the 1910 Census for Walker County, Alabama.) His name is found in several records spelled Onney, Onnie, and Oney. After 1913 nothing has been found for Oney, but the name Sullivan appeared in several places. Sullivan married Bernice Womack in c1930 and their child, John Patrick Sullivan Jr. was born in Memphis, Tennessee in 1933. John Patrick Sullivan Sr. and Bernice divorced and John married Mildred Tierney. From that marriage Kathy and a sister were born.

Kathy Sullivan nor John Patrick Sullivan Jr. never had any idea that their father had changed his name.

In order to try to prove just who John Patrick Sullivan Sr. was, it was decided that John Jr. should take both the Y-DNA test (male line only) and the Family Finder test which searches through the female and male "cousins."

You realize that the name of John Peter Thrasher's father was not known so no Thrasher relationship was expected to be shown from the Y-DNA test. However, through this test, an exact match was made with two different gentlemen named Hammond who trace their family line back (1850 - 1860) to the area of Hart County, Georgia where John Peter (Oney's father) was born in 1857-8.

In the 1860 Census for Hart County, Georgia, Samuel N. Hammond lived a few doors from Mary Jane Thrasher. He is the only Hammond listed in Hart County in the 1860 Census.

From the results of the Family Finder test there were "cousins" matches with two persons that I (and some of you) personally know. One, Kenneth C. Thrasher is a member of the TFA and is a descendant of the branch from which Orr Thrasher also descends, that is Mary Jane's sister Nancy Thrasher. The other person, Gwen Downey, is a descendant of Mary Jane Thrasher and her husband, William Byrum, whom Mary Jane married in 1861.

It is believed that the results of the Family Finder test show that Oney D Thrasher and John Patrick Sullivan Sr. are the same person.

We assume that Oney Thrasher changed his name because of his desertion from the army. He undoubtedly had difficulties because of that desertion record.

We don't know how many wives he may have had.

We don't know what happened to his daughter Vivian nor first wife, Maud.

I would welcome any further information on this genealogy from you!

# Descendants of Mary Jane Thrasher

## Generation No. 1

1. MARY JANE<sup>3</sup> THRASHER (*BENEDICT RANDAL<sup>2</sup>, BENJAMIN<sup>1</sup>*) was born 1840 in Franklin County, Georgia, and died 1906 in Hart County, Georgia. She met (1) NONE/UNKNOWN. She married (2) WILLIAM BYRUM October 01, 1861 in Hart County, Georgia. He was born December 05, 1827, and died October 10, 1890 in Hart County, Georgia.

Notes for MARY JANE THRASHER:

Deed in Franklin County, Georgia: Mary Jane Thrasher to Nancy Thrasher ( sister ) on 1 October, 1861.

Mary Jane is first found with her parents, Benedict Randal Thrasher and Tera in the 1850 Census for Franklin County, Georgia.

In 1860 Mary Jane is living with her sister, Nancy Thrasher, and son, John age 2, in Hart County, Georgia. This John is John Peter Thrasher.

In the 1870 Census for Parker's Store Post Office, Hart County, Georgia, Mary Jane is listed with her husband, and several children. John Peter is listed as John Byrum, age 12.

The 1880 Census for Hart County, Georgia list her as Jane Byrum. Her husband William and several children are listed.

In the 1900 Census for Hart County, Georgia, Jane is widowed and living with a daughter, granddaughter and a boarder.

Mary Jane's marriage to William Byrum is found in the Hart County, Georgia Marriage Records.

Place of burial, birth and death dates for Mary Jane and William Byrum are from, "Cemeteries of Hart County, Georgia" compiled by the Savannah River Valley Genealogical Society. Also the names of their children and their birth dates are from the Census records for 1870, 1880 and 1900 and the genealogy of the Byrum family found in "Pioneers of Hart County, Georgia" by H. Travis Parker. The two do not always agree. More information about the children is also found in the same genealogy.

More About MARY JANE THRASHER:

Burial: Byrum Family Cemetery, Hart County, Georgia

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More About WILLIAM BYRUM:

Burial: Byrum Family Cemetery, Hart County, Georgia

Child of MARY THRASHER and NONE/UNKNOWN is:

2. i. JOHN PETER<sup>4</sup> THRASHER, b. August 28, 1857, Hart County, Georgia; d. June 07, 1912, Birmingham, Jefferson County, Alabama.

Children of MARY THRASHER and WILLIAM BYRUM are:

3. ii. CHARLOTTE ELIZABETH<sup>4</sup> BYRUM, b. January 15, 1862, Hart County, Georgia.
- iii. MARY ADELIN BYRUM, b. October 23, 1863, Hart County, Georgia.
- iv. SAMUEL LARKIN BYRUM, b. September 12, 1865, Hart County, Georgia.
- v. WILLIAM MARION BYRUM, b. August 04, 1865, Hart County, Georgia.
- vi. EMILY MISSOURI BYRUM, b. July 08, 1868, Hart County, Georgia.
- vii. TUGALO COLUMBIA BYRUM, b. February 09, 1871, Hart County, Georgia.
- viii. FANNIE CATHERINE BYRUM, b. May 10, 1873, Hart County, Georgia.
- ix. SENECA LEWIS "LUKE" BYRUM, b. May 30, 1875, Hart County, Georgia.
- x. TERAH PATSY BYRUM, b. April 1876, Hart County, Georgia.

## Generation No. 2

2. JOHN PETER<sup>4</sup> THRASHER (*MARY JANE<sup>3</sup>, BENEDICT RANDAL<sup>2</sup>, BENJAMIN<sup>1</sup>*) was born August 28, 1857 in Hart

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County, Georgia, and died June 07, 1912 in Birmingham, Jefferson County, Alabama. He married MARTHA CHRISTINE GUEST November 11, 1875 in Hart County, Georgia. She was born September 1854 in Georgia, and died 1917.

Notes for JOHN PETER THRASHER:

John Peter, age 2, is first listed with his mother, Mary Jane Thrasher, in the 1860 Census for Hart County, Georgia. They are living with his aunt, Nancy Thrasher and her children.

In the 1870 Census for Hart County, Georgia, John is living with his mother and stepfather and listed as John Byrum, age 12. William Byrum and Mary Jane Thrasher had married in 1861.

In the 1880 Census for Reeds Creek, Hart County, Georgia, John and his wife, Martha Christine (Ayes) Guest Thrasher, are living with "Judge" Ayres. John is listed as "son-in-law." Their first three children are also listed with them.

John and Martha are listed in the 1900 Census for Reeds Creek, Hart County, Georgia. He is listed as John P. Thrasher. He indicated that he did not know where his father was born. (Nor who he was.)

John Peter was a farmer. In 1900 he can read and write.

John Peter's homestead is marked on the 1903 Map of Hart County, Georgia prepared by J. W. Baker.

John Peter's death is listed in the "Alabama Deaths, 1908 - 1974." (Film # 1894089, reference # cn146.)

A photo of John Peter's tombstone can be found on "Find A Grave Memorial" web site.

From: "Obituaries from The Hartwell Sun, 1877 - 1902" in the Hartwell Public Library, Hartwell, Ga.: Thrasher (child) - Mr. & Mrs. J. P. Thrasher's little boy, age 4, died from falling into a tub of boiling water at their home in Reed Creek." 5 September 1885

John Peyton Thrasher was a well known members of the Thrasher Family Association for several years. He was a member also of the Mid-Atlantic Thrasher Association and attended their reunions. In the days before computers, research was very difficult and John Peyton was working to find his roots. The above material is presented as new proof and findings which correct John's earlier guesses.

Some of the family information is from material John submitted to D. S. Pruett and included in her compilation, "Our Thrasher Heritage" 1986, pages 570 - 572.

More About JOHN PETER THRASHER:

Burial: June 13, 1912, Old Flatwood Cemetery (Primitive Baptist Church), Nauvoo, Walker Co. Alabama

Notes for MARTHA CHRISTINE GUEST:

The 1870 Census for District 812, Franklin County, Georgia lists the household of Morgan Ayres, his wife Lucy and daughters Martha, age 15, and daughter Jane.

Children of JOHN THRASHER and MARTHA GUEST are:

- i. MARGARET (MAGGIE) TULULAH<sup>s</sup> THRASHER, b. October 1876, Hart County, Georgia; d. 1956, Reeds Creek, Hart County, Georgia; m. SAMUEL BOLEMAN, December 24, 1891, Hart County, Georgia.
- ii. MARIAH (MYRA) THRASHER, b. 1878, Hart County, Georgia; m. (1) MR. DUNCAN; m. (2) MICHAEL J. ISOM; b. 1869.

Notes for MARIAH (MYRA) THRASHER:

From "Pioneers of Hart County, Georgia" by Harold Travis Parker: "Michael J Isom, b. 1869 married second, Myra Thrasher Duncan (widow)."

- iii. IRA THRASHER, b. January 1880, Hart County, Georgia.
4. iv. FRANCES I. THRASHER, b. December 1883, Hart County, Georgia.
- v. EFFIE L. THRASHER, b. March 1886, Hart County, Georgia.

Notes for EFFIE L. THRASHER:

1920 Census for Fulton County, Georgia. Effie is living in a boarding house run by her sister, Frances Thrasher Lee.

5. vi. ONEY D. THRASHER, b. May 1890, Hart County, Georgia; d. April 06, 1963.
6. vii. HORACE JACKSON THRASHER, b. June 14, 1893, Reeds Creek, Hart County, Georgia; d. May 15, 1951, Huntsville, Madison County, Alabama.
7. viii. JESSE WALTER THRASHER, b. November 02, 1897, Hart County, Georgia.

3. CHARLOTTE ELIZABETH<sup>4</sup> BYRUM (*MARY JANE<sup>3</sup> THRASHER, BENEDICT RANDAL<sup>2</sup>, BENJAMIN<sup>1</sup>*) was born January 15, 1862 in Hart County, Georgia. She married GEORGE WASHINGTON ANTHONY 1872.

Child of CHARLOTTE BYRUM and GEORGE ANTHONY is:

- i. SUSIE JANE<sup>5</sup> ANTHONY.

Notes for SUSIE JANE ANTHONY:

Her granddaughter is Gwen Pearson-Downey who was born in Royston, Georgia and moved to Jacksonville, Florida in 1977.

#### Generation No. 3

4. FRANCES I.<sup>5</sup> THRASHER (*JOHN PETER<sup>4</sup>, MARY JANE<sup>3</sup>, BENEDICT RANDAL<sup>2</sup>, BENJAMIN<sup>1</sup>*) was born December 1883 in Hart County, Georgia. She married (1) JOHN B. LEE. He died Abt. 1918. She married (2) ROBERT A. LONG. He was born Abt. 1866 in Virginia.

Notes for FRANCES I. THRASHER:

1920 Census for Atlanta, Fulton County, Georgia. Frances is a widow with three children. She is keeper of a boarding house. Her sister, Effie, also lives there with Frances.

1930 Census for Atlanta, Fulton County, Georgia: Robert A. Long, is head of the household. He and Frances are married and her three Lee children, by her first husband, are with them.

Children of FRANCES THRASHER and JOHN LEE are:

- i. LILLIAN<sup>6</sup> LEE, b. Abt. 1912, Georgia.
- ii. JOHN FRANK LEE, b. Abt. 1915.
- iii. JACK LEE, b. Abt. 1917.

5. ONEY D.<sup>5</sup> THRASHER (*JOHN PETER<sup>4</sup>, MARY JANE<sup>3</sup>, BENEDICT RANDAL<sup>2</sup>, BENJAMIN<sup>1</sup>*) was born May 1890 in Hart County, Georgia, and died April 06, 1963. He married (1) BERNICE WOMACK. He married (2) MAUD S., daughter of JIM HOLBROOKE and MARTHA. She was born Abt. 1890 in Alabama. He married (3) MILDRED TIERNEY February 21, 1947. She was born January 01, 1913 in Mulberry, Kansas, and died October 16, 2004 in Pleasantville, Kansas.

Notes for ONEY D. THRASHER:

Oney is also known as John Patrick Sullivan.

1900 Census for Reeds Creek, Hart County, Georgia. Oney is listed with his parents.

Oney D. Thrasher enlisted in the US Army 11 April 1907, Company K, 17th Infantry, at Fort McPherson, Georgia. This found in the "US Returns from Military Posts." One of these references (1905 - 1908) for this record spell his name "Oney D. Thrasher."

The next records cover the period 1909 - 1916. His name is spelled "Onney D. Thrasher." From the "US Returns from Regular Infantry Regiments and US Returns from Regular Army Infantry Regiments, 1821 - 1916" records for Oney D. Thrasher. Oney is listed as a deserter from the Army, Company K.

U. S. Returns from Military Posts, 1806 - 1916 lists Onney as being held in the Columbus Barracks, Ohio, in April 1913.

1910 Census for Cagle, Walker County, Alabama lists Onnie (Annie) D. Thrasher, his wife Maud S. and a child, Vivian S. Thrasher.

Oney is listed as a farmer, and not yet married a full year.

Oney changed his name at some unknown point in time and became John Patrick Sullivan. His Social Security and death records are under that name.

More About ONEY D. THRASHER:

Burial: Mt. Olivet Cemetery, Kansas City, Missouri

Notes for MAUD S.:

Notes for MILDRED TIERNEY:

Obituary published in the Kansas City Star on 17 October 2004.

More About MILDRED TIERNEY:

Burial: Mt. Olivet Cemetery, Kansas City, Missouri

Child of ONEY THRASHER and BERNICE WOMACK is:

- i. JOHN SULLIVAN<sup>6</sup> (THRASHER), b. 1934, Memphis, Tennessee.

Child of ONEY THRASHER and MAUD S. is:

- ii. VIVIAN S.<sup>6</sup> THRASHER, b. Abt. April 1910, Alabama.

Children of ONEY THRASHER and MILDRED TIERNEY are:

- iii. KATHY SULLIVAN<sup>6</sup> (THRASHER), m. RUSS HARVKEY.
- iv. MARY M. SULLIVAN (THRASHER).

6. HORACE JACKSON<sup>5</sup> THRASHER (*JOHN PETER<sup>4</sup>, MARY JANE<sup>3</sup>, BENEDICT RANDAL<sup>2</sup>, BENJAMIN<sup>1</sup>*) was born June 14, 1893 in Reeds Creek, Hart County, Georgia, and died May 15, 1951 in Huntsville, Madison County, Alabama. He married LILLIAN BELLE WALDROP December 22, 1917 in Birmingham, Jefferson County, Alabama. She was born March 06, 1899, and died 1985 in Frederick, Maryland.

Notes for HORACE JACKSON THRASHER:

He was a member of the Baptist denomination.

1910 Census for Birmingham Ward 5, Jefferson County, Alabama. At age 17 he was listed as a Boarder.

Horace served in the US Marine Corp. from 11 June 1907 to 1 June 1908. He was described as being 21 years old, five feet seven inches tall, blue eyes, dark hair, fair complexion and by occupation, a teamster. He enlisted for four years, but was discharged for physical disability after one year. His character: excellent. ( A copy of his discharge papers are included in "A Compilation; of the Thrasher Pioneers and Their Forebears and Descendants, 1600s - 1989" by Orr Franklin Thrasher. )

1920 Census for Huntsville, Madison County, Alabama. (Listed as Harse J. Throsher)

1930 Census for Huntsville, Madison County, Alabama. (Listed as Horace I. Thrasher)

More About HORACE JACKSON THRASHER:

Burial: Elmwood Cemetery, Birmingham, Jefferson County, Alabama

Children of HORACE THRASHER and LILLIAN WALDROP are:

- i. HORACE JACKSON THRASHER<sup>6</sup> JR., b. November 12, 1918, Huntsville, Madison County, Alabama; d. August 1968; m. MARGARET.

Notes for HORACE JACKSON THRASHER JR.:

1920 and 1930 Census for Huntsville, Madison County, Alabama.

More About HORACE JACKSON THRASHER JR.:

Burial: Terre Haute, Indiana

8. ii. JOHN PEYTON THRASHER, b. November 07, 1920, Huntsville, Madison County, Alabama; d. November 09, 1997, Frederick County, Maryland.
- iii. BEVERLY EUGENE THRASHER, b. September 28, 1924, Huntsville, Madison County, Alabama; d. June 1983.

More About BEVERLY EUGENE THRASHER:

Burial: Azusa, California

7. JESSE WALTER<sup>5</sup> THRASHER (*JOHN PETER<sup>4</sup>, MARY JANE<sup>3</sup>, BENEDICT RANDAL<sup>2</sup>, BENJAMIN<sup>1</sup>*) was born November 02, 1897 in Hart County, Georgia. He married STELLA MAE HARKINS.

Notes for JESSE WALTER THRASHER:

1900 Census for Hart County, Georgia.



WW I Draft REgistration CARds, 1917 - 1918. Gives his birth day as 27 November 1897.  
1920 Census for Townley, Walker County, Alabama. He was a store clerk.  
1930 Census for Military District 898, Cobb County, Georgia. He and Stella were not together when the census was taken.

Names of family members after the 1930 census were received from Renae Johnson, wife of Jesse' grandson, Stephen Walter Johnson, June 2010.

Notes for STELLA MAE HARKINS:

1930 Census for Atlanta, Fulton County, Georgia. Stella was a boarder with two of the children.

Children of JESSE THRASHER and STELLA HARKINS are:

9. i. ELLA CHRISTINE<sup>6</sup> THRASHER, b. Abt. 1908.
10. ii. JESSE WALTER THRASHER JR., b. Abt. 1920.
- iii. FAY MILDRED THRASHER, b. Abt. 1923; m. (1) LUCIUS BROWN; m. (2) E. C. BROWN.

Notes for FAY MILDRED THRASHER:

No Children.

1930 Census for Atlanta, Fulton County, Georgia.

11. iv. MARY NELL THRASHER, b. 1924.

#### Generation No. 4

8. JOHN PEYTON<sup>6</sup> THRASHER (*HORACE JACKSON<sup>5</sup>, JOHN PETER<sup>4</sup>, MARY JANE<sup>3</sup>, BENEDICT RANDAL<sup>2</sup>, BENJAMIN<sup>1</sup>*) was born November 07, 1920 in Huntsville, Madison County, Alabama, and died November 09, 1997 in Frederick County, Maryland. He married HILDA ELISE HOKE October 28, 1946 in Huntsville, Madison County, Alabama, daughter of WALTER HOKE and EMILY CRONISE. She was born May 12, 1915 in Walkersville, Frederick County, Maryland, and died June 02, 2004 in Frederick, Maryland.

Child of JOHN THRASHER and HILDA HOKE is:

12. i. LINDA ANN<sup>7</sup> THRASHER, b. February 22, 1949, Birmingham, Jefferson County, Alabama.

9. ELLA CHRISTINE<sup>6</sup> THRASHER (*JESSE WALTER<sup>5</sup>, JOHN PETER<sup>4</sup>, MARY JANE<sup>3</sup>, BENEDICT RANDAL<sup>2</sup>, BENJAMIN<sup>1</sup>*) was born Abt. 1908. She married HERMAN CRANE.

Children of ELLA THRASHER and HERMAN CRANE are:

- i. CONNIE<sup>7</sup> CRANE.
- ii. DONALD CRANE.

Notes for DONALD CRANE:

Donald and David are twins.

- iii. DAVID CRANE.

Notes for DAVID CRANE:

David and Donald are twins.

10. JESSE WALTER THRASHER<sup>6</sup> JR. (*JESSE WALTER<sup>5</sup> THRASHER, JOHN PETER<sup>4</sup>, MARY JANE<sup>3</sup>, BENEDICT RANDAL<sup>2</sup>, BENJAMIN<sup>1</sup>*) was born Abt. 1920. He married LUCILLE HAUF.

Child of JESSE JR. and LUCILLE HAUF is:

- i. WANDA<sup>7</sup> THRASHER.

11. MARY NELL<sup>6</sup> THRASHER (*JESSE WALTER<sup>5</sup>, JOHN PETER<sup>4</sup>, MARY JANE<sup>3</sup>, BENEDICT RANDAL<sup>2</sup>, BENJAMIN<sup>1</sup>*) was born 1924. She married JOHN WASHINGTON JOHNSON.

Notes for MARY NELL THRASHER:

1930 Census for Atlanta, Fulton County, Georgia.

Children of MARY THRASHER and JOHN JOHNSON are:

- i. LARRY DENNIS<sup>7</sup> JOHNSON, b. 1946; m. VIRGINIA BOYD.

Notes for LARRY DENNIS JOHNSON:  
No children.

13.
  - ii. JACK LAMAR JOHNSON, b. 1954.
  - iii. STEPHEN WALTER JOHNSON, b. 1954; m. RENAE MCGLOTHLIN.

Notes for STEPHEN WALTER JOHNSON:  
Stephen and Jack were twins.

*Generation No. 5*

12. LINDA ANN<sup>7</sup> THRASHER (*JOHN PEYTON<sup>6</sup>, HORACE JACKSON<sup>5</sup>, JOHN PETER<sup>4</sup>, MARY JANE<sup>3</sup>, BENEDICT RANDAL<sup>2</sup>, BENJAMIN<sup>1</sup>*) was born February 22, 1949 in Birmingham, Jefferson County, Alabama. She married MARK ULLOM October 31, 1981.

Child of LINDA THRASHER and MARK ULLOM is:

- i. CHRISTOPHER REED<sup>8</sup> ULLOM, b. June 06, 1984, Reston, Virginia.

13. JACK LAMAR<sup>7</sup> JOHNSON (*MARY NELL<sup>6</sup> THRASHER, JESSE WALTER<sup>5</sup>, JOHN PETER<sup>4</sup>, MARY JANE<sup>3</sup>, BENEDICT RANDAL<sup>2</sup>, BENJAMIN<sup>1</sup>*) was born 1954. He married BARBARA WILSON.

Notes for JACK LAMAR JOHNSON:  
Jack and Stephen were twins.

Child of JACK JOHNSON and BARBARA WILSON is:

- i. SARA JANE<sup>8</sup> JOHNSON.

# The Thrasher Newsletter

Editor: Barbara Eger Circulation: John F. Thrasher III Volume 30 No. 2 March 2012

## ***All Aboard for Chattanooga -- Don't Get Left At The Station!***

It's time to get on track and make your reservations for the 2012 Thrasher Family Association Reunion! Buddy and Glenda Thrasher have been busy making plans for us to gather in Chattanooga June 22 through June 24.

Our group will be staying at the La Quinta Inn Chattanooga, 100 W. 21st St. The rate is \$79/night plus tax and must be made directly with the motel. Call 423-265-3151 and tell the reservation office you are part of the Thrasher Reunion group. The cut-off date is May 25 for this special rate, which is also good for the three days preceding and the three days following the reunion. That will let you plan extra time to enjoy Chattanooga's many attractions.

Dinner on Friday night will be at the Mt. Vernon restaurant, with meals ordered from the main menu.

Saturday night we will gather at the Chattanooga Choo Choo Gardens restaurant. Meal selections for our group are Monterey Jack Chicken, Southern Fried Chicken, Key West Tilapia, Roast Beef and Gravy or Tennessee Pork Barbeque. Garden salad, rolls and butter, coffee and tea and a chef's dessert selection are included. Entree selections need to be made in advance. Cost is \$19.27 per person including tax and gratuity. Menu selections must be made advance (form attached). Both restaurants will provide individual checks.

Anyone who has been to Chattanooga knows that things to do and see are many and varied. From riding the Incline

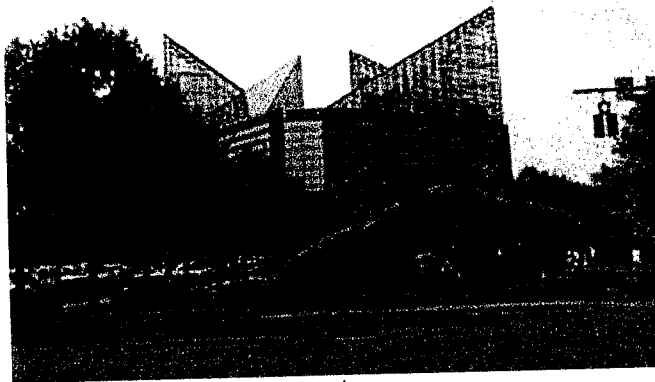
Railway to the top of Lookout Mountain to visiting Ruby Falls to shopping at Hamilton Place, Tennessee's largest shopping complex, there is something for everyone. The Tennessee Aquarium is one of Chattanooga's stellar attractions. If you want thrills, take their two-hour catamaran trip whisking you from downtown Chattanooga to "Tennessee's Grand

Canyon," the Tennessee River Gorge. Or you can just look at the many interesting and educational exhibits and perhaps take in an Imax film. The Chattanooga Choo Choo is a Southern landmark with shops, a rose garden, a railroad museum and a New Orleans trolley to take you on a ride around the complex.

The meeting room at La Quinta will be available to us during our stay, so bring any items of interest you would like to share.

The La Quinta Inn offers a full hot breakfast with a variety of items -- waffles, scrambled eggs, sausage and hot biscuits and gravy, along with the traditional cereals, pastry and doughnuts, and fresh fruit. Rooms have high-speed internet connections, coffee makers, refrigerators and microwaves. There is a pool and fitness center.

Possibly one of the nicest things Chattanooga has is the free shuttle to get from place to place. It connects everything downtown and goes across the river as well, with stops every 7 - 10 minutes. So you can park once and then forget it and relax while still getting around and seeing and doing everything!



The Tennessee Aquarium

600

## When Warriors Go Home

By Julie Thrasher Stuckey

Someone said that old soldiers just fade away. But that's not always true. Some soldiers are warriors to the end, always going that one extra mile.

My Uncle Jim died in January [2011]. He was a Marine, a Vietnam veteran, a clever country lawyer, a sterling citizen, and a really nice guy.

James V. Pleasants' first assignment in the Marine Corps was to fighter squadron VMF-232, The Red Devils, stationed at Marine Corps Air Station Kaneohe Bay, Territory of Hawaii. Within two months, the squadron set sail on the USS Bennington, for Atsugi, Japan, where he flew armed missions in defense of the Japanese islands during the 1958 Taiwan Straits crisis.

When he left active duty, he went to school, and graduated from the University of Georgia School of Law in 1964. He and my Aunt Jeanne had two children during this time, as the conflict in Vietnam escalated.

My uncle believed passionately in duty. He felt that the United States had spent too much money training him to fly for him to be sitting around practicing law in Rabun County, Georgia, while a war was going on, so he voluntarily re-entered active military service, and had two tours of duty as a fighter pilot during the Vietnam War.

I am 47 years of age, and I never heard my uncle speak of the Vietnam War. I wrote to my Aunt Jeanne, Uncle Jim's beloved wife of 51 years, to ask her about his Vietnam experiences. This is what she wrote back:

"I'd love to help you if I could. Like most people who have been in our various wars, Jim didn't talk about what happened in his. Maybe he talked about it to someone else, but not to me. Whenever I brought up the subject, he was either vague or had some quip.

"He was at Da Nang both times. He and others lived in a tent called a 'hooch.' I don't know how many were in the tent - maybe three, maybe more. They had a fox-hole outside the tent. I'm assuming each had his own, but maybe they shared. He had two tours, both times at Da Nang in Vietnam. During the second tour, his outfit was pulled back to Japan, to Iwakuni. Sorry not to be more help, but that's all I know." When I asked his daughter, Anna Sobolewski, who is my age, her response was, "Any recollection about the war was followed up by a funny story."

My Uncle Jim did not dwell on what was surely a horrific experience. I'm certain it haunted him, but he was careful not to burden those around him with his pain.

He came home from Vietnam, resumed his law practice, raised his children, loved his wife, offered free and wise legal advice to his extended family, volunteered for the Boy Scouts and the Boys and Girls Club, served his church, and flew his various airplanes around, including a red Waco, an antique open-cockpit biplane. But, most of all, he laughed, and made others laugh, until his clear, crystalline blue eyes twinkled.

And this is what warriors do. They go to some unbearable place and do the unbearable job asked of them, and then they come home, and they go about living.

My great-great-grandfather, John Crawford Edwards, was a Confederate quartermaster who was there at Appomattox in April, 1865, when the South surrendered to the North. When he was mustered out of the defeated Confederate army on that day of surrender, he began the long walk home to Smarr, Georgia.

That evening, as he rested by a watering hole, he was joined by a Union soldier driving a wagon pulled by a team of horses. The two former enemies engaged in conversation. The Yankee soldier was headed to Ohio. They discussed how important it was to hurry home and get their crops in the ground.

The kindly Yankee divided his team of horses with Grandpa Edwards so that he could get home and get his crop in the ground and feed his family. He had six more children after the war.

My cousin, Adair Dickerson, was a Second Lieutenant with the Third Armored Division in Germany, during the Battle of the Bulge, in World War II. When his superior officer was wounded, Adair rallied his new command, and took the objective, under heavy bombardment. He continued to serve heroically in Belgium, where he was seriously

## **When Warriors Go Home**

*Cont. from page 2*

wounded and promoted to Captain. He was awarded four Purple Hearts and the Bronze Star with Oak Leaf Cluster.

And his heroism continued after he came home. We were told, quietly, at the reception after his funeral, that he had never taken a paycheck in all the more than 30 years he had taught vocational arts at the high school. After the war, he married his sweetheart, Jane Redwine, whom he refused to marry before the war, because he couldn't bear the possibility of her becoming a young widow. They had a family, and Adair served his church and community in many ways. My husband and I named our son Henry Adair.

Although he endured a long battle with cancer, Uncle Jim was blessed to pass away peacefully at his own home, which he loved, at beautiful St. Simons Island, Georgia. A couple of days after he died, my Aunt Jeanne wrote to my mother, "Jim looked so very young and rested and beautiful, without the lines from his painful, debilitating cancer and other wars, both real and figurative, that he has been through."

That is my wish for all warriors, when, at last, they go home.

*Julie Thrasher Stuckey is a poet, mathematician, and homemaker. She lives on the high plains of Colorado, with her husband (a Navy veteran) and twin toddlers. She is the daughter of Peggy and Al Thrasher.*

*Reprinted from the Spring 2011 issue of VietNow Magazine with the permission of the author.*

*Note: Adair Dickerson was the son of Hope Thrasher Dickerson and a half-first cousin to Albert Thrasher and Robert Rainer.*



## **Editor's Note**

**IMPORTANT** -- we are planning a new directory to be available by the reunion. If you have changes or corrections to your information send it in as soon as possible to either John E. Thrasher, Buddy Thrasher or to me. Deadline for new information will be June 1. Our e-mail addresses are <fish\_jet@bellsouth.net>, <robertthrasher@bellsouth.net> and <beger@earthlink.net>.

**Don't wait** to make your reservation at the La Quinta Inn. I looked online at their June regular rate and it is way higher! See you there.

As always, I'm asking for news, research, anything else you might think would be of interest in the newsletter. Send an e-mail to beger@earthlink.net or snail mail to Barbara Eger, 13318 Omega Ct., Dade City, FL 33525.

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## **In Memorium**

Goldie Almira Thrasher Stewart passed away Nov. 29, 2011, in Visalia, Calif. She was born Feb. 9, 1920, in Tulare, Calif.

A graduate of Fresno State College and the University of Southern California, Goldie Thrasher was employed by the Visalia Public Library for 40 years.

She is survived by her husband of 60 years, Robert William Stewart; one son, Dr. Robert George Stewart; and two grandchildren and one niece, five nephews and their families.

Goldie Thrasher Stewart is the aunt of Association member George C. Thrasher. Our condolences to her family.

## **Directory Change**

Frances Leitner wrote that she has moved and also has a new e-mail address. Please note this in your directories.

Frances Leitner  
8450 Gate Parkway West #203  
Jacksonville, FL 32216

fhl1234@bellsouth.net

## **Special Note from John E. Thrasher**

I found a serious error in the *Index of Volumes 14 - 23* that I compiled a few years ago. Here is the correction: In the section "Thrasher Newsletter Index, October 2003 to Aug. 2004" William Edgar Thrasher Jr. and Sr. should be Wilbert Edgar Thrasher. If you have one of these indexes please make the correction.

## **Louis Edgar Thrasher -- A Life Cut Short By War**

By Barbara Eger

Louis Edgar Thrasher was a U.S. Army Air Force bomber pilot. In February 1944 his plane was reported missing in action over Italy. He had only been flying mis-



sions in the Mediterranean area since December. He and his crew were part of the 376th Bombardment Group. The group flew Liberator bombers and their missions ranged from the Ploesti oil refineries in Romania to Tobruk and Benghazi in

Africa, suffering heavy losses during their service. The son of Erwin C. and Harriet L. (Schroeder) Thrasher, Louis Edgar was born in April 1923 and sadly had not quite reached his 21st birthday.

No trace of the plane or its crew was ever found. The government continued to search for the plane and its crew until

1949, then declared them dead. Louis Thrasher is remembered in the Tablets of the Missing at Sicily - Rome American Cemetery, Nettuno, Italy.

This picture of him was in a group of photos given to me when my grandfather, Wallace Thrasher, passed away. I remember him showing me the picture several times over the years and telling me what had happened to him. Erwin was his brother and Louis his nephew -- of whom he was very proud.

Recently I connected with someone on Ancestry who is documenting the Thrashers along with his own family and several others and was reminded of Louis Edgar Thrasher and this picture. One of the interesting things I learned from the Ragan tree was that Louis Edgar Thrasher is shown on the 1945 Florida census because his parents refused to believe that he was dead since his body was never found. They wanted to believe he was somewhere in Europe with amnesia and would come home some day.

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### **You'll Want to See This!**

Grady Thrasher's documentary film about his father's and uncles' exploits after WWII in their "Thrasher Brothers Flying Circus" received good reviews after its opening showings in Athens and Elberton, GA.

Remember that Grady has offered to mail a free DVD of the film to any subscriber to the Thrasher Newsletter in return for a \$10.00 donation to the Thrasher Family Association in addition to their annual dues.

To see a preview of the documentary go to [www.worldssmallestairport.com](http://www.worldssmallestairport.com).

### **Think About It!**

I know the 2012 Thrasher Family Reunion isn't here yet, but look ahead to 2013. If you have any interest in hosting that, get in touch with John E. Thrasher.

It's never too early to think about this!

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### **Three New Twigs on a Tennessee Branch!**

Shirley Brewer happily reported that she and Charlie have a new grandson and two new great-grandsons!

Grandson Levi Aaron Brewer arrived October 21, 2011. His parents are Leia Brewer and Mark Brewer.

Great-grandson Anthony Joseph (Joe) Stone, Jr. was born October 20, 2011, to Andrea Battles Stone and Anthony Joseph Stone, Sr. His grandparents are Ann Brewer Battles and the late Gary Dee Battles. Then on January 13, 2012, great-grandson Jaxon Alexander Brewer was born. His parents are Justin Adam Brewer and Wendy Harriss Brewer; grandparents are James David Brewer, Sr. and Debbie Sue Tubbs Brewer.

Congratulations and good wishes for health and happiness to all.

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# The Thrasher Newsletter

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Editor: Barbara Eger    Circulation: John E. Thrasher III    Volume 30 No. 3 May 2012

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## It's going to be great to see you!

Eleanor and I are excited at the very thought. We always have such a wonderful time with all of you at the reunions and this one will be great too. Buddy and Glenda (and, I suspect, with Katie's and Marshall's help) have a good time planned for us.

I hope by now all of you have sent your dinner reservation sheet to Buddy! If you haven't gotten around to it yet, don't put it off.

I realized last year that there was probably not enough in the newsletter about our relaxed schedule of activities. So here goes:

\* Thursday evening -- well, that's not really part of the reunion, but quite a number of our group come early so as to have a clear day on Friday for sightseeing. For the past few years we have met at the motel about 5:30 p.m. and gone to dinner together. The lobby of the motel is a good meeting place. Who plans where we end up? I don't know, but we have lucked out in the past with a good meal and a good time together. So if you are arriving on Thursday, think about where we should eat.

\* Friday evening -- This is where we all meet in the motel lobby at 5:30 p.m. Buddy will have the directions to the Mt. Vernon restaurant and will be our leader from there. We always come back to the motel after dinner and continue our visiting. Usually the motel meeting room where we will meet on Saturday is available that evening and we will gather there to continue our visiting and big talk!

\* Saturday -- We will be seeing each other at breakfast for sure, but you may need to sleep in a little if you stayed up too late on Friday evening -- that happens!

By 10:00 a.m. those of us who bring charts, books, pictures, genealogies, printers, DVDs and all of those interesting and fun items to share and brag about will be setting up in the meeting room there in the motel. I invite you to bring some special family items/materials along to share; I hope you will. Drift in and out - have a quick bite to eat somewhere - enjoy talking and visiting and examining the articles on display, but all of should be in the meeting room by 1:30 p.m, when we will begin the various presentations. One thing that you will not want to miss is a showing of Grady Thrasher's DVD about his father's and uncle's exploits after WW II in their "Thrasher Brother's Flying Circus." The different presentations will lead into and tie in with our very "almost an agenda" schedule, as we also hold a general business meeting before breaking for a photo session, then get ready to go to dinner. Bill H. Thrasher will be our photo wizard again.

It's surprising just how fast time passes and before we know it, it will be time to head for dinner at the Chattanooga Choo-Choo. Buddy said we should leave the motel at 5:30 p.m. Again I leave the leadership to Buddy to get us there. I'm sure there will be another of those fun evening gatherings after dinner.

\* Sunday -- We try to eat breakfast at about the same time on Sunday mornings as that will give us the chance to say goodbye and head for home.

See you in Chattanooga!

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John E. Thrasher III

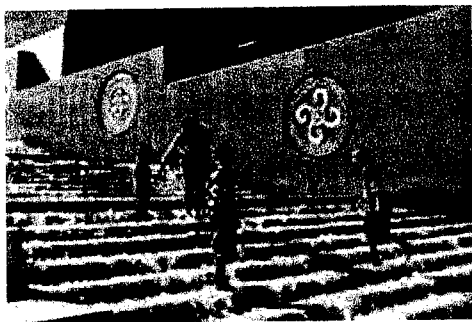
## **Two Examples of the Variety that Chattanooga Offers**

Chattanooga has so many different things to interest visitors. Here are just two of them.

Visit a memorial to a tragic event in our history. The Passage is a pedestrian link between downtown Chattanooga and the Tennessee River and marks the beginning of the Trail of Tears.

The Trail of Tears refers to the journey which forced the removal of the Cherokee tribes from Ross' s Landing in Chattanooga to Oklahoma. Some 4000 Cherokees died before reaching Oklahoma.

The Passage is a permanent outdoor exhibit, with symbolism of the seven clans of the Cherokee Nation.



*Seven six-foot ceramic disks tell the story of the Cherokee Nation from hundreds of years of Native American habitation in the southeast.*



*The Weeping Wall represents the tears shed as the Cherokee were driven from their homes and removed on the Trail of Tears.*

Then switch from history to arts and crafts. Within walking distance of downtown Chattanooga, the Bluff View Art District specializes in the visual, culinary and landscape arts.

The historic neighborhood sits on a bluff overlooking the Tennessee River. While there, you can browse through the River Gallery, which exhibits fine art and museum quality crafts from local, regional, national and international artists.

You also can wander through the sculpture garden or watch the local artisans bake breads, make chocolates or roast coffee; there is something in the Bluff View Art District for everyone to enjoy.



*Enjoy lunch and the view at the Bluff View Cafe*

### ***Do It Now!!***

There isn't much time left to make your plans! By the time you get this issue there will only be about a week left to get the special reunion rate at the La Quinta Inn in Chattanooga. That rate is \$79/night plus tax and must be made directly with the motel. Call 423-265-3151 and tell the reservation office you are part of the Thrasher Reunion group. The cut-off date is May 25 for this special rate, which is also good for the three days preceding and the three days following the reunion. That will let you plan extra time to enjoy Chattanooga's many attractions.

There is a little more leeway with sending Buddy your meal form (due June 20), but why not send it in when you make your motel reservation? That way you won't let it slip your mind.

In case you don't have the last issue handy, here's the information again: Dinner on Friday night will be at the Mt. Vernon restaurant, with meals ordered from the main menu. Saturday night we will gather at the Chattanooga Choo Choo Gardens restaurant.

Saturday meal selections are listed on the reservation form and need to be made in advance. Include a deposit of \$5 per person with your form. Meal cost is \$19.27 per person including tax and gratuity. Appetizers and beverages other than coffee or tea are extra. Both restaurants will provide individual checks.



## **A Look at "Cousin John" by Someone Who Knew Him**

*Bill Arp (Charles Henry Smith)*

*"So-called "Side Show of the Southern Side of the War."*

*"I'm a good Union man, so called: but I'll bet on Dixie as long as I've got a dollar."*

*Published New York; Metropolitan Record Office, 1866.*

Since so many of the members of the TFA are very interested in "Cousin" John (John James Thrasher) and the legends that surround him, I wondered if anyone was familiar with the publication above.

About 1972 on a research trip to Georgia, I was lucky enough to meet Mercer Hull (b.1883) and his sister Lulu Hull (b. 1890), who lived in Conyers, Georgia. They were grandchildren of Mary Odom Thrasher , (the 10th child of David and Polly Hughey Thrasher and sister to "Cousin" John).

Cousin Lulu took me out to the David Thrasher cemetery and Cousin Mercer introduced me to Bill Arp -- the book, that is. Cousin John was still alive when they were children and they were steeped in stories of his doings. Both Mercer and Lulu are listed on page 18 in Dr. Marion Thrasher's "A History of the Thrasher Family - 1895."

Cousin Mercer offered to find me a copy of "Bill Arp" in Atlanta, and if he couldn't, would give me his copy. Unfortunately neither happened as he passed away at age 93. I later located a copy through inter-library loan.

Bill Arp was a very popular Georgia writer following the Civil War and a friend of Cousin John's. Cousin John appears numerous times in the writings as "Big John" and at least once as "Cousin John Thrasher." There is one chapter in particular that is titled, "Bill Arp Returns To The Eternal City And Meets His Friend Big John." There is one funny sketch of "Big John Sleeps On His Arms." It's a fun read!

If you are interested and your library can't find a copy of the book, I will be happy to copy the chapter (seven pages) and mail to you - \$1.50 should cover the cost of copying and postage.

Here is a sample from the book on page 156: "P. S. -- Cousin John Thrasher says he studied law for a week, and will be a candidate for some high office when we meet again, provided we give him time to sell his cotton seed. I'll say this for him, art has done as much for him as for some of the candidates, and nature more, and his cotton seed are as good seed as I ever seed. B. A."

John E. Thrasher III



### **Editor's Corner**

I'm looking forward to Chattanooga. It's a great place to visit and Buddy and Glenda have worked hard to get a successful reunion ready for all. See you there!

Graduation and wedding season is coming up. If you have an event in your family we'd love to hear about -- pictures welcome, too. As always, this is a plea for sending news items to share.

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>.

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# News and Notes

## **An Exciting Trip**

David and Elise Sumner are in Istanbul, Turkey, where David will be presenting a research paper at the International Conference on Communication, Media and Technology. David wrote that they will be taking extra days to visit the historic churches and other sites. Istanbul has been a historic center of both Christianity and the Byzantine Empire for 1,000 years and both David and Elise are looking forward to exploring all that history.

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## **You'll Be Missed!**

Reunion regulars Dale and Trudy Thrasher aren't able to be with us this year. Dale wrote that they have had some health problems and their long-distance trips have been curtailed. Dale shared this picture of the two of them with "their girls, who visited for a week to help celebrate Dale and Trudy's 63rd wedding anniversary.



Wally, Chris, Pam, Pam, Trudy, Dale Feb 2013

## **More Globe Trotting Members**

Reunion regular Jim Moule and his wife are going to France to celebrate their 50th anniversary. We will miss him.

Celestea Sharp also will miss the reunion due to a trip to France with friends.

Have a great trip and we hope to see you next year!

\*\*\*\*\*

## **New Members**

Montana & Whitney Thrasher  
55 Ashwick Drive  
Jefferson, GA 30549

Patricia Ann Waller  
501R Trojan Way  
PO Box 352  
Troy, AL 36081  
214-799-7292  
pattycake1344@yahoo.com

A warm welcome to you! Hope to see you in Chattanooga if you can make it.

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**One last Chattanooga note: To check out more things to see and do go to <<http://www.chattanoogaofun.com/>>. And while you're there click on the Coupons icon at the left of the page where there are discounts for many of the attractions.**

## **Descendants of Thomas Barton Thrasher**

Thomas' father and mother, David and Mary "Polly" Hughey Thrasher had fourteen children. Thomas Barton was their first child and a fourth generation descendant of John/Ruth Cloud Thrasher. Several of David and Polly's children were quite well known, even famous, as was "Cousin John" (John James Thrasher for whom Atlanta was first named "Thrasherville").

The most comprehensive coverage of this branch of the Thrasher family was compiled by Vessie Thrasher Rainer in 1977 titled "Thrasher-Barton Descendants of Georgia." Vessie, born in 1898, was a descendant of David and Polly through their son, Albert Conway Thrasher and grew up knowing many of the "old folks." She was a founding member of our TFA and active until her death.

So it was like a ray of light shown down when Bonnie Thrasher Bolin attended her first Thrasher Reunion in Savannah in 2010 and we could get to know her!

Bonnie has provided us with her genealogy from Thomas Barton Thrasher to the present time. I am so pleased that we are able to include her genealogy in this issue of the Thrasher Newsletter.

# *Descendants of John Thrasher Sr.*

## *Generation No. 1*

1. JOHN THRASHER<sup>1</sup> SR. was born Abt. 1720, and died Abt. 1790 in Guilford County, N. C.. He married RUTH CLOUD.

Child of JOHN SR. and RUTH CLOUD is:

2. i. JOHN THRASHER<sup>2</sup> JR., b. Abt. 1761, Virginia; d. Abt. 1840, Clarke County, Georgia.

## *Generation No. 2*

2. JOHN THRASHER<sup>2</sup> JR. (*JOHN THRASHER<sup>1</sup> SR.*) was born Abt. 1761 in Virginia, and died Abt. 1840 in Clarke County, Georgia. He married SUSAN BARTON, daughter of DAVID BARTON.

Child of JOHN JR. and SUSAN BARTON is:

3. i. DAVID<sup>3</sup> THRASHER, b. February 25, 1796; d. June 07, 1882, Newton County, Georgia.

## *Generation No. 3*

3. DAVID<sup>3</sup> THRASHER (*JOHN THRASHER<sup>2</sup> JR., JOHN THRASHER<sup>1</sup> SR.*) was born February 25, 1796, and died June 07, 1882 in Newton County, Georgia. He married MARY HUGHEY. She was born September 07, 1798, and died May 25, 1863 in Newton County, Georgia.

Notes for DAVID THRASHER:

"Thrasher's Death. (Special correspondent to The Constitution.)

Conyers, June 8 - David Thrasher, an old citizen of Newton County, died at his home Tuesday night last at 12 o'clock. Mr. Thrasher was 86 years old and has a large connection in this and other states of the union. Cousin John Thrasher is, I think, his youngest son. David Thrasher was a soldier of the War of 1812. He was a man of sterling worth. Peace to his ashes."

More About DAVID THRASHER:

Burial: Thrasher Cemetery, Newton County, Georgia

Notes for MARY HUGHEY:

"She was related to Jefferson Davis." Information from Bonnis Bolen.

More About MARY HUGHEY:

Burial: Thrasher Cemetery, Newton County, Georgia

Child of DAVID THRASHER and MARY HUGHEY is:

4. i. THOMAS BARTON<sup>4</sup> THRASHER, b. November 17, 1816, Morgan County, Georgia; d. August 30, 1871, Florida.

## *Generation No. 4*

4. THOMAS BARTON<sup>4</sup> THRASHER (*DAVID<sup>3</sup>, JOHN THRASHER<sup>2</sup> JR., JOHN THRASHER<sup>1</sup> SR.*) was born November 17, 1816 in Morgan County, Georgia, and died August 30, 1871 in Florida. He married (1) FRANCES TRAVIS November 28, 1837, daughter of JESSIE TRAVIS and NANCY TERRELL. She was born 1820 in Alabama, and died 1861 in Georgia. He married (2) MRS. TRESVANT Aft. 1861.

Notes for THOMAS BARTON THRASHER:

1850 Census for Subdivision 65, Newton County, Georgia. Listed as Thomas B. Thrasher

1860 Census for Newton County, Georgia. Listed as Thos B. Thrasher

"He is buried beside his second wife." (Information from Bonnie Bolen.)

"Thrasher-Barton Descendants of Georgia" compiled by Vessie Thrasher Rainer, 1977

More About THOMAS BARTON THRASHER:  
Burial: Lake City, Columbia County, Florida

Notes for FRANCES TRAVIS:

Frances Travis was the sister of Nancy Travis who married James Cloud Thrasher, Thomas Barton Thrasher's brother.

"Because her grave was so overgrown, her grandson, Major General Robert Jesse Travis, had her body exhumed and reburied in his plot in Bonaventure Cemetery in Savannah, Georgia." (Information from Bonnie Bolen.)

"Henry County Georgia - The Mother of Counties" by Vessie Thrasher Rainer 1971. Page 241

More About FRANCES TRAVIS:  
Burial: Thrasher Cemetery, Newton County, Georgia

Children of THOMAS THRASHER and FRANCES TRAVIS are:

- i. JESSIE H.<sup>5</sup> THRASHER, b. Abt. 1839; m. ADELIN F. MCDONALD, 1858.
5. ii. DAVID RICHMOND THRASHER, b. May 28, 1840, Newton County, Georgia; d. May 19, 1910.
- iii. ELLEN JANE THRASHER, b. 1842, 1904; m. JONATHAN BRANNEN.
- iv. THOMAS TRAVIS THRASHER, b. June 08, 1845; d. June 14, 1924; m. EXA CRAWFORD TUCKER; b. April 01, 1845; d. 1927.

More About EXA CRAWFORD TUCKER:  
Burial: Smyrna Presbyterian Campground, Rockdale County, Georgia

- v. WILLIAM THRASHER, b. February 15, 1847.
- vi. BETHUEL ANN THRASHER, b. January 15, 1848; d. June 26, 1882; m. VINCENT MOSELEY, February 20, 1866.
- vii. FRANCES VIRGINIA THRASHER, b. 1850; m. MR. OAKS.

#### Generation No. 5

5. DAVID RICHMOND<sup>5</sup> THRASHER (*THOMAS BARTON<sup>4</sup>, DAVID<sup>3</sup>, JOHN THRASHER<sup>2</sup> JR., JOHN THRASHER<sup>1</sup> SR.*) was born May 28, 1840 in Newton County, Georgia, and died May 19, 1910. He married TEMPIE A. WILLINGHAM November 19, 1865, daughter of WILKINS WILLINGHAM and MARY. She was born February 23, 1841 in Georgia, and died 1902.

Notes for DAVID RICHMOND THRASHER:

1850 Census for Subdivision 65, Newton County, Georgia. A farmer.

1860 Census for Newton County, Georgia. A farmer.

1870 Census for McDonough, Henry County, Georgia. A farmer.

1880 Census for Panthersville, De Kalb County, Georgia. David Richmond was working as farm labor.

"Thrasher - Barton Descendants of Georgia" compiled by Vessie Thrasher Rainer, 1977. Page 66.

U.S. Veterans Gravesites, ca. 1775 - 2006. - Ancestry .Com: PVT US Army Civil War. Birth date: 28 May 1840. Death date: 19 April 1909. Main Street Cemetery, Clayton County, Georgia 30525.

More About DAVID RICHMOND THRASHER:

Burial: Forest Park, Main Street Cemetery, Clayton County, Georgia. 40959456

Notes for TEMPIE A. WILLINGHAM:

1850 Census for Newton County, Georgia

1860 Census for Subdivision 65, Newton County, Georgia

More About TEMPIE A. WILLINGHAM:

Burial: Forest Park, Main Street Cemetery, Clayton County, Georgia. 40959475

Children of DAVID THRASHER and TEMPIE WILLINGHAM are:

- i. MARY A.<sup>6</sup> THRASHER, b. Abt. 1866.

6.
  - ii. VELPO RICHMOND THRASHER, b. July 24, 1868, Henry County, Georgia; d. 1919.
  - iii. THOMAS R. THRASHER, b. Abt. 1875.

*Generation No. 6*

6. VELPO RICHMOND<sup>6</sup> THRASHER (*DAVID RICHMOND<sup>5</sup>, THOMAS BARTON<sup>4</sup>, DAVID<sup>3</sup>, JOHN THRASHER<sup>2</sup> JR., JOHN THRASHER<sup>1</sup> SR.*) was born July 24, 1868 in Henry County, Georgia, and died 1919. He married (1) RUTH DODSON. She was born July 1873 in Georgia, and died Abt. 1900. He married (2) LULA FARLOW Abt. 1901. She was born November 24, 1875 in Alabama, and died June 08, 1937 in Atlanta, Georgia.

Notes for VELPO RICHMOND THRASHER:

1870 Census for McDonough, Henry County, Georgia. Velpae R. Thrasher.

1880 Census for Panthersville, DeKalb County, Georgia. Velpa R. Thrasher. He was a farmer.

1900 Census for Atlanta Ward 2, Fulton County, Georgia. Velpo R. Thrasher was a locomotive engineer.

"While working on the railroad in Texas, he wrecked the train and was fired." (Information from Bonnie Bolen.)

Notes for LULA FARLOW:

1910 Census for Cook, Fulton County, Georgia. Listed as Lantie F. Thrasher.

1920 Census for Atlanta Ward 5, Fulton County, Georgia

1930 Census for Atlanta, Fulton County, Georgia

Children of VELPO THRASHER and RUTH DODSON are:

7.
  - i. CHARLES EDWARD<sup>7</sup> THRASHER, b. November 1891, Georgia; d. February 04, 1943, Fulton County, Georgia.
  - ii. HOWARD THRASHER, b. August 1891; d. July 24, 1929, Fulton County, Georgia.
  - iii. ANNIE RUTH THRASHER, b. June 1893, Georgia; d. May 27, 1947, Grayson County, Texas.
  - iv. BENJAMIN FRANKLIN THRASHER, b. June 06, 1895, Georgia; d. October 24, 1954, Toledo, Lucas County, Ohio.

Children of VELPO THRASHER and LULA FARLOW are:

9.
  - v. DAVID E.<sup>7</sup> THRASHER, b. 1906, Georgia; d. 1907, Georgia.
  - vi. VELPO LEROY THRASHER, b. Abt. 1908, Georgia; d. April 06, 1955, Fulton County, Georgia.
  - vii. GEORGE W. THRASHER, b. Abt. 1910, Georgia; d. 1936, Georgia.

Notes for GEORGE W. THRASHER:

1930 Census for Atlanta, Fulton County, Georgia. George is a stock clerk for the railroad.

"George was killed in a baseball game when a ball hit him in the head." (Information from Bonnie Bolen.)

More About GEORGE W. THRASHER:

Burial: Jones Memorial Methodist Cemetery, Forest Park, Clayton County, Georgia

*Generation No. 7*

7. CHARLES EDWARD<sup>7</sup> THRASHER (*VELPO RICHMOND<sup>6</sup>, DAVID RICHMOND<sup>5</sup>, THOMAS BARTON<sup>4</sup>, DAVID<sup>3</sup>, JOHN THRASHER<sup>2</sup> JR., JOHN THRASHER<sup>1</sup> SR.*) was born November 1891 in Georgia, and died February 04, 1943 in Fulton County, Georgia. He married AVIS R. H.. She was born July 28, 1892, and died May 17, 1969 in Baldwin County, Georgia.

Notes for CHARLES EDWARD THRASHER:

1910 Census for Atlanta, Fulton County, Georgia. He was a boarder there.

1920 Census for Atlanta Ward 10, Fulton County, Georgia. He was a flagman for the railroad.

1930 Census for Hapeville, Fulton County, Georgia. He was a flagman for the railroad. Home value: \$3,000.

An interesting note written on the side of the census report said: "These people lived in little huts in the woods and not on any street." His first marriage was at age 22 and Avis at 18.

Georgia Deaths, 1919 - 1998. Charles E. Thrasher.

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Notes for AVIS R. H.:

Georgia Deaths, 1919 - 1998. Avis B. Thrasher 76 years. Her residence was in Fulton County, but she died in Baldwin County, Georgia.

Social Security Death Index: Avis Thrasher

Child of CHARLES THRASHER and AVIS H. is:

- i. JAMES MARION<sup>8</sup> THRASHER, b. Abt. October 1916.

8. ANNIE RUTH<sup>7</sup> THRASHER (*VELPO RICHMOND<sup>6</sup>, DAVID RICHMOND<sup>5</sup>, THOMAS BARTON<sup>4</sup>, DAVID<sup>3</sup>, JOHN THRASHER<sup>2</sup> JR., JOHN THRASHER<sup>1</sup> SR.*) was born June 1893 in Georgia, and died May 27, 1947 in Grayson County, Texas. She married ISAAC RANSON WEBB. He was born 1884, and died 1968 in Sherman, Grayson County, Texas.

Children of ANNIE THRASHER and ISAAC WEBB are:

- i. MARGARET RUTH<sup>8</sup> WEBB, b. July 20, 1913, Texas.
- ii. FRANCIS WEBB, b. November 15, 1915; d. April 17, 2006, Texas.
- iii. ANNIE REBERTA WEBB, b. 1919, Texas; d. May 15, 2003, Texas.
- iv. RANSOM J. WEBB, b. February 26, 1921, Texas; d. October 27, 2010, Texas.
- v. HOWARD C. WEBB, b. February 12, 1925, Texas; d. July 21, 2001, Texas.

9. BENJAMIN FRANKLIN<sup>7</sup> THRASHER (*VELPO RICHMOND<sup>6</sup>, DAVID RICHMOND<sup>5</sup>, THOMAS BARTON<sup>4</sup>, DAVID<sup>3</sup>, JOHN THRASHER<sup>2</sup> JR., JOHN THRASHER<sup>1</sup> SR.*) was born June 06, 1895 in Georgia, and died October 24, 1954 in Toledo, Lucas County, Ohio. He married (1) MARGARET "MAUDE" S. January 10, 1911 in Texas. She was born 1894 in Texas, and died August 20, 1926 in Fulton County, Georgia. He married (2) DOROTHEA STOUT 1926. He married (3) BEULAH JEFFERIES August 31, 1935. She was born 1919, and died November 20, 1999.

Notes for BENJAMIN FRANKLIN THRASHER:

1900 Census for Atlanta Ward 2, Fulton County, Georgia

1910 Census for Cook, Fulton County, Georgia

1920 Census for Atlanta Ward 6, Fulton County, Georgia. He was a fireman or foreman on the railroad.

1930 Census for Toledo, Lucas County, Ohio. Listed as Berry F. Thrasher. He was a brakeman, R. R. Steam engine. His age at first marriage was listed as 16.

Notes for MARGARET "MAUDE" S.:

Georgia Deaths, 1919 - 1998. Listed as Margaret S. Thrasher.

Children of BENJAMIN THRASHER and MARGARET S. are:

- i. OLA MAE<sup>8</sup> THRASHER, b. 1912; d. 1913.
- ii. IRMA LOURINE THRASHER, b. 1914, Tennessee; d. 2005.

Child of BENJAMIN THRASHER and DOROTHEA STOUT is:

- iii. DAISY RUTH<sup>8</sup> THRASHER, b. 1927.

Children of BENJAMIN THRASHER and BEULAH JEFFERIES are:

- iv. LEROY FRANKLIN<sup>8</sup> THRASHER, b. 1937; d. March 13, 1998.
- v. ROBERT EUGENE THRASHER, b. 1938.

10. VELPO LEROY<sup>7</sup> THRASHER (*VELPO RICHMOND<sup>6</sup>, DAVID RICHMOND<sup>5</sup>, THOMAS BARTON<sup>4</sup>, DAVID<sup>3</sup>, JOHN THRASHER<sup>2</sup> JR., JOHN THRASHER<sup>1</sup> SR.*) was born Abt. 1908 in Georgia, and died April 06, 1955 in Fulton County, Georgia. He married THELMA INEZ SMITH November 1930 in Fulton County, Georgia. She was born September 22, 1910 in DeKalb County, Georgia, and died February 20, 1969 in Fulton County, Georgia.

Notes for VELPO LEROY THRASHER:

1910 Census for Cook, Fulton County, Georgia

1920 Census for Atlanta Ward 5, Fulton County, Georgia  
1930 Census for Atlanta, Fulton County, Georgia. See original census for correct spelling. The name was incorrectly transcribed by census record workers. Leroy is listed as Lucy V. Thrasher. Leroy is a clerk in the railroad's office.

Georgia Deaths, 1919 - 1998: Fulton County, Georgia: Velpo L. Thrasher

More About VELPO LEROY THRASHER:

Burial: Jones Memorial Cemetery, Forest Park, Georgia

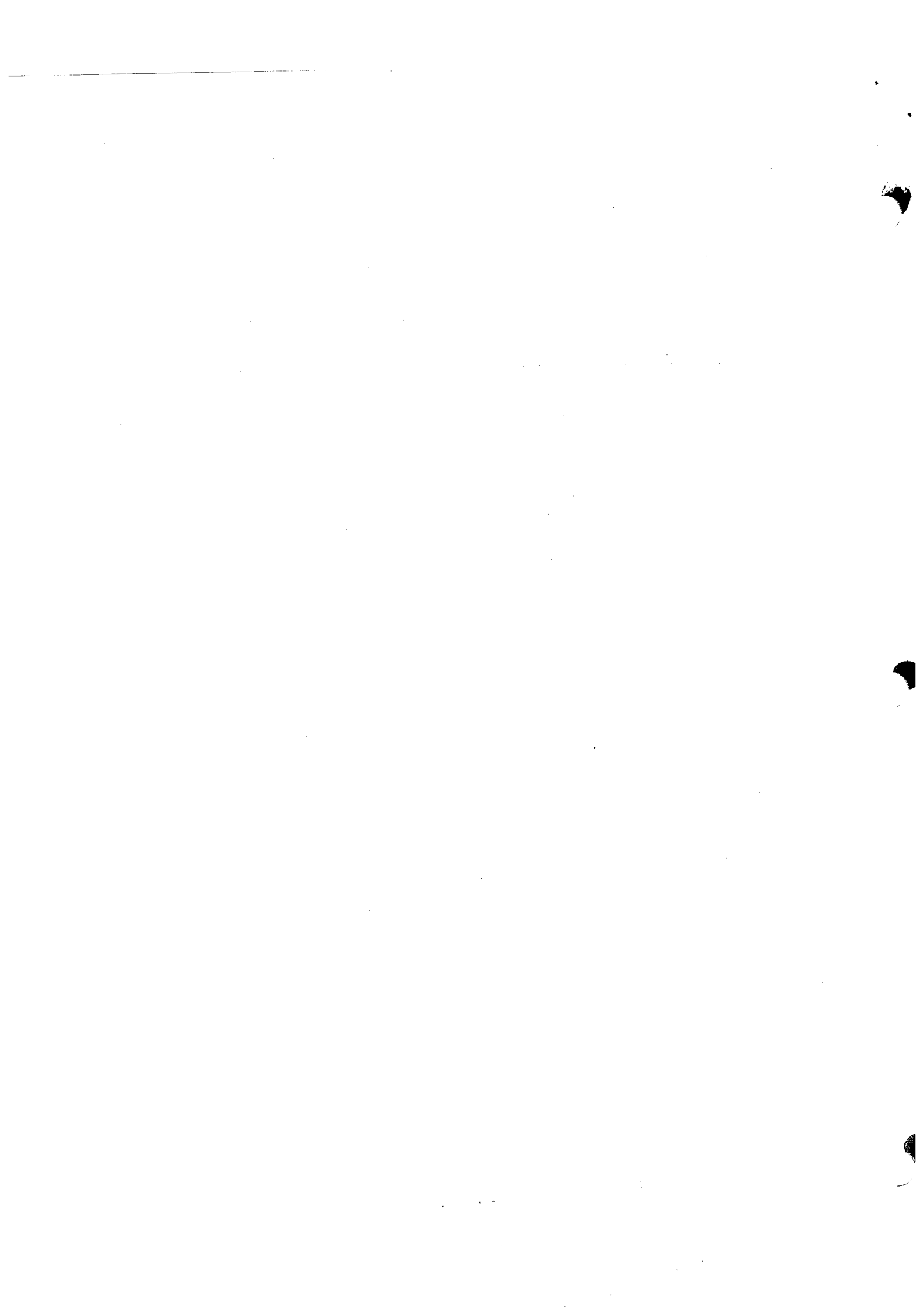
Notes for THELMA INEZ SMITH:

Thelma Inez and Velpo Leroy Thrasher were divorced in 1948 in Fulton County, Georgia.

Child of VELPO THRASHER and THELMA SMITH is:

- i. BONNIE<sup>8</sup> THRASHER, b. August 28, 1943, Atlanta, Fulton County, Georgia; m. ED BOLIN, December 28, 1968; b. August 05, 1930, Sumter County, S. C.; d. June 22, 2011, Fayetteville, Georgia.

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# The Thrasher Newsletter

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Editor: Barbara Eger Circulation: John E. Thrasher III Volume 30 No. 4 September 2012

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Photo IDs on page 2



### **Group Photo:**

1st row: Robert (Buddy) Thrasher, David Thrasher, Montana Thrasher, Joe Grooms, John Paul Thrasher, Marshall Thrasher, and Katie Thrasher.

2nd row: Glenda Thrasher, Helen Raye Thrasher, Bonnie Thrasher Bolin, Juanita Thrasher, Eleanor Thrasher, Mary Thrasher, and Vickie Mills.

3rd row: Nancy Thrasher Cherry, Chris Cherry, Angie Grooms, Alice Thrasher, Frank Combes, Ken Sutherland, John E. Thrasher III, Jim Thrasher, Judy Aleman, and Janie Mosley; behind them is Bill H. Thrasher.

### **Bottom of Page 1:**

Dinner at the Chattanooga Choo-Choo Gardens (left): David Thrasher, Alice Thrasher, Eleanor Thrasher, John E. Thrasher III, Mary Thrasher, Jim Thrasher and Marshall Thrasher.

Dinner at the Mt. Vernon Restaurant (center): Vickie Mills, Bonnie Bolin, David R. Thrasher, Joe Grooms, Angie Grooms.

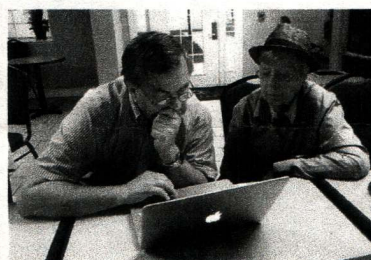
More Chattanooga Choo-Choo Gardens diners (right): Janie Mosley, Judy Aleman, Vickie Mills.



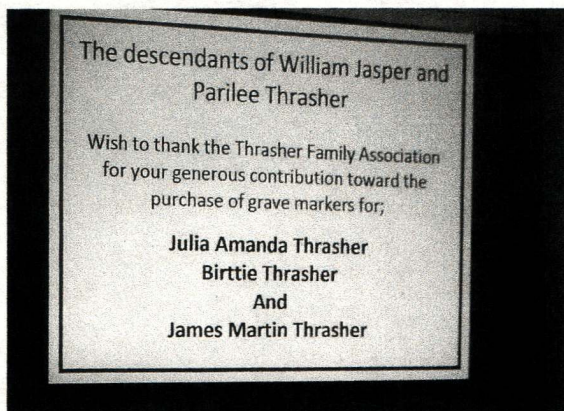
#### **A Little Thrasher Muscle**

*Pitching in to rearrange the tables at the Choo-Choo are (l. to r.): Joe Grooms, Frank Combes, David R. Thrasher, Montana Thrasher, and, in the background, Alice Thrasher.*

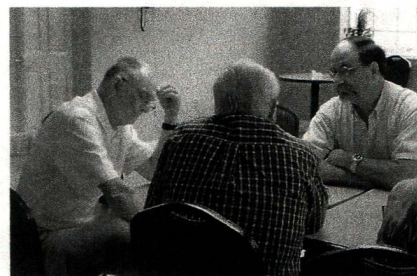
#### **Looking for links**



*David R. Thrasher and Helen Raye Thrasher compare notes.*



*The descendants of William Jasper and Parilee Thrasher sent a thank you for the contribution the TFA made to purchasing grave markers for Julia Amanda, Birttie and James Martin Thrasher.*



*Joe Grooms, Buddy Thrasher (back to camera) and Frank Combes have some serious discussion about who is linked to whom.*

## **Another Successful Reunion**

From the reports that have come in, it sounds as though 2012 in Chattanooga was a good time for all those who could be there. There were some first-time attendees, including one brand new member, Montana Thrasher, but some of the regulars were missing. Montana traces his family tree back to the Christopher Drescher line first found in Pennsylvania and then in Virginia. There were also several members who had not been able to attend for several years. Hope both newbies and long-timers will be with the clan in 2013.

John Paul Thrasher brought many Thrasher-related items with him to share; According to John E. Thrasher, Billy H. Thrasher had everyone laughing with his presentation on his cemetery records research. Seems the some of the things that got church members in hot water years ago would not get even a thought these days. Frank Combes refused to model his Thrasher Brothers band t-shirt, but did talk to the group about the Chattanooga Thrashers, who are Cousin John's descendants.

John E. shared what is probably a good summation of not only Chattanooga, but all of the reunions. "Sitting around together after dinner is always a highlight of a reunion. Lots of tall tales, old family jokes, a drink or two, but mostly just getting to know each other better and in some cases, cousins meeting cousins for the first time. It didn't matter if one was a DNA cousin or not! There was also much to see and do in Chattanooga in the non-reunion time. The only thing missing was Judge Tom looking for a golf course. I think the folks in the photo that Billy took for this year's reunion shows what a good time we were having."

The group enjoyed good food at two restaurants -- the Mount Vernon with its old Southern charm and delicious homegrown vegetables, and the Chattanooga Choo-Choo where many chowed down on ribs with the traditional sides of sweet corn, slaw, and beans.

Reunion hosts Buddy and Glenda Thrasher did a great job. This was their second time to volunteer; they also hosted the Vicksburg event in 2009.

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## **2013 Reunion Plans Already In The Works**

John Paul Thrasher is working with Grady Thrasher and Celestea Sharp on plans to jointly host the 2013 Thrasher Family Association Reunion in Clarke/Oconee County. Dates being considered are May 3-5 (Friday-Sunday). The host hotel will be in Athens, likely the Athens Holiday Inn.

John Paul said they plan to obtain a hospitality suite, which would be available on Friday and Saturday (and Sunday if possible) as a gathering spot for the "cousins."

Activities they have discussed include a bus tour of historic sites in Oconee County including Symington Bridge Rd. Cemetery, Whitlow Hill Cemetery, Barton Thrasher Cemetery and Salem Methodist church and the possibility of touring some Thrasher homes, including the Harden Hill home that was once owned by Judge B. E. Thrasher. John Paul said that they also hope to have a DAR grave marking ceremony (similar to the one at the Maryland Thrasher Reunion) if they can get it approved.

In addition, Grady has offered to host a showing of The Thrasher Brothers Aerial Circus film at Cine in downtown Athens.

\*\*\*\*\*

## Congratulations, Graduate!

Mark Thresher Brewer, son of Charlie & Shirley Thresher Brewer of Parsons, Tenn., graduated with a Bachelor of Science In Organizational Leadership (Church Leadership) from Union University at Jackson, Tn. on May 19th. Mark, his wife Leia and their family live in Luray, Tenn.

Mark is a 3rd generation ordained Baptist Minister of the Brewer family. Mark's family, parents, brothers and sisters attended the event.

Best wishes to Mark and all his family. Shirley and Charlie are long-time TFA members.

\*\*\*\*\*

## An Anniversary Toast

Jim Moule and his wife Katherine celebrated their 55th wedding anniversary with a trip to France in June. Their trip dates conflicted with the reunion dates; can't imagine why they would prefer France! You were missed but we all know you had a wonderful time. Best wishes to you both for many more.

\*\*\*\*\*

## More Long Marriages to Celebrate

In addition to the Moules, the Association has several members who have been married for more than 50 years and one pair, Dale and Trudy have been married for 63 years. John E. and Eleanor have been married for 57 years, Buddy and Glenda for 53 years, Bill and Juanita for 51, and Al and Peggy for 52. Don't have exact anniversary dates, so will make this a general day of recognition! If there are more of you out there, let us know and we will give it the recognition a commitment like that deserves. May all of you joyously celebrate many more.

\*\*\*\*\*

## **Editor's Corner**

First on my list: Sorry this issue is so late. Have been having some unexpected problems which made me cancel my plans to attend the reunion and also are interfering and putting everything I usually do behind schedule. Hope to get back on track by the time the next issue is due out.

In the meantime, it sounds as though the reunion was a good experience for those who did make it. Buddy and Glenda pulled off another success. Thanks to both of you.

There was a shortage of family news items this time -- there must have been some graduations, marriages, other events out there. All news is welcome -- pictures too. Send items for future issues to Barbara Eger, is 13318 Omega Ct., Dade City, FL 33525; or send an e-mail to <beger@earthlink.net>.

## Directory Changes, Corrections and Additions

### Names I goofed on in the directory:

Lociale, Janna (not Locinala)

Waller, Patricia Ann (not Paricia)

### Address changes:

Leitner, Frances H.  
8450 Gate Parkway West #203  
Jacksonville, FL 32216

Michael S. & Elizabeth Thrasher  
Add P.O. Box 841 to Anna Maria, FL address

Alternate address for them:  
Hillside Farm, Avon Tyrell Christchurch  
Dorset BH23 8EW  
United Kingdom  
+44-1425-672420

### E-mail corrections/additions:

Aleman, Judy and Abel  
aaleman@cableone.net  
Combes, Frank  
frankhondaex@gmail.com  
Ray, Fayra and Wayne  
waynerfayraray@gmail.com

### New telephone numbers:

John F. and Kathy Thrasher  
352-222-8111  
John Paul and Paula Thrasher  
770-328-3991

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*Test on how carefully you look at the pictures! How many of you spotted John and Eleanor up in the cab of the engine playing engineer?*

# ***In Memorium***

## **Roy C. Thrasher**

Roy C. Thrasher, 71, of Huntsville, died peacefully at his home May 4, 2012. He was born in Cedartown, Georgia, on July 19, 1940.

He attended North Habersham High School, Clarksville, Georgia, and Georgia Tech in Atlanta, receiving a BS in Electrical Engineering in 1964 and a BS in Applied Mathematics in 1965. He also earned a Master's degree in Engineering Specialty from UCLA. He began his career with McDonald Douglas Aircraft Corp. in Charlotte, North Carolina.

He also worked for that company in Santa Monica, California, and in Huntsville, Alabama. He also worked for numerous engineering companies in Huntsville and enjoyed mentoring young professionals.

He retired from Northrup Grumman after 45 years. One of his biggest enjoyments was watching his daughters play sports and cheering on their teams. In his younger years he enjoyed playing all sports including basketball and tennis.

He was preceded in death by his father, Albert Americus Thrasher; mother, Allie Lorraine Thrasher; and his sister, Carmie Larue Cochrane.

Survivors include his wife of 32 years, Lorraine; two daughters, Allie Marie Thrasher of Huntsville and Catherine Ann Thrasher of Huntsville, and his brother, Albert A. Thrasher, Jr. and sister-in-law, Margaret P. Thrasher, of Tiger, Georgia.

He also left behind many beloved cousins, nieces, nephews, and many dear family members and friends. He will be greatly missed by everyone touched by his life.

The funeral service was held at Holy Spirit Catholic Church in Huntsville on May 9, with Father Vincent Bresowar officiating.

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## **Dorothy Wright Thrasher**

Dorothy Wright Thrasher, 89, of Huntsville, passed away Sept. 13, 2012. She was born Nov. 1, 1922.

Mrs. Thrasher was preceded in death by her parents, Josephine and Clay Wright of Belmont, Mississippi and her beloved husband, Tom Goodman Thrasher.

Survivors include her daughters, Sharon T. Langley of Colorado Springs, CO, Carol T. Mayo (Donald) of Silverdale, Washington, Amanda T. Segrest (Michael) of Huntsville and Anne T. Swain (Albert) of Huntsville; nine grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

The funeral service was held at First United Methodist Church with the Rev. Coy Hallmark officiating.

Tom and Dorothy Thrasher were part of the original group of people who began the Thrasher Family Association in 1974.

\*\*\*\*\*

## The Thrasher Family

Richard Thrasher, son of Joseph Cloud Thrasher and his wife Margaret, is the first known of the Thrasher family to locate in Greene County, Georgia.

From "Historical Collections of Georgia" by White, page 479 (Greene County, Georgia):

"On the 23d of April, 1793, the Indians numbering thirty-seven, made a sudden attack upon the house of Mr. Richard Thrasher. They killed Mr. Thrasher, two children, and a negro woman. Mrs. Thrasher, to avoid, if possible, the fate with which she was threatened, fled with her infant, five or six weeks old, in her arms, and reached the river. The savages pursued her, and shot her through each thigh and the right breast, stabbed her in the left breast with a knife, cut her arm nearly off, and then scalped her. In this dreadful situation she remained until the neighbors could assemble in sufficient numbers to cross the river and pursue the Indians. As the first canoe was crossing, she had strength sufficient to call for assistance. The poor woman was found hanging by a bush, in water nearly up to her chin, her infant at the bottom of the river, a few yards from her. She lived nearly twenty-four hours, and when informed by her physician that it was impossible for her to survive much longer, she, with a fortitude that is rarely to be met with, called her friends around her, and in a calm manner gave her hand to every one, wishing them a better fate than that which had befallen her and her family. This lady was twenty-five years old, of highly respectable connections, handsome, and well educated."

Richard Thrasher's father, Joseph Cloud Thrasher (abt. 1750 - 1810) also located in Greene County at about the same time as it was in 1793 that he sold his property in Guilford County, North Carolina. He sold 460 acres in Greene County on 4 September, 1796 (Deed Book F, p. 283), and on 12 March, 1797 (Deed Book F, pp 285 - 286) Joseph Cloud Thrasher purchased land from William Hammett on Sandy Creek in Greene County which bordered on other Thrasher holdings. Joseph Cloud is found in the "1798 Census of First Battalion, Greene County, Georgia" along with two other Thrasher families whose given names are not listed. These other Thrasher families are known to be Joseph Cloud's relations: probably his mother Ruth Cloud Thrasher, now widowed, and for certain, his brother, John Thrasher, Jr. (1758 - 1844), his wife, Susan Barton Thrasher and some of their children and slaves. All of these family members migrated to Georgia after living in Guilford County (now Rockingham County), North Carolina during the American Revolution.

John Thrasher, Jr. (Revolutionary War - Pvt. N.C.) is recorded in the 1798 Tax Digest for Greene County for land on Greenbrier Creek. That property was later classified as being in Clarke County when Clarke was created from Jackson and Greene Counties in 1801.

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The Thrasher Family Association  
Meeting of June 23, 2012  
Chattanooga, Tennessee

**Attending (List includes those attending the Friday and/or Saturday dinners and/or the business meeting):**

Judy Aleman of Sherman, TX; Janie Mathus Mosley of Rockwell, TX; Bonnie T. Bolin of Fayetteville, GA; Nancy Cherry of Beltsville, MD; Chris Cherry of Beltsville, MD; Frank Combes of Chattanooga, TN; Joe and Angie Grooms of Davidson, NC; Ken Sutherland of Jacksonville, FL; Billy H. and Juanita Thrasher of Live Oak, FL; Buddy (Robert P.) and Glenda Thrasher of Columbus, MS; David and Alice Thrasher of Montgomery, AL; Helen Raye Thrasher of Birmingham, AL; Jim and Mary Thrasher of Lake City, FL; John E. and Eleanor Thrasher of Micanopy, FL; John Paul Thrasher of Newnan, GA; Marshall and Katy Thrasher of Rock Springs, GA; and Montana Thrasher of Jefferson, GA. Vickie Mills, a guest of Bonnie Bolin, also attended.

**Pre-meeting Program:** On Friday evening, June 22, the group enjoyed dinner at the gracious Mount Vernon Restaurant in Chattanooga.

**Call to Order:** The annual business meeting of the Thrasher Family Association (TFA) was called to order by Chair John E. Thrasher, III, at 1:30 p.m. on Saturday, June 23, 2012, in the Chit-Chat room of the La Quinta Inn, 100 W. 21<sup>st</sup> Street, Chattanooga, Tennessee. The room was lined with members' displays, photo albums, research notebooks, and interesting memorabilia of Thrasher families.

**Program:** The program consisted of two short presentations and a video.

Frank Combes welcomed the group to Chattanooga and providing information on notable Thrashers in the area. Frank is a descendant of Cousin John's (John James Thrasher's) son Jessie Scaife Thrasher. Frank called our attention to the bridge, elementary school, and VFW post named for his uncle, Judge Wilkes T. Thrasher. Wilkes T. Thrasher, Jr., son of the judge, ran for Congress in the 1960s.

Frank also shared his interest in the Thrasher Brothers gospel singers and in the Thrasher Bus Company run by the same family in Birmingham, Alabama. That family does not make their family history available, but Frank has met Jim and Joe and knows that songwriter Neil Thrasher (of Thrasher-Shriver fame) is Joe's son. He has also learned from a recent album that the first name of the mother of the Thrasher Brothers is Cloovein.

Bill H. Thrasher showed before-and-after slides of gravestones he has supplemented in the Shiloh Primitive Baptist church in Marshall County, Alabama. Bill gets the stones made and sets them himself. He has improved markers for Julia Amanda Watson Thrasher, 1885-1916, wife of Houston Thrasher (Billy's grandmother), and James Martin Thrasher, 1878 - 1906, whose wife was Ruthie E. Watson Thrasher. James Martin Thrasher is the brother of Houston and is Ken Sutherland's grandfather. He showed before and after pictures of the grave of Mattie L. Jennie Thrasher, daughter of William Jasper and Parilee Thrasher and sister to Houston and James Martin, and he showed slides of the trees fallen from the tornado outbreak that went through Alabama in April 2011. Bill has also added or improved some markers for the Watson family. Last year at the TFA meeting, he brought the stone he had had made for Birtie, Julia and Houston's first child.

Bill was permitted to photograph 1800 pages - every page of 6 record books - from the Shiloh church. The church was organized in 1845; many of the records were written in pencil and barely discernible until he photo-enhanced the pictures. He provided samples of church actions contained in the records, including such notations as "Brother Loyd is having trouble with public drunkenness and profane language," and "After 150 years, it has been moved and seconded to add bathrooms to the church."

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The third feature of the program was the video of Grady Thrasher's "World's Smallest Airport, the true story of the Thrasher Brothers Aerial Circus 1945 – 1950." One of the signature acts was landing a Piper Cub on the "World's Smallest airport," a small platform on top of a 1946 Ford, then taking off. The show also featured low altitude loops and rolls by the world's only "Siamese Ercoupe," two Ercoupes bolted together and controlled from the left fuselage. Grady is the son of Grady Thrasher, Jr., who, with his brothers Bud and Tunis, performed their daredevil stunts from New York to Texas to Miami.

Grady has promised a copy of the movie on DVD to any member who contributes \$10 to the TFA. To begin the donations, he gave \$100 to the association's treasury. A report on the donations and number of copies of the DVD Grady donated will be made later. Grady couldn't attend this meeting, as he is travelling with showings of his movie. He is a retired attorney and now writes childrens' books.

**Minutes:** Minutes of the 2011 meeting were approved as written. Minutes were published in the newsletter last August, and John distributed copies at this meeting.

**Treasurer's Report:** Buddy reported a balance of \$2545.90 in the treasury as of the end of May 2012. Of this, \$300 is set aside for DNA "scholarships." The TFA's expenses in the past year have been for newsletter copying and distribution, the grave marker project, and one full DNA scholarship. The report was approved, and Buddy provided copies of the annual financial report for everyone. A copy is attached to these minutes.

**Election:** The next item of business was the election of officers. David's motion to retain the current set of officers was seconded by a chorus, and John as Chair, Nancy Cherry as secretary, and Buddy Thrasher as treasurer were re-elected by acclaim. It is hoped and expected that Barbara, who was not at the meeting, will consent to continuing in her appointed post as newsletter editor.

### **Committee Reports:**

**Newsletter:** John commended Barbara for the valuable newsletter, which she has done consistently well for the past 20 years. In the past year she has mastered new software, made necessary when a computer problem forced her to buy a new computer and new software. John urged attendees to send Barbara items – research, family notes, pictures – for the newsletter.

**Membership and the Biennial Directory:** John also expressed appreciation to Barbara for the new 2012 directory. He distributed Membership forms for the coming year, and Buddy emphasized that the forms should be enclosed with dues checks when they are mailed in. At last year's meeting, Barbara asked that members send contact corrections to her so that they can be printed in the newsletter and entered into the database for the next directory. She also reminded members to make changes in their current directories when they see new contact information for members printed in the newsletter. These habits should continue this year.

**DNA:** Nancy reported that we now have 53 participants in our Y-chromosome DNA study. Forty-three of them are of the haplogroup R1b1a2, one is of R1a1, two are R1a1a, five are E1b1b1, one is I1 and one is J2. This does not include Grady Thrasher, whose test swabs have not yet been received by FTDNA. The newest member of our surname project is Montana Thrasher of Jefferson, GA. Montana has the usual R1b1a2 haplogroup, but his marker values show that he is not closely related to anyone in our group. He traces his heritage back to the Christoph Drescher line originally found in Pennsylvania and then in Virginia. We are now eager to get other men from that line into the study.

John, Buddy, and Nancy, who comprise the committee to approve "DNA scholarships," endorsed Jim's successful motion to upgrade Montana's test from the Y-12 to the Y-37 in the near future. Nancy and Buddy will handle the administrative details to get this done.

Twelve individuals have taken the mtDNA test and 11 have taken the Family Finder test. Ancestry .com has recently offered its version of the FamilyFinder test, so our testing company, FamilyTreeDNA, is now facing



competition from both 23-and-me and from Ancestry.com. In an effort to build up its database, FTDNA recently offered the FF test at \$179, a discount of \$90. These sales are often announced with no warning and may last for only a day or so. Therefore Nancy would like to establish a "waiting list" of individuals who wish to purchase tests but prefer to wait for sale prices. She also suggested that those interested should "like" FTDNA on Facebook so that they would be notified of any sales. In addition, she asked each TFA member to recruit men for the Thrasher/Thresher project. The value of the study increases with each participant.

Helen told her DNA story: One of her great-grandfathers, whose surname was Gilbert, lived in Kentucky and then Alabama. Helen has learned that he was born illegitimate and she surmises that is why he never talked about his family. DNA results from his descendants match those of the Lucas family, not the Gilbert family. Helen looked in the 1840 census and found the Lucases living next door to the Gilberts. The Gilbert surname project has set up a special branch of their study to collect Lucas-Gilberts, to make things easier for future researchers. Helen has joined the Lucas study as well as the Gilbert study.

### **Old Business:**

**Cemetery restoration:** Last year the TFA identified three cemeteries as needing clean-up and/or tombstone work. Bill H. Thrasher has used the money set aside by the organization for the refurbishment or replacement of gravestones at the Shiloh Primitive Baptist church in Marshall County, Alabama. These were the stones in his slide show, and he thanked the TFA for the financial support for the tombstones.

The David Thrasher cemetery in Newton County, Georgia, was also in need of work. Al Thrasher and Ray and Fred Ranier have now completed the work, reassembling the stones as needed. This was done at their own expense; they wanted no financial input from the TFA. Fred Ranier has sent pictures which John displayed. There was discussion as to whether the stones should have been reassembled or replaced.

There are reports that the Barton Thrasher cemetery has been fenced with barbed wire, with no access. Maps of these two Georgia cemeteries can be found in Our Thrasher Heritage, pages 488-489.

Last year Sande suggested that a marker was needed for the grave of Theresa Thrasher in Texas. The group allocated \$150, pending Sande's report of what was needed. Since Sande did not attend the reunion this year, no action was taken on her request.

**Newsletters:** John has not yet finished indexing past issues of the newsletter, but he hopes to get it completed this year. He estimates that it will cost about \$125 to copy and send to the Allen County Public Library in Fort Wayne, Indiana. The Allen County library is the second largest genealogical library in the country, after the Mormon Library in Salt Lake City.

Bonnie reported that the Archives in Atlanta have a spotty collection of the TFA newsletters. John said that TFA has sent them consistently for 20 years, but he asked Bonnie to get a fix on what is needed to make a complete set at the Archives and the TFA will try to replace what is missing.

**Cookbooks:** Eleanor still has a few of the TFA cookbooks for sale at \$10.00 each.

### **New Business:**

**Publishing:** Helen is reorganizing her research material and adding stories. She hopes to publish on John Thrasher Sr. (1710-1790) through all branches of his descendants. She asks anyone with material to contribute it to the publication. John wants to see Jodie's extensive compilation in print. Jodie has researched all six sons of Old George. Portions of the Old George story were published in the TFA newsletter in October 2003, December

2009, and October 2011. The TFA newsletter has, within the past year, also published an update on Mary Jane Thrasher (ancestor of John Peyton Thrasher) and Bonnie Bolin's ancestry from Thomas Barton Thrasher, son of David and Polly Hughey Thrasher. John has published his own genealogy, printing it on his computer and having it bound at a local bindery. He has put copies of the volumes in the Gainesville (Florida) Library and suggested that others take similar steps to see that their research is available to others. John Paul suggested putting data on a DVD which is easily copied and distributed.

African-American connections: John and Nancy have been contacted by Alma Parker of Los Angeles who is descended from the Oconee County Thrashers. She is African American, and is interested in attending a TFA reunion in the future. Her family's reunion is next month in Atlanta and Covington, Georgia. Their reunions consist of a fish fry on Friday evening and a formal event on Saturday evening. With more emphasis on use of DNA in genealogical research, it is likely that Black/White connections will be found in our families. Bonnie reminded us of the 1860 slave census.

The Atlanta History Center: Last year Bonnie complained to staff at the Atlanta History Center that she found no mention of John James Thrasher (Cousin John) in their display. This was unfortunate, as Cousin John played a key role in the founding of the city which was, at one time, was called Thrasherville. Bonnie was told that the display is not finished and that the Center had not yet collected enough money to finish it. This year she finds the situation unchanged, and says that she intends to keep after the Center until Cousin John is given his rightful place in its history. "I'm a Thrasher, and I want to see it!" she declared.

Scanner: Nancy showed the Flip-Pal scanner she bought recently to copy material without carrying around a computer and flat-bed scanner. The small device scans books, photographs, and even pictures on a wall and stores the scans on an SD-card, similar to the ones found in digital cameras. It has been highly praised in genealogy circles and is permitted in libraries where more invasive scanners are not. The Flip-Pal costs \$150 and is available from <http://www.familyrootspublishing.com/store/>.

Next year's reunion: John asked for volunteer hosts for next year's reunion. John Paul volunteered, expecting that he could enlist help from Celestea and Grady. John Paul was impressed with the grave-marking ceremony held in Maryland at the 2007 Jubilee and would like to hold a similar ceremony for John Thrasher, Jr., ancestor to many of the Georgia Thrashers and a soldier in the North Carolina Militia. Local DAR chapters would be eager to cooperate. Someone asked if such an outdoor ceremony could be held in a cooler month, and sometime between Easter and Mothers Day was suggested. The site, too, has yet to be determined. John warned that a decision and arrangements must be made within the next few months. John also asked if anyone had suggestions as to the format of the reunion; there were none.

#### Family News:

Celestea Sharp couldn't attend the TFA reunion this year because she is in France. She has bought 60+ acres on Oconee River in Oconee County, Georgia. John and Eleanor and Barbara Eger recently had lunch with David and Elise Sumner; David is doing well after his treatment for breast cancer. Jim and Katherine Moule are in France, celebrating their 55<sup>th</sup> anniversary. John E. and Eleanor have been married for 57 years, Buddy and Glenda for 53 years, Bill and Juanita for 51, Al and Peggy for 52, and Dale and Trudy for 63. In December, John Paul Thrasher, past president of the Newnan-Coweta Board of Realtors, was recognized as the Realtor of the Year of the group. Roy Thrasher, brother to Al, has passed away since the last reunion as have George C.'s aunt, Goldie Almira Thrasher Stewart, and David's mother, Carolyn Mullins Thrasher.

#### Wrap-up:

Door prizes: Eleanor and Vickie drew for doorprizes. Helen, Nancy, Joe, and Ken won prizes.

**Kudos:** John thanked Buddy and Glenda for planning and hosting a very successful reunion. He thanked Billy for making the electronic equipment work and for his photography. He encouraged everyone to take advantage of the various displays around the room and expressed appreciation to everyone for bringing them. In particular, he called attention to materials that Montana Thrasher had brought. Montana is a new member with an interesting story, and his family history adds yet another family line to those in the TFA.

**Group picture:** Billy H. took the group picture in the conference room. He will photograph an appropriate background, most likely the big locomotive at the Chattanooga Choo-Choo, and create a composite picture inserting photos of those not available at the time the group picture was taken.

**Close of Meeting:** The meeting was adjourned at 3:55 pm and, after a short break, everyone re-assembled in the hotel lobby for the drive to dinner at the Chattanooga Choo-Choo.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Thrasher Cherry, TFA secretary

### **Treasurer's Report**

THRASHER FAMILY ASSOCIATION FINANCIAL REPORT 06/01/2011 THRU 05/31/2012		
FINDS AVAILABLE TRUSTMARK NATIONAL BANK COL. MS 06/01/2011		\$2,498.08
DEPOSITS 06/01/2011 THRU 05/31/2012		\$1,275.00
TOTAL FUNDS AVAILABLE 06/01/2011 THRU 05/31/2012		\$3,773.08
DISBURSEMENTS 06/01/2011 THRU 05/31/2012		
1. NEWSLETTER EXPENSE	\$624.18	
2. FAMILY TREE DNA SCHOLARSHIP	\$153.00	
3. GRAVE MARKER PROJECT	\$450.00	
TOTAL EXPENSES 06/01/2011 THRU 05/31/2012	\$1,227.18	\$1,227.18
FUNDS AVAILABLE TRUST MARK NATIONAL BANK COL. MS 06/01/2012		\$2,545.90
"NOTE" INCLUDED IN GENERAL FUND \$300.00 FOR YEARLY DNA SCHOLARSHIPS		

Robert Thrasher Treasury

*Robert Thrasher*