

THRASHER NEWSLETTER

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No. 1

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Last March a letter was sent out explaining action taken by the Association last year at the reunion with regard to getting out a regular Newsletter. At that time we had only 28 members who had sent in membership dues indicating interest in receiving a newsletter. Since then a good many have responded, and we now have enough money to continue with the Newsletter for awhile. This one - the FIRST - will be handed out at the Reunion, in order to save postage.

The March letter was distributed to everyone on our list who has ever attended a reunion, or who has indicated a sincere interest in their THRASHER heritage. This and future letters will be distributed only to those who have paid dues, inasmuch as the purpose of the dues is to take care of the expense -- postage, office supplies, stencils, etc., and other expenses incidental to THRASHER research. I believe it was decided that dues were to be payable for the following year, beginning on the date of the reunion each year; i.e. the dues for 1984 will be due and payable on June 25, 1983. One other purpose of the Newsletter was to carry Queries from anyone concerning a THRASHER family for whom they are searching. We would also solicit any private family information, i.e. Bible records, old letters, etc., which might give a clue to some family.

ISAAC THRASHER - RUTH BARTON Line

You will recall that this line was not traced when COUSINS BY THE DOZENS was published, mainly because I was not able to travel to each county seat in Alabama to do research. The Alabama officials have never seen fit to allow the Morman Church to microfilm their records, as they have done in Georgia, and most of the other states. ISAAC, as you know, was a brother to our JOHN THRASHER, and RUTH was a sister to JOHN's wife, SUSAN BARTON.

ISAAC THRASHER was listed in the 1790 Census of South Carolina, just across the Tugaloo River from the other Thrashers in Franklin Co., Ga. When the estate of JOSEPH CLOUD THRASHER, Isaac's brother, was probated in Clarke Co., Ga., in 1810, it was reported that ISAAC THRASHER "had left the State of Ga.". It is not known where he went. One ISAAC THRASHER was listed in Greene Co., Tenn. in 1830, and one ISAAC B. THRASHER in Overton Co., Tenn. By 1850, there were many THRASHERS in Bibb Co., Ala. who carried the same names as our JOHN THRASHER family in Georgia -- that is: ISSAC, DAVID, BARTON, JOSEPH, CLOUD, etc. It is therefore believed that these were also descendants of our JOHN THRASHER and RUTH CLOUD. It would seem logical that they should carry these names since JOHN and ISAAC, THRASHER brothers, married SUSAN and RUTH, BARTON sisters.

Mrs. VESSIE THRASHER RAINER did a great deal of research on this family some years ago, and we are indeed indebted to her for the information she passed on to me on this line. However, she stated that further research would have to be done in order to document this line. Since some of the older Thrashers in the census records of 1850 stated they were born in Tenn., and some in the next generation that they were born in Alabama, if these are indeed descendants of ISAAC, it would indicate that ISAAC went first into Tenn., and from there down into Alabama, settling in Bibb County area.

BART THRASHER

When I first began researching our family, everyone with whom I exchanged information seemed to know about an outlaw in Alabama by the name of BART THRASHER. Since that was a familiar sounding name, in view of our BARTON ancestry, I was very much interested. I was never able to place him in any of the lines descending from our JOHN THRASHER - SUSAN BARTON line, however it did seem possible that he might be from the ISAAC THRASHER - RUTH BARTON Line.

A newspaper clipping from the Birmingham News - Sept. 15, 1896 regarding this BART THRASHER was what led Mrs. Rainer to the research of this family. The article stated that BART THRASHER, the noted Bibb County outlaw, was killed last afternoon by Deputy Sheriff Henry C. Cole. His brother, LIGE THRASHER, was killed accidentally near Big Springs before, by officers thinking he was BART. It further stated BART was a member of the THRASHER family that had lived for years in Bibb Co., in the neighborhood of Woodstock and Blocton. A sister, Mrs. W. M. HAND, asked that his body be shipped to Blocton.

This newspaper gave the following account of what happened: BART's record which branded him an outlaw is not given, but info given by some distant relatives was that he was wrongfully accused of something he did not do, and he resented and resisted enforcement of the law. His father was also accidentally killed, being mistaken for BART. This added to the resentment.

Several years ago, when visiting my second cousin, ED PATTERSON, now deceased, in Ormond Beach, Fla., he asked if I had heard the story of BART THRASHER. I told him I had heard of him, but did not know how he was connected with the family. He said his mother told him "he was no kin", but she did not know from which family he came. However, she related the following story to him. (ED told me that he knew Deputy Sheriff Cole).

The story goes -- and which is more or less supported by the info from the Birmingham News, mentioned above -- that BART's beautiful young sister went to the drug store in a horse and buggy, alone, and that she was propositioned or insulted by the druggist. She went home crying and told her story. BART, in anger, went to the drug store and beat up the druggist, as a result of which he died. The Sheriff got up a posse and started after BART, who lived in a house on the edge of town. On approaching the house, which had a frosted glass, they saw the shadow of a man on the other side. Thinking it was BART, one of the posse got trigger happy and shot thru the door, killing BART's father. Following the murder of his father, BART sent word to the Sheriff and the posse that he would get every one of them, which he did. Sheriff Cole, shortly thereafter, shot BART in an area called "Bloody Beat No. 22", in Jefferson County, near Birmingham, Ala.

While not condoning what he did, it does seem that there were some mitigating circumstances surrounding this unfortunate affair, and at least gives some insight into the cause of BART's anger and resentment.

In the next newsletter, more information will be given on these Bibb Co., Ala. families. If any of you are in a position to do any research in this area of Alabama, or have in your possession any information on these families, we would be happy to publish in a newsletter.

FAMILY CEMETERIES - We are indebted to JOHN E. THRASHER, Jacksonville, Fla., and RASTUS THRASHER, Farmington, Ga., for the excellent work they have done on family cemeteries. Future Newsletters will carry more information on the location and recorded tombstones. This will give the location of the HUGHEY CEMETERY:

Located N.E. of Winder, Ga. (Barrow Co.) on Hwy. #211 - Leave Winder and cross Cedar Creek (about 2.3 miles from Winder), Continue 3/10 miles. The cemetery is on the north side of the road, about 50-70 yards from the highway. It is in a completely open pasture. The cemetery is fenced and has big trees, bushes, vines, etc. It is directly across the highway from Mr. Ernest Blakey's home (Tel. 867-4930). The gray house a few yards down the road is the HUGHEY home, purchased about 1895. A room has been added.

According to John and Rastus, this cemetery is so overgrown that it would be difficult, if not impossible, to take an accurate inventory of the graves. Mrs. C. G. Smith, 51 Magnolia Dr., Conyers, Ga., 30207, has had an offer from a man to completely restore this cemetery for \$200, and is asking for donations, of any size, from any other interested THRASHERS, to help fund this restoration. Further details will be discussed at the reunion.

QUERIES

HARRIS, THRASHER, GAY, ELLIOTT - Mr. Lloyd Hicks, 17300 SW 298th. St., Homestead, Fla., 33030 - wants parents and info on: WILEY JEFFERSON HARRIS, b. 1832, GA, near present Peachtree St., Atlanta; m. MARTHA (?); siblings: JOHN, JEFF, FRANK & SARA. Cannot find in GA/ALA 1850 Cen.; was in Benton Co., AL 1860; Clay 1870; Butler 1880. WILEY J. m. MAHALIA McCall THRASHER, b. 1840, Randolph Co., AL, d/o JESSE T. THRASHER & EMELINE GAY, g-dau of THOMAS THRASHER, b. 1792 GA, m. 1816 Franklin Co. GA, to MAHALIA ELLIOTT. EMELINE GAY b. 1821 NC, d/o HIRAM WATSON GAY of Iredell Co., NC & wife MARTHA (BROWNE?) b. 1798 VA, d. 1887 AL. THRASHERS moved to Trinity AL.

JOHN PAYTON THRASHER - Mr. John P. Thrasher, 1204 Pinewood Dr., Frederick, MD 21701, wants information on JOHN PAYTON THRASHER, his grandfather, who was born Hart Co., Ga. around 1875.