

## The 2021 TFA Reunion Information and Schedule is Here!

*(See page 6 for more details)*

### Dates

Friday, August 27  
through  
Sunday, August 29

### Host Hotel

Downtown SpringHill Suites  
220 South Hull St.  
Athens, GA 30605

### Reunion Schedule

Friday, August 27  
“A Night in Olde Athens”

Saturday, August 28  
“A Day in Historic Oconee County”

Sunday, August 29  
Breakfast and Fellowship

*(See page 6 for more details)*



## Summer is here and the 2021 TFA Reunion is just weeks away!

### Thrasher Family Genealogical Update

By John E. Thrasher III & David Sumner

We are including in the mailing of this newsletter an 18-page “[Thrasher Family Genealogical Update](#)” submitted by John E. Thrasher III. This updated genealogical information has also been published on the TFA website, [Thrasherfamilyassociation.com](http://Thrasherfamilyassociation.com). John E. Thrasher writes in his introduction, “Much information has been published over time concerning the DNA-related Thrasher families beginning with John and Ruth Cloud Thrasher. The best references, other than the material that has been published in the TFA newsletter since 1983 are “Our Thrasher Heritage” compiled by Dorothy S. Pruett (1986) and “Thrasher Barton Descendants in Georgia” compiled by Vessie Thrasher Rainer (1977) .... To avoid lots of repetition this update begins with Isaac’s son, John C. Thrasher. A large portion of genealogy has already appeared in the TFA Newsletters. These are the March 2009 issue and December 2010 issue submitted by William Boyd and Robert P. Thrasher. Helen Thrasher Long has made her excellent genealogy of this branch of the Thrashers available through the Alabama U.S. Genweb site. This update includes very recent research and includes the family of Annette Thrasher Aspinwall, a TFA member, as well as Annette’s cousin Mary Ann Thrasher Mitchell.”

**A Stroll into the Past**  
Submitted by Linda Bishop  
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**Quilts of Valor**  
Submitted by Nancy Cherry  
**Page 3**

**Jim Moule**  
Submitted by David E. Sumner  
**Page 5, 6**

## A Stroll into the Past

by Linda Bishop

The combination of the Thrasher Family Association's reunion being scheduled for Athens this year and Salem Methodist Church having turned 200 years old in 2020 has led me to take a walk down memory lane.

My roots run deep in Oconee County. My 4th great-grandfather, Samuel Hester, donated the land for Salem Methodist Church. The union of Elizabeth Hester (Samuel's daughter) and Isaac Thrasher in 1812 brought together two branches of my family. Elizabeth and Isaac's granddaughter, Mattie Asenath Thrasher, married Albinus Bishop (her second cousin and Elizabeth's and Isaac's great nephew) in 1876. According to the 1880 federal census, Mattie and Albinus lived with her mother, Mary Celestia Bird Elder Thrasher, for the first few years of their marriage. Barton Cloud Thrasher (Mattie's father) had died about 5 months before Albinus and Mattie's marriage.

Another of Samuel Hester's daughters, Lucy Hester, was Albinus Bishop's grandmother. Growing up, I had always heard Albinus was his uncle's (Brice H. Bishop) favorite nephew. In 1878, Brice H. and Albinus jointly bought 232 acres of land from Barton Edmonds Thrasher on New High Shoals Road in the Oconee County seat of Watkinsville. Thus, passing from Mattie's older brother Barton to Mattie's husband Albinus and his Uncle Brice, this land became the Bishop farmland that I remember as a child.



*Albinus Bishop, Mattie Thrasher Bishop, and their daughter Mae Ola Bishop*

Whether Albinus was eventually given all of this land by his Uncle Brice or he paid his Uncle Brice for it I'm not sure. This land stayed in the family until the mid-1980's, when my uncle developed the family farm into a subdivision, Bishop's Vineyard.

Another of Elizabeth and Isaac's children, Fannie C. Thrasher, married Benjamin H. Palmer. They were my 2nd great-grandparents on my mother's side. I don't remember hearing much about Fannie. Indeed, the only time I heard of a Thrasher connection on my mother's side was when my paternal grandmother gave my mother a photograph of Fannie Thrasher. When I asked my mother about the picture, she was vague and said something to the effect that she was related to my paternal grandfather's Thrasher side. My mother never did identify who the person was or what relationship the person in the picture was to her.

Only when I started to do my family genealogy did that conversation start to make sense. (*See My Family Tree at the end of article*)

A large percentage of my family lived in the Village of Salem at some point. My ancestors were showing up in Salem as late as the 1930's U.S. Census. It goes without saying that Salem Church's membership consisted of large numbers of my direct ancestors and their extended families.

I remember as a young child going to Salem on Sunday -- sometimes with my parents; other times with just my maternal grandparents. The church was always full in those days. During summer, the windows would be raised and hand fans would be available to the congregation. These fans usually advertised a funeral home. During the winter, the gas heater would be used.

The choir was made up of members who wanted to sing that day. The choir pews were to the right side of the pulpit. I'm sure there were men who would often join the choir, but my memory is of my grandmother, her sisters, descendants of Fannie C. Thrasher, and their cousins. I don't believe any of them could carry a tune, but they loved to sing and no one seemed to mind the old hymns being sung off key. One of my favorite hymns was "The Little Brown Church in the Vale."

Salem Church has always consisted of just a sanctuary.  
(*Continued on Page 3*)

**A Stroll into the Past (cont.)**

by Linda Bishop

For as long as I can remember, there have stood granite tables behind the church for those Sundays when people would have dinner on the grounds after the church service. The cemetery was to the left side of the church. The newer graves have tombstones; the older ones were marked with stones. Unfortunately, many of the stone markers have been removed over the years to make lawn maintenance easier.

I guess you could say Salem was “uptown” with its bathroom facilities. I can’t remember whether the outhouse consisted of two or three seats. I clearly remember, though, what it was like to use it as a child: looking down the hole to make sure nothing was going to get me when I sat down! After I had conquered my fear of being attacked from below, I had to come to terms with sitting next to someone as I tended to my business. For a young city girl, some of these church customs took a lot of getting used to!

With age, I realize just how rich my childhood experiences were and am grateful to have been given these opportunities. The more I learn about my forebears, the more I want to learn about them. I am grateful I have found the Thrasher Family Association to help me in this quest.

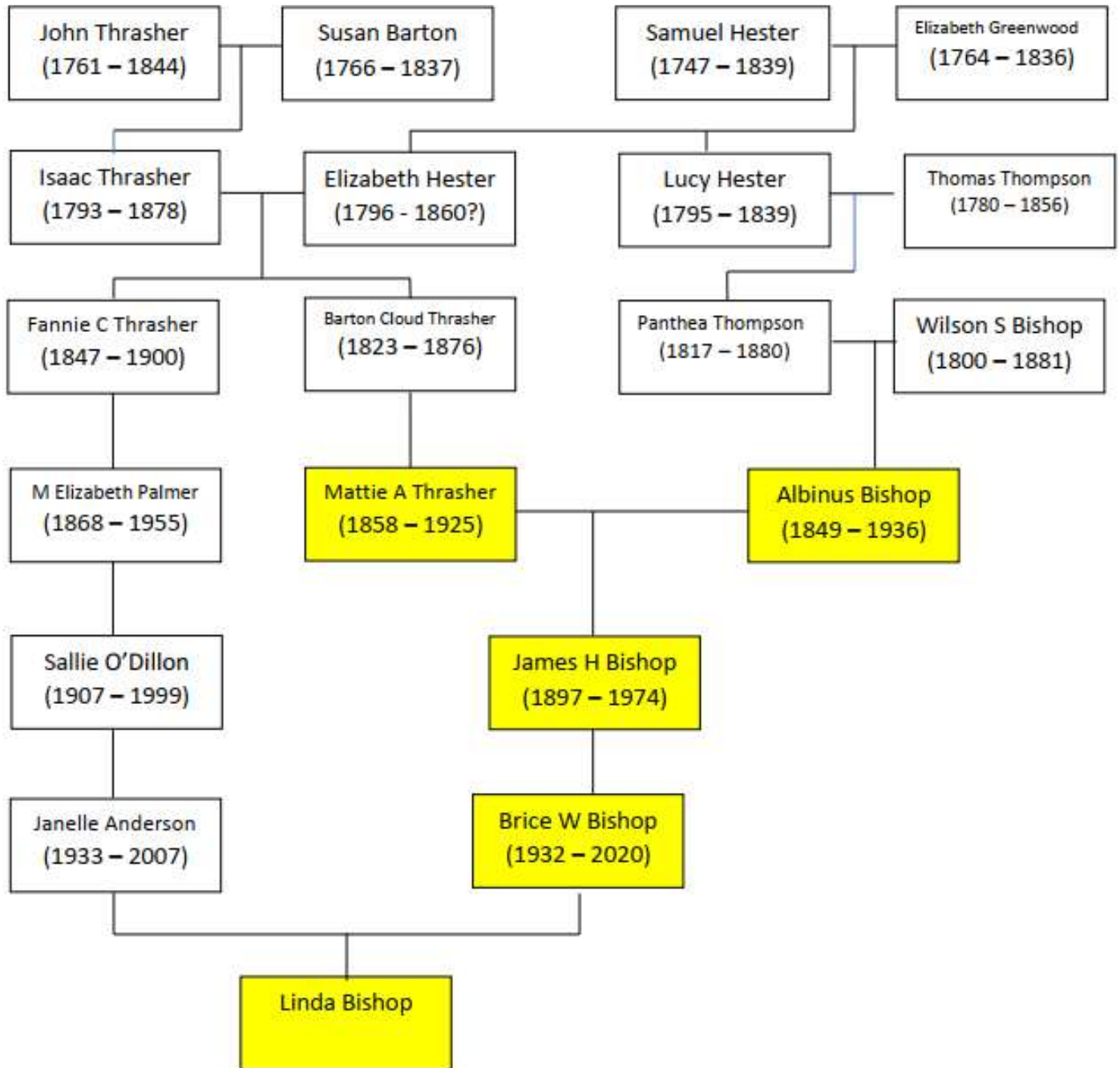
## Quilts of Valor Foundation Honors Hershel Thrasher

**Hershel Thrasher**

Hershel celebrated a birthday this year with several memorable events, including the wedding of a grandchild. But he was surprised and delighted when the Quilts of Valor Foundation awarded him a handmade quilt in recognition for his service in the US Navy 1961-1965. Here is Hershel, with wife Karen, displaying the quilt and the certificate.



*From "A Stroll into the Past"*  
**My Family Tree**  
*Linda Bishop*



## James Moule: Engineer, Genealogist, Photographer

by David E. Sumner

Jim Moule, 85, has been attending Thrasher reunions since 1974 and usually travels farther than anyone else. He grew up near Pasadena, California, and now lives in Oakland. He was admitted to the California Institute of Technology at age 16 to study engineering, but later transferred to UCLA for a degree in physics. He has taken additional short-term studies at Princeton, University of Chicago, Brookings Institute, California Institute of Technology, and the University of California at Berkeley.

After graduating from UCLA in 1959, he spent his career as an aerospace engineer and executive with six companies. His first job after graduation was with Douglas Aircraft company. Since then, he worked as an engineer with Honeywell Aeronautics and McDonnell Douglas. At Honeywell, he was a project engineer with the Apollo spacecraft program. The Los Angeles Times reported on Mar. 7, 1982, "James C. Moule has been named vice president for engineering at Northrop's Ventura Division, Newbury Park." Tragedy struck his family after his wife of 63 years, Katherine Barrows Moule, died in September 2020 from endometrial cancer. A month later, his daughter, Allison Moule, 57, died of cardiomyopathy in Kent, Washington. His wife, Katherine, was a professional watercolor artist, and Allison was a software engineer. He has three other children:



*Jim Moule*

Elizabeth Moule Polyzoides of Pasadena; Nancy Moule Rowe of Boulder, Colorado; and John Moule of Nipomo, California. Asked how he coped with two deaths in such a short time, he replied, "I am close to my other three children who took turns staying with me during the last stages of my wife's illness and after. They were a huge help. I also had a home care worker here to help while Katherine was sick and now continues to help me five days a week. That takes the edge off my loneliness, but nothing replaces my wife after 63 years of a wonderful marriage."

Although he knew about a great-great-grandmother named Mary ("Polly") Thrasher, he never knew more about his Thrasher roots until the 1970s. When asked how he learned about the Thrasher association, he says, "Roy Thrasher, who worked for me at McDonnell Douglas in the 1970s, referred me to his "Aunt Vessie," who was

Vessie Thrasher Rainer, author of Thrasher-Barton Descendants of Georgia. "I contacted her, and Aunt Vessie sent me a copy of Dr. Marion Thrasher's *A History of the Thrasher Family Traced through the Eighteenth and Nineteenth Centuries in England and America*, which was published in 1895. Then I was hooked." Mary Thrasher, born Nov. 18, 1813, in Pendleton County, Kentucky, is listed on page 66 of Marion Thrasher's book. "That gave me a starting point for my research. Then I was hooked."



*Mary "Polly" Thrasher*

"By then, I was corresponding with everyone who was researching Thrashers, probably six or eight of us. That was before computers, so all we had was typewriters. One was Dot Pruett. She decided to have a meeting of the researchers. I was one of the six or seven people invited to that meeting." That was the first meeting of what became the Thrasher Family Association, which was held on Sept. 21, 1974, in Macon.  
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## James Moule: Engineer, Genealogist, Photographer (cont.)

by David E. Sumner

Besides Dot and Joe Pruett, others were Vessie Thrasher Rainer and her son, Robert Rainer, Elizabeth and Asbury Baldwin, and Caroline and Warren A. Thrasher. It turned out that Mary Thrasher is part of the "Maryland Thrasher" line. He corresponded frequently and attended several Mid-Atlantic Thrasher reunions.

He also traced his Moule family history back to William Moule born 1590 in Essex, England. In 1995, he published John Moule and Katie Scanlan, describing the descendants of John Moule (1807-1880) of Cambridgeshire, England, who emigrated to Canada and eventually settled in London, Ontario.

"Once I started studying the Mid-Atlantic Thrashers, the whole family fascinated me, and I put all of my energy into Thrashers. I had hit a roadblock on Moule genealogy and couldn't go anywhere. What fascinated me most about the Mid-Atlantic Thrashers was that they moved generation-by-generation across the country. Again and again, a person would move westward to a settled area.

Besides genealogy research, his other favorite hobby is photography. "I've gone on at least one trip a year to other countries that involve photography. I've done a lot of wildlife photography. I meet monthly with a group of people who go out together to take photos."

"I love going to the Thrasher meetings because I meet so many interesting people there. I enjoy meeting many people who have genealogy in common, but the variety of background of everyone really interests me. Different characters, different backgrounds, but all very friendly. I am looking forward to attending the next reunion in Athens."

## TFA 2021 Athens Reunion

**Dates: Friday, August 27 – Sunday, August 29**

The Downtown Athens SpringHill Suites (220 Hull St.) will serve as the host hotel. We have secured a block of 20 rooms (Thrasher Family Association) for Friday (8/27) and Saturday (8/28). As of 7/17/21 the hotel had 8 rooms remaining for Friday and Saturday. The last day to book a room in the block is August 2. Here is a link to book your reservation if you have not done so already:

[Book your group rate for Thrasher Family Association](#)

The hotel is providing a meeting room (available beginning at 3 p.m. on Friday) on the ground floor that will serve as Reunion Central. We will have breakfast served in the meeting room on Saturday and Sunday mornings. The meeting room will also be the location of the TFA annual meeting on Saturday morning and will serve as a gathering spot for TFA members to visit with their "cousins" and display their "Thrasher stuff."

### Reunion Schedule

**Friday, August 27:** "A Night in Olde Athens": Optional walking tour of University of Georgia Old Campus Quad from 6-7 p.m. Dinner: 7-9 p.m. at the historic Georgian Hotel in downtown Athens.

**Saturday, August 28:** "A Day in Historic Oconee County": After the TFA Annual Meeting on Saturday morning, we will depart the hotel around 11:30 a.m. for our Oconee County field trip on a rented coach. Box lunches will be provided. Planned stops include: Georgia Botanical Garden, Watkinsville City Cemetery (bench dedication for Caroline & Warren Thrasher) and Salem Methodist Church for a program commemorating the 201st anniversary of the land donation by Samuel and Elizabeth Hester in 1821 and an update on the newly formed entity: Salem Methodist Church Perpetual Care Company. Saturday night we will have dinner at Hot Thomas BBQ Cotton Gin located in south Oconee County (3753 Greensboro Hwy). Dinner will be from 6-8 p.m. We plan to be back at the SpringHill Suites by 9 p.m.

**Sunday, August 29:** Breakfast will be available in the meeting room on Sunday morning for you to visit with your cousins. Safe travels to all.

**Registration Information:** Registration forms will be emailed to all TFA members the week of July 18. If you have questions or need additional information, please contact John Paul Thrasher ([john.thrasher@numail.org](mailto:john.thrasher@numail.org)).

**Medical Note:** Dr. David Thrasher is serving as our medical advisor for the 2021 TFA Athens Reunion. "Dr. David" has been serving on the front lines during the Covid Pandemic and believes strongly that only those TFA members who are fully vaccinated should attend the Athens Reunion. Your TFA executive committee requests that to protect the health and safety of all TFA members and guests, those TFA members who are not vaccinated should not attend the 2021 TFA Athens Reunion.