



Treasure Chest News

Central Florida Genealogical Society, Inc.
P. O. Box 536309, Orlando, FL 32853-6309

Web Site: <http://www.cfgs.org> Email: cfgs@cfgs.org

Editor: Betty Jo Stockton (407) 876-1688 Email: bjstock@cfl.rr.com

The Central Florida Genealogical Society, Inc. meets monthly, September through May.

Meetings are held at the **Cultural Hall, Church of Jesus Christ of the Latter Day Saints**
on the second Thursday of each month at 7:30 p.m.

The LDS Cultural Hall is located at 45 E. Par, Orlando, FL (at the corner of Par St & Formosa Ave)

The Daytime Group meets bi-monthly on the fourth Thursday afternoon of odd-numbered months at the **Winter Park University Club**. The Computer Special Interest Group meets bimonthly on the first Saturday of even-numbered months.

The Board meets year-round on the third Tuesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. at the LDS Cultural Hall.

All are welcome to attend.

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Lynne Knorr

Kim Peters
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Elaine Powell
Betty Jo Stockton
Blanche Wallace

President's Message
So Many Resources, So Little Time!

by Gregg GRONLUND

There are so many materials in so many formats available for genealogy research, that it sometimes seems daunting to decide what resources to use next. I like to review resources as I discover them. But this quick, immediate check can be frustrating, because I either don't get results based on this quick effort; or I get results, but I don't have enough information with me at the time, to check the results against what I already know and have reliably documented, to know for sure that the results I found are the right individuals or families.

I know I should be focusing my research. I should be clear on the names, dates, and places that I already know and have documented. I should know how strong my documentation is for that essential information. I know that this step of patient focusing is so necessary to make selection and use of resources most effective.

But resources come to my attention and I just want to explore. Sometimes I hear about them through various blogs and listservs. One listserv I am on shared new data that had been posted on www.genealogybuff.com, so I just had to go and explore. The same listserv had a lively discussion of Footnote.com, and how valuable it is and whether it is worth subscribing to. People on the listserv expressed excitement about Footnote's inclusion of such resources as digitized Southern Claims Commission records, crew lists for World War II ships, Pennsylvania naturalizations, and more. There was also a discussion of and some questions about www.genealogy101.com. So I couldn't help taking some time to explore each of these, even though I was not ready to use any of them for my own particular research. But at least I gained some initial knowledge of them.

I was intrigued, too, by an announcement that a NARA (National Archives) program was being presented at a library in New York on how to get ready to use the 1940 U.S. census. That census will not be released until 2012! How interesting to start preparing to use it. The program was described as a workshop that "*will prepare researchers for uncovering their family's past as soon as the information is made public. The 1940 Census was the sixteenth enumeration of the United States population. Created originally to measure the population and apportion representative and accordingly, these records contain vital material for genealogists. Coming near the end of the Great Depression, the 1940 census also measured the human experience of unemployment, income, migration, and government relief.*" I think it is a great idea for all of us to start getting ready for this major resource, even if it is three years away.

And I can't help checking regularly the new databases list on Ancestry. Ancestry adds databases every day, Monday through Friday, every week. If you click on "recent databases," you will find a list of the databases that have been added or updated within the past two months. There you will find such recent additions as the Florida State Census 1867-1945 (the ones that survive); Selected U.S. Naturalization Records Original Documents 1790 – 1974; the Wisconsin Divorce Index, 1965-1984; Delaware Marriage Records, 1744-1912; U.S. National Homes for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers, 1865-1938; New Orleans, Louisiana, Slave Manifests, 1807-1860; and more.

And don't forget print materials at your local genealogy library. Sometimes I look through the index of a new print volume at the library, and just check for the names I'm interested in. Conferences and seminars, too, are great places to find out about new resources. One such would be our upcoming CFGS Spring Seminar on April 4, 2009, featuring Pamela J. Cooper, discussing such resources as Tax Records, Immigration and Naturalization Records and more.

I am trying to caution and curtail myself from rashly seeking after resources. But I am in an initial stage of discipline, and I know I will never stop enjoying the fun of just exploring new resources. In the meantime, I'll still get busy: 1) Getting the family group documentation together. 2) Fully and completely detailing my documentation. 3) Organizing my files. 4) Preparing to have this information in the proper formats, This should allow easy access to what I already know and have documented, wherever and whenever I encounter or choose to investigate a resource for my research. But I know today, I'll find out about another resource, and light out for the territory, ready to explore some more.

The Pioneer Orlando SMITH Family: James Horace SMITH & Martha Philo BELL

By Betty BUMBY BANDY (Mrs. Hillis BANDY)
Great Granddaughter of Martha & J. Horace SMITH

No matter how large or small a community is, you will always find a member of the SMITH family. One of the first SMITHS to locate in Orlando was Dr. James Horace SMITH. Horace was born on a plantation near Marietta, GA on October 20, 1852. Horace was the son of Irena Burns NIX and John Durant SMITH, of Cobb County, GA. Horace was the fifth of the SMITH's nine children. There is documentation that both of Horace's paternal great grandfathers, Henry DURANT and James SMITH, fought in the American Revolution. It is also documented that his maternal great grandfather, Henry COX, fought in the American Revolution.



Martha Philo Bell & Dr. J. Horace Smith
Children: Ethel, Bernard, Edna & Ula

James Horace SMITH married Martha Philo BELL, who was born in 1857 and was the daughter of Dr. William Richard BELL and Margaret RILEY BELL, both from Cobb County, GA. The BELL family were French Protestants (Huguenots) who immigrated to the Savannah, GA area in the late seventeenth and early eighteenth century. Very little information could be found on Martha BELL's family. However, the story has been passed down through the family that Martha's father, Dr. William Richard BELL's family, originally owned the property where the White House stands today in Washington, DC.

Dr. J. Horace SMITH got his medical training from the School of Atlanta Physicians and Surgeons, now Emory University. He not only graduated with a medical degree but was also a registered pharmacist.

After Horace and Martha's marriage in Marietta GA on October 2, 1876, Dr. SMITH first started practicing medicine in Americus, GA. In 1883, Horace and Martha and their three small children moved to Orlando, Florida where Horace set up his medical practice and pharmacy in a rented brick store on West Church Street - just east of the depot. He had the pharmacy in the front of the building and had his medical office in the rear. Dr. SMITH was one of the first eight people in Orlando to subscribe for telephone service.

The building Dr. SMITH rented was the first brick building in Orlando. Dr. J. N. BUTT built the building as a drug store and later moved his business to Orange Ave. Dr. BUTT's son, Arthur, lived in an apartment over Dr. SMITH's medical practice and pharmacy. An article in the Orlando newspaper stated that Arthur came home late one night from a lodge meeting and found the drug store door open. Thinking burglars had been inside, he got the police to investigate, but nothing was found missing. When they saw Dr. SMITH, he said he had been called away in a hurry and did not have time to lock the door.

Horace and Martha had three children who were born in Georgia: Edna, Ula and Bernard. Two years after they moved to Orlando, Ethel was born in November 1885. Martha Philo Bell SMITH was an artist, and several of her lovely paintings hang in the homes of her descendants. Her daughter, Ula inherited her mother's artistic talent.

Martha passed away on December 1, 1891, when Ethel was six, leaving Horace with four children to raise. Dr. SMITH never remarried.

Ethel SMITH BUMBY remembered riding with her dad many times when he made house calls to his patients. Ethel knew first hand what a remarkable doctor her father was, and Dr. SMITH delivered both of his BUMBY grandchildren, Stanley BUMBY and Martha BUMBY KIMBERLIN, at Ethel & Joe BUMBY's home on Boone Street.



DR. J.H. SMITH
1905 - 1906

Undeclared in any election for public office.

Photo and caption from the booklet "Mayors of Orlando", 1975

Dr. SMITH was not only well respected as a physician and pharmacist, but he took an active part in civic endeavors. He was elected alderman (city councilman) in December 9, 1893, December 1895, and December 1897; elected a Trustee of the first School Board on May 3, 1901; was elected the 16th Mayor of Orlando for two terms - 1905 and 1906. (Dr. SMITH's portrait hangs in the Mayors Gallery in City Hall.) Dr SMITH also represented Orlando on a committee to take action on a road tax that had been instigated by Winter Park. He was a very popular man and was never defeated in an election to public office. He was also active in his church and spent time studying his Bible.

Dr. SMITH invested heavily in real estate and, after the big freeze, bought the Kuhl-Delaney block, corner of Main (now Magnolia) and East Pine Streets, later to be the home of Mathers Furniture. He moved his office to one of the rooms on the first floor and moved his family to the second floor, while the third floor was used for lodge rooms. He also owned the large lot on the southeast corner of Central Avenue and Main Street (Magnolia), which in the early days was used as a pasture lot. He sold this property in 1911 to Dr. J. S. MCEWAN for the McEwan Clinic, a historic building, which is still standing.

Dr. SMITH owned the property around and including Lake Davis. He sold the surrounding property and gave Lake Davis to the City. He also owned all of Lancaster Park at one time in the early days of Orlando. Five generations of SMITH descendants have lived in Lancaster Park including Dr. SMITH's daughter, Ethel SMITH BUMBY; his grandson, J. Stanley BUMBY; his great granddaughter, Betty BUMBY BANDY; his great great granddaughter, Holly BANDY MASON; and her three children, Chad, Ryan and Elise MASON - who are Dr. SMITH's great, great great grandchildren.

Dr. SMITH's granddaughter, Martha BUMBY KIMBERLIN, said that Dr. SMITH had one of the first automobiles in Orlando. She remembers how much fun it was to ride in his Stevens automobile, which was referred to as the "jumping showcase" because it had a jump seat on the back of the front seats. She said it was quite the car and that not many people could afford an automobile that "grand".

Dr. J. Horace SMITH at one time was the oldest graduate in Orlando of Emory University. He was also President of the Emory Alumnae Club.

Dr. J. Horace SMITH retired from active practice in 1920, but some of his patients continued being his patients almost until his death on June 20, 1931. He died at the home of his daughter, Ethel, at 219 East Church Street at the age of seventy-eight.



Dr. J. Horace Smith, Stanley Bumby, & Ethel Smith Bumby

Dr. SMITH's was predeceased by his only son, Bernard. He was survived by his three daughters, Edna, Ula and Ethel. He divided most of his estate while he was still living. One of the girls received an apartment house that Dr. SMITH had owned. He loaned his daughter, Ethel, and her husband, Joe BUMBY, the money to buy their house at 219 East Church Street and, after his death, the debt was "forgiven" as part of Ethel's inheritance. Ethel also inherited lake property on Lake Powder Puff, where Herndon Airport is now located. Because of mosquitoes and malaria, lake property was a liability in the early days. Ethel's sisters felt sorry for her that the lake property was left to her. Little did they know that the lake property in later years would become very valuable.

Ethel SMITH BUMBY was Dr. SMITH's only child who continued to live and raise her family in Orlando. Betty BUMBY BANDY (Mrs. Hillis BANDY) is Dr. SMITH's only descendant who still resides in Orlando.

Dr. J. Horace SMITH, the 16th Mayor of Orlando, made great contribution, to the City of Orlando and was admired and respected by his family and all of his patients and friends.

**This article was originally written as part of a family history that Betty BUMBY BANDY wrote for her three daughters and eleven grandchildren in 1996. Information was gathered from relatives, Orlando history books, old newspaper articles, the library and the cemetery.

James Horace SMITH
Born - October 20, 1852 Died - June 20, 1931

Martha Philo BELL SMITH
Born -1857 Died December 1, 1891



MARTHA PHILO BELL SMITH
Mother of Ethel Smith Bumby
(Died a month after Ethel's 8th birthday)

The four J. Horace SMITH children and their descendants were::

I. Edna Pearl SMITH (9/21/1877-- 9/22/1936) was married in 1896 to Dr. Noble J. MERCK, a pharmacist, who came to Orlando from Rome, GA in 1890 at the age of eighteen. Noble MERCK owned the Merck Pharmacy on West Church Street. Edna and Noble had two sons, Horace and Frank, who both became pharmacists in Jacksonville. Sometime after Noble Merck passed away on August 23, 1918, Edna married a Mr. HULLINGER and moved to Jacksonville, FL.

A. Horace MERCK (? – 8/29/1952) grew up in Orlando and Jacksonville and became a pharmacist in Jacksonville. He married Dorothy MELZER. Horace and Dorothy had two sons: Kenneth and John.

II. Ula May SMITH (Mrs. George BANSCHBACH) (2/12/1880-1/3/1946) Ula inherited her mother's artistic talent and did quite a lot of oil paintings. Ula married George BANSCHBACH. Ula and George had one son: George.

III. Bernard Horace SMITH (11/21/1882-?)

IV. Ethel Clare Americas SMITH (Mrs. Joseph F. BUMBY)~ (11/1/1885 - 4/24/1980) grew up in Orlando and was a graduate of Rollins College. Ethel married an Orlando pioneer, Joe BUMBY, who owned Joseph Bumby Hardware with his five brothers. Ethel was a leader and very active in her church and her community. Ethel and Joe had two children: Stanley and Martha.

A. Joseph Stanley BUMBY (9/5/1911-5/24/1980) grew up in Orlando and attended Florida Southern College and Stetson University, where he was a Pi Kappa Phi. Stanley was a hardware man and a pilot. He married Mary DOLIVE, from a pioneer Orlando family. Stanley was extremely active in his community and his church. Stanley was president or chairman of every group he was involved with. Stanley's wife, Mary, passed away in 1975 and Stanley passed away in 1980 after having a massive stroke in 1973. Stanley and Mary had two children: Betty and Joe.

B. Martha Flowers BUMBY (3/6/1916-) grew up in Orlando and attended Stetson University. Martha was secretary at Bumby hardware before her marriage on January 9, 1946, to Bill KIMBERLIN, an attorney. Bill and Martha have lived in Harrisonville, MO, their whole married life, where Bill was a Circuit Court Judge. Martha has been very active in her community. Martha and Bill have two children: Marsha and Bruce.

Information on more recent generations was removed to protect privacy of living individuals.

Will - James JOHNSTON - 1805 - Lincoln Co, NC
submitted by descendant Sallie BELPERCHE

I found this will interesting for several reasons: although numerous children are mentioned, there is no mention of a wife; was she deceased? It's interesting that provision is made for the education of the younger children including a daughter, although she was allowed less than her brothers. Possibly she was older and had already received some education; more likely she was determined to need less education. Did people know, better than we do today, when they were going to die? How many wills have we seen that were written very shortly before death? Wouldn't you just love to follow the property line as laid out in the second item?! I wish I could read item 13 better; I suspect it's intended to mean the younger children should be brought up in a nice house, but I can't figure out the words.

*Obviously this is the will of a well-to-do gentleman. My JOHNSTON ancestors primarily lived in Mecklenburg County, North Carolina, but Lincoln County is adjacent to the northwest portion of Mecklenburg. Spelling is as in the will. Asterisks * represent illegible words or letters; ? indicate I'm not certain of what's shown.*

In the name of God, Amen

I James JOHNSTON of the County of Lincoln, & State of North Carolina, being of a sound mind & memory, do this first day of May one thousand eight hundred and five, make & publish this my last Will & Testament, in the manner & form following:

1st. I will that all my just debts be paid, & my body to be buried in a decent & christian like manner.

2nd. I will & bequeath to my son Robert JOHNSTON, all the plantation on which I now live, with an exception of a small part taken off, in this manner - beginning at the beginning corner of the said tract, thence down the river to the mouth of the first branch thence up the said branch to a white oak, marked this day, & agreed upon by said Robert JOHNSTON & his brother James, then to two white oaks on the mouth of a little crick? - thence up a dry hollow to a maypole & an alum? - thence to two small white oaks on the other branch thence down the past mentioned branch to within three or four poles of the medow ground on said branch, thence down the east side of said branch to the pasture fence - thence across said branch with the fence about three or four poles out of the medow ground - thence up the west side of said branch to the original line of Saml. COBURN's old tract thence with said line to the beginning corner of said old tract on the branch of the river. Also to my son Robert I bequeath the two negros, Joe & Juno.

3rd. I will & bequeath to my son James JOHNSTON all that track of land purchased from Majr. John NELSON lying immediately at Tool's? foard on the Cataba River, together with the part ****ed from the old track bequeathed to my son Robert as above specified. Also two Negroes Dick & Soll?; & one hundred & fifty dollars in cash - together with an entry of fifty acres of land at Tool's? Ford

4th. I will & bequeath to my son William JOHNSTON all that track of land purchased of Epraim & Isaac ALEXANDER lying on the east side of the river in Mecklenburgh County, containing by estimation two hundred acres. Also two negroes Anthony & Aby, & one hundred & fifty dollars in cash; which property both real & personal, with the interest accruing therefrom shall be delivered to him when of age or sooner, if thought proper by the Executors.

5th. I will & bequeath to my son Henry JOHNSTON the sum of fifteen hundred dollars, to be put out at interest, & the interest thereof, annually to be appropriated to his use as his circumstances may require.

6th. I will & bequeath to my son in law John HAYES three Negros namely Sue & two of her children, Clarisa & Jesse, & five hundred dollars in cash; together with a bay mare, a bed & furniture, which three Negroes, mare, bed & furniture, the said John HAYS, has already received.

7th. I will & bequeath to my daughter Margret JOHNSTON a Negro woman named Milly & her two children Charlotte & Kit & five hundred dollars in cash; also a bed & furniture.

8th. I will & bequeath to my daughter Patsy JOHNSTON three Negroes, Hannah, Patience, & Ben, and five hundred dollars in cash, with a bed & furniture.

9th. I will & bequeath to my daughter Jane Johnston, three Negroes, Franky, Ted & Nelly, & five hundred dollars, in cash, with a bed & furniture.

10th. I will & direct to my son Robert the proper use & behoof of two Negroes, named Jesse & Lina, for the space of four years, for the support of the three youngest girls, my daughters.

It is also my will that my son James JOHNSTON do take to his proper use & behoof two Negroes, for the term of four years, named Adam and Sheela, for the sum of eighty dollars to be paid annually to my three youngest daughters, for the purpose of clothing them; but if either of them should marry or die before the expiration of this term, the money arising from the hire of said negroes is to be equally divided between the surviving sisters. Those four Negroes, let out for the above mentioned purposes, at the expiration of said term are to be sold to the highest bidder of the Legatees.

11. If any one of my Legatees should die unmarried that particular portion, hereby willed, to him or her, is to be equally divided amongst the rest of my Legatees. Or if any of them should marry or die without issue, that portion of property, hereby vested in him or her, shall by virtue of their will, revert to the rest of my Legatees.

12th. It is my will, that my three youngest children, viz, Patsy, William & Jane be schooled, Patsy to receive one years schooling - William & Jane, each of them to receive two years schooling, out of the crop, now upon the ground, on both plantations on this side the River, in Lincoln County, & the Hands to be disposed of, in making the crop, as was intended this spring - this provision for the schooling of the said children is to be considered as exclusive of the family consumption; which consumption, when sufficiently provided for, out of said crop - The ballance thereof, with all my property, both real & personal, not herein already mentioned & bequeathed, to be sold by my Executors, as soon as convenient; & the money arising therfrom, to be equally divided amongst my Legatees.

13th. It is my will that my son James JOHNSTON, th** be assisted, in a tollarable good measure, in ***ing Lo**.***ling them together, & raising them up in the form of a House in covering, flooring, & hanging on doors of said house, at the expense of my estate.

14th. & Lastly, I do constitute & appoint John HAYES, Robert JOHNSTON & James JOHNSTON Executors of this my Last Will & Testament; witness whereof, I have hereunto set my hand & affixed my seal the day & year above written.

Signed, sealed, & delivered in the presence of James JOHNSTON

ABERNATHY W R SADLER ** HUNTER

Codicil to the preceding Will - that part of crop, now a making, on the east side of the River, when made, is to be equally divided between my two sons - Robert & James JOHNSTON, according to my agreement with them this spring.

Witness James JOHNSTON H. HUNTER W R SADLER J ABERNATHY

Lincoln County October Session AD 1805

The within Will & Codicil thereunto a****ed was prov'd in open Court by the oath of James Abernathy and Wm. R. Sadler & recorded

Witness Leon HENDERSON CC Robert JOHNSON) Jas JOHNSON) Each sworn

R. H. JOHNSTON - 1865 Civil War Pardon - Mecklenburg Co, NC

Andrew JOHNSON, President of the United States of America, to all to whom these presents shall come, greeting: Whereaas, R. H. JOHNSTON, of Mecklenburg county, North Carolina, by taking part in the late rebellion against the Government of the United States, has made himself liable to heavy pains and penalties;

And whereas, the circumstances of his case render him a proper object of Executive clemency;

Now, therefore, be it known, that I, Andrew JOHNSON, President of the United States of America, in consideration of the premises, divers other good and sufficient reasons me thereunto moving, do hereby grant to the said R. H. JOHNSTON a full pardon and amnesty for all offences by him committed, arising from participation, direct or implied, in the said rebellion, conditioned as follows:

1st. This pardon to be of no effect until the said R. H. JOHNSTON shall take the oath prescribed in the Proclamation of the President, dated May 29th, 1865.

2d. To be void and of no effect if the said R. H. JOHNSTON shall hereafter, at any time, acquire property whatever in slaves, or make use of slave labor.

[begin page 2]

3d. That the said R. H. JOHNSTON, first pay all costs which may have accrued in any proceedings instituted or pending against his person or property, before the date of the acceptance of this warrant.

4th. That the said R. H. JOHNSTON, shall not, by virtue of this warrant, claim any property or the proceeds of any property that has been sold by the order, judgment, or decree of a court under the confiscation laws of the United States.

5th. That the said R. H. JOHNSTON, shall notify the Secretary of State, in writing, that he has received and accepted the foregoing pardon.

In testimony whereof, I have hereunto signed my name and caused the Seal of the United States to be affixed.

Done at the City of Washington, this Ninth day of November, A. D. 1865, and of the Independence of the United States the Ninetieth

Andrew JOHNSON

By the President: William H. SEWARD Secretary of State

Submitted by Sallie Belperche, who adds: *My aunt allowed me to copy the original during a recent visit. It is quite a large document - approx. 22 1/2"x18", and is folded to 11 1/4"x18". There is a seal, which interestingly did not show up at all on the copy.*

Who was R. H. JOHNSTON? I haven't been able to answer that. An elderly friend of my aunt & uncle [Johnston] had found it somewhere years ago and gave it to them, thinking they might be related. I think I have my JOHNSTON lineage completed and there is no R. H. There were at least two JOHNSTON "clans" in Mecklenburg county - the rich ones and my relatives. I suspect R. H. JOHNSTON belongs to the rich family; I have identified a Robert Houston Johnston, born 1807-1810, but he seems to be too old to have participated in the war.

I have learned that paper pardons were only issued to officers, and not necessarily all of them. This document is dated 9 Nov., 7 months after Lee surrendered at Appomattox. What transpired during that time? Was R. H. imprisoned? What was his occupation before the war began? Would he be able to continue without slave labor? Did he have any money to pay what former slaves were still in the vicinity and would work?

VHS Is Dead

by Dick EASTMAN

In case you haven't heard, VHS videotape is dead.

Nobody manufactures VHS videotapes anymore. The major chain stores, such as Wal-Mart and Best Buy, stopped selling VHS recorders and players some years ago. Not long after, the manufacturers of videotapes stopped manufacturing them, due to a lack of sales outlets and a lack of sales.

The same companies stopped manufacturing VHS video recorders as well. The reason was the same: declining sales. However, several manufacturers still produce combination VHS and DVD recorders, designed to copy your old VHS tapes to modern CD or DVD disks.

In October, what is believed to be the final truckload of VHS tapes rolled out of a Palm Harbor, Florida, warehouse. You may find videotapes in stock in various stores for several more months, but there are no more VHS tapes left in the supply chain. Wal-Mart and other major department store chains stopped selling VHS videotapes a few years ago although you might still find some for sale at the Dollar Store, convenience stores, and at truck stops across the country. Be aware that these videotapes are for sale "as long as supplies last." The wholesalers have since moved on to other products, so retail sales will soon dry up.

What does this mean if you have a stash of old family videos on VHS tapes? Well, there is no emergency as the VHS-to-DVD copiers will probably be around for a few more years. VHS tapes all deteriorate slowly over time, but they will probably still be playable for another ten years or so, assuming you can find a VHS player. The problem is that the analog video signals stored on VHS slowly deteriorate, something the engineers refer to as "noise." If you copy a tape to CD today, the result will probably be good. You will probably obtain a clear video.

The problem arises when you procrastinate. Every year, a bit more noise will be introduced to every VHS video tape in your library. The result will not be dramatic if you wait a year or two. However, if you wait 5 or 10 or 20 years, the result is cumulative: every year you procrastinate will result in more and more noise introduced to the tapes. Copying a VHS video tape to DVD twenty years from now will result in a much "noisier" video than copying the same tape today.

Unlike the analog VHS videotapes, DVD disks are digital and do not suffer from video degradation with the passage of time. There may still be an issue of finding suitable DVD players some years from now, but the signals on DVD disks should still be playable for many years.

DVD disks do not last forever, however. The disks themselves will suffer from some internal chemical changes and will deteriorate for different reasons than those of VHS tapes. Even so, the life expectancy of a DVD disk is significantly longer than that of a VHS videotape. When copied, the video on a DVD disk will not have induced noise like a VHS videotape.

While not perfect, engineers agree that DVD disks last a lot longer than do VHS videotapes. The signals stored on that disk twenty years from now will be much clearer and have much less induced "noise" than the same video stored on VHS videotape. By that time we all will be copying to Blu-Ray disks or perhaps to some other as yet unknown technology that will eventually replace Blu-Ray.

Do you have old family videos stored on VHS? The time to copy them to DVD is NOW.

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1898 Letter from Hawaii

submitted by Patricia PATTERSON ALLEN

The following letter was written from Hawaii to my grandfather, James Clifford PATTERSON, from his sister, Ellie PATTERSON, a well-known travel writer who wrote articles for *Godey's Magazine* and other periodicals in the late 19th Century. At this time, Ellie was traveling around the world with a companion who was called home early in the trip, after which Ellie continued on alone.

The travelers arrived less than one month after Hawaii had been annexed by the United States. On August 12, 1898, as the Royal Hawaiian Band played the “Hawai'i Pono'i” national anthem outside the Iolani Palace, with Hawaiian and American flags flying overhead. Queen Lili'uokalani stayed home in protest of what she considered an illegal transaction. Five years before, she had been overthrown and a provisional government had been established. Half the Hawaiian population had signed a petition in 1897 protesting annexation. However the one policy of the provisional government was to persuade the United States to annex the islands so their sugar plantations would prosper. Hawaii became a state in 1959.

Aunt Ellie's vivid description of the island and its inhabitants describes the last days of the monarchy; she takes us back to an indigenous Hawaii that disappeared after the annexation.

HAWAIIAN HOTEL

Honolulu, Hawaii, September 7, 1898

Dear Jim:

We have been here five days, but such full and busy days they have been that I could find not a moment in which to write. I begin already to feel the strain of the enervating climate here and the constant whirl in which we have been living. Our new friends here have so taken possession of us that we are almost “killed with kindness.” The journey on the Aorange can be described in a few words. It was bad. I never ate, or tried to eat, such nasty food. Yet it is called the favorite boat of the line. The meats were bought several months ago in Australia and most of them were putrid. The boat itself is very comfortable, with large cabins. The ocean was smooth and it was my very first sea journey without being seasick. There were consolations, too, in the people who were, in several cases, interesting. Most of these were English; several notables—two members of Parliament and two Army Captains—passed the time pleasantly for us. The Honolulu people with whom we have been travelling for so long—the BOWENS and COOKS—are leading citizens and we are fortunate to have fallen into such hands. Their carriages, fruits and flowers are quite at our disposal. We have been to their homes and have seen their wonderful grounds of tropical growth. The COOKS give a party tomorrow night. I dislike to accept so much hospitality without the opportunity of returning it. As for Honolulu, it seemed to me the first few days like a little earthly paradise. The Hotel Hawaii has been made over and changed hands and is so gay that I can think of nothing but Newport or Saratoga. There are several men of war and troop ships in the harbor and the officers, Commissioners and Senators that have been here for the annexation ceremonies have dressy wives and daughters with them—all staying in the hotel. There have been two balls already with native bands who sing native songs to the dance music. Every night, the grounds are lighted with hundreds of little lights, and bands from the warships play in the pavilion. It was very nice at first, but I feel now like throwing boots at them, for they keep this hilarity up until late into the night and as our rooms open onto the front piazza, I cannot get enough sleep. Everybody seems covered with sweet-smelling flowers. Every

native man and woman, however humble, starts out in the morning with a fresh garland around hats and necks. They are called "leis" and most of the foreigners seem also to have adopted this pretty custom. The gentlemen wear them over white duck suits and even our soldiers, (lately arrived here and behaving very badly, too) walk about with strings of flowers on their caps. We had not been here an hour until a hamper of fruits from the Cooks' gardens was sent up, and this has been kept up every day since. Not one of these fruits had I ever seen before, and seating ourselves at a little table on our balcony with juices running through our fingers, we proceeded to devour them. I bit first into what seemed like a pale lemon and found it full of a sweetish pink pulp smelling as of a perfume bottle had been emptied into it. This was a guava which grows here in enormous quantities. Next I tackled a mango...like a smooth green cucumber on the outside and filled with smooth yellow custard inside. I hate the guavas but like the mangoes very much. Then the papaya, a fruit growing on a tree like a coconut is like a glorified musk melon. I eat these now every morning for breakfast. The avocado pears, pommels, (?) apples, pomegranates, coconuts and figs grow here in perfection and bananas grow like weeds. We have just tried our first green coconut. the milk of which I have always heard so extolled, but I did not like it. More than anything, I admire the flowering trees. They are everywhere and our hotel garden is like a bower with flaming red, yellow and pink blossomed trees. The ex-Queen held a birthday reception the day of our arrival. Of course we went. Her "palace" is but a little house in a pretty garden opposite the former palace which has been seized for our government use, and "old glory" now waves over its tower. I do like the natives, such gentle, handsome people but the costumes are too absurd! Mother Hubbard wrappers and hats crowned with the leis on every woman great and small, and shirts worn outside the trousers on many of the men who also never appear without the flower-crowned hat.

We have experimented on the national dish "poi". It is served in the hotel every morning like our oatmeal. It is made of a mashed taro and allowed to ferment. It looks like purple mush and tastes like yeast. They say we would soon grow fond of it but I think not. We have driven to gorges and precipices and bathing beaches and plantations and today we are to go to Mt. Taulalus, a half day's drive away. Yesterday, we went out by train to Ewa Sugar Plantation, the largest in the islands. It is in this that our friends, the COOKS, have made their fortunes. It is on a vast scale and very interesting to see. I have heard wondrous stories of investments in it that pay 104 per cent. There are many capitalists and adventurers here now and the conservative residents say they do not like this unhealthy boom. But the newcomers say that the COOKS, BOWENS, etc. want to keep all the plums in their own hands. These Cooks are the descendants of the Captain COOK who was eaten by cannibals. They are plain, "missionary" types of people but seem to own half the island. There are five or six families of them...and we have met a lot of them. I regret that we have so little time here. It is the sort of place to stay awhile and take things easily but that we cannot do in eight days. We sail on Saturday by the "Belgic" for Japan. I hope there may be letters awaiting me in Yokohama. I have not heard a word since I left. The world may be turned upside down and we not know it. There is no cable communication here and the latest papers came on our steamer. I do not like this climate with its heat and winds! I was so warm last night, I came out on the balcony at midnight and leaned over the balustrade in my nightgown. Colonel SACKVILLE-WEST who has the room next to mine was inspired at the same moment to do the same in his sleeping garments and we both had to scurry out of sight in a twinkling. We all had a good laugh over it at breakfast this morning. I have written this in a disjointed manner, a few lines at a time. Hope you can make it out. Pass this letter around so that all may know where I am, but do not criticize.

Hoping all are well,

Yours,

Ellie

Unlikely Contacts: How CFGS Members Made Genealogical Contacts in Unusual Ways or Places

This article results from a recent conversation overheard at the Orlando Family History Center, when Diane KENNEDY told of discovering a cousin as she was touring underground caverns. I related my story of encountering a distant cousin – armed with a shotgun - in a cemetery in a remote area of South Carolina. This led to comments from others as to their stories and an email from your editor asking for more stories – and an article was born.

Several years ago my husband Wayne and I headed to Crawford County, Wisconsin in search of an elusive family line. As we drove through the rolling green hills, with no humidity or traffic, I wondered if any of my distant relatives were still living in this beautiful area. After several days of successful research in the Court House at Prairie du Chien, my husband suggested we take a day off to be tourists. Armed with land maps and court records we drove into the hills, there at the top of Taylor Road was an old farm house, it was falling down, but based on our information was where my ggg grandfather had homesteaded. No one was living there, so we pushed on toward the Kickapoo Indian Caverns. This seemed like a restful way to end a day of finding farms and wandering through cemeteries.

There were 10 of us, along with our young guide Luke, climbing 50 feet underground. Luke asked where we were all from. When I said Florida, he looked surprised. I explained I was researching my mother's family, the TAYLORS, that they had come from Pennsylvania to Crawford County in the 1860s'. Luke's eyes got very big as he announced, "That's my family!"

My husband spent the rest of the tour muttering: "I don't believe this, we are 50 feet underground and you meet relatives."

Later that night as we started to leave our hotel for dinner, we found Luke, his parents and sister waiting for us. They had come to meet the Cavern Cousins. What a wonderful visit. We looked at old family pictures and talked about records I had found in the court house. Luke's father said he hadn't been to the house on Taylor Road in years. He had been frightened when visiting there as a child, and that it was rumored to be haunted. I had so many questions I wanted to ask these new found relatives. But we were leaving the next day. My cousins put me in touch with a family elder, Aunt Orpha, who though in her 90's wrote to me monthly for several years filling me in on all the family secrets.

This just proves you can find family anywhere, even in underground caverns! As a side note it turned out that young Luke and I are 4th Cousins 1x removed.

Diane KENNEDY

Lynne KNORR relates: Here 'tis, if I'm not too late. It isn't as dramatic as the ones you noted in your email, but I was thrilled with when it happened.

"Hi Cuz"!

That's what I saw in the subject line of my email. It was several years ago, after I'd had a query out on the internet for several months. I'd almost forgotten it was out there since I'd had no other responses to it. There was enough information in this message for me to realize I'd finally had a hit and I was really excited.

My query had been on my HARTZELL line on which I'd had only family stories and some minimal research successes. So this really piqued my interest. I responded immediately and found Chris Hartzell MORGAN on the other end of the line. Through several exchanges I learned that she lives in Cincinnati, Ohio, and is the daughter of a distant HARTZELL father. But her mother is the one that is doing the research on that family line.

She asked where I lived and when I told her, she said, “Oh wow. My mom is on her way to Florida as we speak and she has the HARTZELL records in the trunk of her car. I’ll see if I can connect with her and maybe you can get together.”

After several days of hunting her down, her mother, June, sent me an email saying she would soon be on her way back to Ohio (she lives in Cleveland) and could spare about 2 hours to meet with me enroute home if we could find a good place to meet. I hurried to Titusville, located a copy shop and a restaurant near the interstate, and emailed her the details. We met there a few days later.

June is a widow now, so not a direct line for me, but since she was the family researcher, the meeting was very fruitful. We each had notebooks of information, and I’d taken along some of the small Post It flags. We swapped books, marked pages we wanted to copy and went to the copy shop and kept the machines busy for quite awhile. She had more documents than I, and I had more pictures than she did.

Afterwards, we had a late lunch and enjoyed getting to know each other a bit. Her 2 hour visit turned into 6 hours, and it was much too short, but I couldn’t convince her to come stay with me for a longer time as she was eager to continue her trip home.

I’ve since stayed in her home when I went to Cleveland to do some research and we have exchanged more information that each of us has gathered. Her daughter, Chris, also keeps in touch and shares information when she has time for it. I haven’t met Chris yet, but hope to do so before much longer. This is the single query I’ve posted that got a positive response and it keeps my hopes alive that others will eventually provide more help.

Lynne KNORR

My story began when I asked my then 85+ year old mother-in-law and her twin sister if they could give me directions to the Rice Family Cemetery near Anderson, SC, where most of their GLENN and RICE ancestors were buried. Neither of them could give me precise directions, but they “knew exactly how to get there” (famous last words!) They could show me exactly where it was if I’d drive. Unfortunately, their directions were based on landmarks that they remembered from 20-30 years earlier. Those landmarks were long gone, they didn’t know road names or numbers – and we were in the middle of nowhere (near Honeapath, SC), with no one to ask directions of. Mostly by accident after 2-3 hours of wandering, we crossed “Rice Cemetery Rd”. Eureka! – we must be close. Finally by following the road for several more miles, we came to the tiny cemetery neatly enclosed in iron fencing and surrounded by miles of cornfields. We parked as close to the edge of the barely-two-lane road as possible and got out to view, record and photograph the stones. We’d only been there a short time when an old pickup truck roared up and a man with a shotgun jumped out shouting “What are you doing here?” He was obviously on the lookout for vandals and expect the worst. He backed off a bit when he saw the elderly twins and explained that there had been a problem with kids driving through the fields and knocking down the fence and stones. He’d seen our dust from his cornfields and had come to investigate. After explaining our mission - and with Mom & Aunt Martha pointing out the stones for their parents, grandparents and great-grandparents - his demeanor changed completely. We were suddenly family. His family was buried there too and distantly related to ours - both families were descended from Hezekiah RICE (1764 VA-1860 SC). After we’d talked a bit, he said that he had some family records and a big chart that someone had sent him - would we like to see them? So he hurried home to get his records. Minutes later, there in the cemetery in the middle of nowhere, we exchanged family information. I photographed his charts (this was before the days of photocopiers, even had there been one nearby) and promised to send him copies of my information. In the course of an hour or so, we’d gone from interlopers to new-found family. And the shotgun had gone back into the truck, thank goodness!

Betty Jo STOCKTON

In 2000 I rode the Florida DAR state bus to Continental Congress in DC with a group of ladies from the Orlando DAR Chapter. We spent one night in a motel on the way. We had a wonderful time and got to know women from all over the state.

When we arrived in Washington, we went to our hotel and checked in. It was too early to get into our rooms so the bus took us to the DAR building so we could look around, enjoy the beautiful building and artifacts and get to know our way around. A group of us were looking around and admiring the beautiful tapestry screen that a lady from Florida made and then gave to the DAR museum. A couple of ladies from California came in and we started talking about doing research on our ancestors in the library. I asked one of the ladies the names she was researching. She immediately told me that they were names that I had probably never heard of but finally said, " PRICKETT and MORGAN". I laughed and told her my maiden name was PRICKETT. We quickly bonded and found where we connected.

I immediately told her I was almost ready to send my PRICKETT book to the printer. We talked and met several times during our stay at Continental Congress. Her line was in my book but she gave me more information on the down lines. She contacted some cousins she knew in California to send me some on their lines. We have kept in touch since. Their lines were updated for the MORGAN book that was published this time last year. The 3 volume Morgan book was my fifth book to be published.

Helen POPE

Find Out What's in the Orlando Public Library Genealogy Collection

submitted by Kim PETERS

In case you are not aware, the Genealogy department at the library has made links available to their New Titles lists, Genealogy periodical holdings and Local Directory holdings through Google Docs.

Just bookmark or put the links in your Favorites or BookMarks. The lists are updated automatically when changes or updates are made.

New Titles: Genealogy, DAR Genealogy, Florida Collection

Recent additions to the collections at the library

The document is viewable at: <http://spreadsheets.google.com/pub?key=pvJd32s7WfQsx8muEUFIPWw>

Genealogy Periodicals at OCLS (search PERSI on Heritage Quest)

What genealogical periodical are in the library?

This document is viewable at: http://spreadsheets.google.com/pub?key=pvJd32s7WfQv_V7ianVPYFQ

City / Criss Cross / Telephone Directories

Local directories from 1886-2009

The document is viewable at: <http://spreadsheets.google.com/pub?key=pvJd32s7WfQuQLMHSLaVvEg>

Inventory of a Southern Farm: The Estate of Michael McGEE - Abbeville, SC 1834

Estate of Michael McGEE - Abbeville, SC 1834. Box 66, Pack 1589, Probate Judge's Office, County Courthouse, Abbeville, SC The estate of Michael McGee was administrated Nov. 10, 1834, by Burrell McGEE, Abner H. MAGEE, William BARMORE and Ezekiel RASOR, who are bound unto Moses TAGGART, Ordinary of Abbeville District in the sum of twenty thousand dollars. [Evidently there was no will]

INVENTORY

A True and perfect Inventory of the Goods and Chattles of the Estate of Michael McGEE, Dec.d as shown to us By Administrators Burrel & Abner H. MAGEE Nov. 24th 1834.

Plows No. 1	\$1.00	Ridles	.37½
No. 2	.87½	Cotton wheels & flax wheel	5.50
No. 3	1.00	2 water pails	1.00
No. 4	.87½	__?__ & Furniture	10.00
Nos. 5 & 6	1.50	1 Clock	14.00
Coulters & stock	.75	1 Bewraw	12.00
“ ”	.50	1 Candle Stand & Sticks	1.00
Plow Irons No. 1	.37½	Set of Books	1.00
No. 2	.37½	Cupboard & Furniture	18.00
3 Mattocks & sprouting hoe	2.00	9 Setting Chairs	4.50
2 Shovels	1.00	Large Chair	.75
4 pairs of plow gear	4.00	Shovel & Tongs	.75
Cutting knife & Box	.95	Flat Irons	1.00
Three horse tree & digger	.75	1 Gun & Shot Bag	10.00
Broad ax	2.00	Sand Sieve	1.50
6 Club axes & (word) ax	3.50	2 Large walnut tables	5.00
2 Iron wedges	.75	Coffee mill	.50
11 Hoes	1.37½	Looking Glass	.25
New Sythe & cradle	3.00	1 Large chest	5.00
No.2	1.50	1 Small table	.25
No.3	1.50	1 Large pine table	.75
7 Raw Hides	6.50	1 pr. Spoon moles	6.00
Froe	.50	1 D. Steelyards	1.25
Cross Cut saw	3.00	Old glass	.25
Lot of Augurs & Chisels, etc.	.62½	Knives, Forks, Spoons & box	2.50
Drawing knife & Reap hook	.62½	Iron wedge & griddle	.75
Basket of old Irons	.25	1 Bed Stead & furniture	20.00
Bell	.37½	No. 2 in the Room	16.00
Shew Tools	1.00	No. 3	10.00
Hand saw	.50	Small bed & stead	12.00
Lot Pot Ware	8.25	Barrel & salt	5.50
2 Churns	2.00	16 Barrels Flour	112.00
Water vessels, Trays & Tub	2.00	Empty Barrel	.25
2 Barrels	.25	Lot of leather soles & sids	18.00
Poked hoe & pot rack	.62½	Old Saddle bags	.25
½ Bushel	.37½	Old cask	1.50

Ben tub	.37½	Fillis	425.00
Tand buckets	.50	Lewis	325.00
3 Pickling tubs & brand	4.00	Amy	275.00
Pot & tub	1.00	Rachel	200.00
Dairy & furniture	1.00	Reuben	150.00
Cask of tallow	3.00	Black Mare	20.00
Loom & furniture	2.50	Shake	75.00
3 jugs	1.50	Tom	50.00
4 jugs	1.62½	Snipe	85.00
Nails	.25	Ball	35.00
Sm. crib of corn, 300 bushels	167.00	19 stacks of fodder by the hundred	
Large " " 684 bushels	342.00	50¢ - 14000 supposed	70.00
Carriage & Apparatus	55.00	5 stacks oats, \$5 per sack	30.00
Hogshead & wheat	6.00	Sack of straw	2.00
Grind Stone	.25	Bulk of potatoes	6.00
Waggon & Apparatus	55.00	28 head cattle, 2 bulls	156.00
House & Shucks	9.00	11 sheep	15.75
Peas	3.00	20 killing hogs by the hund	3.75
Dick & Siller	400.00	7 shoats	10.00
Tim, Florah & Manaly	800.00	4 shoats	8.00
George	600.00	26 head of geese	3.20
Harry	600.00		18.00
Jack	550.00	Amount	\$6485.57½
Joe	550.00		

We do certify that this is a just and true appraisalment of all the goods and chattles of Michael MAGEE Senr, Ceed, as shown to us by the Adm.r of said Estate
Appraisers Names: Ezekiel RASOR; Albert N. WARE; W. T. JONES

Michael MCGEE was a soldier in the Revolution and after the war settled in Laurens Co, SC. According to the 1940's column "Our Old Roads", written by Harry L. WATSON in the *Greenwood Index Journal*, "The [MCGEE] family, along with thousands of others came from North Ireland to this country. A descendant says that Michael McGee was a waggoner during the Revolution. Michael MCGEE is said to have come into this section on horseback and his wife Anne [SIMS], also rode a horse. He had, according to family tradition, just on "bit" of cash. The amount in one bit is exactly 12½ cents. McGee, however, had courage and he began to buy up the cheap land which the State of South Carolina was offering to sell at very low prices per acre and on easy terms to induce settlers to come into the State. It is said that Michael MCGEE was very thrifty and saved his money."

Michael MCGEE, born 17 Jun 1759 in , NC or VA; died 21 Jun 1834 in Abbeville Co, SC; buried in Turkey Creek Baptist Church Cemetery, Ware Shoals, SC, son of Michael MCGEE and Elizabeth HILL. He married abt 1782 Anna Melvina SIMS, born 23 Mar 1763; died 25 Jun 1838 in Abbeville Co, SC; buried in Turkey Creek Baptist Church Cemetery, Ware Shoals, SC.

Continued next page...

Children of Michael McGee and Anna Sims:

1. **Jesse**, born 15 Sep 1783; died 1790/1800.
2. **John**, born 18 Feb 1785 in , NC. He married (1) on 11 Sep 1806 **Elizabeth AGNEW**, born abt 1785; died 3 Jun 1812; (2) on 16 Sep 1813 **Harriet Cagy MATTISON**, born 10 Nov 1794; died 21 Oct 1844; (3) in 1845 **Lucy C. BRADLEY**, born 11 Oct 1811; died 19 Nov 1848; (4) on 13 Sep 1849 **Nancy KAY**, born 1810.
3. **Jane "Jennie"**, born 26 Jun 1787; died 25 Sep 1840. She married abt 1804/05 **James DODSON**, born abt 1785; died abt 1870.
4. **Mary "Polly"**, born 18 Jun 1789. She married in 1806 **Samuel Agnew DUNN**, born 20 May 1775; died 20 Jan 1846.
5. **Elizabeth Steed**, born 18 May 1791. She married abt 1811/18 **Micajah SIMS**.
6. **Nancy**, born 18 Jan 1793; died 2 Aug 1833. She married in 1813/14 **William BARMORE**, born 1774; died 21 Nov 1887.
7. **Burrell S.**, born 18 Dec 1795; died 25 Jan 1854. He married abt 1818 **Sarah HODGES**, born 18 Nov 1799; died 18 Oct 1887.
8. **William [Rev]**, born 24 Oct 1797 in , SC; died 22 Jun 1864 in Anderson, Anderson Co, SC; buried in Rice Cemetery, Anderson Co, SC. He married **Asenath M. RICE**.
9. **Michael**, born 11 Jul 1800; died 11 Jul 1858. He married on 2 Feb 1825 **Martha Vance "Patsy" ALEXANDER**, born 9 Jan 1805; died 24 May 1878.
10. **Abner Hill**, born 7 Oct 1803; died 3 Jun 1862. He married **Louisa Eliza RICE**

Ed note: Michael McGee is the 3rd great grandfather of your editor's spouse.

VHS is dead ...continued from page 81

If you do not have a VHS-to-DVD copier already, you might think about purchasing one before supplies dry up. Prices range from \$75 and upwards. I'd suggest that you purchase one soon as the VHS-to-DVD copiers probably won't be available within a few years. Preserving old videos is about the same as preserving old digital data: it is easy to do as long as you make sure that you do not wait too long. Always copy your old files and videos to new technologies as soon as it is cost-effective to do so.

I'd suggest that the time is now.

For more information about the death of VHS, look at the recent article in the *Los Angeles Times* at <http://www.latimes.com/entertainment/news/la-et-vhs-tapes22-2008dec22,0,5852342.story>.

Posted by Dick EASTMAN on December 27, 2008. Used with Permission.

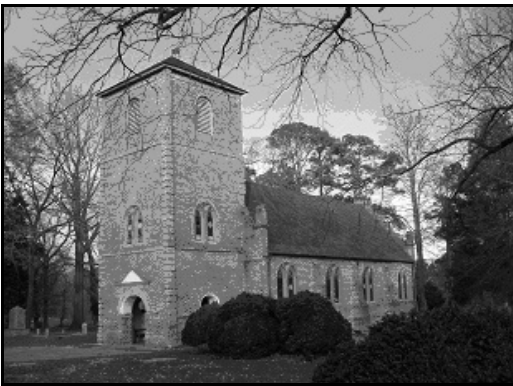
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Finding My Colonial Ancestor in Virginia - Joseph BRIDGER and Hester PITT

by Elaine POWELL

I had another “serendipity” moment again recently that involves finding more ancestors when I least expected to. I travel often with my husband when he works at Ft. Eustis, VA. In early December we stayed over a weekend, which we normally don’t do. We had been to Williamsburg many times, so I had seen a tourist brochure in the hotel lobby for Smithfield, a town about an hour from Williamsburg. It looked like a quaint town and the ad said there were many Victorian homes and a lot of history there. Since we love quaint, historical towns, we drove into town and stopped first at the museum. I didn’t even realize we were in Isle of Wight County until I saw the sign on top of the museum. As we started to walk in, a woman ran across the street behind us and said she would open the museum for us. When we entered, she asked us to wait in the gift shop because she needed to go around the museum to turn the lights on. Immediately my eye went to a thick red hard bound book in the corner of the shop on a shelf entitled *Seventeenth Century Isle of Wight County Virginia* by John BODDIE. I knew for sure that either I or my husband had ancestors from Isle of Wight, but I couldn’t remember which ones! So I quickly started skimming the index for family names. Then BRIDGER jumped out at me. Of course! This is the family that I had discovered when I had my previous serendipity moment in the Butler County Courthouse in Kentucky. I had met the Registrar for the local DAR Chapter who found that one of my ancestors was a Rev. War Patriot. Then she said “your Talitha COTTON’S mother was a BRIDGER!” She said it like I should have known what she meant, but I didn’t.

When the woman in the museum finished turning on lights, she came into the gift shop and noticed I was looking at the book. She told me that there was another book that I might want to look at – *Marriages of Isle of Wight County, Virginia, 1628-1800*. I told her that I was sure that I wouldn’t find my ancestors in that book because the records had surely been burned during the Revolutionary or Civil War, as many Virginia records had been. She said no, that there was a very interesting story that was well known in Isle of Wight about that. It was told in the historical fiction book *No Borrowed Glory* (that she pointed out was also in the museum gift shop) that tells the true story about Mrs. Elizabeth Bennett YOUNG who, knowing the value of the Isle of Wight County records and the Old Brick Church Vestry records, buried them outside of town in a deerskin trunk until after the war was over. Along the way, Mrs. Young was stopped by enemy soldiers while in a wagon leaving town with a friend who was riding along to help her. The soldiers let her go without searching the trunk because Mrs. YOUNG told them that she had a baby in the trunk that she was taking to be buried. Then, during the Civil War, the records were again saved from destruction. So, unlike many records from Virginia, the Isle of Wight County records are very complete from the early beginnings of the county in 1628.

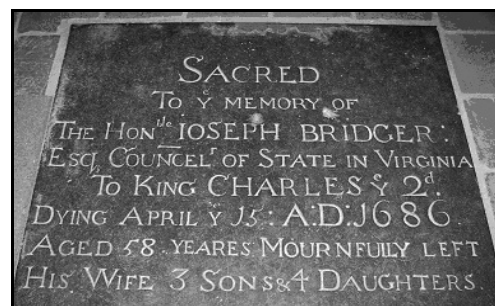


St. Luke’s Church
Also known as “The Old Brick Church”,
Isle of Wight, VA

The woman then told me “you need to get out to St. Luke’s Church before they close at 4 o’clock. A BRIDGER finished that church.” So after touring the museum and the town, we drove the short drive to St. Luke’s Church. A docent walked us from the St. Luke’s Church gift shop down to the Old Brick Church as it has long been named, and told us that St. Luke’s, which was built about 1623, is the oldest brick church still standing complete in all of the United States. Our founding fathers met and worshiped in that church.

As we walked into the old church, I got chills up my spine as I saw that there was a marble stone marker in the floor right in front of the altar of the church.

Colonel Joseph BRIDGER, a Royalist and a member of the Virginia House of Burgesses, served the king until his death in 1686 at age 58. This Joseph BRIDGER and his wife Hester PITT, are my 12th great grandparents. The docent at the church told me that there was a Bridger's Family Association that I might want to join. From their website, I learned that the bones of Col. Joseph BRIDGER, determined to be one of the wealthiest men in Colonial Virginia, were temporarily exhumed in April of 2007 and taken to the Smithsonian Institution for study. Dr. Douglas OWSLEY, a forensic anthropologist at the Smithsonian, and his team will study the bones for information on Bridger such as his health, diet and build. If the skull is sufficiently preserved, a facial reconstruction of Bridger will be undertaken. The information gleaned from the study of Bridger's bones will be part of an exhibit opening this month at the National Museum of Natural History entitled "Written in Bones: Life and Death in the Colonial Chesapeake." The story will also be told in a History Channel special.



Marker in St Luke's Church
Isle of Wight, VA

In the next issue, I will tell you what I had to do to gather documents on my BRIDGER line in Virginia and North Carolina in order to join the Bridger Family Association. I'll also tell you about my trip to the Smithsonian where the Bridger Family Association will get a personal "behind the scenes" tour by Dr. OWSLEY.

Quick Tip

I have adopted a practice of putting my ancestral line after my signature in an email when corresponding with other researchers or posting to a list. It has really helped me to connect with other people who are interested in my line. And this has caught on with a couple of the other mailing lists I am on. If you decide to do this, I would advise that you not include any information about living persons, for security reasons. You can, of course, always share that information later with an individual if you wish. I've shown two different ways you can put the info below your signature.

10th Great Grandfather: John WOODSON m. Sarah WINSTON
 9th Great Grandfather: Robert WOODSON m. Elizabeth FERRIS
 8th Great Grandmother: Sarah WOODSON m. Edward Mosby
 7th Great Grandfather: John MOSBY m. Martha WOMACK
 6th Great Grandfather: John MOSBY m. Lucy ALLEN
 5th Great Grandmother: Lucy Mosby m. John JAMES
 4th Great Grandfather: William Samuel "Billy" JAMES m. Catherine Ann PARKER
 3rd Great Grandmother: Sarah Ann "Sally" JAMES m. Alexander HOBODY
 2nd Great Grandmother: Evelyn HOBODY m. Samuel Francis WARREN
 Great Grandfather: Alexander Arthur WARREN m. Martha A. SHORT
 Grandmother: Catherine Evelyn WARREN m. Ora Ezra HATFIELD

Grandmother: Catherine Evelyn WARREN m. Ora Ezra HATFIELD
 G Grandfather: Alexander Arthur WARREN m. Martha A. SHORT
 GG Grandfather: Samuel Francis WARREN m. Evelyn HOBODY
 GGG Grandmother: Alexander HOBODY m. Sarah Ann "Sally" JAMES
 GGGG Grandfather: William (Billy) JAMES m. Catherine Ann PARKER
 GGGGG Grandfather: John JAMES m. Lucy MOSBY
 GGGGGG Grandfather: Christopher JAMES m. Lucy THOMPSON

by Elaine HATFIELD POWELL

State Census - 1885 Orange County, Florida

(Film M845 Roll #10 at Orlando Library & Archives; #088971 at Family History Center.)

Census extraction by Blanche Wallace

Page	House hold	Name	Race	Age/ Sex	Relation to head of household	Marital status	Birthplace of self/ father/ mother	Occupation
5	55	TUCKER, James	W	53 M	Head	M	GA/-/-	Laborer
5	55	Tucker, D L?	W	40 F	Wife	M	SC/SC/SC	
5	55	Tucker, Armadilla	W	12 F	Dau	S	FL/GA/SC	
5	55	Tucker, J W	W	10 M	Son	S	FL/GA/SC	
5	55	Tucker, J B	W	9 M	Son	S	FL/GA/SC	
5	55	Tucker, M A	W	7 F	Dau	S	FL/GA/SC	
5	55	Tucker, P B	W	3 M	Son	S	FL/GA/SC	
5	56	PARTIN, J T	W	35 M	Head	S	GA/GA/GA	Farmer
5	56	Partin, Nancy	W	67 F	Mother	W	GA/Ire/GA	Housekeeper
5	56	Partin, Stephen	W	15 M	Nephew	S	FL/GA/GA	
5	56	BRAZWELL, John	B	25 M		S	FL/FL/FL	Laborer
5	57	KEDNEY, H S?	W	32 M	Head	M	NJ/NY/NY	Fruit grower
5	57	Kedney, N M	W	29 F	Wife	M	VA/MD/VA	
5	57	Kedney, L S	W	5 M	Son	S	MD/NJ/VA	
5	57	Kedney, E C	W	1 F	Dau	S	FL/NJ/VA	
5	57	STRAMBURG, J	W	18 F	Servant	S	Swe/Swe/Swe	General Housework
5	57	Stramburg, Eva	W	15 F	Servant	S	Swe/Swe/Swe	Nurse
5	57	OLMGREN, Erik	W	25 M	Servant	S	Swe/Swe/Swe	Laborer
5	57	CHINA, Geo	B	25 M		S	FL/FL/FL	Laborer
5	57	RUSSELL, Sam	B	26 M		S	FL/FL/FL	Laborer
5	57	BRAZIER, Shem	B	20 M		S	GA/GA/GA	Laborer
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6	57	WALKER, Thomas	B	30 M		S	AL/AL/AL	Laborer
6	57	RICHARDS, Asa	B	21 M		S	FL/FL/FL	Laborer
6	57	PENDAR, Peter	B	26 M		S	GA/GA/GA	Laborer
6	58	MASSEY, W H	W	30 M	Husband	M	GA/GA/GA	Laborer
6	58	Massey, M E	W	22 F	Wife	M	GA/GA/GA	
6	58	Massey, Nannie	W	20 F	Boarder	S	GA/GA/GA	
6	59	TALIAFERRO, B J	W	26 M	Bachelor	S	GA/GA/GA	Farmer
6	59	Taliaferro, M A	W	50 F	Mother	M	GA/GA/GA	
6	59	Taliaferro, V H	W	15 M	Brother	S	GA/GA/GA	
6	59	OWENS, Wm	B	50 M		S	GA/GA/GA	Laborer
6	59	PETERS, John	B	10 M	Servant	S	GA/GA/GA	
6	60	ROBISON, Bradley	B	30 M	Husband	M	AL/AL/AL	Carpenter
6	60	Robison, Alvira	B	28 F	Wife	M	FL/FL/FL	

Page	House hold	Name	Race	Age/ Sex	Relation to head of household	Marital status	Birthplace of self/ father/ mother	Occupation
6	60	Robison, Jessie	B	6 F	Daughter	S	FL/AL/ FL	
6	60	Robison, John	B	1 M	Son	S	FL/AL/ FL	
6	61	JOHNSON, D W	B	55 M	Husband	M	NC/NC/NC	Cobbler
6	61	Johnson, Patsey	B	66 F	Wife	M	VA/VA/VA	
6	62	PRICE, Sarah	B	30 F	Mother	S	TN/TN/TN	Washing
6	62	Price, Emma	Mu	10 F	Daugh	S	FL/TN/TN	
6	62	Price, Lollie	B	4 F	Daughter	S	FL/TN/TN	
6	63	HUNGERFORD, R L	W	48 M		M	CT/CT/CT	Fruit Grower
6	64	STOWIN, J C	W	58 M	Husband	M	Eng/Eng/Eng	Fruit Grower
6	64	Stowin, M G	W	48 F	Wife	M	VA/VA/VA	
6	64	AZELOUIST, M	W	14 F	Servant	S	Swd/Swd/Swd	Servant
6	64	GLISSEN, Jesse	W	12 M	Servant	S	FL/-/-	Servant
6	65	GENT, SMITH	B	26 M	Husband	M	FL/-/-	Laborer
6	65	Gent, Clara	B	26 F	Wife	M	FL/-/-	
6	65	Gent, Zac	B	7 M	Son	S	FL/FL/FL	
6	66	BURK, Thomas	W	33 M	Husband	M	Ire/Ire/Ire	Tending Groves
6	66	Burk, Nora	W	25 F	Wife	M	Ire/Ire/Ire	
6	67	BELL, Charles	B	30 M	Husband	M	GA/GA/GA	Laborer
6	67	Bell, Mary	B	18 F	Wife	M	MS/MS/MS	
6	67	Bell, Wm	B	- M	Son	S	FL/GA/MS	b. Aug
6	68	TYLER, Mary	B	40 F		D	FL/-/-	Washing
6	69	GREEN, Jacob	B	22 M	Husband	M	FL/FL/FL	Laborer
6	69	Green, Sallie	B	20 F	Wife	M	FL/FL/FL	
6	70	HOPWOOD, Aubrey	W	23 M	Bachelor	S	Eng/Eng/Eng	Fruit Grower
6	70	ROBINSON, A C	W	22 M		S	Eng/Eng/Eng	
6	70	PHILLIP, A C	W	22 M		S	Eng/Eng/Eng	
6	70	SPARGIN, S J	W	30 M	Husband	M	Eng/Eng/Eng	Coach Painter
6	70	Spargin, E A	W	23 F	Wife	M	Eng/Eng/Eng	
6	70	WILSON, Wm	B	21 M		S	FL/-/-	Laborer
6	70	ALLEN, As	B	22 M		S	FL/-/-	Laborer
6	71	LORD, Charles	W	29 M	Husband	M	Eng/Eng/Eng	Caring for Groves
6	71	Lord, A M	W	28 F	Wife	M	MI/Can/Eng	
6	71	CLARK, Charles	B	27 M		S	FL/FL/FL	Laborer
6	72	HOYT, D. Young	W	35 M	Husband	M	NH/NH/NH	Teacher
6	72	Hoyt, Agnes	W	45 F	Wife	M	Sco/Sco/Sco	
6	72	DART, Mary	W	20 F	Daughter	S	London/Eng/Sco	School Teacher
6	72	Dart, Emma	W	19 F	Daughter	S	London/Eng/Sco	School Teacher

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