

First Landing

Newsletter

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August 2021

VBGS State of the Society from Business Meeting, June 10, 2021 By Wendy Bransom, VBGS President

We have grown in membership since January of 2020 when I became the VBGS President. Total members are 88 with 14 new members and only 8 lost. That is a nice achievement for us since most genealogical organizations are losing members due to the pandemic. Congratulations to everyone who made that happen!

A few months later, Covid arrived. What did VBGS do? We went digital. We started off using Facebook but we learned about Zoom and started using it. The Computer User Group led by Linda Brown was creative and used the Lisa Louise Cooke's Elevenses from YouTube. We brought back the Writers Group which Carol Johnson agreed to lead. We learned a lot about how to be better writers. In fact, the May 2021 newsletter for the first time had more articles from members than we could use. We restarted the How-To Group which is now a part of the Education Committee led by Heather Wright. The number of members going to these meetings is remarkable. Bob Bruce, the Program Chair for the last few years has done a fantastic job getting us wonderful speakers for our monthly members meetings. This has been one of the reasons our membership has grown.

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Bob has agreed to continue in this position in the future. The Publicity Committee has really accomplished a lot in the past two years. Under the guidance of Barbara Murray, they have really surpassed what we expected. VBGS now has a Twitter account, created by Rachel Greenberg. This committee is very much responsible for the growth

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The "new NGS" has a dual mission: supporting individuals as they progress in their genealogy education/research, and supporting a diverse community of genealogy societies/organizations.
<https://www.ngsgenealogy.org/>



The Virginia Genealogical Society was organized in 1960.
<https://www.vgs.org/>

Leadership Notes.....President's Message August 2021

I hope everyone is having a fun and safe summer! Fall 2021 is almost here. We begin our new fiscal year September 1, 2021. Our membership year is September to August, so we go back to paying our full dues in September. Dues for an individual membership are \$25.00 and households of two memberships are \$35.00. You can pay your dues online at this link:



<https://vbgsva.net/membership/application-and-payment-2/> or you can mail your dues in via USPS. If you are a recent new member, your dues are paid for this period.

Covid is still an issue. All our meetings for first few months of the fall will be via Zoom, except for the members meeting. The Virginia Beach Central Library has extended their hours to 8:00 pm weekdays so we will be able to have our September meeting in their auditorium. There is plenty of room for everyone to spread out. We will start the members meeting at 6:00 pm so we can be done by 8:00 pm. If the library extends their hours again to 9:00 pm, that meeting will move to 7:00 pm. We may make our Members Meeting hybrid, both in person and on Zoom. All other meetings via Zoom will start at 7:00 pm.

We want to give special thanks to Diane Mason Gray, a VBGS member, for donating her wonderful genealogy magazines and books to VBGS. We will be bringing some of those magazines to the September meeting, you can take them home and keep them.

Everyone please stay safe and be aware of your environment when not at home. I look forward to seeing all of you in the fall!

VBGS was founded 1983 for educational purposes.

The objectives of this Society are:

- a. To help individuals conduct their genealogical research and compile their family histories
- b. To aid individuals by educational means, including lectures, discussions and workshops
- c. To create and foster an interest in genealogy
- d. To gather and preserve genealogical and historical data.

Membership: \$25 Individual and \$35 Family:

<https://vbgsva.net/membership/>

Mail applications, questions and address changes to: VBGS P.O. Box 62901 Virginia Beach, VA 23466-2901. To contact VBGS Board

Members, Committee Chairs and Group Leaders visit

<https://vbgsva.net/about-contact/>

President
Wendy Bransom

Vice President
Heather Wright

Secretary: Sam Williams

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Brian Baldwin, Debby Christian, Linda Brown, David Hamilton

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Linda Brown

Writers Group
Carol Johnson

Newsletter Editor
Wendy Bransom

Webmaster
Carmen Cross

Society Administrator
Bobbie Brenton
admin@vbgsva.net

Upcoming Events and Conferences

2021 Meetings

VBGS monthly members meetings are at the Virginia Beach Central Library (VBCL) starting September 2021.

7 SEP: VBGS How-To Meeting at 7:00 pm via Zoom, Topic: "Getting Organized and Staying on Task," led by Heather Wright.

9 SEP: VBGS Monthly Meeting at VBCL 6:00 pm - 7:30 pm, Topic, "Reconstructing our Family Stories." Speaker: Annette Burke Lyttle

21 SEP: VBGS Computer Users Group at 7:00 pm via Zoom, Topic: TBD.

27 SEP: VBGS Writers Group at 7:00 pm via Zoom, Theme: Things for Writing and Share; One document from the family "archives" and what you've been able to learn from it. Mini-lesson: The ins and outs of quoting.

5 OCT: VBGS How-to Meeting at 7:00 pm via Zoom, Topic: "Researching your Irish Ancestors," led by Diana Quinn.

12 OCT: VBGS Computer Users Group at 7:00 pm via Zoom, Topic: TBD.

14 OCT: VBGS Monthly Meeting at VBCL at 6:00 pm, Topic: "DNA for African Americans," Speaker: Nicka Smith.

25 OCT: VBGS Writers Group at 7:00 pm via Zoom, Theme for Writing and Sharing; One experience with DNA testing and what you've been able to learn--or not--from it, Mini-lesson: Three ways to help a reader follow your story.

1 NOV: VBGS How-to Meeting at 7:00 pm via Zoom, Topic: "Using the FamilySearch Catalog," led by Sara Kidd.

10 NOV: VBGS Monthly Meeting at VBCL 6:00 pm, Topic: "Ancestors in the U.S. Military: Online and in

Military Archives," Speaker: Dr. Margaret McMahon,

16 NOV: VBGS Computer User Group at 7:00 pm via Zoom, Topic: "WikiTree," led by Wendy Bransom.

29 NOV: VBGS Writers Group at 7:00 pm, Place TBD, Theme for writing and sharing; One interview with a living family member and what you've been able to learn from it. Mini-lesson: When (and how) to make your story longer, and when (and how) to make it shorter.

7 DEC: VBGS How-to Meeting at 7:00 pm via Zoom, Topic: "How to Use Your Y-DNA Results in Your Research," led by Wendy Bransom.

13 DEC: VBGS Writers Group at 7:00 pm, Place TBD, Theme for writing and sharing; One holiday custom or family story and what connections you might make from it. Mini-lesson: Doing what the experts do: using mentor texts when writing about genealogy.

2022 Meetings

4 JAN: VBGS How-to Meeting at 7:00 pm via Zoom, Topic: "Researching Your Quaker Ancestors," led by Dave Kleppinger.

1 FEB: VBGS How-to Meeting at 7:00 pm via Zoom, Topic: "Intro to Land Records."

1 MAR: VBGS How-to Meeting at 7:00 pm via Zoom, Topic: "Begin Your Land Records Journey."

2021-2022 Conferences and Other Events

29-30 OCT: NCGS Fall Conference, McKimmon Conference and Training Center in Raleigh and virtually via live-streaming and recordings. Friday has workshops and an annual awards banquet. Saturday is lectures. Registration opens in August. Check [NCGS Facebook](#) for the latest information.

3-5 MAR: RootsTech 2022, Virtual and Free, keep checking online for updates.

The Wildest Freak of Nature

David Leatherwood
david.g.leatherwood@gmail.com



The wedding of Charles Sherwood Stratton (Tom Thumb) and Lavinia Warren^[1]

The 30 June 1851 edition of Maryland's Baltimore Sun newspaper included the following advertisement:

“WONDERFUL CURIOSITY, far surpassing Gen. Tom Thumb, will be exhibited in Baltimore, on the FOURTH OF JULY, and continue for a few days only.

MITCHELL BARCO

Fourteen years old, 28 inches in height, and weighing only 35 pounds. He has no knees or joints from the hips to the ankles; has two sets, or double rows, of front teeth &c; displaying in his person the wildest freak of nature, perhaps in the known world.”^[2]

The unfortunate Mitchell Barco's parents are unknown; no one by his name is to be found in the federal census taken the year before the newspaper advertisement was placed. He may well have been a grandson of Margaret Barco, who is listed in the 1850 census at age 73 in the Camden County, North Carolina home of John H. Mitchell. There is no other evidence of Barco family presence in Maryland at the time of the newspaper advertisement; it is likely Mitchell Barco was passing through Baltimore from points south, as part of a traveling show.

The practice of profiting from the display of individuals suffering from physical abnormalities dates to at least the Middle Ages, but was taken to unprecedented extremes in the 1840s and 1850s. Those engaged in such exploitation often employed deceit to attract customers. P. T. Barnum, for example, originally advertised the dwarf Charles Stratton (Tom Thumb) as eleven years old, when he was actually only four. Whatever young Mitchell Barco's age really was in 1851, he is unlikely, given the actuarial realities that accompany dwarfism, to have lived long.

[1] https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/General_Tom_Thumb.

[2] Baltimore Sun, 30 June 1851. Capitalization and spelling (to include “&c”) within the quoted text is consistent with the original.

The above is an excerpt from the fourth book in my Barco family history series, which should be released in September. Volumes now available on Amazon.com are:

Lives Along the Water (https://www.amazon.com/dp/1734802707ref_=pe_3052080_397514860)

Moving On (<https://www.amazon.com/dp/1734802715>)

An Expanding Frontier (<https://www.amazon.com/dp/1734802723>)

Anderson Family Group Portrait
 Bobbie Brenton
 bbbrenton@cox.net



Genealogy eventually takes all of us to Ancestry.com. One day in 2015 while working on the Anderson side of my family, I came across an Anderson Family Portrait that included my great grandfather, my grandfather and my father. I emailed the person who had posted it and he answered me almost immediately. Dan Liker turned out to be my second cousin and we have been sharing information ever since.

Dan, using birth dates, death dates and marriages confirmed that the picture was taken in 1910. I checked all the information for my grandmother, grandfather and 4 of their children shown in the picture and 1910 is correct.



Colorized by Dan Liker --March 2017.

The head of the family is (1) Andrew Broaddus (AB) Anderson (1838-1928), my great grandfather on my father's maternal side. He was one of three boys of John Armstead Anderson (1806-1839) and Lucy Ann Farmer (1810-1867). All of Halifax County, Virginia.

AB had a long history in the Civil War. He enlisted in the Confederate Army on July 10, 1861, at Union Methodist Church in Halifax County. His unit was mustered into Company F, 53rd Virginia Infantry Regiment. He was promoted to 2nd Lieutenant on May 5 1862, and 2nd Senior Lieutenant on Dec 27th 1862. AB was wounded in the left torso and left bicep in Pickett's Charge in Gettysburg.

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Anderson Family Group Portrait (continued from page 6)

While on leave to recuperate at home he married Sallie Elizabeth Wood and returned to duty. He was with Company F when Lee surrendered at Appomattox Courthouse on Aug 27, 1863 and returned home with his horse and equipment, a haversack and 2 blankets.



Numbered by Dan Liker July 28, 2014

True to form, there is very little personal information to be found on AB's wife (2) Sallie Elizabeth Wood other than name with birth and death date. The rest of the Anderson family is listed below.

- (3) William Ira Johnson and his 2nd wife (4) "Bess" Sallie Elizabeth Anderson. William Ira was first married to Florence Anderson, sister of "Bess" who died.
- (5) Sally Palmer Johnson and (6) Florence Therese Johnson, daughters of Florence and William Ira.
- (7) "Lottie" Charlotte E. Anderson and her husband (8) Otis Scott holding (9) James Boyd.
- (10) "Mattie" Martha Elizabeth Thompson and (11) William Edward Anderson.
- (12) Robert Anderson Wade and (14) Philip Henry Wade sons of (13) John Alexander Wade and (15) Lucy Belle Anderson. Lucy is holding (16) Emily Josephine Wade.
- (17) "Rena" Irene Anderson and (18) Nathan Powell holding (19) Rosalie Powell.

Sitting on the grass:

- (20) Virginia Johnson, 3rd daughter of Florence and William Ira Johnson, standing, (21) William Ira Johnson, Fr, son of "Bess" and William Ira Johnson.
- (22) Hilda (23) Fannie and (24) Annie Bell Anderson, daughters of Matte and Otis Boyd.
- (25) Bessie Boyd, daughter of Lottie and Otis Boyd.
- (26) Florence Johnson Wade, daughter of Lucy Belle and John Wade.
- (27) John Boyd, son of Lottie and Otis Boyd
- (28) Andrew (29) John (30) Edward Anderson, sons of Mattie and Ed Anderson.
- (31) Carter Boyd, son of Lottie and Otis Boyd

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Anderson Family Group Portrait (continued from page 6)

(32) Dabney Crosby, Rena's son by Mr. Dabney Cosby who died in a brick mill accident. (33) Cleo Powell, son of "Rena" Anderson and Nathan Powell.

Not in the picture are John Wesley Anderson, died 3 Nov 1890, Florence Anderson, died 23 July 1905. Henry Lee Anderson and Andrew Broaddus Johnson, about 19 years old, son of Florence Anderson and William Ira Johnson. Dan Liker has put a tremendous amount of effort into the Anderson family history and has been gracious about sharing all of his hard work.

There are always things you would like to know about a picture. Where was it taken? Who took the picture? What was the occasion for all to be so dressed up? But just to have the picture showing my father at age 11/12 is exciting. Genealogy is just not an individual hobby, but a community endeavor.

VBGS Awards Committee

The VBGS Standing Rules will be finished very soon! It will have new information for the **VBGS Awards**. The Awards Committee is Barbara Murray, Lori Sherwood and Jo Given. If you would like to submit a nomination for an award, look at the guidelines in the Standing Rules. Send all nominations to awards@vbgsva.net.

Let's Learn About Our New VBGS Member

I'm Kathryn Haugan, Norfolk VA native with parents from Sioux City, Iowa (father) and Washington County, North Carolina (mother). I am retired and had two careers, juvenile court probation officer for about 20 years, then instructor and instructional designer for a variety of higher education, corporate and government organizations for about twenty years, focusing on communication, leadership and self-development skills. I have a BA in sociology from UVa and an MA from George Washington University in human resource development. In the early 80's I was asked to construct a family tree for a training course, and started "fooling around" with expanding it. I am still a beginner, but luckily have a cousin who is a pro. Now that I'm retired I'm looking forward to more time to get deeper into research.



On my mother's side I have both Jamestown (Bagwell) and Mayflower (Cooke and Warren) ancestors, as well as Hathaway (New England, Delaware and North Carolina), and on the ESH Leatherbury, Burton and Bagwell. In North Carolina, also Spruill, Midgette, Walker, Cox, LeRoy, Balfour, and Sanderson. On my father's side I have Haugan and Ronne (1880s from Norway), Tholl (1840s Luxembourg) and from New England Himes, Strong, and Andrews. Benjamin Balfour (1820ish to 1850ish), possibly born in North Carolina, a mystery.

Things You May Not Know About

The Ancestor Hunt website was created by Kenneth R. Marks. He created this site to "Help people find stuff." His staff finds Free Online Collections, so you don't have to. Sara Kidd shared this site with VBGS members at the June 1, 2021 How-to meeting. Your editor checked it out. It has newspapers from small towns in Illinois that are not available at newspapers.com. Check out the tons of information at <https://theancestorhunt.com/>.

The State Library of Massachusetts has a great free database online: Massachusetts soldiers and sailors of the Revolutionary War: a compilation from the archives. Check it out at this [link](#). They have a lot of other type of documents on their website. Just click on the Documents tab; then search for anything. Wendy Bransom found her DAR patriot Martin Root's service record in Volume 13 of 17. She downloaded the entire volume of 1040 pages.

Debbie Duay, Ph.D. has wonderful website "**Researching Your Patriot Ancestor.**" It is VERY useful for providing tips on finding a Revolutionary War ancestor and also includes an extensive list of resources to document their service. Carmen Cross told us about this website, [click here](#).

MacFamilyTree 9.3 may be very helpful for your editor. After having to buy a new Apple laptop and using MacOS Big Sur operating system, many of my applications don't work normally. Family Tree Maker 2019 is not working normally. RootsMagic has errors too, one of my favorite applications. I googled to try to find a Family Tree Software that would work with my operating system. I came across MacFamilyTree, which had glowing comments. Plus it is used for 64bit computers and is tailored just for Apple

devices. It has a learning curve, but you can download a pdf for Help. You can find it at [this link](#). One huge plus, it works closely with Family Search. It auto matches persons in your tree with a Family Search ID. It searches for FamilySearch Records and Pictures. There is so much this software offers. MacFamilyTree 9 requires MacOS 10.13 High Sierra or higher (MacOS Big Sur is fully supported). This software has been around for 21 years, can't believe I did not know about them.

Wendy Bransom

Access Genealogy is a Free Genealogy Website - <https://accessgenealogy.com/>. It contains the largest collection of free genealogy for United States research. You can find hundreds of thousands of free websites with billions of names you can use to further your family genealogy! They provide sources for birth records, death records, marriage records, census records, tax records, church records, court records, military records, historical newspapers, cemeteries, and ethnic records. They also provide some historical details about different times and people in America's history. Their specialty is Native American genealogy and research. NGS has this listed as a handy website!

GEDmatch New Feature, New Match Notifications: Starting August 2nd, 2021, you can begin to receive new match notifications via email. Here is how to change your settings:
Log in to GEDmatch
Click the link to View/Edit your Profile
On your Profile page, click on the tab for Communication Settings
Select your New Match Notification settings and click Update.
[Log in and update your preferences now.](#)

A History of VBGS

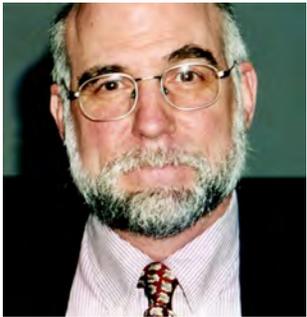
(continued from VBGS Newsletter November 2020 Vol 37, No 4)

In 2000, VBGS started off the year with a cash balance was \$5,017.37 with total assets of \$11,367.29. Carolyn Barkley, the departing president, stated in her State of the Society Address, We have grown from 100 members in 1993 to over 300 in 2000; we have grown threefold.

Caryn Johnson was elected President. Keith Hallam became Vice President and Davis Brewer Treasurer. Three new member-at-large were Joan Akers, Cynthia McCausland and Rip Kirby. Patty Schaffer became Library Tour Coordinator. Carolyn Barkley became Awards and Recognitions, Program, and Publications Chair. Pauline Landrum became the Librarian. Joan Akers also became the Publicity Chair. Ed Smith became Trip Coordinator.

The society members became very upset when an arsonist broke a window at the west side of the Virginia Beach Central Library and tossed a fire bomb into the building. It lodged in the corner of the genealogy collection. The fire destroyed the OPAC terminal and workstation and books on shelves on either side of the workstation. The heat from the fire caused two sprinkler heads to activate. The resulting damage destroyed the majority of the collection housed on that side of the building, around 1500 books. It was a distressing weekend for many persons.

On April 13, 2000, the VBGS Board approved to donate the society's library printed material to the Virginia Beach Central Library for maintenance and management.



The society's fair on April 15 was a great success. The morning speaker was Margaret Hoffman and for the afternoon they had Craig Scott. The theme for the fair was, "On the Road to Finding Your Ancestors in the County and Federal Records."

Craig Scott



Margaret Hoffman

J. Curtis Fruit, Clerk for the Virginia Beach Circuit Court, sent a letter on April 21, 2000 to Carolyn L. Barkely, Immediate Past President. He thanked Carolyn for the recent gift of \$250.00 for preservation of records. He wrote, "We have grown to know your organization as a very valuable ally in this regard. Your continuing interest in these records and your financial gifts support that interest, once again allow us to expand what we are doing with money provided by the City."

The annual banquet was also a success on June 8. Fifty-seven members attended the event at the Virginia Beach Resort and Conference Center for \$18.00 a ticket. Chief Emeritus Oliver Perry of the Nansemond Tribe was the guest speaker. He presented a brief history of the early Indian nations and, more specifically, the Nansemond Indians and their struggles for recognition in Virginia. The Robert F. Brown Award, named for the founder and first president of the society, was presented for the first time at this event.

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A History of VBGS (continued from page 9)
(continued from VBGS Newsletter November 2020 Vol 37, No 4)

The recipients were Bob and Cynthia McCausland. Together, they published seven articles, chaired the New England Special Interest Group and indexed eight bound publications, donating the indexes to the Maine State Library. After receiving the award, Bob and Cynthia thanked everyone for the award, this was a big surprise for them. “We are happy to think that we have made a significant contribution to the field of genealogy and hope we may continue to do so. We would also like you to know that we are proud members of VBGS.”



Chief Emeritus
Oliver Perry

*The Robert
F. Brown
Awardees*



Pauline Landrum was presented a plaque by President Caryn Johnson in appreciation for serving ten years as the Society Librarian. She also had served as member-at-large and co-chaired the annual banquet committee. When the society could not find a place to hold their library collection, Pauline and her husband Jim offered their home as the library. She was known as always saying, “Honey, I’ll help you with that.”

At the August 24 VBGS board meeting, it was brought up that one of the NGS newsletter judges for the newsletter competition suggested that they find a new name for the society’s newsletter. The society did not have a name for the newsletter, it was just “VBGS Newsletter.” Names suggested were The Beach Tree, First Landing, First Landings and The Gateway. The board voted and accepted First Landing since it tied in with the city’s history. The Volume 17 Issue 4, November 2000 was the first issue with the new name “First Landing.”



*President Caryn Johnson
presenting plaque to
Pauline Landrum.*

The August 26 society picnic was held once again at the Virginia Beach Central Library. They enjoyed the air conditioned and bug free environment. All 20 members reported no mosquito bites. The food was delicious. They had Barnes and Noble Booksellers gift certificates for the best main dish, best side dish and best dessert. Mary Anne Brown Simmons won for her Beef Barbecue. Francis Flowers won for her Microwave Corn Pudding and Pat Eggleston won for her Chocolate Pound Cake.

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A History of VBGS (continued from page 10)
(continued from VBGS Newsletter November 2020 Vol 37, No 4)

Trips for 2000 were on September 27 to Washington, D.C. and on October 19 to Richmond, Virginia.

On October 19, 2000, J. Curtis Fruit, Clerk once again sent a letter to the society through Mr. Davis Brewer, VBGS Treasurer giving thanks for another donation of \$250.00.

Mary Anne Simmons, Pat Eggleston and Francis Flowers

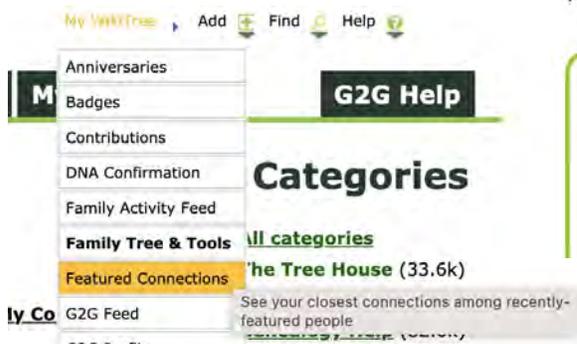


WikiTree G2G Has New Tool, "My Connections"

By Wendy Bransom

My Connections gives you your closest connections on WikiTree. This is something you won't find anywhere else. What makes this tool extraordinary is what it finds with combinations of categories. For instance, click either [Mayflower Passengers, US Presidents](#), or [Magna Carta Surety Barons](#) and then click "My Connections" button in the upper right corner of the page. That click is equivalent to about 200 concurrent searches with the [Relationship Finder](#) and [Connection Finder](#). It searches any category to find your ancestors, cousins, relatives through marriage, and then ranks them in order. Project Leaders are putting together other fun categories to explore. Go to your profile on WikiTree and click "My Connections" button at the top of any of [these category pages](#) to see how you're related to everyone in the category. Here are some of the categories: [Actors](#), [Great African-Americans](#), [Olympic Gold Medalists](#), [Royalty](#) and [Scottish Royalty](#).

As shown below, click My WikiTree. You will see a drop down list. Click Featured Connections. You will be taken to your connections page. On the right is a picture of mine. You can see how far Louisa May Alcott is from me.



My Connections: Featured Connections

Connection Finder

Featured Connections

My Connections

Here are your closest connections in the [Featured Connections](#) category. [\[clear\]](#) For any other top of the category page. For **fun examples**, browse [Featured Connections subcategories](#) [f](#) [Passengers ...](#) [US Presidents ...](#) and more. [👤](#)

To view connections for someone else, enter their [WikiTree ID](#) here:

Ancestors and Cousins

[18 generations](#) [👤](#) [Louisa May Alcott \(1832-1888\)](#)

[19 generations](#) [👤](#) [Edward Higgins White Jr \(1930-1967\)](#)

Click a category. A list will come up with ancestors and cousins related to the famous person. The Connections list shows how you link to someone, but are not related to.

<https://www.wikitree.com/wiki/Special:MyConnections>

Old Dominion University Continuing Education

presents

Introduction to Genealogical Research

Online



Course Description:

In identifying ancestors, family historians often come face to face with a brick wall. “Introduction to Genealogical Research” is for beginning researchers who wish to become more accomplished in their practice. The course promotes the development and refinement of investigative skills. The seven sessions include knowledge and location of historical records, research techniques and tools, and the significance of proof standards. Sources, forms, templates, and tips are provided. The course encourages the researcher to place a documented ancestor in location and historical context. Reliable genealogical conclusions are necessary for trustworthy family histories. At the conclusion of study, not only will participants have deeper knowledge of their practice, but will also discover the joy of genealogical exploration.

Instructor:

Gay H. Baynes holds a Certificate in Genealogical Research from Boston University, certificates from the Institute of Genealogical Research of Pittsburgh, the Institute in Genealogical and Historical Research in Athens, Georgia, the Salt Lake Institute of Genealogy, and is a ProGen graduate. She holds a B.A. and M.A. from the University of North Carolina. A native North Carolinian, she currently lives in Norfolk. Previously an executive coach and a corporate workshop designer, she finds unraveling mysteries irresistible. In her own research, she discovered surprising untold family stories. A previous Membership Chair, she is currently Lineage Chair of her chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution. She serves on the Board of Directors of the North Carolina Genealogical Society.

Date: October 5, 12, 19, 26 (Tuesdays),
November 4 (Thursday), November 9, 16 (Tuesdays)

Time: 6:00 – 7:30 pm

Style: Instructor presentation, handouts, forms, templates

Price: \$220 for 7 sessions

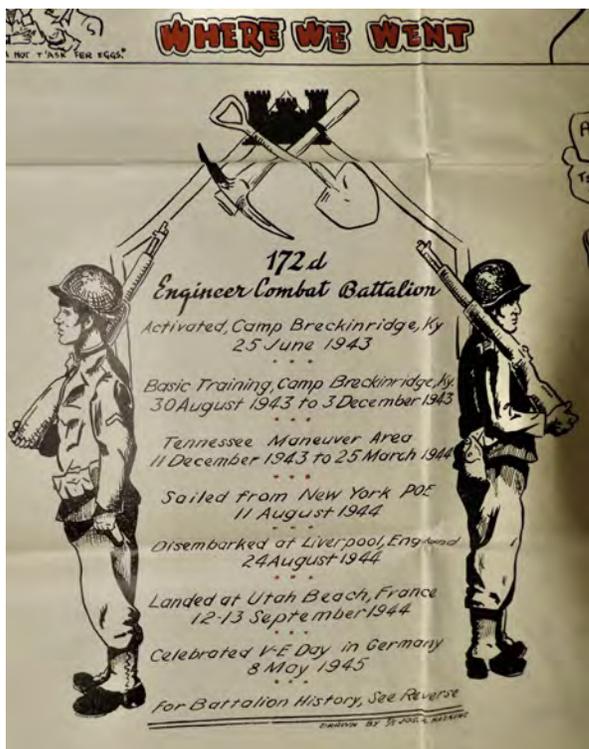
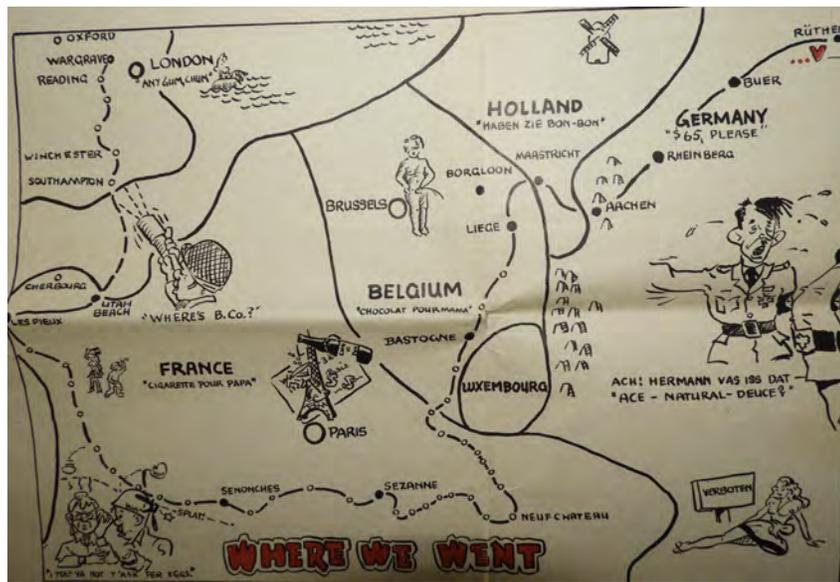
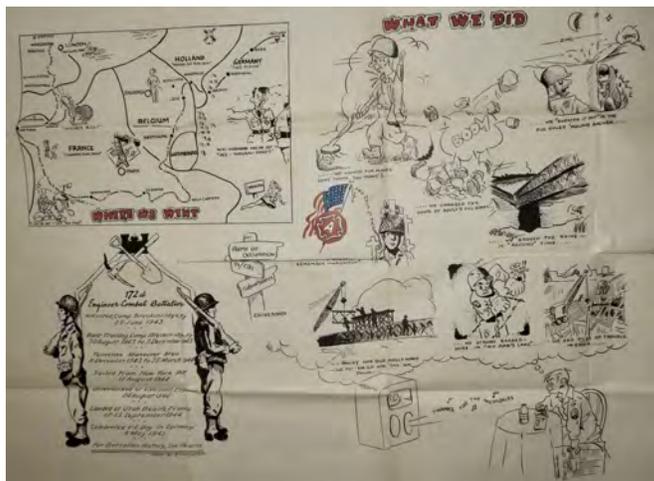
Registration: <https://www.odu.edu/cepd/genealogy>

Recommended Texts:
Kimberly Powell. *The Everything Guide to Online Genealogy*, 3rd ed.

Board for Certification of Genealogists. *Genealogy Standards*, 2nd ed.

Further Information:
ghbaynes@gmail.com

172d Engineer Combat Battalion; From Activation to V-E Day Printed Sketch by T/SGT Charles E. Bostick May 31, 1945 By Wendy Bransom



My Great Uncle Paul Ulm enlisted in the U.S. Army, August 17, 1943, and was discharged January 29, 1947. This copy of the sketch belonged to him. He was in this battalion, which was activated June 25, 1943, at Camp Breckinridge, Kentucky. He was a cook when he was not building for the war effort or fighting. I recently received everything he owned from WWII.



Charles Bostick wrote the history of the battalion on the back of this sketch. You can read a condensed version of it at this [link](#). The website has a lot more information about the Battalion. My uncle took many pictures during the time he was in the battalion. He sent these pictures back home to the love of his life, Dorothy Stoltz, his wife.



How-To Tip

Can't find someone in a census?

Check the city directory if one's available. See if they appear in the years before and after the census year.

Why after? The directory information is collected the year prior to publication. So, if they are missing from the year after, they may not have been around for the census.

VBGS State of the Society from Business Meeting, June 10, 2021 (continued from page 1)

of our membership. They have created beautiful flyers for all our meetings. They have made sure that many organizations and websites know about VBGS.

We are so lucky to have Carmen Cross as our Webmaster. She has continued to make our website more user friendly with very helpful resources. Her assistant, Heather Wright, has helped her create a lot of new content. Keep checking our website over the summer, and you will be very happy with what you see!

For many of past years, Duane Harding has maintained all membership records of contact information and attendance. His records have allowed us to contact old members to encourage them to return to VBGS.

With the help of Heather Wright, we were able to create a VBGS G-Suite account. We no longer have to use our personal emails. We can record attendance in all of our meetings and store important documents online. No longer will we lose important data if an officer leaves the society.

Bobbie Brenton, our Administrator, was receiving all the responses for our virtual meetings which helped us know who to expect at meetings.

Debby Christian and the Social Committee arranged interesting coffee hours last summer. Brian Baldwin has been maintaining our library so that we will have literature available for you to check out at our next in-person meeting.

Peg Niedholt, our archivist, has an unenviable position of reviewing and cataloguing over 12 boxes of donated genealogical material.

Our treasury continues to be very healthy. Rachel Greenberg has done a very good job as Treasurer keeping us current on how we are spending our money.

At least five of our members attended the NGS Spring Conference online. They were able to get ideas about how we can be more involved in NGS and interact with other organizations. Later in June, we will be able to view more of the videos that we could not view. You will probably see and hear of new ideas being implemented next fall.

As President and Newsletter Editor, I would like to thank many of our members for taking the time and effort to write and submit superb articles and work for our newsletter.

I want to thank Jo Given for all the hard work she has done while being the VBGS Vice President. Do you know how hard she works with the newsletter editor to make sure a quality document is published each quarter? When I became President, it was Jo who guided me through those first few months. There is a lot of work that has to be done in the first month of being President such as setting up committees and so on. This is one of the reasons why we changed our VBGS year to be from September 1 through August 31. We elect new officers now in June. This allows new officers the summer to learn about their positions and all officers time to prepare for the next fall. We will start our next membership year on September 1, 2021.

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VBGS State of the Society from Business Meeting, June 10, 2021
(continued from page 14)

You will be notified in August about paying dues, which now you can do online. By paying your dues, this will give you a yearly password that allows you access to the members only part of our website.

We continue to work on several issues. The Social Committee are still looking for submissions to the cookbook which they plan to publish in the summer of 2022. They are planning future field trips and a Celebration next winter. We will continue training on the G-Suite and updating the Standing Rules. Jackie Alcorn and the Scholarship Committee are awaiting applications. Craig Fenton has been begun planning for our 2022 Fall Conference. We will also start planning a banquet for next spring.

Wendy Bransom, VBGS President

**David Patterson, Past VBGS Member
Passed away July 23, 2021**

Some of you may remember David. You knew him mostly as Dave. He was a very nice, quiet man, but he had a great sense of humor. Dave has a very rich history. He retired from DARPA in 2004, where he was Program Manager for the Advanced Lithography Program. Dave was a pioneer in the semiconductor industry that evolved into the chips powering just about every device today. You can read more about his work at legacy.com.

Dave shows up in the VBGS History because he held several positions. He assisted with planning and execution of the City of Virginia Beach History Fest in 2007. He also helped run the Computer User Group that year. He was the photographer for the VBGS 2009 Annual Conference.

Dave along with Jackie Alcorn, helped with a Show & Tell meeting on May 13, 2010. They wrote a very nice article in the VBGS First Landing Newsletter, Vol 27 Issue 3, May 2010. He helped plan and execute the VBGS 2013 Annual Genealogy Conference.

Dave was very active in the society; he was a board member at large in 2010 through 2014. He was also the Treasurer from 2015-2016.

A memorial is planned for August 21, 2021, at the Hollomon-Brown Funeral Home, Great Neck Chapel.

“The comfort of having a friend may be taken away, but not that of having had one.”
– Seneca



VBGS March 10, 2022 Annual Banquet Save the Date!

Meet the Banquet Planning Committee: Joanna Miller, Wendy Bransom, Nicole Mondelli, Lori Sherwood and Bobbie Brenton. You can reach them at banquet@vbgsva.net.

The following ladies are planning the centerpieces, which will be given away at the end of the banquet: Renee Haynes, Margaret "Peggy" Anthony and Laura Ostrander. If you have any ideas to share with them, email them at centerpieces@vbgsva.net.

Remember the fun we had at the banquet in 2020 with the drawings? Well, we are doing it again. We are looking for great ideas and donations. ***We need help looking for items for drawings.*** We have a start using the list of companies from 2020. If you would like to help look for donations or have a donation to offer, email drawings@vbgsva.net

We loved the desserts VBGS members made for the 2020 banquet. We are going to do this again. If you can provide a homemade dessert on the day of the banquet, please send an email to desserts@vbgsva.net. Bobbie Brenton and Margaret "Peggy" Anthony will be organizing the desserts.



The Planning Committee would love to hear from you if you have ideas on how to make this event better in 2022. This will not be a business meeting. We will have a social hour, dinner, speaker presentation and announcement of winners on all drawings. The drawing will go quickly, because the tickets will have already been drawn.

We are very lucky to have KELLY L. McMAHON, CG® as our speaker for our banquet in 2022! When Kelly spoke at our meeting in early 2020, we had the highest attendance that we have had in the last 5 years. She has a varied background, so if anyone has a topic you would like her to speak about please send ideas to program@vbgsva.net.