VIRGINIA BEACH GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY
Founded 1983

First Landing
Newsletter

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A Surprise Marriage

by Bobbie Brenton
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In the early 1900's in Halifax County, Virginia, a young man of 27 years, medium height, slender build, blue eyes and red hair had been searching for a wife. He had a farm and an excellent reputation but just couldn't find the right girl. He put an advertisement in the newspaper and lo and behold, he received letters from several candidates. From among those he found a young lady who seemed perfect! After some correspondence they agreed to meet and marry, so they set the date.

Mr. Frank B. Anderson and his friend George C. Talbert (maybe for moral support) went on a trip to West Virginia under the pretense of purchasing a pair of fine Kentucky mules for his farm. They left from the Houston (now Halifax) Virginia train station on the Norfolk and Western Railroad. The train took them to Baltimore, to Philadelphia and on to Wheeling West, Virginia and finally Churchville, West Virginia. Arriving about 4:00 pm on Friday afternoon on March 13th, 1903, he met by pre-arrangement, Mary E. Puffinbarger. There may have been some embarrassing smiles and laughter but all must have gone as smoothly as this kind of meeting can. They married the following Sunday, March 15, 1903 at 7:00 pm in the home of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Joshua Puffinbarger, with a number of their friends present. On Monday morning the happy couple took the train for Mr. Anderson's home near Mountain Road, Halifax County, Virginia arriving on Tuesday night about 9:00 pm.

The next day, Mr. Anderson came into South Boston, Virginia and bought among other purchases, a pair of fine mules.

The young couple must have been a good match for each other since they had 8 children and lived a long life.

Frank lived for 83 years and Mary Ellen Puffinbarger for 91 years.

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VBGS is a member of these societies

Federation of Genealogical Societies was founded in 1976 and represents the members of hundreds of genealogical societies. https://fgs.org/

The National Genealogy Society is more than a century old! NGS was organized in Washington, DC, in 1903. https://www.ngsgenealogy.org/

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

LEADERSHIP NOTES.....

President's Message
February 2019

Happy Valentine's edition of the VBGS Newsletter! Love allows us to be genealogists. I know that I am continuing to learn more about my family, especially in those areas where I know so little. At the VBGS we are continuing to increase our knowledge by providing the best speakers we can afford. In the first half of 2019, the society will have a presentation by Don Moore, who is a past president of VBGS and is an accomplished genealogical speaker. We will also have a representative from the Virginia of Department of Historical Resources to speak about cemeteries. The board asked that the business segment of the meeting be reduced to give the speaker more time for the presentation.

The board also has asked that we investigate bringing back the summer picnic and annual dinner. The society has had these activities in the past. The society needs to form a small committee to determine the when and how to conduct these activities. If you are interested in helping, please inform one of the VBGS board members.

In the past several years the Slover Library in Norfolk, Virginia has conducted a fall conference, prior to that the VBGS conducted either a fall or spring conference. Slover Library will not be holding a fall conference this year. It would take a big effort by the members of VBGS to hold a conference. The board is considering whether or not VBGS should hold its own conference. Again, we need members input on your opinion if we should hold a conference.

Craig Fenton

We need a Social Committee

VBGS has had so many picnics and annual dinners in the past. We need to get those going again! Many of you have asked when we would start social activities again. Well, it is time to do them this summer! To do this we need a Social Committee, someone to be in charge and other members to help out. In the past VBGS had our annual dinner in either June or July and our Annual Picnic in in August. Of course this is very flexible, the planning of when, what and where will be the responsibility of the social committee.

Many of you have seen how much fun the VBGS members and their families had in the past in the VBGS History we have been putting in the newsletters. So if you can help out on the social committee as Craig Fenton stated above, contact one of the board members on the right of this page. We would love to see some of our new members help out also. We are sure everyone will have some wonderful ideas!

The Virginia Beach Genealogical Socieity

Founded 1983

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Craig Fenton

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Mail applications, questions and address changes to:

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Virginia Beach, VA
23466-2901

OFFICERS FOR 2019

Welcome the VBGS Officers for 2019! From the left: Craig Fenton - President, Brian Baldwin - Member at Large, Peg Niedholdt - Member at Large, Barbara Murray - Member at Large, Bobbie Benton - Member at Large, Rachel Greenberg - Treasurer, Jo Given - Vice President, Diane Fenton - Secretary.

VBGS BULLETIN BOARD

The VBGS February 14, 2019 meeting will be held at a different location. The Central Libary of Virgina Beach is under construction with changes/updates. This construction may go on for several more months until the Central Libary is open again for meetings.

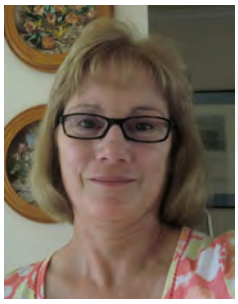
We will meet at the Marian Manor Retirement Community at the Terrace Room: 5345 Marian Lane, Virgina Beach. Below is how to get to the Terrace Room. As you enter, go straight through the lobby and the dining room. At the end, you will see double doors, go through them. Go to your right down the hallway until you reach the Terrace Room. There will be signs at the lobby and at the double doors pointing you in the right direction. For parking, there are some places up front. There are more parking spaces along Marian Lane.

New VBGS Website:
https://www.vbgsva.net/

Does anyone have any advice on creating a family book? My mom's side of the family does not have a family book so we are trying to make one. There are no family elders for the line we are working on so we are not able to rely on them for information or help. - April Owens ?

If you have an answer to a question, send it to the newsletter editor, info on page 2.

Everyone, we are looking for VBGS records. Do you have any clerical records, pamphlets, conference information, scrapbooks or pictures? We are still looking for the VBGS Banner, do you know where it is? Do you happen to have a box of papers about the Virginia Beach Genealogy Society? Please contact one of the VBGS board officers or the newsletter editor, contact info is on page 2 of this newsletter. We would be happy to come by and pick it up from you!

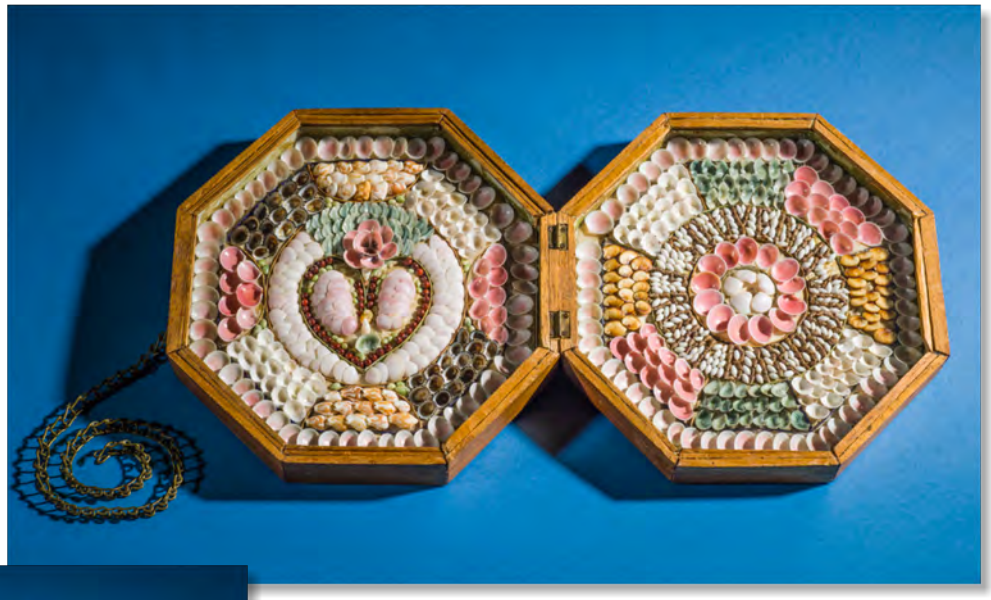


SAILOR'S VALENTINES

By Wendy Bransom
wbranfildes@gmail.com

Sailors through the centuries would return from their voyages with silk scarves and other items inscribed with hearts, flowers or romantic sayings for their wives or sweethearts. Many sailors would scratch romantic designs in tusk, bones, ivory or wood which is known as scrimshaw today. The more talented sailors carved images of their sweethearts on conch shells since photos had not been invented. Some would carve their own face on conch shells to leave with their loved ones which were mounted as pins. Male cameos are very hard to find today.

The tradition of Valentines Day began during the 19th century. Around 1830 to 1890 sailors gave their sweethearts a glass-covered octagonal hinged box made of wood filled with sea-shells in picturesque patterns. The boxes ranged from 8 to 20 inches in width. The boxes displayed elaborate symmetrical designs composed mostly of tiny sea shells of multiple colors attached to the backing of the box. Many of the boxes had a centerpiece of a rose or heart design. The glass was used to protect the wood from the harsh conditions of being at sea. This box tradition was created by a few seamen which developed into a huge business at the island of Barbados in the West Indies. Two brothers from Britain, George and B.H. Belgrave, saw the potential of these gifts. Most Valentines Day gifts sold back then were known as the Belgrave Brother's creations. The shells used to make these gifts were mostly unique to Barbados which made box gifts more appealing. However some of the unique shells were imported from Indonesia.



The below sailor's valentine was made around 1875. Its materials are wood, glass, shell, cotton, cardboard and metal. It's Accession Number is 1984.0017.000001 from The Mariners' Museum and Park Collections in Newport News, Virginia.

Some valentines carry the classic phrases "when this you see, remember me" or "Forget me not." The owner of the above sailor's valentine (which reads "Souvenir from Barbados") was David Chapin Warren, a sea captain who sailed between the northeast United States and tropical ports, often accompanied by his wife and two children.

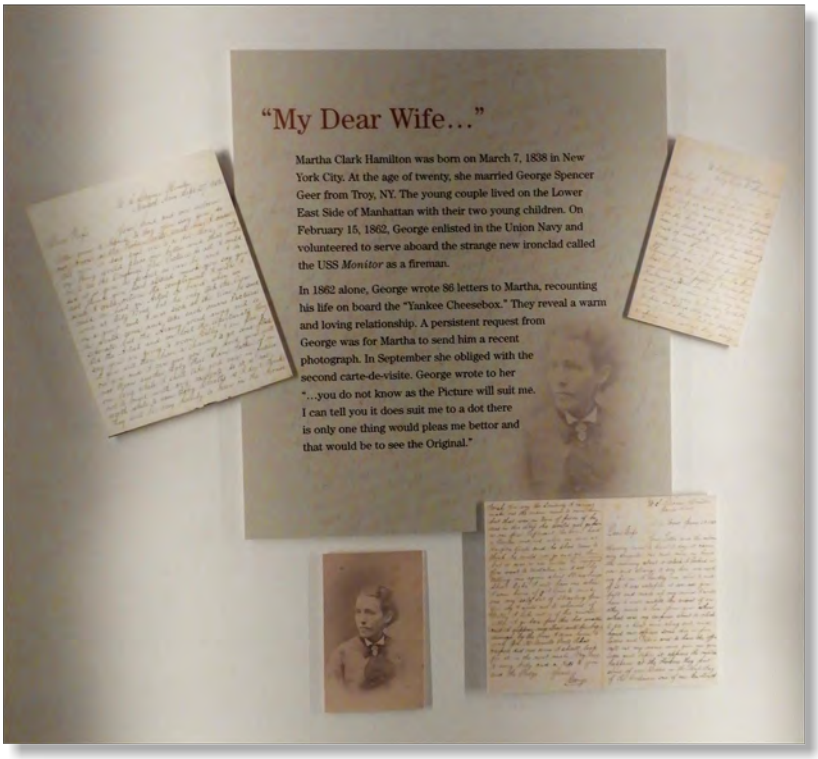
The above gift was considered a sailor's double valentine. It is dated between 1884 - 1889. Its materials are wood, glass, bronze and seashell. Its Accession Number is 1987.0007.000001 from The Mariners' Museum and Park Collections in Newport News, Virginia.

(continued on page 5)

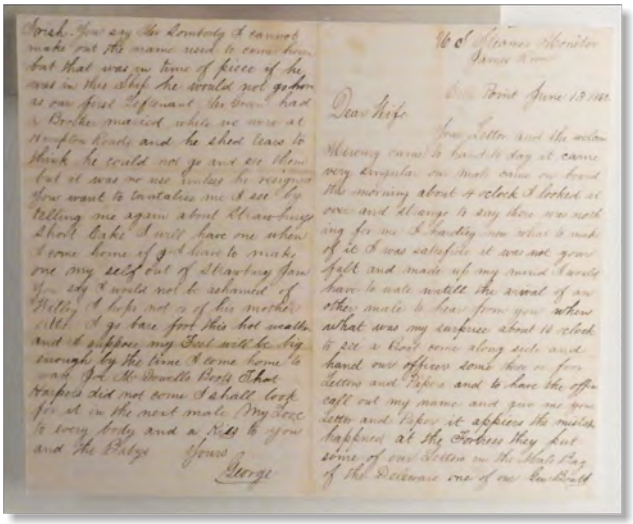
Sailor's Valentines (continued from page 4)

In the book Sailors' Valentines, John Fondas wrote that the primary source for sailor's valentines was the New Curiosity Shop, located in McGregor Street, Bridgetown, Barbados, a popular shop where sailors would purchase souvenirs. The shop was owned by the before mentioned brothers B.H. and George Belgrave. Fondas recounts that while an antique sailor's valentine was being repaired and reconstructed, pieces of a Barbados newspaper were found inside the backing material.

I came across sailor's valentines recently on Wikipedia. I saw that there was at least one at the Mariners' Museum in Newport News, Virginia. My husband took me to the museum, we had not visited it for about 20 years. We slowly toured the museum, it was fascinating. I encourage everyone to go visit the museum during these cold months, the entrance fee is only $1.00. We came to the end of the museum and did not find a sailor valentine. I asked many of the museums personnel how I could view the sailor valentine and finally was introduced to Liz Williams. After a little research, she told me there were two sailor's valentines in their inventory but were not in display. I asked if I could see them. It took awhile but Liz took me to their storage room where she found the valentines. She put them on a work table for me to view, however I was not allowed to take any pictures. The valentines were absolutely beautiful and were as intricate as I stated above. After some discussion, I was told I would have to pay a fee for pictures of both valentines and also a fee to use them on the VBGS Newsletter digitally. The museum did reduce the price by 50%. I went ahead and paid the fee and I was emailed a tif file for both valentines which were 290.1 and 387.9 mb, huge files. I got them onto a external drive immediatley and restarted my laptop. The museum also gave me web files both under 1mb which I am using in this Newsletter. I learned an important lesson, call a museum and ask if they have an item on display before you go to the museum. However if I hadn't gone to the museum, I would not have seen these gorgeous valentines. I hope you enjoy them. Each valentine has information about it which I retrieved from the Mariners' Museum and Park website www.MarinersMuseum.org.



I also came across the display on the right at the museum and had to share it, this is a great story! Martha Clark Hamilton was born on March 7, 1838 in New York City. At the age of 20, she married George Spencer Greer from Troy, New York. The young couple lived on the Lower East Side of Manhattan with their two young children. On February 15, 1862, George enlisted as a fireman in the Union Navy and volunteered to serve aboard the strange new ironclad warship named the USS Monitor. In 1862 alone, George wrote 86 letters to Martha, recounting his life on board the "Yankee Cheesebox." They reveal a warm and loving relationship.



A persistent request from George was for Martha to send him a recent photograph. In September, she obliged with the second carte-de-visite. George wrote to her "…you do not know as the Picture will suit me. I can tell you it does suit me to a dot there is only one thing would pleas me better and that is to see the Original."

Above is exactly what is written on the above My Dear Wife, including the spelling. It is currently on display at The Mariners' Museum and Park in Newport News, Virginia. Enlarge these pages to see the pictures better.

Upcoming Events

2019 Meetings

14 February: VBGS Monthly Meeting at Marian Manor, Terrace Room 7:00 pm, Speaker: VA Department of Historic Resources, Topic: "Gravestones: Symbolism, Documentation, and Preservation." *See the bulletin board on page 3 for more information on meeting location.*

19 February: VBGS Computer User Group at Joint Use Library 6:00 pm: Topic: "Taking Control of Your FamilyTree" and Discussion on Various Genealogy Software.

14 March: VBGS Monthly Meeting at either MEO Central Library or Marian Manor, check https://www.vbgsva.net/ for location, 7:00 pm, Speaker: Donald Moore, Topic: "Life in 17th Century Virginia."

16 March: Beginning Genealogy 101 at the Pretlow Anchor Branch Library, Meeting Room 1. Location: 111 W. Ocean View Ave, Norfolk, at 11:00 am. Learn the basic tools and resources you need to research your family's history. This is sponsored by the Sargeant Memorial Collection. Click here to register! Seating is limited to 45.

26 March: VBGS Computer User Group at Joint Use Library 6:00 pm: Topic: This will be a work session on DNA Issues with software applications. VBGS Members will assist individuals with their issues/challenges. Bring your laptop or tablet with your DNA data if you would like to be assisted.

6 April: Intermediate Genealogy 201 at the Pretlow Anchor Branch Library, Meeting Room 1. Location: 111 W. Ocean View Ave, Norfolk, at 11:00 am. Learn tips and strategies to overcome common stumbling blocks. This is sponsored by the Sargeant Memorial Collection. Click here to register! Seating is limited to 45.

11 April: VBGS Monthly Meeting at either MEO Central Library or Marian Manor, check https://www.vbgsva.net/ for location, 7:00 pm, Guest Speaker: Barbara Henley, "Topic: "History of Southern Princess Anne County."

16 April: VBGS Computer User Group at Joint Use Library 6:00 pm: This is a continuation of the 26 March Computer Meeting, assisting with genealogical software, bring laptops and tablets.

9 May: VBGS Monthly Meeting at MEO Central Library 7:00 pm, Guest Speaker: Sharon Hodges, "Arriving in America." This presentation covers arriving in New York City, pre-1855, through the Barge Office, Castle Garden, and Ellis Island, as it was more difficult for an alien to be admitted in this city than anywhere else.

14 May: VBGS Computer User Group at Joint Use Library 6:00 pm: Topic TBD

18 May: Advanced Genealogy 301 at the Pretlow Anchor BranchLibrary, Meeting Room 1. Location: 111 W. Ocean View Ave, Norfolk, at 11:00 am. Learn tips/strategies to overcome brick walls. Sponsored by Sargeant Memorial Collection. Click here to register! Seating limited to 45.

1 June: Genealogical Databases and Websites at Pretlow Anchor Branch Library, Meeting Room 1. Location: 111 W. Ocean View Ave, Norfolk, at 11:00 am. Learn to use Ancestry and other online databases and websites for Genealogical Research. Bring your laptop or tablet. Click here to register

10 June: VBGS Monthly Meeting at MEO Central Library 7:00 pm, Speaker: Ronald Berkebile, Topic: "Census from 1900."

2019 Conferences

27 February - 2 March: RootsTech, Salt Palace Convention Center, Salt Lake City, Utah. Pricing is $99.00 to $249.00 click here to register. There is a virtual pass so you can access 18 online recorded sessions, for only $129.00. Click here for more information on Virtual.

22 -24 March: Family Tree University Spring VIRTUAL Genealogy Conference. Click here for more information!

22 - 23 March: NC Genealogical Society, first VIRTUAL conference, four lectures each day. Videos will be available for 90 days to view. Click here for more information!

5 - 6 April: Fairfax Genealogical Society Spring Conference "Finding Your Missing Branches", Sheraton Reston Hotel, Reston Virginia. Keynote Speaker, Diahan Southard, DNA Expert. Click here for more information.

12 - 13 April: VGS Spring Conference, Richmond Virginia. "Laws & Wars that Impacted Your Virginia Ancestor." Early Bird registration before April 2, 2019, VGS Members $44, non-members $55. After April 1, the cost for VGS Members is $54 and non-members is $65. Click here for more information

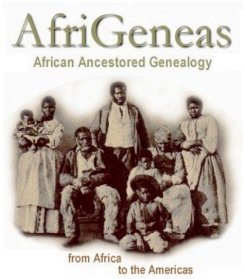
8 - 11 May: NGS Family History Conference, ST. Charles, MO "Journey to Discovery." Early Bird online or by postmarked by 19 March. Click here for more information.

21 -26 July: Institute of Genealogy and Historical Research (IGHR) Event. The week-long institute will be held July 21-26 at the University of Georgia in Athens, GA. *Registration for the Institute of will open March 2, 2019.* Click here for information.

21 -22 August: FGS 2019 National Conference, Washington, DC. FGS makes its first visit to the nation's capital with the National Archives, Library of Congress, DAR Library. Lodging is as the Historic Omni Shoreham Hotel for 21 - 24 August.

From the Editor: I could not find any link to register for this event, you may have to wait a few months to register.

What's New!



AFRIGENEAS is a site devoted to African American genealogy for researching African Ancestry in the Americas. You can search databases including slave records collection, death and marriage records, census schedules and surname database. You can also connect with fellow researchers with regular chats, message boards and mailing lists. http://afrigeneas.com/

WELCOME TO THE 1940 CENSUS.
The 1940 census records were released by the US National Archives April 2, 2012, and brought online through a partnership with Archives.com. This website allows you full access to the 1940 census images, in addition to 1940 census maps and descriptions. Click here to get started!

Free Genealogy eBooks from Ancestral Findings

We hope these ebooks will be beneficial to you and your genealogy research. The ebooks are completely free to you, although you are welcome to leave a small donation of any amount to help with future projects. Thank you so much! Click here for the digital books. Don't forget to leave a small donation!

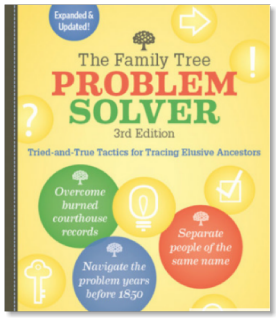
"P" is for Pension File...and patience! We're almost through digitizing the P's in our 1812 Pension Files (can't wait for Q-Z) and we're excited about our growing War of 1812 Pension Files collection. A veteran's pension often includes his rank, place of residence, age or date of birth, and time of service. A widow's application usually includes her place of residence, her maiden name, date, and place of marriage, circumstances of her husband's death, and the names of children under 16. Written by Jenny Ashcraft, January 16, 2019. Read more about Jenny's Blog, click here!

Check out the Blog Findmypast Fridays!
Below is from February 1, 2019: New York Roman Catholic Parish Baptisms: Over 329,000 additional baptism records have been added to our collection of New York Roman Catholic Sacramental registers. Click here to check it out!

If you've done a DNA test before on another service, uploading your DNA data to MyHeritage can help you break down genealogical brick walls and uncover new relatives. Genetic genealogists call this "fishing in another pond" for DNA Matches, to benefit from the opportunity to be matched with the huge base of customers who have tested their DNA exclusively on MyHeritage. As we announced previously as of December 16, 2018, users can upload their raw DNA data from other testing services for free, and they will still receive all DNA Matches for free, but unlocking extra features for uploaded DNA data will cost an extra fee.

If you have already uploaded your raw DNA data to MyHeritage from another testing service prior to December 16, 2018, you are grandfathered in and will continue to enjoy access to all of the extra DNA features for free. Click here to upload your DNA NOW!

Find a Grave has made some changes on their website, here are some of the improvements: 1. There is now a Condensed List View option for many lists such as cemetery search and virtual cemeteries. You can switch between condensed and regular list views.
2. Rotating Memorial Photos: If you uploaded a photo facing the wrong way, you can now click the photo and use the rotate arrow buttons below it to fix it. This is available on older photos uploaded.
3. Photo Request Numbers Updates: You will now only see photo requests that you have claimed and the ones unclaimed in your area.
- Check out Find a Grave's News and Announcements once in awhile, click here to go there!



NEW EDITION!
Tried-and-True Tactics for Tracing Elusive Ancestors

Has your family history research hit a brick wall? This revised edition of The Family Tree Problem Solver includes new guides to record hints from genealogy websites and DNA results from companies like AncestryDNA. Plus, you'll find a glossary of genealogy terms and case studies that put the book's advice into action. Get a copy for only $24.99, click this link!

A History of VBGS

(continued from VBGS Newsletter November 2018 Vol 35, No. 4)

On October 15, 1992 a bus trip was taken to North Caroline State Archives and Library of Raleigh North Carolina. Rita Johnson was the trip coordinator. On November 5, 1992, a bus trip to the National Archives, DAR Library and the Library of Congress was also taken.

The VBGS Newsletter staff received a letter from the PERSI (**PER**iodical **S**ource **I**ndex) requesting a complete set of VBGS's quarterly newsletter from the first issue for inclusion of extracted data in future PERSI editions. This was the creation of the Genealogy Department of Allen County Public Library of Fort Wayne, Indiana, holders of one of the better-known genealogy collections. In 1992, PERSI included a 16 volume series indexing data gathered from publications printed from 1847 through 1985, and annual indices issued each year since 1986.

Also in 1992, Pat Eggleston and Patty Schaffer became Adopt-A-Shelf volunteers at the Virginia Beach Central Library. The work involved "reading the shelves." They would read a shelf, looking at the spines of the books, one at a time, to make sure they are in precise order according to the call numbers. This became interesting work because they frequently came across books they didn't even know were there. VBGS volunteers attended an orientation session with training afterwards with either Pat or Patty. A placard was placed in the genealogy section to the effect that it was being maintained by VBGS.

VBGS Officers for 1993. Left to right are Herb Crane, Treasurer; Melinda Lukei, President; Pat Eggleston, Recording Secretary; and Bill Turner, Vice President

To lead VBGS into a second decade, new officers were elected at the February 1993 meeting. Melinda Lukei, a charter member, was elected president and Wilson (Bill) Turner became vice president. Pat Eggleston became the recording secretary while Herb Crane continued as treasurer. New members at large were elected: Cynthia K Aucoin, Erma A. Barco, Svlvia Echols, Shirley Hurst and Donald S. Vinson. Shirley Hurst took over the annual picnic. Les Robbins became the audit and Carol Swenson became education.

The Library Liaison title was changed to Library Tours, Patty Schaffer continued in this position. A new position was created "Finance & Budget," Bill Turner and Herb Crane filled this position. The nominating position was filled by Roland Dubois. Toby Netherton took over planning and administration. William B. Isaacs took over publicity and Mary Lou Roberts took over telephone.

On March 3, 1993, there as a bus trip to the National Archives, DAR Library and the Library of Congress. Rita Johnson was the trip coordinator once again.

Early in 1993 several VBGS members felt the society needed to apply to the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) for tax exempt status. This would save the society money in several ways, including mailing out the newsletter and other communications. VBGS applied to the IRS for tax exempt status and paid the fee but there had to be a change in the VBGS bylaws before the status could be granted.

At the VBGS monthly meeting on March 13, 1993 Herb Crane, the treasurer, explained the need for revision of the bylaws use language dictated by IRS for the Society to be considered for nonprofit status. A copy of the revision

(continued on page 9)

A History of VBGS (continued from page 8)

was given to each member. Because of the time constraints imposed by the IRS, these revisions had to be presented at the March meeting and voted on at the June dinner meeting.

At the VBGS board meeting on March 23, 1993, Elaine Hall moved that the VBGS manual be called a handbook. The board adopted the title. The VBGS logo was to be in the center of the cover page with the word handbook underneath at the bottom of the page.

VBGS and Old Dominion University co-sponsored a course on English ancestor research, which culminated in a trip to London for research in the Public Records Office at Kew, St. Catherine's and other repositories. Six classes were offered from May to June 1993. In June, students traveled to London for 10 days for on-site genealogical research. Students stayed in the West London Institute, a college of higher education located in the western suburbs of London. The trip coordinator was Toby Netherton; the instructor and tour guide was Elaine Hall.

VBGS celebrated their 10th Anniversary as a genealogical society on June 10, 1993 at the Grand Affairs in Virginia Beach, Virginia. Melinda Lukei welcomed everyone to the event and Malcolm Simmons gave the invocation. Business followed dinner with remembrances and updates, old business – bylaws and announcements. At this dinner VBGS Treasurer Herb Crane made a motion to amend the bylaws revision which would grant the society tax exempt status. The bylaws were approved unanimously. The Program for the night "Black Sheep of Our Family" was given by Andi Barco, Elaine Hall, Art Halstead and Patty Schaffer.

The 4th Annual VBGS Picnic was held on August 21, 1993 at Shelter Number 3, Great Neck Park. Members and their families brought covered dishes to share. The society furnished soft drinks and necessary paper items. That year they did not get rained out and had a wonderful time.

The proposed changes to the VBGS bylaws were adopted October 12, 1993.

(to be continued in the VBGS Newsletter May 2019 Vol 36, No 2)

Note from the Editor: Pat Eggleston has been going through her personal files with the history of VBGS. Recently she came up with some important information that should be added to the VBGS History. It happened in 1987 when our logo was created. I encourage other VBGS members to submit either changes or additions to the VBGS history which is currently being created. This started with the VBGS First Landing Newsletter May 2018 Vol 35 No 2, which can be found on our website. The following will be added to the History of VBGS:

"The Virginia Beach Genealogical Society Logo of a tree standing on an open book was chosen at the monthly meeting held October 8, 1987. The logo was submitted by Carolyn Bruce and was designed by her and her husband, Randy Bruce. VBGS was very lucky to have very talented artists as members!"

VIRGINIA BEACH GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

VIRGINIA BEACH GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

Check our our website

https://www.vbgsva.net/

Like

CLICK HERE TO LIKE US ON FACEBOOK

Virginia Beach's Francis Land House will be renovated and turned into a WWII Museum

By Alissa Skelton, Staff writer
Dec 27, 2018 Updated Jan 6, 2019
(Reprinted with the permission of The Virginian - Pilot)

For more than 30 years, the Francis Land House has taught elementary students about a wealthy plantation owner and slavery during the early 1800s.

But that's about to change.

After Dec. 29, 2018 the museum will close for at least a year and undergo an estimated $950,000 in renovations.

Currently, the exhibit focuses on the family of Francis Land VI, and visitors can see a first-floor bedroom, parlor and dining area. After it's remodeled, the exhibit will feature the DeFrees family, who lived in the home during World War II. Raymond DeFrees was a civil engineer.

The exhibit will be temporary — five years at most. The city's museums department is changing the focus to diversify its educational curriculum.

"We want to look at a different period of the house's history," said Ann Miller, Virginia Beach's history museums manager. "The house has been here for more than 200 years — we've spent 32 of those years looking just at the period it was built, so we'd like to look at some of its 20th Century history."

Ann Miller

The museums department also plans to ask the City Council for about $2.5 million to build a new visitor's center that would be separate from the house and to demolish the modern addition. That funding hasn't been approved.

The Francis Land House is located along Virginia Beach Boulevard between several commercial businesses.

One of the changes will be converting a first floor bedroom into a kitchen as it was used in the 1940s.

The Historic Houses Foundation, a nonprofit board affiliated with the city, pitched a renovation plan to council members three years ago. Cynthia Spanoulis, the museums director, said the foundation began holding workshops with the community in 2014 to come up with new exhibits for the city's three historic homes.

The majority of visitors to the Francis Land House are elementary school children. The museum competes with a lot of other historic sites in the area — including Colonial Williamsburg and Jamestown.

Miller said it made sense to change the Francis Land House since exhibits on slavery and plantation life will be covered at the Thoroughgood House and the Lynnhaven House.

(continued on page 11)

Virginia Beach's Francis Land House will be renovated and turned into a WWII Museum (continued from page 10)

The city worked with the school district to create a curriculum that would match what is being taught. Miller wants the new museum to be interactive and draw middle school and high school students. The museum also plans to partner with military groups.

"We need to bring in new visitors to bring life to this house and to make it successful and sustainable," she said. "That's what we are hoping to do with the World War II exhibit."

In addition to changing the focus, the house needs a lot of work, Miller said. It will get a new heating and cooling system, an electrical system, which hasn't been updated since the 1950s, and new fire suppression. Several methods will be used to prevent moisture from further damaging the house. Lawn work will also be done to prevent water from pooling near the house and seeping into the basement's electrical room.

To try to recreate the house, city staff interviewed one of the living relatives who had stayed at the home, Miller said.

"We are looking forward to moving into another phase of the house's history," Miller said. "We will do it with the intent of sharing and learning more about the house; not with a plan to destroy or let go of any work that has been done in the past. We are just building more knowledge."

The house will have seven rooms for people to walk through that will be on the first and second levels. It will show visitors what it was like for a wealthy family living in rural Virginia during World War II.

For the first time, the top floor will be open to the public. Miller said a lot of visitors ask why they can't go upstairs, which houses staff offices. Those desks will be moved to another city building.

"It won't be a velvet rope kind of experience at all," Miller said. "We want people to be immersed and not really feel like it is an exhibit at all but like they are going into a house and can make themselves comfortable.

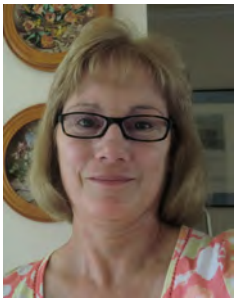
Alissa Skelton,
757-222-5155
alissa.skelton@pilotonline.com

Photos by Steave Earley/Staff

Click here for the Link to the Story

The Virginian-Pilot
PilotOnline.com

From the VBGS Editor: If you want to learn more about the Francis Land House, VBGS has an article in the First Landing Newsletter Vol 10 No 2, June 1993 "Genealogical Research Gives Life to Francis Land House." Written by Mark Reed, Administrator of the Francis Land House in 1993. If you don't have the newsletter, contact the VBGS Newsletter Editor and it will be sent it to you!



My Trips to Louisa and Fluvanna Counties in Virginia, did I find William Skidmore Bransom?

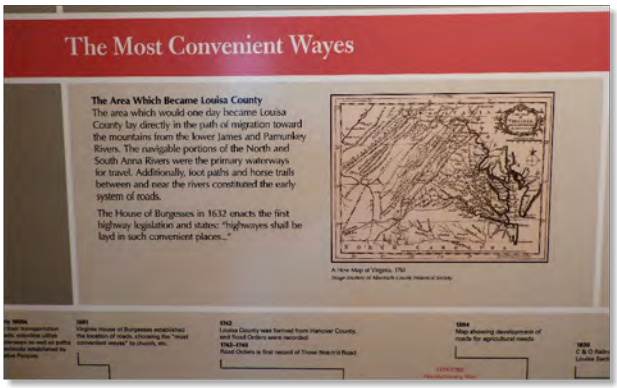
By Wendy Bransom
wbranfildes@gmail.com

This winter I am spending a lot of time going through all the material I found in Albemarle, Louisa and Fluvanna Counties in Virginia. In the VBGS November 2018 Newsletter, I told you about my trip to Albemarle County. In this newsletter, I'll tell you about my trip to Louisa and Fluvanna.

In Louisa County, I wanted to search for Beach and Bransom families while looking for other vital statistics on my husband's ancestors. I started my search October 2018 in Louisa at the Sargeant House which is the headquarters for the Louisa County Historical Society. The house was built in 1914 by J. Frank Sargeant. The other resident of the house was W. A. Claude Petit, Jr. The house, which is also known as the Sargeant-Pettit House, was given to the Louisa County Historical Society for the purpose of a museum. I met Karleen Kovalcik, Executive Director of the Society. Karleen was very helpful. Before I visited Louisa, Karleen sent me two files that held information on all the documents/books/folders they held. I was able to create a list of everything I wanted to look at ahead of time. She spent the day bringing items to me while I either wrote down information, took pictures or made copies on a printer. Some of the documents I found were bible records, "Revolutionary Salt Distribution in Louisa 1778 List", history of local churches and a history written by Janice L. Abercrobie on Louisa County. What was amazing was they had digitized the older wills for Louisa County. I was able to get copies of wills, account of sales and appraisments. This gave me vital information for some Michie families and also Nathaniel and Wiliam Seargent, some of my husbands ancestors. I did not find any Beach or Bransom families but I was able to gather a lot of useful information on other ancestors. You really don't know what you will find at a local historical society.

Karleen Kovalcik

The museum inside the Sargeant House is huge and incredible; it features exhibits telling the story of Louisa. Hours are Monday - Friday from 10:00 am - 4:00 pm with special programs offered on specified weekends throughout the year.



Karleen gave me a tour of the "Michie House." It first resided on land on the north side of Louisa Road (Route 22), south of the South Anna River near the mouth of Lickinghole Creek. In 1790, Robert Michie (son of Scott John) obtained the land. In 1792, Robert deeded the land and house to his son William and his wife Mary Ann Maury. They resided in the house for many years and operated a mill on the nearby South Anna River. Robert Michie is the brother of James Michie who is my husband's ancestor.

Michie House

(continued on page 13)

My Trips to Louisa and Fluvanna Counties in Virginia, did I find William Skidmore Bransom? (continued from pg 12)

The Michie house was dismantled and moved to the Louisa County Heritage Farm which is now right behind the Sargeant House, it has been fully restored. You can read more about the Michie House in a book I bought from the Seargent Museum named Old Home Places of Louisa County Revisted by the Louisa County Historical Society. It is a hard cover book of 320 pages with a wealth of information on the houses in Louisa and their occupants. I spent a little time at the Louisa County Courthouse the day I left Louisa. It was raining very heavy but the parking was only a few feet from the door. I planned to stay for only an hour or two due to the weather forecast of flooding all the way to Virginia Beach. I found several land records for John Michie (Scott John). I copied on paper a little bit of each record I found. It was very old english which was difficult to read. Most records were very long and were in huge books. I decided to gather what information I could on each record and go to the Libary of Virginia (LVA) in December 2018 and get digital copies of these records. I was able to find each land record at the LVA. I have a lot of records to go through and transcribe.

I plan to go back to the Louisa Courthouse in the Spring of 2019. I am sure there is more information there I will be able to find. I know this because of my visit to Fluvanna County which I took the week after Thanksgiving 2018. I hit the jack pot in Fluvanna County. I visted the Maggie's House, home of the Fluvanna County Historical Society. I met Tricia Johnson, the Administrative Director, pictured right in front of Maggie's House. She provided me with so much information, they had folders on the Beach, Bransom, King and White families. They contained letters asking for information on the Bransom and Beach families. I also met Kathy Brent. I told her I was looking for Hunter's Lodge which I thought might have been in Fluvanna. I had been looking for Hunter's Lodge for a long time. I told her my husband's 3rd great grandfather David Thomas King had been born there in 1782. Additionally I had found a patent "Steam-Generator" No. 466,651 dated January 5, 1892 some years ago. William S. Bransom had made a patent which gave certain new and useful "Improvements in Steam-Generators"; he had been residing at Hunter's Lodge in the county of Fluvanna. Kathy went to their research room and sometime later returned with newspaper article "Old Captain Troy Built This Railroad, Hunters Lodge' Faded Away." The article explained how the day the 'Virginia Airline' (railroad) came, Captain Troy called the area Troy in 1907. This doomed the Fluvanna settlement "Hunter's Lodge" into the background. From the Civil War, Hunter's Lodge was the landmark on the stagecoach road to Palmyra. A cash book kept by George A Payne of Hunter's Lodge, which began in 1870 gives the belief that the log house served as a lodging place for travelors. The Troy station stands empty by the tracks where as many as six passenger trains a day came by Hunter's Lodge.

This was a great find, I now know at one time William S. Bransom lived at Hunter's Lodge. He actually created improvements to the steam-generator with his father-in-law Daniel Warren King at Hunter's Lodge. If Daniel's father was born at Hunter's Lodge then the King Family must have called Hunter's Lodge their home. Also William S. Bransom must have met his wife Florence Cornelia King there too. In the spring, I plan to go back to Fluvanna (maybe with my husband) and have Tricia take me to where the remains of Hunter's Lodge are located. I tried to find the place on my way home to Virginia Beach but could not find it. Tricia told me the building still exists. I am so glad Kathy Brent found that article for me. Tricia took me over to the courthouse to show me how to use the court books, she actually helped me find some of my husband's family vital information. She also showed me how to use the courthouse computer. They had digitized most of their older deed books and will books.

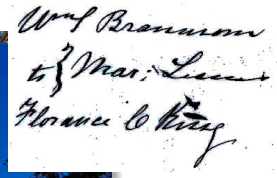
(continued on page 14)

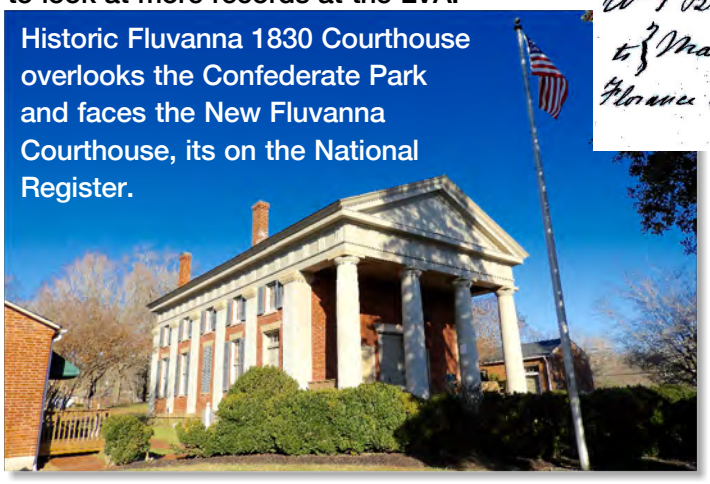
My Trips to Louisa and Fluvanna Counties in Virginia, did I find William Skidmore Bransom? (continued from page 13)

They had a printer that could print both legal size and standard size paper. I came home with $47.00 of printed wills and deeds of many of my husband's King and White ancestors. I also coped wills and deeds for Bransom families, there were quite a few. I spent a lot of time at the courthouse. I actually found a new ancestor for my husband, his 5th great grandfather Daniel Bentley 1745 - 1839, Deed Book 1 had several pages on him. I went through death records and register of births between 1850 to 1860. I did find some Beach families in births and deaths. I also found Florence C. Bransom, William S. Skidmore Bransom's wife in the 1880 census book. She was already married by then but in 1880 she was living by herself in Fluvanna County; her husband might have been in the United States Army fighting in indian wars.

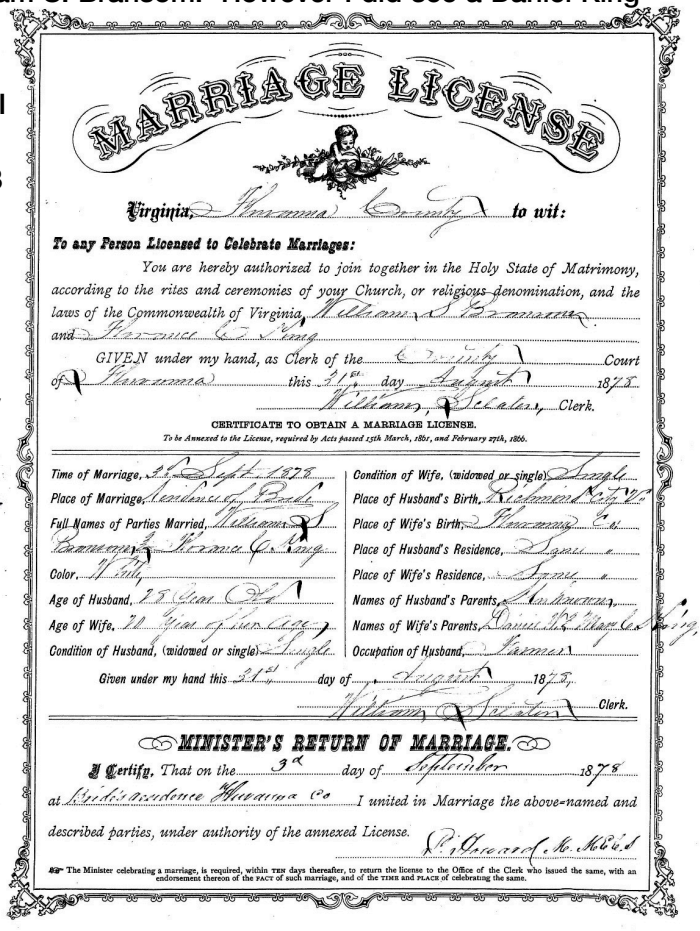
While in Fluvanna, I verified the marriage information on William Skidmore Bransom. I looked up the date I had for 1878. I found the entry for him and his wife with the date of August 31, 1878. I wanted to get a copy of the log and asked a lady at the courthouse for it. She surprised me by asking for the date, then getting a very tall ladder out and pulling down a box. She went through it and found the marriage license for William Skidmore Bransom and Florence Cornelia King. It had never occurred to me that if a name was in the register book there probably was a marriage license. I have a lot more of my husband's ancestors to look for next spring. Imagine if I could get marriage licenses on the Beach and Bransom families that could give me information I do not have. Anyway, I found new information on the license, they were actually married September 3, 1879. This came from the bottom of the marriage license, minister return of marriage. So everyone online has the wrong marriage date. Another interesting thing found on the license was what was written in "Names of Husband's Parents: UNKNOWN." This tells me William Skidmore Bransom was very young when his parents died.

I'll combine that information with the letters I got at Maggie's House on Beach names. With all the information I found on Beach and Bransom families, I have made family trees. I have a lot of information to decipher, transcribe and file. Who knows how long this will take. However, every record I found could have very valuable clues to William S. Bransom and his parents. I did go back to the LVA in December, the week before Christmas. I went through a lot of poorhouse records for Richmond and Fluvanna. I took pictures of some of the information I found for Fluvanna. I just glanced at the pages and did not see a William S. Bransom. However I did see a Daniel King helping out with the poorhouse. I have even more materiel to go through slowly. Chances are William S. Bransom did not end up at a poorhouse. He also did not have a guardian granted to him, I could not find a record. Therefore, I believe a church may have put him with a family. He says on his marriage license, he was 28 and that he was born in Richmond City. His parents may have been poor. So my next plan after going through all these records is to look at churches in Richmond City and Fluvanna. I did bring some church records back. I have quite a few minister names on documents that may lead me to the church. I am going to the VGS Spring Conference this April, I may go a couple of days early to look at more records at the LVA.





Historic Fluvanna 1830 Courthouse overlooks the Confederate Park and faces the New Fluvanna Courthouse, its on the National Register.



MARRIAGE LICENSE

Virginia, Fluvanna County to wit:

To any Person Licensed to Celebrate Marriages:

You are hereby authorized to join together in the Holy State of Matrimony, according to the rites and ceremonies of your Church, or religious denomination, and the laws of the Commonwealth of Virginia, William S Bransom and Florence C King

GIVEN under my hand, as Clerk of the County Court of Fluvanna this 31st day August 1878

William Sclater, Clerk.

CERTIFICATE TO OBTAIN A MARRIAGE LICENSE.

To be Annexed to the License, required by Acts passed 15th March, 1861, and February 27th, 1866.

Time of Marriage, 3d Sept 1878	Condition of Wife, (widowed or single) Single
Place of Marriage, Residence of Bride	Place of Husband's Birth, Richmond City Va
Full Names of Parties Married, William S Bransom & Florence C King	Place of Wife's Birth, Fluvanna Co
Color, White	Place of Husband's Residence, Same
Age of Husband, 28 Years Old	Place of Wife's Residence, Same
Age of Wife, 20 Years of her Age	Names of Husband's Parents, Unknown
Condition of Husband, (widowed or single) Single	Names of Wife's Parents, Daniel W & Mary C King
	Occupation of Husband, Farmer

Given under my hand this 31st day of August 1878,

William Sclater Clerk.

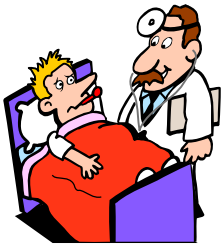
MINISTER'S RETURN OF MARRIAGE.

I Certify, That on the 3d day of September 1878 at Bride's residence Fluvanna Co I united in Marriage the above-named and described parties, under authority of the annexed License.

P. Howard M. McCeo

The Minister celebrating a marriage, is required, within TEN days thereafter, to return the license to the Office of the Clerk who issued the same, with an endorsement thereon of the FACT of such marriage, and of the TIME and PLACE of celebrating the same.

Enlarge this pdf to see pictures better



Medical Terms in the 18th and 19th Century

This is continued from VBGS August 2018 Vol 35 No. 4

Pellagra: a disease caused by eating spoiled maize; symptoms begin with vomiting and diarrhea followed by a swollen and sore tongue and a red, ulcerated mouth, rash on the body, and body sores
Pessary: a device worn in the vagina for birth control or to give support to a displace uterus
Phisic: medicine
Phlebitis: tenderness or hardness of an infected vein; treatment with leeches or lotions
Phthisis: see consumption
Piles: hemorrhoids
Pink disease: disease in children caused by mercury poisoning from the use of mercury salts in teething powders
Pleurisy: inflammation and mucus in the lungs
Potters' asthma: workers in the pottery industry of Staffordshire were exposed to dust from dried clay and in some cases from ground flints and bone used as clay additives, they developed an inflammation of the lung similar to that of miners with silicosis
Potts disease: tuberculosis of the spine leading to degeneration of the vertebrae
Pox: syphillis
Purples: spots of a livid color, which break out in malignant fevers
Putrid fever: diphtheria
Putrid sore throat: ulceration of an acute form, attacking the tonsils, see also Quinsy
Pyemia: a form of blood poisoning from pus in the blood carried to various parts of the body
Quinsy: an acute inflammation of the soft palate around the tonsils, often leading to an abscess
Remitting fever: malaria also called the ague
Rheumatism: inflammation of the joints
Rising of the Lights: croup - any obstructive condition of the larynx or trachea (windpipe), characterized by a hoarse, barking cough and difficult breathing, occurring chiefly in infants and children
Rose-Rash: “false measles” or roseola
Saint Vitus’s Dance: chorea; nervous disorder which creates involuntary muscular contractions
Scarlatina: Scarlet Fever, a contagious disease caused by the bacterium Streptococcus pyogenes
Sciatica: painful condition in the hip and or thigh
Screws: rheumatism
Scrofula: tuberculosis of the lymphatic glands, especially those in the neck, disease of children and young adults. See also **King's Evil.**
Scurvy: vitamin C deficiency disease, common on long voyages and characterized by softening of the gums, hemorrhages under the skin and general debility
Self-Follution: masturbation
Ship fever: see **Typhus Fever**
Small-pox: an eruptive distemper of great malignity, also known as variola
Softening Of The Brain: senility or general paralysis of the insane (GPI) which is tertiary syphilis, also used for cerebral hemorrhage
Splenitits: inflammation of the spleen
Spotted fever: CerebroSpinal Meningitis
St. Anthony's Fire: see erysipelas
St. Vitus Dance: a twitching of the limbs consequent on streptococcal infections also known as chorea Sancti Viti
Stranguary: restricted urine flow
Strophulus: prickly heat
Summer complaint of Infants: see cholera infantum also dysentery or baby diarrhea caused by spoiled milk
Suppurating: producing pus
Synochus: fever
Syphilis: long lasting contagious venereal disease caused by bacterium treponema pallidum, characterized by three stages, primary, secondary and tertiary

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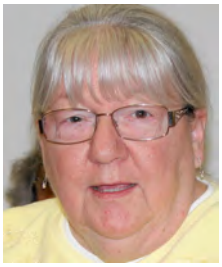


Gretna Green Weddings

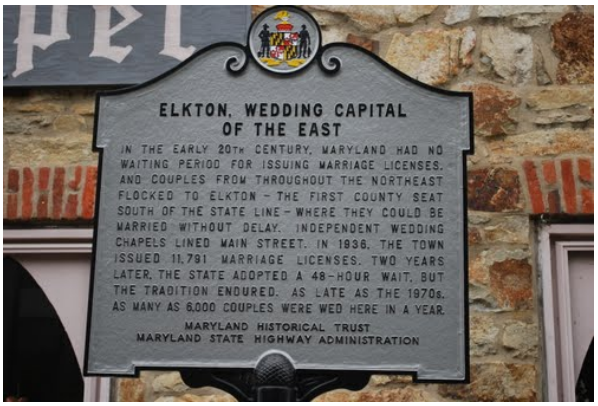
by Marcia Hawkins & Laura Ostrander
agsncnewsletter@gmail.com

Gretna Green is a village in the south of Scotland famous for weddings with a minimum of formality and delay. It gained popularity as a wedding venue because of numerous across-the-border elopements, generally stemming from variances between Scottish marriage laws and those in neighboring countries (1). A Gretna Green Wedding came to mean any nuptials held in a location other than the residential areas of the bride or groom. Most often it was to bypass some impediment to the union.

During the mid-1700s, England implemented an act allowing a parent to veto wedding plans of any child under the age of 21. Furthermore, the intent to marry had to be publicly announced and anyone could object. This act did not apply in Scotland and with the advent of a rail line into the village of Gretna Green, English citizens under the age of 21 eloped to Scotland to be joined in matrimony.

Scotland also allowed for something referred to as “irregular” weddings. If a couple announced that they wanted to be married in the presence of two witnesses, the ceremony could be performed by just about anyone. In Gretna Green the officiant was sometimes one of the village blacksmiths. Smittys became well known for “anvil” weddings. Scottish law has now abolished the practice, however, the term Gretna Green Wedding is still found in modern references, including recent episodes of the PBS series Downton Abbey and the Netflix series The Crown.

An 1844 depiction of a wedding at Gretna Green in Scotland, with a blacksmith’s anvil and horseshoes on the wall. (Photo: British Library/Public Domain)



The practice of eloping to more tolerant jurisdictions continues to this day, though not to the degree it may have in the past. In the United States, towns in which quick, sometimes surreptitious, marriages could be obtained became known as "Gretna Greens." In the United States, this has included Elkton, Maryland, Reno and Las Vegas, Nevada.

South Norfolk residents, Helen Barco and Charlie Pool (2), eloped to Elkton in 1937 following the unexpected death of his father. Years later there was an exposé regarding the illegality of many Elkton weddings. The Pools never bothered to check. Charlie said it gave him an out, if he ever needed it! (Note, they remained married 55 years, until his death in 1992.)

You have likely known local couples who married in South Mills. It’s located just south of Tidewater in Camden County, North Carolina. South Mills probably reached its heyday as a “marriage mill” during the war years when sailors had limited leave time. The three-day waiting period required by Virginia law, together with the requirement of a blood test for syphilis and a doctor’s certificate could be circumvented with a short drive across the border. All you needed was money for the Clerk and the Justice of the Peace (who were often willing to fudge on some vital statistics … notably age). If you brought friends for witnesses, great; if not, there was usually someone hanging around who would stand up with you (for a fee). By the late 1950’s Elizabeth City (in nearby Pasquotank County) began to eclipse South Mills as a wedding venue. Luckily, records for North Carolina marriages, including the many performed in South Mills and Elizabeth City are accessible through various websites as well as by a visit to either of the county courthouses.

(continued on page 17)

Gretna Green Weddings (continued from page 16)

Gretna Green Weddings can make finding marriage information a time consuming paper chase. If your ancestors lived near a state line and you can't find the documentation you seek, you might check the records of neighboring states (or counties) to see if the bride and groom slipped across the line to get hitched. And it never hurts to check Nevada records, as both Reno and Las Vegas became frequent marriage (and divorce) venues for couples from all over the US.

Heather and Ryan Berkowitz, married in Corolla, 2017.

Today there's a growing trend toward destination weddings. A destination wedding is a romantic getaway that brings together friends and family, often in some exotic location. The Outer Banks is a popular spot for destination weddings. A look in the OBX yellow pages shows a bevy of marriage-related businesses including wedding planners, photographers, caterers, bakeries, etc., that support the popularity of weddings there.

Couples from Virginia Beach are getting married in Aspen, couples from Portland are getting married in the Virgin Islands and couples from New York are tying the knot in Hawaii. Weddings are taking place on beaches, in caves, and just about every place you can imagine. This will surely make record searching even more challenging for future genealogists.

(1) Wikipedia - https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/GretnaGreen
(2) Laura Ostrander's parents.

VBGS Mentoring Program

Don't forget we have a mentoring program which is free to VBGS members. Non VBGS members must work out a payment option with any of the VBGS mentors below. Wendy Bransom has been the only one so far to get a mentor. She asked Craig Fenton for help on DNA, he was a wealth of information and cleared up a lot of questions that Wendy had. For more information on what the below mentors can provide, go to the VBGS website, vbgsva.net, click this tab at the top Mentors. Below is the VBGS Mentors with just a little bit of what they know; get the rest of what they know on the VBGS Website as stated above.

CRAIG FENTON - "DNA"

DIANE FENTON - "Extreme Eastern NC," "Coastal New York" and "Westchester County RI 1600s - 1700s"

DUANE HARDING - "Basic genealogy," "PC computer skills," "MS Office: Word, Excel, PowerPoint," "Computer graphics," "Scanning," "Maps," "Paleography (old handwriting)," "Pdf files," "Mail-merge for mass mailings," "The Internet Cloud," and "Google Earth and Google Maps."

MELINDA JONES LUKEI - "Beginning Genealogy"

JANET TETTERTON - "Virginia" I have worked a lot in "Pittsylvania" and "Henry Counties."

If any VBGS Member would like to be added as a mentor, please contact the First Landing Newsletter Editor.

WERE THEY EVEN MARRIED?

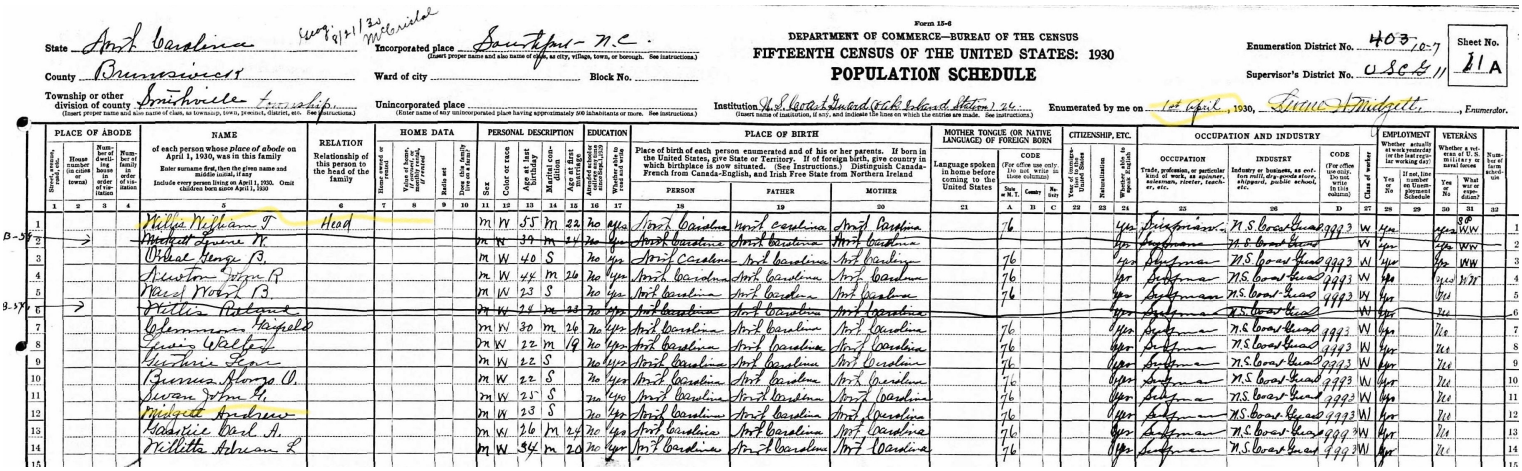
fentonatty@gmail.com
By: Diane B. Fenton

Some of you may remember when Ancestry announced that it was divesting itself of Family Tree Maker. When it first announced, it did not say to whom it was divesting or whether sync or search of Ancestry from Family Tree Maker would still be available. I had been using Family Tree Maker for decades, from a time that it was loaded on my computer from a c.d. Because of the uncertainty I decided to try Roots Magic. I wanted to correct any mistakes I had and to source everything properly. So, I began moving data from my Family Tree Maker to my Roots Magic, one person at a time.

Then I started on my mother's parents. Oops! No marriage date in my database. No place, no date. I suspect that I originally entered what I knew into Family Tree Maker, and that I assumed I could get the missing information anytime. When one first starts with genealogy, one does not recognize the importance of preserving and sourcing information from the living. One is anxious to get on to the new discoveries.

I adored my maternal grandmother. I thought she walked on water. I adored my grandfather. However, he died when I was 10 and my grandmother died when I was 13. I never thought to ask either of them about their love story.

So, decades after I became interested in family history, I found that I was missing information that had become important to me, and both my grandparents and my mother were deceased and unavailable for questioning. I searched all the places where I might have written down a marriage date and place of marriage for my grandparents. I could not find it. I searched online. No marriage record on-line. No newspaper account or announcement of their wedding. No family pictures in my collection. I found a family tree owned by a an uncle-in-law. My aunt had died in 1983. She had become a Mormon before her death, and I knew she had done some family research as part of her spiritual practice. My uncle is also Mormon. However, the tree stated "Marriage: about 1929, Hyde County, North Carolina." My maternal grandfather was born and raised in Rodanthe on the North Carolina Outer Banks. He was born in 1907. At that time, Rodanthe was no longer in Hyde County, but in Dare County. My grandmother was born on December 31, 1913. A 1929 marriage date seemed to be too early, because of her age. I found another tree owned by a grand nephew of my grandmother. He does not even list a spouse for her. His father is deceased and so unavailable for questioning. He was a child when my grandmother married, whenever that was, and was living in the home with her. So, he might have some memory of the event, if he had still been living. My mother has one surviving sibling. My uncle is not known for remembering such things. I asked, anyway; not a clue. My Dad never heard anyone discuss my grandparents' marriage. No help from the living.



Form 15-6
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE—BUREAU OF THE CENSUS
FIFTEENTH CENSUS OF THE UNITED STATES: 1930
POPULATION SCHEDULE

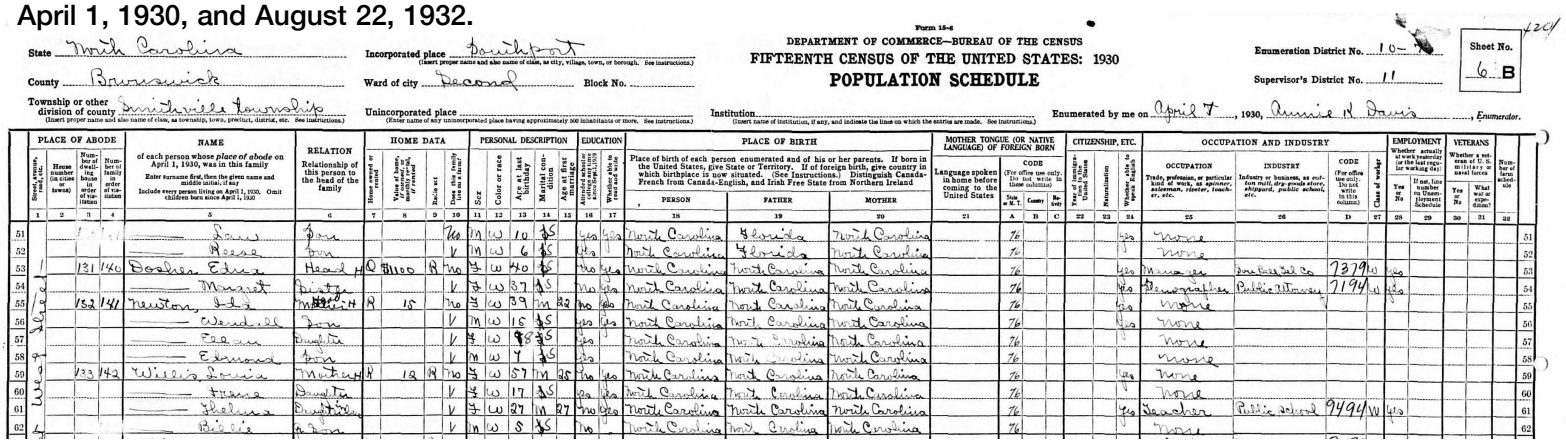
State North Carolina — Incorporated place Southport - N.C. — Enumeration District No. 403-7 — Sheet No. 11A
County Brunswick — Ward of city — Block No. — Supervisor's District No. USCG
Township or other division of county Smithville Township — Unincorporated place — Institution U.S. Coast Guard Oak Island Station — Enumerated by me on 1st April, 1930, Levene Midgett, Enumerator.

	PLACE OF ABODE	NAME	RELATION	HOME DATA	PERSONAL DESCRIPTION	EDUCATION	PLACE OF BIRTH	MOTHER TONGUE (OR NATIVE LANGUAGE) OF FOREIGN BORN	CITIZENSHIP, ETC.	OCCUPATION AND INDUSTRY	EMPLOYMENT	VETERANS
	Street, avenue, road, etc.	of each person whose place of abode on April 1, 1930, was in this family	Relationship of this person to the head of the family		Sex / Color or race / Age at last birthday / Marital condition		Person / Father / Mother					
1	Willis William T	Head			M W 55 M	No Yes	North Carolina	North Carolina	North Carolina		Yes	88 WW
2	Midgett Levene M				M W 39 M	No Yes	North Carolina	North Carolina	North Carolina		Yes	WW
3	Willis George B.				M W 40 S	No Yes	North Carolina	North Carolina	North Carolina		Yes	WW
4	Preston Jesse R				M W 44 M	No Yes	North Carolina	North Carolina	North Carolina		Yes	WW
5	Ward Noah B.				M W 23 S	No Yes	North Carolina	North Carolina	North Carolina		Yes	
6	Willis Rebecca				F W 24 M	No Yes	North Carolina	North Carolina	North Carolina		Yes	
7	Odenmore Ralph				M W 30 M	No Yes	North Carolina	North Carolina	North Carolina		Yes	
8	Irving Walter				M W 22 M	No Yes	North Carolina	North Carolina	North Carolina		Yes	
9	Burbage Leon				M W 22 S	No Yes	North Carolina	North Carolina	North Carolina		Yes	
10	Burrus Alonzo O.				M W 22 S	No Yes	North Carolina	North Carolina	North Carolina		Yes	
11	Swan John H.				M W 23 S	No Yes	North Carolina	North Carolina	North Carolina		Yes	
12	Midgett Andrew				M W 23 S	No Yes	North Carolina	North Carolina	North Carolina		Yes	
13	Gaskill Carl A.				M W 26 M	No Yes	North Carolina	North Carolina	North Carolina		Yes	
14	Willis Athan L				M W 34 M	No Yes	North Carolina	North Carolina	North Carolina		Yes	

I found the above 1930 census for Southport, Brunswick County, North Carolina. The census enumerates the persons at United States Coast Guard Oak Island Station on April 1, 1930. It lists my great grandfather, William Tice Willis, as head. He was the Keeper of the station at that time. My grandfather, Andrew Midgett, was also listed on that same census page as a surfman in the United States Coast Guard. Andrew Midgett's brother, Levene Midgett, happened to be the enumerator. Andrew was listed as age 23 and single. I mentioned who the enumerator was because, one would think that a brother would know if his brother were married or single. *(continued on page 19)*

WERE THEY EVEN MARRIED? (continued from page 18)

My great grandmother was listed on a different page as head of household in the 1930 census for the town of Southport, see below. My grandmother, Irene, was listed in her household, age 17, single, and attending school. My mother was born in Southport in 1932. My hypothesis was that my grandparents married sometime between April 1, 1930, and August 22, 1932.



Form 15-6
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE—BUREAU OF THE CENSUS
FIFTEENTH CENSUS OF THE UNITED STATES: 1930
POPULATION SCHEDULE

State North Carolina — Incorporated place Southport — Enumeration District No. 10-[illegible] — Sheet No. 6 B
County Brunswick — Ward of city Second — Block No. — Supervisor's District No. 11
Township or other division of county Smithville Township — Unincorporated place — Institution — Enumerated by me on April 7, 1930, Minnie N Davis, Enumerator.

	PLACE OF ABODE			NAME	RELATION	HOME DATA			PERSONAL DESCRIPTION				EDUCATION		PLACE OF BIRTH			MOTHER TONGUE (OR NATIVE LANGUAGE) OF FOREIGN BORN			CITIZENSHIP, ETC.			OCCUPATION AND INDUSTRY			EMPLOYMENT		VETERANS		
	Street, avenue, road, etc.	House number (in cities or towns)	Number of dwelling house in order of visitation	Number of family in order of visitation	of each person whose *place of abode* on April 1, 1930, was in this family. Enter surname first, then the given name and middle initial, if any. Include every person living on April 1, 1930. Omit children born since April 1, 1930	Relationship of this person to the head of the family	Home owned or rented	Value of home, if owned, or monthly rental, if rented	Radio set	Does this family use as a farm?	Sex	Color or race	Age at last birthday	Marital condition	Attended school or college any time since Sept. 1, 1929	Whether able to read and write	Place of birth of each person enumerated and of his or her parents. If born in the United States, give State or Territory. If of foreign birth, give country in which birthplace is now situated. (See Instructions.) Distinguish Canada-French from Canada-English, and Irish Free State from Northern Ireland			Language spoken in home before coming to the United States			Year of naturalization	Whether able to speak English		Trade, profession, or particular kind of work, as spinner, salesman, riveter, teacher, etc.	Industry or business, as cotton mill, dry-goods store, shipyard, public school, etc.		Whether actually at work yesterday (or last regular working day)	If not, line number on Unemployment Schedule	Whether a veteran of U. S. military or naval forces	What war or expedition?	Number of farm schedule	
															PERSON	FATHER	MOTHER															
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	A	B	C	22	23	24	25	26	D	27	28	29	30	31	32	
51					Dow	Son				No	M	W	10	S	Yes	Yes	North Carolina	Florida	North Carolina							None								51
52					Reese	Son				Yes	M	W	6	S	Yes		North Carolina	Florida	North Carolina							None								52
53		131	140		Bowles, Edna	Head	O	$1100	R	No	F	W	40	D	No	Yes	North Carolina	North Carolina	North Carolina							Nurse	Dr Bell Hospital		7379	W	Yes				53
54					Monroe, Dietza	Boarder				Yes	F	W	37	S	No	Yes	North Carolina	North Carolina	North Carolina							Stenographer	Public Attorney		7194	W	Yes				54
55		132	141		Newton, Ida	Mother-in-law	R	15		No	F	W	59	M	No	Yes	North Carolina	North Carolina	North Carolina							None								55
56					Wendell, Dow	Son				Yes	M	W	15	S	Yes	Yes	North Carolina	North Carolina	North Carolina							None								56
57					Fannie, Dwelle	Daughter				Yes	F	W	18	S	Yes		North Carolina	North Carolina	North Carolina							None								57
58					Edmond, Dow	Son				Yes	M	W	7	S	Yes		North Carolina	North Carolina	North Carolina							None								58
59		133	142		Willis, Louis	Mother-in-law	R	12	R	No	F	W	57	M	No	Yes	North Carolina	North Carolina	North Carolina							None								59
60					France, Dwelle	Daughter				Yes	F	W	17	S	Yes	Yes	North Carolina	North Carolina	North Carolina							None								60
61					Thelma, Dwelle	Daughter				Yes	F	W	27	M	No	Yes	North Carolina	North Carolina	North Carolina							Teacher	Public school		9494	W	Yes				61
62					Billie, Dow	Son				Yes	M	W	5	S	No		North Carolina	North Carolina	North Carolina							None								62

Some months after I had started my search for a marriage date, I had a Saturday morning event that I wanted to attend in Wilmington, North Carolina. I took the opportunity to drive down early Friday morning so that I could go to Brunswick County to search for a marriage license or certificate. I arrived at the County Seat, Bolivia (population 150, according to the internet) to search for their marriage. I succeeded in finding the birth certificates for my mother and her siblings, which listed them as legitimate and listed my grandparents as their parents, but no marriage certificate.

I had time. I decided to go to the New Hanover County Courthouse, in Wilmington. No luck there, either.

After my Saturday meeting, I drove to Morehead City, where my father lives. When I got there, I ransacked the house looking for someplace where my mother might have recorded her parents' marriage date, or a picture or a note in a scrapbook. I did not find anything. I did find an old photocopy of a picture of my grandmother's great grandfather, in the family Bible, with a cryptic note about a journal, about which I had never heard, but that is another story.

I stayed until Monday and went to the Carteret County Courthouse to see if they had possibly married in Carteret County, as my grandmother had been born in Morehead City. I found nothing there. When I arrived back in Virginia Beach, I pulled out *all* of my genealogical file and loose papers, searching for any clue I could find.

I rediscovered a book, Grandmother Remembers, that I had given my mother when my children were born. Upon her death, I brought it home with me to Virginia Beach. However, I had never been able to bring myself to read it. That night, I did, and I cried most of the time that I read. As to my grandparents' marriage, this is what I found:

"My parents met: He joined the United States Coast Guard at Oak Island Station. Her father was in charge of the station.

When: around 1928-1930, at a guess

Where: across from Southport, NC

They were married: eloped to Dillon, S.C. …

They kept their marriage secret until after she became pregnant with me because it was against the rules for close relatives to work at same station. When the news became public, Granddaddy (Bill Tice) retired. Also Lovey became ill about that time and died when I was a year old. My grandmother, Lovey, asked Pete [author's grandfather] where he and Irene were going that night, and he said "I'm running away with her to get married!' And she laughed, thinking it a joke."

(continued on page 20)

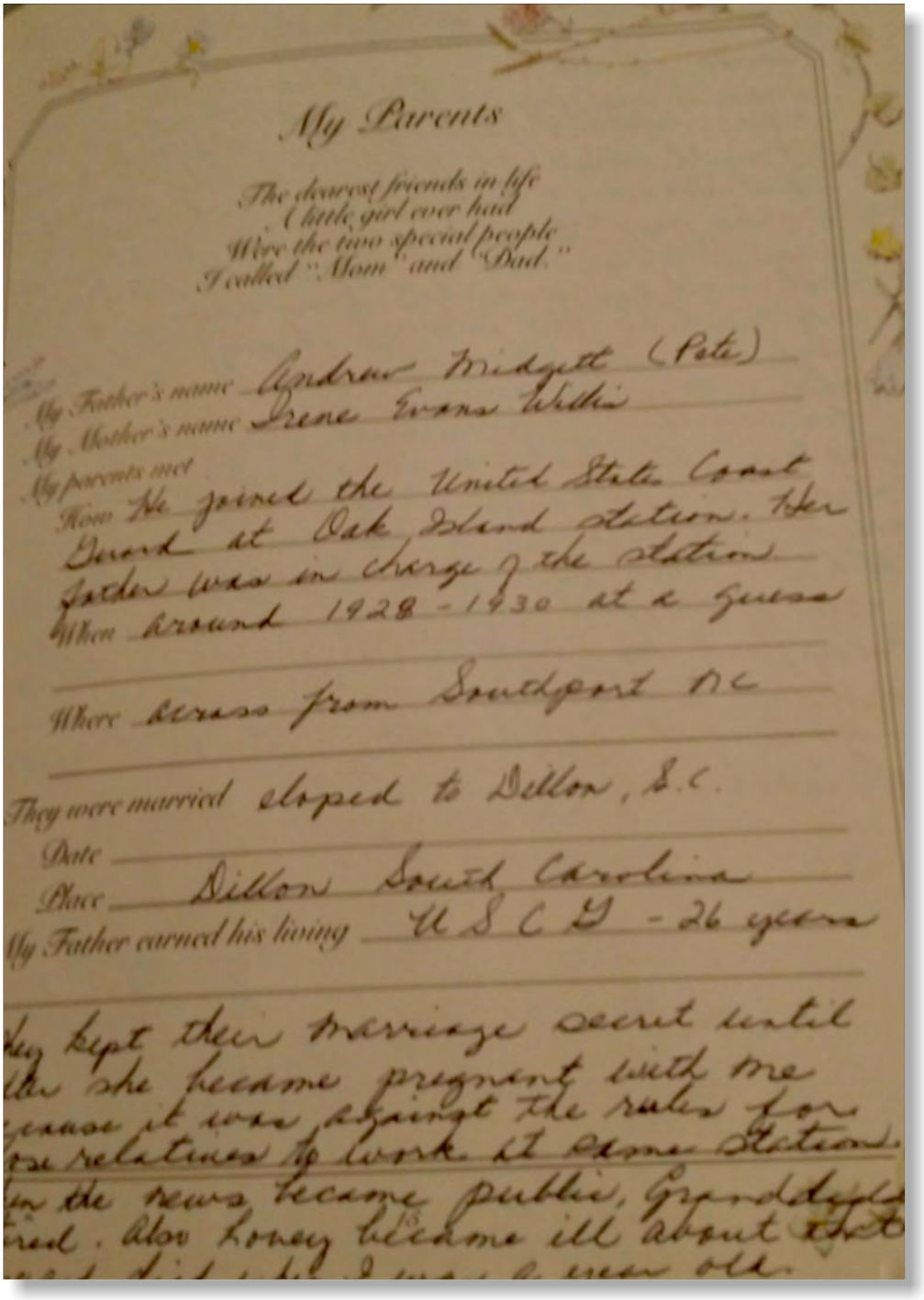
WERE THEY EVEN MARRIED? (continued from page 19)

Eureka! I had a place. And a funny story that gave a glimpse into their love story. But, South Carolina records are not online. The next time that Craig and I went to Atlanta to see our kids, we stopped at Dillon, South Carolina, to get the marriage certificate. IT WAS NOT THERE! We looked at the indices in every way possible, checking for misspellings and misfiled documents, nothing.

I was at a loss and so disappointed after my mother's story had raised my hopes.

After a later visit to Atlanta, when I had still been unsuccessful, we decided to detour off our route and go to the Horry County, South Carolina, Courthouse, in Conway, South Carolina, just on a chance. Conway was closer to Southport than Dillon, and would have been easier to get to and back in one night.

Lo and behold. I found the marriage certificate. They were married on November 2, 1931, in Horry County, by a Judge. My grandmother's age was listed as 18 years 11 months, but she lied. She would not be 18 until December 31, 1931.



My Parents

The dearest friends in life
A little girl ever had
Were the two special people
I called "Mom" and "Dad."

My Father's name Andrew Midgett (Pete)
My Mother's name Irene Evans Willis
My parents met
How He joined the United States Coast Guard at Oak Island station. Her father was in charge of the station
When around 1928 - 1930 at a guess
Where across from Southport NC
They were married eloped to Dillon, S.C.
Date
Place Dillon South Carolina
My Father earned his living U S C G - 26 years

...hey kept their marriage secret until ...ter she became pregnant with me ...cause it was against the rules for ...ose relatives to work at same station. ...en the news became public, Granddaddy ...ired. Also Lovey became ill about that ...

My lessons learned: If you have living parents or grandparents get them a book to answer some questions.

1. Do not believe everything they say, even if you are desperate.

2. Turn over every rock.

3. Use your imagination to think of alternative explanations.

4. Do not depend solely on the internet.

5. And, do not put off entering data and sourcing it. You cannot predict how much time you have to ask questions or put the answers in writing.

(Medical Terms of the 18th & 19 Century *continued from page 15)*

Trench fever: a louse borne infection characterized by headaches, inflamed eyes, skin rashes and pains in the legs, the infective agent is Rickettsia Quintana
Typhus: an acute, infectious disease caused by the parasite Rickettsia prowazekii, transmitted by lice and fleas
Undulant fever: brucellosis, an infectious fever contracted from contaminated milk
Uremia: blood in the urine
Water-Brash: pyrosis; similar to heartburn; belching of a thin, watery fluid

Note from the Editor: The Medical Terms of the 18th and 19th Century will be put on *our VBGS Website, you'll be able to look at it whenever you want! You can also add to them, just contact the Newsletter Editor.*

DID YOU KNOW ABOUT THESE NEARBY SOURCES?

Borrowing Microfilm from other Library Systems

Virginia Beach Public Library will try to borrow microfilm for patrons from other library systems. You will need a current Virginia Beach library card, which is free to Virginia Beach residents. Microfilm may be requested at any Virginia Beach Public Library branch, by phone or in person. But any films received must be viewed at the Meyera E. Oberndorf Central Library as it has the only microfilm readers in the system.

Some libraries in Virginia (Library of Virginia, University of Virginia, William and Mary) will loan microfilm depending on content. Out of state libraries will rarely loan genealogy materials.

The Library of Virginia will loan their film if they have a duplicate of the material in some format. Their holdings must be searched on their website: www.lva.virginia.gov. Please give as much information as possible when ordering through Interlibrary Loan. In addition to reel number, include county, dates and type of information (marriages, land tax records, deeds, etc.) There is a five reel limit per person when ordering. If you need more reels, the first five will need to be returned before others can be ordered.

Family Search in Utah no longer loans their microfilm, as they have moved to complete digital content. You may access their resources at www.familysearch.org. Look for the camera as an indicator of digital material. You will find a greater number of digital images in the catalog than in the search function as not all images are linked in "search" yet.

Charges for films from in state libraries include First Class Postage and Insurance for their return. Charges from other systems, if they'll loan, vary depending on their policies. For more information about Interlibrary Loan at Virginia Beach Public Library, call 385-0150, or visit www.VBgov.com/libraries.

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9. **What other skills do you have?_____**

_____

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