VIRGINIA BEACH GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY
Founded 1983

First Landing
Newsletter

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A Marker for Great Uncle Woolsey, WWI Veteran

Cindy Meier
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My maternal Great Uncle Woolsey Robert Garvey was a veteran of WWI. Woolsey was born on December 7, 1894 in Newark, NJ to Thomas John and Elizabeth Smith Garvey (photos below). After his father's death in 1894, his mother and 5 children moved to Asbury Park, NJ where Elizabeth became the proprietor of the Hotel Russwin at 320 7th Avenue.

Woolsey enlisted on July 11, 1917 in Asbury Park, NJ; trained at Camp McClellan, Anniston, AL; embarked for Europe as a Corporal on June 15, 1918 from Newport News, VA to serve with the American Expeditionary Forces in France; was commissioned as a Sergeant on October 8, 1918 in Co E 114th Infantry 29th Division; embarked from St. Nazaire, France on April 24, 1919 aboard the transport ship Madawaska (page 10 - "USS Madawaksa at St. Nazaire, France" - 1919); arrived in Newport News, VA on May 6, 1919; and received an honorable discharge from the United States Army on May 16, 1919 at Camp Dix, NJ. The Twenty-ninth Division National Guard was known as the "Blue and Gray Division" composed of National Guards of New Jersey, Delaware, Maryland, District of Columbia, and Virginia.

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While in France he was involved with the following battles: Defense of the Center Sector, Battle of Malbrouck Hill, Battle at Molleville Farm, and attack on Bois de Ormont. He was gassed September 16, 1918 and received a gunshot wound on his right shoulder on October 24, 1918 (as reported in the Official U. S. Bulletin Issues 452-483 p. 18, Section 2 12/6/1918, Casualties reported by General Pershing. The following casualties are reported by the commanding general of the American Expeditionary Forces - Wounded slightly: Corporal Garvey, Woolsey R).

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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
May 2019

Summer is fast approaching, and it will soon be time for the VBGS to take our summer break for the months of July and August. However, the summer break allows us to do some genealogical activities we may not have time to do otherwise. In the educational area, you may want to attend the Federation of Genealogical Societies (FGS) Annual Conference in Washington DC, August 21-24. You can find out more on the conference and register on line using the FGS website (fgs.org). This conference is open to all and has many sessions of interest to all.

You may want to take that road trip you have been promising yourself. I am planning to go to the Virginia State Library in Richmond and research my relatives in Norfolk County. I might even go to the Maryland State Archives in Annapolis and try to solve some of my grandmother's family mysteries.

You can also take an online course in the comfort of your own easy chair. I have found Legacy Family Tree's (familytreewebinars.com) and Lisa Louise Cook's (lisalouisacook.com) to have courses in almost any area of genealogy and these webinars are of excellent quality. For more formal courses, the National Genealogical Society (ngsgenealogy.org) has online courses in genealogy. There are other companies that offer online courses. Go to Cindi's List-Educational (Genealogical) (cyndislist.com/education/online-courses-and-webinars) for a list of firms offering courses.

I hope you all have an exciting summer and take some time to increase your genealogy knowledge.

Craig Fenton

Note From the Editor.....

Thank you to all of you who have sent articles for the newsletter. As the editer, I enjoy sharing our member's family stories on the front page. In this newsletter welcome to Cindy Meier, a new member whose artilce can be read on the front page. I very much enjoyed her article on her Uncle. I encourage other members to submit articles, they can be a lot of fun putting them together. You know your family and friends would love to read them.

Some of you have mentioned you need time to write an article. Therefore, I have made certain months of the newsletter to have a theme. February will always be love stories. May (military month) will always be about our military ancestors. August will always be about roadblocks whether you solved them or not. November will be about holiday celebrations of your ancestors. However, you are welcome to submit any article that has to do with genealogy/history. I am always looking for new ideas for pages in the newsletter. Please feel free to send me your comments. In this newsletter we have started a new page called "Online Tips for Genealogy," enjoy it!

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

The Virginia Beach Genealogical Society

Was Founded 1983
VBGS is organized 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.

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Starting a Family Book

By April Owens
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Earlier this year Wendy Bransom sent an email out asking if anyone had any articles for the coming newsletter or if we had any questions for the bulletin board. I sent Wendy a reply asking if it is okay to ask if anyone has any information on how to start a family book, when you don't have any surviving elders. You see my mom and her sisters are the family elders and there are no family books and we don't really know how to create one. My dad's family side has a number of family books and my dad's mom is helping us but we are still struggling.

I received an email in response to my bulletin post that Melinda Lukei would love to help me. I contacted her and we agreed to meet. I met with her at her home. Melinda showed me some of the different things that she does with her family books. Each family book was inside a plastic storage bin that she purchased at a craft store. Each sibling has their own book with immediate family whereas cousins, aunts and uncles are in a different book. She talked about how a lot of what she has done is learning from mistakes. As an example, making copies of important paperwork on acid free paper to ensure you don't loose the image.

She also puts Christmas photo cards in the family books. If there is no year mentioned, and there is no back to the photo card, she will write the year on the back. However, if there is a front and back to the Photo Card, and there is no year mentioned, she will put the year in one of the corners.

I really enjoyed my time with her and felt much better after our meeting on how to start a family book. I talked to my sisters about the different things that she showed me so we could incorporate them into our family books.

VBGS Bulletin Board

The VBGS May 9, 2019 meeting is still being held at the Marian Manor. Construction is still underway at the Virginia Beach Central Library and may not be open to meetings again until late summer or early fall of 2019.

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 across the street at the church, they will allow you to park there.

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

Do you want to have a picnic this fall and a banquet January 2020? If you do, let the VBGS Board Officers know. If you want to help plan these events, contact anyone on the Publicity Committee or send an email to the First Landing newsletter editor. These events won't be hard to put together but we need fresh ideas!

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!

William Burns Yarborough Service in the Civil War

by Bobbie Brenton
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When we think of war service, we think of the person as serving his enlistment on the front lines with a rifle and marching with the troops. That is not always true.

William Burns Yarborough was born April 5, 1826, in Fairfield County, South Carolina. The 1850 Census shows him as Planter/Teacher. The 1860 Census, shows him, age 34, living in Fairfield County with his wife Elizabeth, age 31, and children: Wesley T., age 10, Eliza A., age 8, Clara H., age 6, James H., age 3 and William at 1 year of age,

On March 27, 1862, he was enlisted by Captain McMeekin at Alston, South Carolina into the Confederate Army for the duration of the war. He served as a Private in Company F, 12th Carolina Volunteers (later Regiment).

On August 28–30, 1862, in Prince William County, Virginia, Company F, 12 South Carolina Volunteers fought in "The Second Battle of Bull Run or Battle of Second Manassas." It was the culmination of the Northern Virginia Campaign waged by Confederate General Robert E. Lee's Army of Northern Virginia (Wikipedia). According to Confederate records for October, 1862, William Burns Yarborough was wounded at Manassas on August 30, 1862 and sent home to recuperate.

The next record found indicates that in January and Febrary 1863, he was listed present with his Company. At some point he transitioned from serving with his company to working in various capacities in Confederate Hospitals in Richmond. By looking at a later record for Nov 9, 1864, we find that the Medical Examiners Board stated "we certify that we have carefully examined this man and find the he labors under ascites from which he has suffered for 18 months. He is, in our opinion, unfit for any Service in the field."

In 1863 and 1864 and early 1865 we find the following:

- June 5, 1863, a Surgeon's Certificate paperwork shows he was detailed as Ward Master at Howard Grove Hospital in Richmond, VA for wounded South Carolinians.

- May 2, 1864, W. B. Yarborough was assigned "to assist Assistant Surgeon W. R. Barron in charge of patients delivered to the Surgeon In Charge of the General Hospital at Farmville, Virginia."

A Confederate Hospital

- November 26, 1864, by order of Secretary of War N. 281 he was ordered to report to Jackson Hospital for duty: "He will report without delay to Surgeon Hancock in charge Jackson Hospital for assignment for duty." Jackson Hospital was located" in the western suburbs beyond Hollywood Cemetery." It was bounded by the present city streets of Idlewood Avenue on the north, Jacquelin Street on the south, Allen Avenue in the west, and Lombardy Street in the east. The original capacity was 1,980 men, but it was reported to have been enlarged to handle 2,500. On May 9, 1864 it was reported to be "filled with North Carolina, South Carolina, and Georgia troops from battles" in northern Virginia.

- November 1864 he was employed as Druggist.

(continued on page 5)

William Burns Yarborough Service in the Civil War (continued from page 4)

- December 1864, January, Febrary 1865 he was employed as Steward.

The end of the Civil War most often cited as April 9, 1865 when General Robert E. Lee surrendered the Army of Northern Virginia at the McLean House in village of Appomattox Court House.

I found the following concerning Jackson Hospital from the New York Times of April 13, 1865. It is a dispatch by Mr. Theodore C. Wilson titled "The Rebel wounded at the Rebel Hospitals. There were thirteen hospitals, capable of accommodating between twelve and fourteen thousand patients, in Richmond when our troops took possession of the city. The hospitals were beautifully located in the suburbs of the city, remarkable for their cleanliness, and well ventilated. The hospitals were all left intact, surgeons, attendants, nurses, and remaining with them. In some of the hospitals a portion of the more valuable property was packed up and in readiness to be sent away; but, as we entered the city sooner than it was expected the property aforesaid was not gotten off. The rebel hospitals were arranged by divisions. A surgeon was assigned to each. The two largest hospitals were the "Jackson" and the "Chimborazo," located on Navy Hill. There were about four thousand patients in the hospitals when we got here. Of this number eighty-seven were medical officers and assistants. Among the patients were two hundred officers. None of the latter were above the rank of colonel."

There is no record of Yarborough's status at war's end. I do have a quotation from a Yarborough Family History written by Hattie Yarborough Harden, granddaughter of William Burns Yarborough. "Grandmother Yarborough proved to be a person of strength and determination as she awaited the end of the war - the end of the war was not yet when she and a servant drove to Virginia to bring home a sick husband back to the house and through some divine providence was not destroyed by Sherman's raiders."

My cousin has the above rifle William Burns Yarborough carried in the war. It is a Sharps Model 1863/S/N C25191.

The map on the right is of Sherman's March through the South shows that William Burns Yarborough marched very near the little town of Jenkinsville, South Carolina, 20 miles west of Columbia, where he owned a farm and returned to after the war.

VIRGINIA BEACH GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

Check our our website

https://www.vbgsva.net/

Check us out on twitter: @VBGenealogy

Like

Click here to Like us on Facebook

Upcoming Events

2019 Meetings/Trips

9 May: VBGS Monthly Meeting at Marian Marian Manor, Terrace Room 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: We will be assisting VBGS Members with genealogy websites and computers.

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

18 May: TGS General Meeting at Warwick County Court House Way at 10:30 am. Speaker: TGS President Merle Kimball, "Dating and Identifying Old Photographs."

29 May: NHS Meeting at Central Libary, 298 Cedar Road, Chesapeake, 23322, 2:00 pm. Speaker: Mr. Rob Garnett, "Robert Henry Gwynn: An Ancestor at Elmira."

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-1:00 pm. Learn to use Ancestry and other online databases and websites for genealogical research. Bring your laptop or tablet. Click here to register

13 June: VBGS Monthly Meeting at Marian Marian Manor, Terrace Room 7:00 pm, Speaker: Ron Berkebile Topic: Census from 1900

22 June: AAHGS Monticello Bus Trip. 8:00 am-5:30 pm. Cost: $50 (Covers bus transportation and admission fee) Lunch options are available on site or bring your own. Full payment of $50 is due by June 2, 2019. Mail your check to: AAHGS-HR, PO Box 2448, Newport News, VA 23609 or use the PayPal link on our blog: http://aahgshr.blogspot.com. Questions: Email yarsan@aol.com or call 757-291-9109

12 September: VBGS Monthly Meeting at Marian Marian Manor, Terrace Room 7:00 pm, Speaker: Diane Richard, Topic: TBD.

13-15 September: TGS 50th Anniversary Dinner and Seminar. Dinner at Whaling Company, Williamsburg 5:30 pm. Seminar is 14 September at Stryker Building, Williamsburg at 9:00 am. Flyers will be available in June 2019.

10 October: VBGS Monthly Meeting at Marian Manor, Terrace Room 7:00 pm, Topic: VBGS Show & Tell.

14 November: VBGS Monthly Meeting at Marian Manor, Terrace Room, 7:00 pm, Speaker: Peg Niedholdt, Topic: TBD

Abbreviations

AAHGS - Afro American and Historical Genealogy Society of Hampton Roads
FGS- Federation of Genealogical Societies
IGHR - Institute of Genealogy and Historical Research
NGS - National Genealogical Society
NHS - Norfolk Historical Society
TGS - Tidewater Genealogical Society
VGS - Virginia Genealogical Society

2019 Conferences

8-11 May: NGS Family History Conference, ST. Charles, MO "Journey to Discovery." Click here for more information.

15-17 June: German Genealogy Conference in Sacramento, CA at the Hyatt Regency Hotel. Click here for more information.

25-30 June: Association of Gravestone Studies Conference and Annual Meeting held at Gardner-Webb University, Boiling Springs, NC. Features lectures, demonstrations, exhibits, conservation, workshops and much more. Click here for information.

20 July: Germanna Foundation Historical & Genealogical Conference, Germanna community College Daniel Technology Center, 18121 Technology Drive, Culpepper, VA. Sessions: Germanna 101, Virginia's "Red Letter" Year, Iron Maidens and Travels with Germanna. Cost is $75.00. Click here for information.

21-26 July: IGHR Event. The week-long institute will be held at the University of Georgia in Athens, GA. Click here for information.

21-24 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 at the Historic Omni Shoreham Hotel for 21-24 August. More Here!

10-11 October: AAHGS - Afro-American Historical and Genealogical Society 2019 National Conference. Held at College Park Marriott and Conference Center, Hyattsville, Maryland. For more information, Click Here.

18-19 October: VGS Fall Conference at Williamsburg, Virginia. Friday Program is research at the Swem Library, College of William and Mary. Saturday will also be at the College. Track 1: Finding and Disappearing Ancestors - Thomas W. Jones and Track 2: It's All About Land and Research Essentials - Rebecca Whitman Koford. The Historic Powhatan Resort, 3601 Ironbound Road is offering special room rates. Call the resort at (800) 438-2929, ask for the VGS rate. You can register and also get more information at http://www.vgs.org.

1-2 November: North Caroline Genealogical Society 2019 Conference held at McKimmon Conference and Training Center in Raleigh. More information will be available in the May issue of NCGS News or Click here.

1-2 November: Virtual Genealogical Association Virtual Conference. Keynote: Blaine Bettinger Additional speakers include Amy Johnson Crow, Bernice Bennett and much more. Go to https://virtualgenealogy.org/

What's New

ARCHIVEGRID ArchiveGrid is a collection of over four million archival material descriptions, including MARC records from WorldCat and finding aids harvested from the web. ArchiveGrid provides access to detailed archival collection descriptions such as documents, personal papers, family histories, and other archival materials held by thousands of libraries, museums, historical societies, and archives. It also provides contact information for the institutions where these collections are kept.

Newspapers.com by ancestry *The Boston Globe* now includes publication dates from 1872 - 2019 and they have added more than four million pages to the archive. In 1872, six Boston businessmen got together to start a newspaper, *The Boston Globe*. The first issue hit the presses on March 4, 1872, and sold for just 4 cents.

A Street Near You James Morley, a United Kingdom based photo historian has created a new resource "A Street Near You." It explores the local legacy of the First World War. Photos of individual who died in the war are pinned to the map with data. It is free but he takes donations.

fold3 HQ Fold3's Confederate Letters, 1861-1865, is a collection of letters received in the Office of the Confederate Adjutant and Inspector General from April 1861 – April 1865. The collection is organized first by date, and then by the last name. The letters are 150-year-old manuscripts, but a little digging can unearth historical gold!

Britain, Knights Of The Realm & Commonwealth Index

A tranche of new records have been added to Findmypast Knights Of The Realm & Commonwealth Index. Dating all the way back to the 11th century, this fascinating index will enable you to find out if any of your British ancestors were awarded an order of chivalry by the Crown.

ONLINE-CONVERT.COM This website is free, it is an online tool for converting files into other formats. Just follow the directions. www.online-convert.com

NATIONAL ARCHIVES CATALOG They are hard at work adding newly digitized records to our catalog, making them available to search and explore. So far this year, they have added more than 27 million digitized pages to the catalog! As they continue to digitize and make more historical records available to you online, you are likely to find something new every time you search. One of the National Archives at Boston's newly digitized series is Shipyard Logs, 1888- 1958, which consists of 48 volumes documenting ship movements, staffing levels, and major events at the Boston Navy Yard. Click to see more digital archives.

FamilySearch For years, FamilySearch has helped you preserve family memories by allowing you to upload photos and attach them to your family tree. Now you can take another step in preserving memories by adding audio recordings to the pictures you upload to FamilySearch.org. Hear more from Leslie Albrecht Huber on this topic!

American Ancestors by New England Historic Genealogical Society The New England Historic Genealogical Society has just released a valuable tool for anyone with English ancestors who emigrated during the Great Migration of immigrants to New England from 1620 to 1640. Check it out!

Some British Websites You May Not Know About

Genes Reunited This website is owned by the same company as Findmypast. They have census records, parish records, birth/marriage/death, military records and much more. They are free and you can also build your family tree there. You can also search an index. https://www.genesreunited.co.uk/

TheGenealogist This website has the residents from 1837 to around 1850. It also has non conformist BMDs, quality transcripts and a way to report errors. It also has WWI casualty lists and memorials and much much more. https://www.thegenealogist.co.uk/

GOV.UK This website is where you can search for English and Welsh wills and probate records from 1858 to present. You can also search wills of soldiers from the armed forces. Click to check this website out!

A History of VBGS

(continued from VBGS Newsletter February 2019 Vol 36, No 1)

Elections in 1994 brought new board members for the society. Bob Lockwood was elected vice president, Mamie Butler and Jeri Gamble were elected members-at-large. The following committee chairmen positions were filled: Mamie Butler became annual dinner. Sylvia Echols became finance and Tommy Urson became membership. Elaine Hall became program and Carolyn Bruce became publications. Mary Lou Roberts became publicity, Mary Trossback became telephone and Bill Leonard became computer special interest group.

With the issue of the VBGS Newsletter Volume 10, Number, December 4, 1993, the society started publishing their VBGS Surname List. This file was of surnames from VBGS members who were researching their family trees. It listed each surname in capital letters followed by the state, county, the dates of focus for research. Certain letters would appear after the dates c = circa, b = before, a = after, e = early, l = late, p = present, b = born, d = died and m = married. In the last place was a number which identified who had listed the surname. Here is an example: BOWDEN/NC/NORTHHAMPTON, Knots Island/1830p/18. This list was continued into all the newsletters for 1994 ending with Volume 11, Number 3, September 1994. The last newsletter listed the submitter's list which consisted of the number associated to a submitter along with their contact information.

In 1994 VBGS started a New England Special Interest Group. The group had a successful trip to the Swem Library in Williamsburg.

The Trip Coordinator Bonnie Dick had five successful trips in 1994, Bonnie Dick was the trip coordinator. There were two trips to Richmond, VA (April 27 and November 9), two to Washington, D.C. (March 9 and October 5) and one to Raleigh, NC (May 25).

The computer users group had a successful year averaging 20 members at meetings. At meetings, they discussed new computer programs and received basic computer education. Many of the members wanted to know how to do telecommunications and how to research using CD-ROMs.

The education committee organized nine beginner programs from basic genealogy forms and how to find a immigrant ancestor. On average, 25 members attended the programs.

The Everton workshop "Climbing Your Family Tree Can Be Fun!" was attended by 107 persons, only 23 of them were VBGS members. It was held April 9, 1994, and was sponsored by VBGS and the Virginia Beach Central Library. Registration fee was $23.00. Carl Swensen did a good job organizing the workshop.

The Society was contacted by the J. Curtis Fruit, Circuit Court Clerk in Virginia Beach. He sent a letter stating "Thank you for your most recent gift of $250.00 for the purpose of preservation of records here. We have grown to know your organization as a very valuable ally in this regard." He also stated, "We have identified a group of early Deed Books which are in need of restoration. There are pages which are loose and corners of pages which are torn and in danger of being lost. Fortunately, we have a microfilm copy of these books. We are going to have paper prints make from microfilm and put together an entire book from those prints. Next, the original book will be taken from the current Deed Room and placed in a more secure environment. The funds which your organization has provided will allow us to do at least one extra book beyond that which we had planned." VBGS started abstracting information from the Princess Anne County Deed Books 19 - 26.

The VBGS library which was tended by Pauline Landrum, had several new books added. Two books were given to the society by Heritage Books. The society agreed to spend $100.00 for new books for the library.

VBGS withdrew from the Adopt-A-Shelf Program at the Virginia Beach Central Library.

At the annual banquet in June 9, 1994, at the Virginia Beach Resort Hotel in the Virginia Room, 50 members attended. Mamie Butler managed the banquet.

(continued on page 9)

A History of VBGS (continued from page 8)

The annual picnic was held August 20, 1994, at the Great Neck Park on Lynnhaven Bay. This was considered an excellent place for picnicking. The shelter was constructed at the edge of a tree line, and the bay, where herons and other wildlife could be seen just a short walk away. Shirley and Ellen Hurst organized the picnic.

Carol Swenson chaired a committee appointed to make arrangements for an Everton Workshop to be sponsored by VBGS the next year. Presented by Everton Publishers, the workship included displays of interest to genealogists and a bookstore featuring the titles currently available from Everton, the printers of numerous genealogy and history books. The workshop was being planned for Saturday, April 9, 1994, and all members were urged to participate since the society shared in the profits from the all day affair. Working with Carol on the committee were Andi Barco, Elaine Hall, and Sylvia Echols

The program committee organized events in 1994 with a theme of "migration trails." Bill Isaacs and Carol Swensen along with Parke Rouse and Stephen Mansfield (authors) gave programs. Dr. Pliska entertained them with the origins of surnames, and Starr Matton gave them an inside look at life and dress of the 1600s. Debbie Engelking of the Family History Center, came armed with new ideas on where to look in researching with Mormon records

The Newsletter Editor mailed out 50 more newsletters than the previous year. In November, 234 newsletters were mailed out. As of 31 December 1994, the society had grown to 257 members.

What is Military Appreciation Month?

Each year the president makes a proclamation, reminding Americans of the important role the U.S. Armed Forces have played in the history and development of our country. May was chosen because it has many individual days marked to note our military's achievements, including Loyalty Day, established in 1921, Victory in Europe (VE) Day commemorating the end of WWII in Europe in 1945, Children of Fallen Patriots Day and the anniversary of the death of Osama bin Laden.

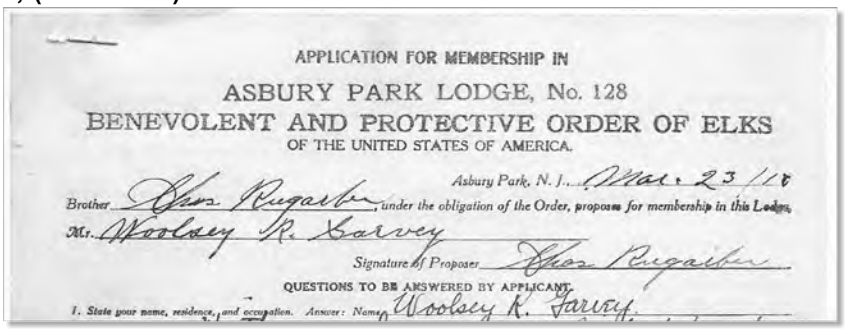
A Marker for Great Uncle Woolsey, WWI Veteran (continued from page 1)

A good source of information on the 29th Division is History of the Twenty-Ninth Division "Blue and Gray" 1917-1919 which I purchased.

Below: Regimental Flag of the 114th Infantry 28th Division World War 1. The below photo is from the New Jersey WWI Veterans 114th Division Facebook page.

Woolsey Garvey and Lillian Barton Gravatt were married on November 1, 1921 in the rectory of Holy Spirit Church, Asbury Park, New Jersey. Woolsey Robert Garvey died on February 26, 1944, in the Veteran's Hospital in Bronx, New York. His obituary stated he was one of the first members of the Asbury Park Elks Lodge and a charter member of the local American Legion Post. Woolsey applied for membership in the Asbury Park Lodge, No 128 of the BPOE (Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks) on March 23, 1917 and was initiated on May 25, 1917, (see below).

The American Legion was chartered by Congress in 1919 as a patriotic veterans' organization. Focusing on service to veterans, service members and communities, the Legion evolved from a group of war-weary veterans of World War I into one of the most influential nonprofit groups in the United States. Membership swiftly grew to over 1 million and local posts sprang up across the country.



APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP IN

ASBURY PARK LODGE, No. 128

BENEVOLENT AND PROTECTIVE ORDER OF ELKS

OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

Asbury Park, N. J., Mar. 23 / 17

Brother Thos. Rugarber, under the obligation of the Order, proposes for membership in this Lodge,

Mr. Woolsey R. Garvey

Signature of Proposer Thos. Rugarber

QUESTIONS TO BE ANSWERED BY APPLICANT.

1. State your name, residence, and occupation. Answer: Name, Woolsey R. Garvey.

While working on my Ancestry tree, I found that Woolsey was buried at Monmouth Memorial Park, Tinton Falls, New Jersey. I contacted the cemetery and was given the exact location of his grave in their original veterans' section; however, his grave was unmarked. I found out that veterans can submit a claim for a standard government marker. As Woolsey had no living family members, I decided to take care of it. The marker is free through the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) and the only cost is a charge by the cemetery to place the marker appropriately in the ground.

1. In order to get a DD Form 214, I sent a Standard Form 180 - Request Pertaining Military Records and a copy of his death certificate to the National Personnel Records Center-Military Personnel Records (NPRC). I also included a copies of his U.S. World War I and II Draft Registration Cards from Ancestry.com.
2. I received a letter from NPRC saying that the complete Official Military Personal File was not in their files due to a fire in 1973. Only limited information was available for my great uncle. I completed an Order for Archival Reproduction Services with a check for $25.00.
3. I received exactly what I needed - a copy of his enlistment record and his honorable discharge.
4. I was then able to complete a VA Form 40-1330 - Claim for Standard Government Headstone or Marker. The cemetery completed sections on the form as the marker would be shipped directly to the cemetery. I then submitted the form to the VA. Upon receipt of the marker at the cemetery I was billed for my cost by the cemetery. The marker was installed in August 2015.
5. While in Southern New Jersey in September 2016, I made a trip up to Monmouth County, New Jersey to visit several family cemeteries. I was able to visit Monmouth Memorial Park and see my Great Uncle Woolsey's marker in person. In addition, I received a certificate from President Barrack Obama honoring my great uncle "in recognition of devoted and selfless consecration to the service of our country in the Armed Forces of the United States." I am so glad I did it.

Note: Cindy Meier is the daughter of Morton Leonard and Jessalyn Garvey Meier.

Online Tips for Genealogy

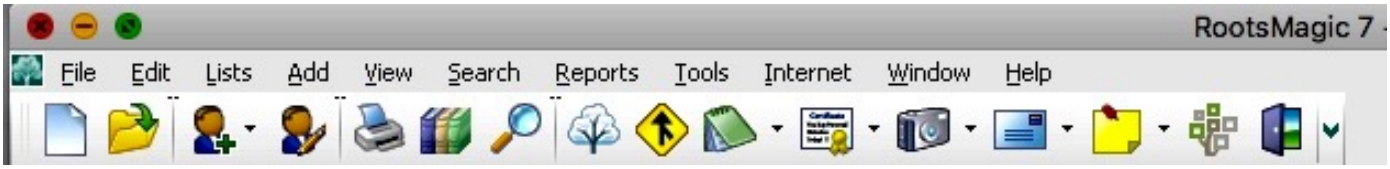
During the VBGS Computer User Groups meetings, some questions come up that may be of use to the entire membership of the Society. Each quarter there will be a page for Online Tips for Genealogy. If you have a specific online question you would liked answered, contact the firstlanding.vbgs@gmail.com.

- *How do you download and upload your family tree?* Most online websites and computer applications use (Genealogical Data Communication) files to download and upload family trees. GEDCOM is a file that is pretty much universally accepted as a format for family trees. We'll use Ancestry as an example for this question. For Ancestry, your file must be 75 MB of smaller. Note that GEDCOM files are text only. Pictures, PDFs and other similar sources are not included in a GEDCOM. However, text information for vital information, notes and sources is usually retained after the conversion. Here are the steps for downloading your tree from Ancestry:

1. Log into your Ancestry account at http://ancestry.com.
2. On the top heading of the page click on the Trees tab and select the family tree you want to export.
3. Once you have the tree up click the tree name in the top left corner, then select Tree Settings.
4. On the right side of the Tree Setting page, click on Export tree.
5. The button you clicked will start spinning and will state a GEDCOM file is being generated. When the spinning stops, right click (On Mac computers click Control+ Click) on the Download Your GEDCOM File tab that appears.
6. In the drop down menu from right-clicking, select Save target as or Save Link as.
7. In the window that appears, choose the location on your computer where you want to save the GEDCOM and click Save. It may be easier for you to save it to your Desktop (your home screen on your computer).

Click here for more instructions on how to download and upload your family tree on Ancestry.

Here is an example on how to upload a GEDCOM. Let's use RootsMagic as an example. RootsMagic is a computer application, your tree is not online. Click on File in the top menu.

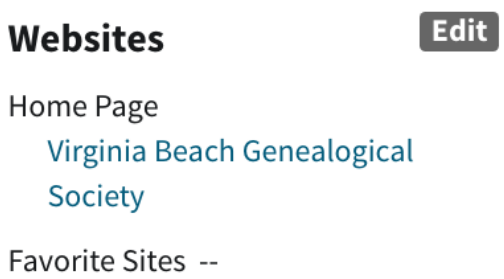


You will see many things you can do, one of those things is to Import. Click on Import and this will come up.

Click on the GEDCOM. If you know where your file is located then click "I know where the file is". The rest is pretty easy. From the File command you can also export a tree to a GEDCOM.

Note: I use the Family Tree maker application along with the RootsMagic application on my laptop. I recently exported family trees from my Family Tree Application and imported them to Rootsmagic. All the media files were transferred, which does not happen as stated above when you do this online. So it helps having the actual application on your computer. - Wendy Bransom

- The VBGS Publicity Committee would like to *promote the new VBGS website*. One way all of us can help with that is by putting the VBGS website on your Ancestry Profile as your Home Page for Websites. Log onto Ancestry. Click on the top right circle with a face and select your account. My Account Options page should appear. On the right under Personal Information, click on Edit profile. On the right side of the page is a long box which has Website listed. Click on the edit button as shown on the right. A box will appear where you can put your Home page, listing the name of the website and also the link to it.



Eastern Virginia Salt Works

Republished from VBGS Vol. 11 No. 1 March 1994

Complied by Melinda Lukei
mjlukei@aol.com

Salt was a very important commodity in the early years of our country. Without it the colonists would have starved. Preservation of meats was impossible without salt. The pioneers needed salt to feed livestock, as a preservative for hay, as an antiseptic and for cleaning teeth. Salt was also used in glass making in Jamestown and for making soap.

World Book encyclopedia says that a quarter pound of salt can be made from each gallon of sea water, and the Tidewater colonists had plenty of that. All they needed was the ability to separate the salt from the water.

The earliest recorded salt-making industry began on Smith Island in 1614. John Pory, secretary of Virginia Colony sent Lieutenant Craddock with a detachment of 20 men to catch fish, and to boil sea water in large kettles for the purpose of making salt for the settlement at Jamestown.

The venture only lasted a few years, but the 20 fit men were given 50 acres of land on the Eastern Shore for a contract of five years. The salt works there ceased to function in 1619.

In 1620, Sir Edwin Sandys was approved by Governor Yeardley to restore the salt works at Smith Island. Sandys stated that in one day he would make as much salt heating salt water by the sun as he had made in a year by boiling the water in kettles.

We don't know how successful Sandys was as a year later the Virginia Company sent to England for Miles Pricklett, who was to be employed especially in the making of salt.

Governor Sir George Yeardley sent John Pory to check on the salt works and he wrote that he had formed a convenient place for making salt across the Chesapeake Bay and down on the Atlantic Ocean. It is believed that this was where the where the Back Bay National Wildlife Refuge Visitor Contact Station is today.

In 1623, the colony again had to rely on importing salt from the West Indies. William Capps was ordered to proceed with salt works again at Accomack on the Eastern Shore. He later moved to Princess Anne County, so it is possible that he may have been involved in salt production there. Since much salt was needed, various people from time to time became interested in its production and sale.

According to Studies of Virginia's Shore in the Seventeenth Century by Susan Ames, each salt works should include 18 beds, which would make 25 to 40 bushels of salt per day in hot, dry weather. Further, it took eight "good" workers, eight "inferior" ones, 30 laborers, and a superintendent to operate the works for 60 days during the summer.

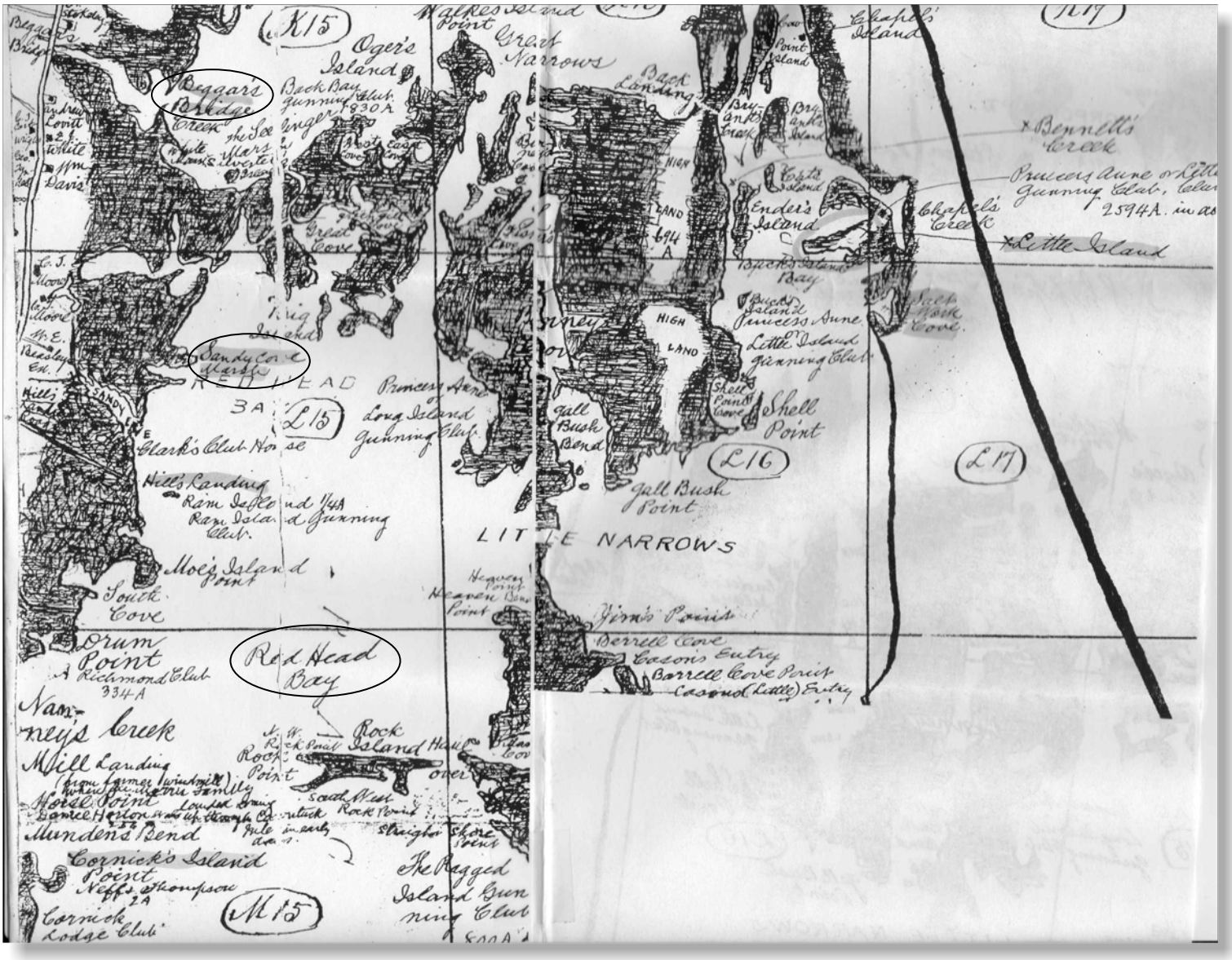
As early as 1633, salt from this area was being exported to Massachusetts, according to Saints and Strangers by George Wilson.

Colonel Edmund Scarborough erected a salt works in Northampton County on the Eastern Shore in 1660. He made 800 bushels of salt in one year and was given 10,000 pounds of tobacco as an encouragement, but two years later his production had not lived up to expectations.

A reference in Virginia's Eastern Shore by Whitlaw, states that Colonel Edmond Scarborough's salt pans were to be mended and used to make salt, and that Northampton County was prohibited from importing salt. When he died, his children inherited his salt works. The salt works continued in operation long after the death of the colonel.

(continued on page 13)

Eastern Virginia Salt Works (continued from page 12)



The salt works were designed to produce salt by flooding specially constructed beds with saltwater, however the design did not work very well, especially if a storm came and flooded the beds.

Locals wrote to Benjamin Franklin and asked his opinion on extracting salt from saltwater. He suggested that they make salt by sun evaporation or by boiling. With this suggestion, wives started boiling saltwater in pint pots for their own supply.

The Provincial Congress in 1775 offered a bounty of 750 pounds of tobacco to anyone who would erect a salt manufacturing works for common salt on the seashore of the Atlantic. George Washing wrote from his winter quarters at Valley Forge the next year that the men needed blankets, shoes, and a considerable quantity of salt and salted provisions.

Before and after the Civil War operations at Saltville, Smyth County involved boiling brine to precipate salt.

(continued on page 14)

Eastern Virginia Salt Works (continued from page 13)

In Princess Anne County in 1814, William Barlow Cornick left his share of the Virginia Salt Company to his wife, and after her death to William Haynes and James Kays.

By this time there were salt works at Oldes Creek (now Owl Creek); Dam Neck Mill; Brinson Salt Pond near Peter Dyer's, south of Croatan; and Back Bay, called Salt Works Cove at East Ocean View, west of the Little Creek Inlet. There is a Salt Rock Fishery on Chesapeake Bay (this was in Princess Anne County at the time), and salt works at Sandy Cove Marsh and Sandy Cove in Red Head Bay (off Muddy Creek Road near Hill Landing Road, south of Beggars Bridges).

During the Civil War, as during the Revolutionary War, the salt works became very important, being a commodity always greatly needed by the South. When the men came home on furlough they were each instructed to bring back a bag of salt with them.

Lieutenant Colonel William Lewis of the Fifth Pennsylvania Cavalry Regiment, U.S.A., reported destroying the salt works on Back Bay in Princess Anne County, September 29, 1863. At the time, six pans of Dennis Ewell and four pans of Benjamin Cason and six pans of Mr. Sandis were in operation and were destroyed.

The report went on to say that the salt was being used to supply the neighborhood and that the pans produced about six bushels of salt, valued at about $5.00 per bushel, each day.

About 100 men were guarding the salt works, and fled to one of the islands at the mouth of Back Bay when the Union troops approached, according to Lieutenant Colonel Lewis' report. He also mentioned that another salt works was in operation at Church's Island (a small island southeast of Knott's Island), and stated that he was going to attempt to swim a group of men over to destroy it. We do not know of his success or failure.

Whitlaw says that the Smith Island salt works ceased to exist in 1919. The author of this article is not sure when they ceased to function locally, but heard tales of pans still being buried on the beach.

Note from the Publicty Committee

The Publicity Committee which is chaired by Barbara Murray would like to update you on some of their successful efforts!

1. The committee had their first meeting 7 March and continue to meet every month. The members of the committee are all mentioned in this update. They are fantastically enthusiastic and really want to get the word out how much fun and interesting our society can be.

2. Rachel Greenberg has set up a twitter account for our members. This will help us to get more members and also help to promote the society and network with other groups. You can check it out at our account at @VBGenealogy.

3. Carmen Cross has been working hard on our new website. Wendy Bransom has been working with her to help design it. Check it out and let us know of anything else you would like to see! https://www.vbgsva.net/

4. Rachel is also working on recording all our meetings and putting them on Youtube, this will take time due to editing.

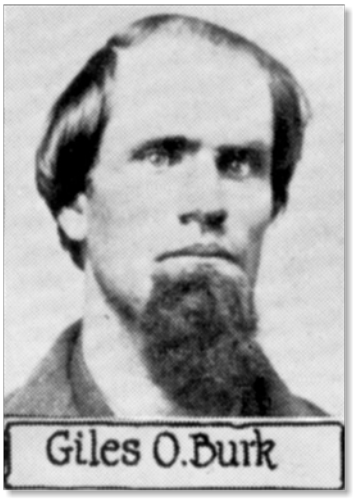
5. The Publicity Committee would like to promote a Fall Picnic for the Society since the temperatures are getting hot early. Wendy Bransom has volunteered to chair the Banquet Committee. She helped with/attended many banquets in the last 3 years and feels she can guide a group of volunteers to set up a wonderful banquet for next January, 2020. If any of our VBGS members would like to volunteer to help plan either the Picnic or Banquet please email the VBGS newsletter editor.

A Tale of Two Families

By Kay Knight
ke4tch@gmail.com

My great grandfather, Giles Orlando Burk and my husband's great grandfather, Osson Perry Knight, both fought in the Civil War, on opposite sides but at some of the same battles, including Cold Harbor.

William Green Burk was born in Vermont, moved with his father to Central New York at a young age, and purchased a farm in the town of Cato, Cayuga County, New York about 1834. Like most farms in the area, this was likely a dairy farm; the farmhouse was still lived in last summer, and the land was still a dairy farm. William had seven children with his first wife. He had four more children with his second wife. Three of the sons, Giles Orlando, Marshall Benton and Marcus Duncan, born in 1835, 1839 and 1841, fought in the Civil War. All three brothers appeared in the 1865 census in the household of their father, and married soon thereafter, each running a dairy farm.



Giles Orlando Burk

Giles Orlando Burk enlisted as a private in the 138th New York Infantry Volunteers on August 6, 1862, at Cato, Cayuga, New York. He was promoted to Corporal and transferred to the 9th New York Artillery Regiment, Company C. On April 6, 1864, he was promoted to Sergeant. He mustered out of service on July 6, 1865, in Washington, D.C. Army papers describe him as 5' 10 1/2" tall with a light complexion, gray eyes and light brown hair.

Marshall Benton Burk enlisted in Company C, 44th Regiment, New York Infantry at Cato, Cayuga, New York on September 23, 1861. He mustered in August 27, 1862, at Auburn, New York, was commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant September 10, 1862, as a 1st Lieutenant February 17, 1863, and as a Captain November 30, 1864. He was wounded July 9, 1864, and sent to a hospital. He was honorably discharged with his Company in Washington, D.C. on July 6, 1865.

Marcus Duncan Burk enlisted in Company K, 44th Regiment, New York Infantry at Cato, Cayuga, New York on September 6, 1861, the day after his brother Marshall enlisted. Their great-grandfather John Burk, a native of Ireland, had been consigned into the British Navy and abandoned ship and joined Patriot forces to fight in the Revolutionary War.

John Burk Sr., fought at Bunker Hill and at Ticonderoga, where he was captured and imprisioned in Canada. After several years John Burk and fellow inmates escaped, only to return and re-enlist to fight again. Around 1800, John visited his native Ireland, returning with a potato that became known as the "Burk Potato." Shortly thereafter the first potato distillery was built in the small town where he lived in Vermont, and a few years later the town elders voted to watch over that John Burk as he was habitually drunk.

Giles' wife, Mary Fidelia Spinning, had two great-grandfathers who fought in the Revolutionary War. Solomon Woodworth first enlisted in the spring of 1776; by September 1781 he was in Fort Dayton, New York, where he and others left on a scouting party along West Canada Creek, where he was killed by Indians. (See Fulton County in the Revolution, pp. 49-53). Jeremiah Rood, the third great grandson of Myles Standish, fought in the Revolutionary War, enlisting in 1776 and serving as a Private under Captain James Clark and Colonel Sage; enlisting again in March 1778 and serving under Captain Humphrey and Colonel Meigs. He served alongside Torrey Scranton, another of my ancestors.

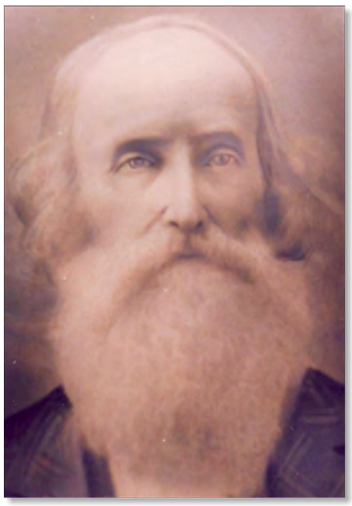
Moving south.....

Billy Knight was born in 1791 in Amherst County, Virginia. He lived his entire life in Amherst County, where he had 500 acres on Muddy Branch Road near Acree and grew tobacco. Billy married Susanna Dameron in 1813. They had 7 children before she died about 1832. Billy then married Susanna Brown Roberts who had 6 children with her first husband Thomas Delaware Hill. Billy and Susanna Roberts then had 8 children. According to family stories, Billy once told Susanna "my children and your children are fighting with our children."

(continued on page 16)

A Tale of Two Families (continued from page 15)

Osson Perry Knight



Billy applied to receive the Revolutionary War pension due to his mother, Betsey Ham, for service of his father Osson/Austin/Orson in 1838. The pension papers include testimony from his father's friends that Osson/Austin could read and write, but did not know how to spell his name.

Sons Osson, Paul, Marcellus, Daniel, step-son Samuel Alexander Hill and son-in-law Cyrus Paxton served for the Confederacy in the Civil War. Cyrus Paxton, Daniel Knight, and Samuel Hill did not survive the war. According to the Knight family Bible, everything of value except for the family piano was sold to feed and clothe the Army during the Civil War. Daniel wrote letters home during the war. These were found in the Knight family bible, and served as the basis for a historical novel, The Stone Wall: The Story of a Confederate Soldier. During the war, both Paul and Marcellus were prisoners, and the family thought that they had died until the end of the war.

Osson Perry Knight was born October 16, 1820, in Amherst County, Virginia. Osson was 41 years old when he enlisted in Company F, Virginia 28th Infantry Regiment, organized at Lynchburg, as a private on March 1, 1862, at Forest Depot, Bedford, by Captain Nelson for the duration of the war. He was 5 feet 8 inches tall, with a light complexion, blue eyes, and blond hair. Muster rolls indicate that he was present and paid by Captain Joseph Holt for March 1862 through June 1863.

Osson Perry Knight was shot in the forearm, July 3, 1863, in the battle of Gettysburg. He was a prisoner held in one of the hospitals in or around Gettysburg, and was transferred to the Provost Marshall and taken to U.S.A. General Hospital, Chester, Pennsylvania on July 14, 1863, where he was admitted on July 17, 1863, for a compound fracture of the ulna resulting from a gunshot to the forearm radius. His name appears on a Roll of Prisoners of War paroled at Fort McHenry, Maryland and sent to Fort Delaware, Delaware, July 1863. A note at the bottom, however, states entire entry cancelled by line.

Osson Perry Knight's name appears as a signature to a Roll of Prisoners of War paroled until exchanged, undated, for prisoners captured at Gettysburg on July 3, 1863. This appears to be a roll of prisoners of war transferred from U.S. Army General Hospital, Chester, Pennsylvania and receipted for by Major Mulford, Assistant Agent for Exchange, on the August 17,1863, subsequently received at City Point, Virginia on August 20, 1863, involving 312 Confederate prisoners of war. Thus, he was released in a prisoner exchange and returned home to recover from his wounds. Muster rolls indicate that he was paid by Captain Holt although absent, wounded at Gettysburg for July and August 1863 and subsequently at home wounded between September 1863 and February 1864. He rejoined in February 1864. Muster rolls indicate that he was present and paid by Captain Holt from March 1864 through December 1864.

Osson was taken prisoner April 6, 1865 at Hatcher's Run (or more likely at Sailor's Creek), arriving at Point Lookout, Maryland Apri 14, 1865. He was fortunate to spend only two months at Point Lookout, since conditions were deplorable. He was released June 14, 1865 at Point Lookout, after taking the Oath of Allegiance.

After the war Osson worked in a mercantile in Lynchburg for some time before buying a farm in Bedford County. Osson Perry Knight and Emma Ann Jeter were married February 1, 1871, in Lynchburg, Virginia. At the time of their marriage, Osson was 51 years old and Emma was 18. Osson and Emma had 9 children.

Osson's sister Susannah Martin Knight married S. Cyrus Paxton. Lieutenant Cyrus Paxton died on June 11, 1864, in Lynchburg, Virginia from the loss of his left arm in the battle of ?? bluff (likely Cold Harbor).

Osson's brother Paul Marshall Knight enlisted in Company E, 2nd Virginia Calvary, J.E.B. Stuart Division on May 23, 1861, in Amherst Court House District, Amherst County, Virginia. He was a private, and was detailed as courier for General J.E.B. Stuart in January to February 1862. He was present September to December 1862, March to April 1863, and November 1863 to April 1864. He was absent on horse detail for 11 days April 19, 1864.

(continued on page 17)

A Tale of Two Families (continued from page 16)

He was wounded in action at Spotsylvania Court House on May 8, 1864 and was absent through June 1864. He was in a Richmond hospital March 25, 1865, and returned to duty March 26, 1865.

Osson's half brother Marcellus Hardy Knight enlisted in Company E, 2nd Virginia Calvary, J.E.B. Stuart Division on May 23, 1861, in Amherst Court House District, Amherst County, Virginia. He was in the hospital sometime in October 1861, after which he returned to service. He was wounded at Fort Kennon May 24, 1864, and was paroled May 31, 1865.

Osson's half brother Daniel Colwell Knight enlisted in the 19th Virginia Infantry, Company H in Amherst Court House District, Amherst County, Virginia on August 22, 1861. He was promoted from Private to Full 3rd Corporal, and later promoted to Full 2nd Corporal on October 15, 1863. Daniel wrote letters home during the war, found in an old family Bible. Daniel's company, the 19th Virginia Infantry Regiment, fought in the following battles: Williamsburg, Seven Pines, Gaines' Mill, Frayser's Farm and the 2nd Battle of Manassas, where Daniel was wounded July 8, 1862 and returned home. After his recovery, Daniel's company fought in the following battles: South Mountain, Antietam, Fredericksburg and Gettysburg. He died on July 3, 1863 in the Battle of Gettysburg during Pickett's Charge. His body was never found.

Osson's stepbrother, Samuel Alexander Hill, enlisted in the 49th Virginia Infantry, Company K-F on September 1, 1861 at Camp Mitchell. He was present through April 30, 1862, when elected Jr 2nd Lieutenant. He was a member of Captain Lobbin's Company and was killed in the Battle of Seven Pines on the outskirts of Richmond, Certificate 3029, Register CSA Dead. He died May 31, 1862, in Richmond, Virginia.

Back in the north...

Martin Scranton, the son of Torrey Scranton was born in 1796 in Guilford, Connecticut. Martin and his wife Sarah Thomas were the parents of twelve children, two who died young. Among their children, my great grandfather Edmund Scranton did not serve in the Civil War.

Thomas Marvin Scranton was a Private with Company I, 14th Regiment, Connecticut Infantry. He died in January 1863, in Washington, D.C.

Francis S Scranton enlisted in the Army on April 23, 1861 and served in Company H of the Connecticut 2nd Infantry. He mustered into Company I, Connecticut 14th Infantry on August 15, 1862. He died of wounds on December 14, 1862.

Dayton M. Scranton enlisted as a Private in Company H, Connecticut 2nd Infantry Regiment on May 7, 1861, and mustered out on August 7, 1861. He enlisted in Company F, Connecticut 12th Infantry Regiment on November 4, 1861. He died of disease in December 1863.

James H. Scranton enlisted in Company F, Connecticut 12th Infantry Regiment on October 3, 1861. He was wounded September 19, 1864 and taken prisoner at Cedar Creek, Virginia. He was a prisoner at the Salisbury Confederate Prison and died of disease January 27, 1865 there.

The names of both James and his brother Dayton are engraved on the Soldiers' Monument on the North Branford, Connecticut village green, the first monument in the United States erected to the defenders of the Union in the war of rebellion. (Rockey, J.L., History of New Haven County, Connecticut (W.W. Preston & Co., New York, 1892), Vol 2, p.25;)

WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS

David Hamilton
Jennifer Hooper
Carol Jarvis
Joy Hudgins Phillips
Joan Schlegemilch

George Werner "Pete" Bransom An Enlisted Pilot

By Wendy Bransom and assistance from George Bransom (my brother-in-law)
wbranfildes@gmail.com

George Werner Bransom was born in December 8, 1897, in Forestville, Maryland. His father was William Skidmore Bransom (still looking for his parents) and his mother was Florence Cornelia Bransom (nee King). He is my husband's great-uncle. George enlisted in the United States Army at Fort Slocum, June 25, 1916, during World War I. He performed foreign service in Mexico and France. On June 21, 1919, he left Brest, France, on the USS Finland as a 1st Class Bugler, Troop D, 3rd Cavalry. He arrived in Boston Massachusetts, June 30, 1919 on his way to Camp Devens. He was discharged from the Army, June 24, 1920.

George enlisted in the United States Marines Corps in May 26, 1922, in Washington D. C. He entered flight school at Quantico, Virginia. On August 22, 1923, Private George W. Bransom left on the U. S. Army Transport Thomas to Guam with the Marines and remained there until 1925 when he was transfered to the San Diego Air Base. First Sergeant George W. Bransom trained at Langley Field, Virginia from May 1-31, 1926, then transferred to Hati later in 1926. He then spent time with Marine Fighting Squadron (VF-2M) at Marine Corps Base Quantico, Virginia then transfered to Nicaragua. While he was stationed at Managua, Nicaragua he helped to rout General Augustino Sandino and his rebels. George had a narrow escape while he was flying his daily patrol of 500 miles from the city of Managua then to the cities of Ocotol and Estelle and back. The plane's motors failed not far from Ocotol. In the plane were five 17 1/2 pound demolition bombs and 5,000 rounds of ammunition. He dropped the explosives only 17 miles from Sandino. George then struck the nose of the plane into a mountainside in Nicaragua. George served his entire enlistment with aviation units and was an enlisted pilot at the time of his honorable discharge on April 17, 1928, as a Gunnery Seargent.

The taller man is George who is standing with the wreck of Vought VE-7 A5969 which he was the pilot of after a crash in February 1927. He is standing with pilot Jim Knowlan, pilot of Boeing NB-2 A6778.

Early in 1928, George joined the United States Air Transport in Washington D. C. He was assigned to the Washington to Newark run, while he was living in Newark. George was known as one of the first pilots to fly from Newark Airport an he became its manager August 1, 1929.

In the mid 1930s, George became a pilot with Eastern Air Lines. Whether he already knew his then Eastern Airlines boss Eddie Rickenbacker is not known but they are later recorded as being good friends. In September 1936, while working with Eastern Air Lines, his fellow colleague Henry "Dick" Merrill along with Harry Richman undertook and completed the first successful double Atlantic crossing flight in a Vultee NC13770.

(continued on page 19)

George Werner "Pete" Bransom An Enlisted Pilot (continued from page 18)

Vultee NC13770

On the return to North America, the Vultee's fuel ran out and Merrill force landed at Musgrave Harbour, Newfoundland. They contacted Eastern Air Lines to seek help in refueling and repairing the aircraft so Bransom's Eastern Airlines boss Eddie Rickenbacker asked George to pilot a DC2 from Boston to Newfoundland. On board the DC2 were Eddie Rickenbacker, chief pilot George Bransom and copilot Joseph John Kelley. There were also three mechanics, Earl Powell (Richman's mechanic) and John Dobbon McPhall and Jule Neuenhaus (Eastern Air Lines mechanics). The Vultee was repaired and flown back to the USA. George continued for Eastern Air Lines from 1930-1940 as a night mail pilot. He then became a test pilot for Lockheed Corporation 1940-1942. He was the Vice President in charge of Lockheed Overseas Air Base at Lough Neagh, Belfast, Ireland. George was a pioneer for the daily trip from Nuani Guinea to Natal Africa and across to Kakar Afghanistan the summer of 1941.

George Werner Bransom was killed October 14, 1942, during a special assignment in England. His death certificate states place of death was "Old Man Mountain, Coniston, Lancashire, England." It also states cause of death was "injuries sustained in an aircraft crash." George died at the age of 43. His body was cremated at Anfield Crematoria, Liverpool, England on October 20, 1942, and returned home to his wife Mary in New Jersey. George was buried on August 16, 1948, at the Arlington National Cemetery. His wife is buried next to him in section 12, grave numbers 3674 and 3675.

George Werner Bransom was very well known by Ernie Pyle, a writer for the Washington Daily News. George was known by his friends as Pete and sometimes Dick. There are many newspaper articles where Ernie Pyle writes about George. Below is one from Wednesday, January 15, 1936, in the Washington Daily News.

Did You Ever Hear About the Aviator Who Lost His Pants?
By Ernie Pyle

Newark N. J. - The fellow sitting across the aisle from me said "You can hear it now. He's changing the pitch on the propellers. He'll get her nose down in a minute, and then we'll go like hell."

The propellers were going "grrummp, grrummp" rising up to a great rhythmic, grinding crescendo about every two seconds. But after a while, they settled down to a steady hum, and you could feel the tail come up a little, and from then on it was just like sitting up on the sky on a rock, she was that steady.

We had taken off from Washington, in one of Eastern Air Lines' new Douglas transports. There were two women and eight men, besides the crew.

The fellow across from me knew all about the propellers, for he was a pilot, too. He was dead-heading back to New York, after going down to Washington to be measured for his new uniform.

"These are great planes," he said. "Not much good for short 200 mile hops like this. But they're swell on my run." He flies between New York and New Orleans.

"I only make two stops, Washington and Atlanta."

"It's about 600 miles from Washington to Atlanta. When I'm an hour out of Washington, I'm just about getting over the James River, only a hundred miles away."

(continued on page 20)

George Werner "Pete" Bransom An Enlisted Pilot (continued from page 19)
Did You Ever Hear About the Aviator Who Lost His Pants?
By Ernie Pyle

"That's pretty slow. But I lose time getting away from the loading platform, and taking off, and then it's a long climb up to 10,000 feet, so I use up a whole hour getting the first 100 miles, and I've only got two hours left to make nearly 500 miles."

"But by that time I'm all set. We're up where the motors work best, and the props have had time to pick up their high speed efficiency, and I stick her nose down and her tail up, and boy do we go from there. We knock off that 500 miles in a couple of hours. That's where these planes have got it, on the long hauls. Lots of times I pass Army pursuit ships and they look as if they're going backward."

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We look down at the country below. It was sort of hazy, and from 6,000 feet you couldn't make out much detail. It hardly seemed that we were moving. It didn't seem possible that we were doing 170 mph.

You feel very secure in a big new plane that rides so steadily. And a pilot you know sitting up front flying it, and another one you know sitting beside you. You feel as if they'll take care of you, because they know you.

The fellow up front in the engineer's cabin was Fred Davis. He is an old-timer, the fellow across from me was Pete Bransom. He's been flying on this line five or six years. I helped him get his job, if my memory is correct. He's an old Marine flier. Also, he's the guy who lost his pants.

It was back in the old days when they flew the air mail in little open-cockpit planes. The cockpits got terribly hot in summertime. One night down over Georgia, it was awfully hot, so Pete took off his shirt. He was still hot, so he took off his pants. He rolled them up, and stuck them against the back of the seat, and leaned on them.

Suddenly he hit a down current. It lifted him out of his seat, and lifted his pants clear out of the plane. They went sailing off into the night. Pants over Georgia. Had all his money in them too. Never did find them. It was daylight when he got to Atlanta, and there were women around the airport. He had to sit in the plane till they found a pair of pants.

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"Remember the days when we used to fly to New York in the old Ryans?" Pete said. "We'd come chuggin' and roarin' up here at all of 90 miles an hour. Take us two hours and a half, and now it's an hour and 20. But they were good planes, just the same.

"We just passed Philadelphia. Fred's nosing down now, although you can hardly feel it. We'll lose about 300 feet a minute from here into Newark. That's so the change in pressure won't hurt the passenger's ears.

"In the old days, you remember, we just came down. But now, when we get close to the field, he'll change the props back to low pitch, pump down the flaps to slow up the speed, switch over to a tank of special high test gas, and turn the heat on the carburetors so there won't be any danger of them freezing up when he needs the most."

And so he did all that, I suppose. Anyway, we came down onto Newark Airport on time, and the passengers who were asleep woke up, and got out without saying anything, and got into a bus and went on in to New York.

********** The End

When George "Pete" Werner Bransom lost his pants, he was flying an open cockpit bi-plane called a Pitcairn Mail Wing. Up until recently one of that model aircraft was hanging in the rafters of the Smithsonian Air and Space Museum in Washington, DC. According to their records it is currently loaned out or in storage as the museum is undergoing major renovations.