

The Pittsylvania Packet

Fall 1993



No. 10

Pittsylvania Historical Society
Chatham, Virginia

REPORT BY THE PHS PRESIDENT

The Pittsylvania Historical Society takes pride in the continued tremendous success of the Callands Festival (some call it the Autumn Potpourri) which for the past 14 years is held at the site of historical landmark 1772 Callands Courthouse and the old Clerk Office (11 miles west of Chatham).

I continue to be amazed by the huge throng (estimated at 15,000) who attends the one day event that is held annually the first Saturday in October.

It is through the ingenuity of James "Mack" Doss, PHS festival chairman, who has directed the Potpourri over the 14 years to make it run so smoothly. I deem it rather remarkable that he gets together such an array of exhibitors who display such a wide variety of crafts and artists with their original paintings, musicians with special ballads of by gone days, the long-hunters with demonstrations of Revolutionary War weapons, the historical skit at the Old Courthouse depicting the events of 1776. All this plus an extensive outlay of food and drinks to appease the appetites of the young and old.

The PHS wishes to express sincere appreciation to the volunteers who gave of their time and effort to make the festival a success. I refrain from naming them for fear I may leave out some names.

However, the firemen of Callands Volunteer Fire Department deserve special praise. Acting as co-sponsors of the festival, the firemen directed traffic, took care of the big job of parking. The ladies of the CVFD auxiliary helped in many ways and cooked up the now famous fried apple pies that sold like the proverbial "hot cakes."

The Pittsylvania Historical Society feels it has accomplished its purpose with the "festival" - to promote and preserve the rich history and heritage of Pittsylvania County's past years.

Mack Doss has already started making plans for the 15th annual Callands Festival on Saturday, October 1, 1994. Ya'll Come!! - P.B.M.

SUGGESTIONS FOR CHRISTMAS GIFT

For those who are pondering what to give a history-buff, genealogist friend for Christmas...I would like to suggest a membership in the Pittsylvania Historical Society, (\$10) which includes a subscription to **The Packet**. We will send a greeting card informing the friend of your remembrance.

CHIEF JUSTICE SUBJECT FOR PHS NOV. 15 MEETING

The "man behind the name" will be something of a revelation for the Pittsylvania Historical Society at its meeting Monday, Nov. 15 at the 1813 Clerk's Office at 7:30 p.m.

The nation's revered chief justice, John Marshall, will be pictured in a fascinating video showing the human side of the jurist who made the Supreme Court a legal buttress of the Constitution. Most people know that, and only that.

They often don't know that Marshall was an officer in the American Revolution defending Richmond after Governor Thomas Jefferson and the Assembly had fled. He and Jefferson were cousins, but never friends. They were usually at loggerheads on the role of the court.

The video comes to the Society from the John Marshall Foundation in Richmond. It will be introduced by Virginia Supreme Court Justice (Ret.), the Honorable W. Carrington Thompson.

John Weatherford Remembered As Unstoppable Dissenting Preacher

BY HENRY H. MITCHELL

One of Pittsylvania County's most significant roles in American history is that of a birthplace of religious freedom.

Before the American Revolution, the Anglican Church was tax-supported, and "dissenting" Christian groups were discouraged and often persecuted.

The dissenting Baptist found fertile ground for church-planting and church growth in Pittsylvania County, thanks to the efforts of such men as Dutton Lane, who founded Virginia's first Separate Baptist Church here in 1760. Samuel Harris of Pittsylvania, a former Anglican vestryman, member of the House of Burgesses, and Colonel of the militia became the leading figure in the Baptist movement.

Because of the depth of Baptist sentiment in Pittsylvania, it is understandable that this county became home to the beloved Baptist preacher John Weatherford during his last 10 years. Weatherford had suffered more persecution than most for his preaching, carrying scars to the grave.

While imprisoned for preaching in 1773 in Chesterfield County, he had continued to preach to large crowds through the jail window, his hands extended through the bars. His extended hands proved a tempting target for knife-wielding ruffians who slashed his hands.

Eventually Patrick Henry secured Weatherford's release from jail and paid his fines, acts for which Weatherford was every after deeply grateful. (When Weatherford sent five pounds currency to Henry in payment for his services, it was returned.)

Henry's admiration for the Baptists greatly affected his own personal philosophy and devotion and also his public life. (Later in 1787-88, Henry apparently experienced a deep Christian conversion experience during a revival which spread from Hampden-Sydney College, and became an active personal evangelist during his later years.) It is through the influence of Patrick Henry and later Thomas Jefferson that the principles of religious freedom became foundational to the U.S. Constitution.

In 1872 Chatham physician Dr. William White recalled that as a boy he had attended Weatherford's funeral 39 years earlier and seen the famous Chesterfield County scars. He said, "I was barely tall enough to look into the coffin. The hands of the veteran minister lay ungloved upon his breast with palms downward. I saw white and rigid seams extending across the back of each hand..."

For many years the grave of John Weatherford lay neglected and almost forgotten. Area Baptists in 1906 erected a marker nearby in the Shockoe Baptist



This state historical marker is found on VA 640 just south of the VA 832 intersection at the entrance to Shockoe Baptist Church.

Church cemetery (Weatherford served as Shockoe's pastor during his last years), eloquently stating:

"Elder John Weatherford, Baptist Minister. Born in Charlotte County 1740. Lay in jail in Chesterfield County in 1773 five months for preaching. Moved to Halifax in 1813; to Pittsylvania in 1823; died January 23, 1833.

"Erected in 1906 by Churches of the Roanoke Association.

"A sufferer for Conscience Sake.

"An Earnest and Faithful Minister of the Gospel."

A state marker was placed on the nearest roadside in 1959. The grave itself, about a quarter of a mile west of Shockoe Church, is now maintained by the church.

John Weatherford again proved to be an endearing character in June 1987 as played by Col. Joseph H. Cosby (President Emeritus of Hargrave Military Academy) in the production of the musical "All Men Shall Be Free," written by Frances Hallam Hurt, and sponsored by the Pittsylvania Historical Society.

Weatherford's descendant the Rev. T. Anthony Pollard of Danville played the role of Samuel Harris in the same production.

More detailed information concerning John Weatherford and the early Pittsylvania County Baptists is found in Maude Clement's **History of Pittsylvania County** (available for purchase from the Pittsylvania Historical Society), and in Lewis Peyton Little's book **Imprisoned Preachers and Religious Liberty in Virginia** (available for circulation from the Pittsylvania County Public Library.)

20th Century Cabells and Their Kin

Yes, Alexander Brown's Classic *"The Cabells and Their Kin"* has finally been extended into the 20th Century. This hardcover book has nearly 700 pages, contains over 9,200 names of Cabells and their kin, structured into 3,400 families, and supplemented with 660 biographies. In addition, it has a wealth of new information about the Cabells in 16th-18th century England and in Early America, including maps of 'Cabell Country' in England and Virginia. More than 160 people in the United States and England made major contributions to this book during its preparation in 1992 and 1993.

The heart of the book is organized around the lines of the five children of Dr. Cabell and Elizabeth - Mary, Col. William, Col. Joseph, Col. John and Col. Nicholas. Each chapter contains computer prepared descendency charts, plus biographies of Cabells and Kin associated with the lines. In addition to Cabells, names abound such as Brown, Carrington, Claiborne, Horsley, Lewis, McCulloch, Moore, Nelson, Overbey, Rives, Thornton, etc.

The book sells for \$40 plus postage. Write The Cabell Foundation Inc., Genealogy Publishing Service, 448 Ruby Mine Road, Franklin, NC 28734.

WORLD WAR II VET INFO REQUESTED

Veterans are being asked to fill out an 18 page form that will become part of preserved wartime history for the USA. If you are a WWII vet or know of one in your family, write for free forms. Write to the U.S. Military History Institute, Carlisle Barracks, Carlisle, PA 17013-5008.

How Did County's Delegates Vote? **To Approve or Reject U.S. Constitution in 1788**

BY HERMAN MELTON

The time: June 2, 1788. The place: New Academy atop Shockoe Hill in Richmond. The occasion: Virginia's Ratification Convention. The issue: Approve or reject the proposed new U.S. Constitution adopted in 1787 in Philadelphia. The background: Nine states had already ratified the document. A total of ten were needed to make it the law of the land.

All eyes were on Virginia, the young nation's largest state and the home of its most powerful and talented leaders. It was generally thought that as Virginia

Christmas in Colonial Chatham Will Be Merry Celebration Dec. 4

The merriest celebration a-foot in the Christmas season is "Christmas in Colonial Chatham," set for Saturday, Dec. 4 right in the middle of the picturesque old courthouse town. Proceeds go toward restoration of Town Hall.

The gala begins with a walk-about at 10 a.m. of Mistletoe Ladies, historic re-enactors, entertainers and costumed ladies and gentlemen led by brass trumpets to set the fun in motion.

A tour of three houses, all brilliantly decorated by garden clubs, at \$7 (\$5.50 in advance) will continue from 1 p.m. until 5 p.m., each pulsing with live entertainment. Tickets include refreshments at the 1813 clerk's office where the Pittsylvania Historical Society's most beautiful quilt to date will be given.

Three carriages will ply the streets which offer an outstanding craft show at Watson Memorial Methodist Church and the famous longhunters' camp at Magnolia Inn. The Pittsylvania County Planetarium will give free shows.

Pittsylvania County Chamber of Commerce will throw open its doors all day to welcome visitors with an open house selling tour and play tickets as it offers refreshments.

Nations Bank also will stage an open house featuring Mr. Bones blistering those instruments for entertainment. Central Fidelity Bank will host model trains, spelling Christmas whatever the century.

The day winds down with a ceremony unique in the Commonwealth -- the lighting of lanterns by town and county officials to launch another cherished season of peace and goodwill, this preceded by children's carols.

Hargrave Military Academy will climax the celebration with a Christmas play which bids fair to become a Christmas classic -- "The Best Christmas Pageant Ever." Performed by the cadets in Camden Hall at HMA at 7:30 p.m. the play offers tickets at \$3 which may be purchased at Hargrave, the Pittsylvania Chamber of Commerce and Chatham Town Hall.

Bed and breakfast reservations are available at Chatham.

went, so would go the nation. The 170 delegates assembled with this as a backdrop.

Leading the fight for approval was Gov. Edmund Randolph (who had opposed the adoption in Philadelphia but now favored it) and the young, quiet spoken James Madison - fresh from his victory in Philadelphia.

They faced formidable opposition from golden throated Patrick Henry - only lately from Henry County, adjacent to Pittsylvania - and tall erudite George Mason, another patriot. The firebrand Henry feared the adoption of a body of laws from which a guarantee of civil liberties was missing. George Mason agreed. Both blanched at the thought of an all-powerful central government.

Moreover, there were rumors (not totally unfounded) that the proposed new Federal government intended to give Spain control of the Mississippi as the price of peace. To the farmers in Western Virginia (now Kentucky and Ohio) it meant that they would soon be unable to navigate the great river - so useful in delivering their produce to Atlantic markets. Already, members of the powerful Eastern establishment were openly planning an expensive system of canals and locks through which the Western farmers would be forced to ship their produce.

Delegates to the Virginia Convention were lobbied intensely by opposing forces. Kentucky and Ohio were but territories of Virginia but reached as far west as the Mississippi. Both had fewer delegates, and they were seething. They wanted statehood far more than they wanted a new Constitution. It was natural that they rallied around the articulate Henry, who seemed to understand their problems better than George Washington, the influential proponent of a new Constitution.

Who were Pittsylvania's delegates to the convention and how did they vote? For or Against?

Each county and major municipality was allowed two delegates, each of which was elected by the General Assembly. Unfortunately, the minutes of the convention indicate that neither delegate spoke.

John Wilson, a delegate, was the son of Peter Wilson, an early county pioneer whose progeny ultimately included five state governors. John was one of the founders of the Town of Danville and served as a "Gentleman Justice" in the County Court before being elected to the General Assembly. He became active in county affairs at an early age and as a member of Non-Importation Association he hurled his defiance at George III by affixing his signature to a long list of complaints submitted to the British Parliament in 1775. As an early activist, he became a Colonel and head of the county militia during the Revolution.

Colonel Robert Williams, also a delegate, lived east of present day Spring Garden and as a wealthy planter and professional lawyer, he served the county in many capacities. At the outset of the Revolution, he was elected to the post of Chairman of the County Committee of Safety by his fellow citizens. After the Revolution he became one of the first two Delegates to the General Assembly.

Yes, Pittsylvania was well represented, but how did Delegates Wilson and Williams vote on the question of approval or rejection of the U.S. Constitution?

A study of the underlying issues and the nature of the vote affords some hint to the answer. The vote was close: 89 YEA and 79 NAY.

This victory by the YEAS came only after a compromise in which they agreed to attach a "Declaration of Rights" consisting of twenty-one resolutions which

contained those provisions that ultimately became the "Bill of Rights" and many of the subsequent Amendments to the Constitution.

Yes, Wilson and Williams voted NAY.

However, before regretting that Pittsylvania's County's Delegates voted against the ratification of so revered a document as the U.S. Constitution, it is well to view the issue in the light of facts known to Wilson and Williams at the time and to ignore 20/20 hindsight.

First of all, both knew neighbor Patrick Henry well and were naturally influenced by him. Secondly, it could be argued with logic that the real achievement at the Convention was not only the approval of the provisional document, but also the attachment of a "declaration of Rights" to it. Most scholars believe that democracy won in Richmond when the Nays forced the :Rights: attachment to the final ratified document on June 27.

Had they not been attached, it is certain that the ratification would have been defeated. Moreover, it is an accepted fact that the attachment of the Virginia Declaration of Rights had a profound influence on the adoption of the Bill of Rights later on.

So regardless of how the Pittsylvania delegation voted, civilization was the beneficiary, and every Pittsylvania County citizen can be proud of them.

(Note: Herman Melton is a distinguished author of a number of fascinating books dealing with historical subjects.)

THE EVOLUTION OF VIRGINIA COUNTIES

Virginia Counties: Those Resulting from Legislation by Morgan P. Robinson, traces the evolution of Virginia's counties, critical to genealogical research beginning 1607 evidence.

Virginia at present has some 100 counties; at least 172 existed at one time or another in Virginia history. Some became extinct; some merged with other counties; some changed their names; others went into territory forming Kentucky and West Virginia. Dates of these changes are essential in finding records.

The information in this book, (originally published in 1916 as a Bulletin of the Virginia State Library and long out of print) is divided into alphabetical, chronological and geographical sections with a wealth of maps showing settlements and migration routes; charts giving county name, date of formation, land formed from and references to the relevant statutes; a "genealogical" chart section for the counties; a chapter on the origin of county names; an extensive bibliography; etc.

Hardcover, 6 x 9 in., 283 pages, indexed, \$27.50 incl. mailing from: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1001 N. Calvert St., Baltimore, MD 21202-3897.

-The Navigator, Norfolk Gen. Soc. of Norfolk, VA

WATCH OUT FOR FRAUDULENT FAMILY HISTORIES. They flourish. Beware of ads that say - "I have spent months of work and thousands of dollars to research this limited edition about your family tree!" They buy lists of names taken from phone books, utility company records, etc. to obtain matching family names. To check a book, write to National Genealogical Society 4527 17th St. N., Arlington, VA 22204.

A miracle drug is one that costs the same this year as it did last year.

County native Alamo Defender **Injured Knee Causes Delay, Saved Him From Alamo Massacre**

Dr. John Sutherland, Pittsylvania County native, liked to tell his grandchildren in his later years that "falling off his horse and sustaining an injury to his knee saved his life."

According to the writings of Hill Groneman, who gave an account of the Alamo Massacre, he relates that John Sutherland, who was born in Pittsylvania County at Danville, VA., was among the defenders at the Alamo at the time of the siege by the Mexican Army in 1836.

Sutherland moved from Virginia to Alabama about 1815. He then moved to Texas in 1835. (His older brother, George, also born in Virginia, had moved to Texas several years earlier.)

John took the oath of allegiance to the provisional government of Texas at San Felipe in December 1835. He joined the Texas Army in the Company of Capt. William H. Patton and travelled to Bexar with ten other volunteers.

On the afternoon of February 23, 1836, a Texan sentry posted in the bell tower of the San Fernando Church spotted what looked like the advance column of the Mexican Army.

Sutherland volunteered to go out as a scout. Accompanied by John W. Smith, they rode out from Bexar and confirmed that the enemy troops were actually approaching.

While galloping back to town, Sutherland was delayed when his horse tripped and fell on muddy ground, and he sustained a very painful injury to his knee.

Even though delayed by the injury, Sutherland and Smith rode to Gonzales and managed to round up a small group of volunteers.

They were attempting to return to the Alamo with the volunteers, but the Alamo fell shortly before they were able to reach it.

In 1837 after the war, Sutherland settled in Egypt, Texas. In 1840 he moved his family to Wilson County at the site of some sulphur springs on the Cibolo River where he practiced medicine. The place became known as Sutherland Springs.

Dr. John Sutherland was married three times and died at the age of 75 leaving a number of children.

The injury Sutherland sustained when his horse fell caused a delay long enough to prevent him from getting back to the Alamo shortly before the massacre took place at the garrison.

- (Information furnished by Kenneth Crouch, Bedford, VA.)



Dr. John Sutherland

Citizens Petition Va. Assembly **Legal Question Raised About Courthouse in 1806**

In 1806 there arose the legal question that the Pittsylvania County (Va) Courthouse at Chatham had not been legally authorized to be moved and built on the new site on the land of Richard Johnson.

Richard Johnson prepared a petition signed by 179 prominent county citizens and presented it to the Virginia General Assembly asking the state governing body to settle the legal controversy.

The following is a copy of the handwritten petition as it was written in 1806 with the names of the petitioners. (Note - the assembly approved the request of the petitioners.)

- December 1806

To the Honourable the Speaker and Gentlemen of both Houses of Virginia Assembly. - The Petition of Richard Johnson and sundry other Citizens and Inhabitants of Pittsylvania respectfully sheweth,

That whilst we, your Petitioners, approach you as the great body of the Commonwealth, selected by the sovereign Voice of the People, and are now assembled in your Legislative Capacity to give Laws to the State, possessing entire Confidence in your Wisdom and Zeal to do good, we rejoice in the Anticipation of your favourable Attention to the objects of our Prayer and petition as follows:

Your Petitioners represent to your Honourable Body that there is a Law, establishing the Courthouse of said County of Pittsylvania on the Land which was then the Property of Jeremiah Worsham, which Land the said Worsham sold to John Wilson and the said John Wilson to James Johnson and the said James Johnson to Richard Johnson, the present Proprietor; - that accordingly Court was held on the said Land - at first in an old Meeting house, down in a "disagreeable" Valley, till the Court chose a Place and erected thereon the Courthouse.

The situation adopted for the purpose is truly beautiful, as much so as any within ten Miles of the place; elevated and airy; commanding the most agreeable View of the Mountains; and on the said Tract, which was formerly Worsham's - where they were by Law authorised to erect the Courthouse; we suppose, between two and three hundred yards from the said old Meeting house where Court was first held.

It is very convenient to an excellent Spring of pure wholesome Water, which continued running flush during the whole of last Summer - tho so dry, that many of the best Springs in the Neighbourhood were without a Drop of Water, which must be considered a valuable conveniency near so public a place as a courthouse.

The courthouse has been erected about twenty-five Years; since which Time the Business of the County has always been done there; that during which Time, nearly every Magistrate, now in Commission for said County have been recommended by courts held at the said courthouse.

Lately a doubt has arisen whether the Courthouse is legally established at the

Place aforesaid. It has been determined by a Court held for the county in November Term that it is Not legally established.

From a Reference to the Documents accompanying this, and the Pittsylvania Act for dividing the County of Pittsylvania, your Honourable Body will receive sufficient Information on the Subject as follows:

Whether party Zeal, (which has run very high in the County for some Time) or private Interest, or the Good of the Public brought about a Discovery of the long concealed Error, Circumstances and the Nature of the Case sufficiently convince?

Near this "dreary" Valley, where the Court was first held the eagle-eyed Genius who first made the Discovery of this great Error purchased a Tract of Land which might produce the Balsam that thus affected his optic nerves so as to bring about the acuteness of Vision to discover that, at the present advanced Stage of his Life, which was concealed from his View at an earlier period of his Existence, before he obtained the medical Soils.

Strange, indeed !!! - that a Number of Men should proceed to do Business in a County as a Court, and that twenty-five Years should elapse before they discovered they were not legally authorised so to do!!! - During which Period Decisions of the utmost Importance were made by them. Also consider that many Criminals were tried - several condemned and hanged; - and what does it amount to? Those who decided on it were not legally authorised so to do!!!

If the Court cannot legally proceed to do Business at the said courthouse in the future, all that has been done there must be illegal!!! - They possess the same to authorise their sitting there as a Court in future, as they had at first.

According to their Mode of Reasoning there is neither civil nor military officers in the county, excepting three Majistrates who were in office before the Courthouse was erected, - All the others were recommended and qualified there.

The Subject is truly novel - at least to your Petitioners! The Purport of our Prayer therefore is that your Honourable Body may take the controverted Question under your wise consideration and determine whether the court of the County of Pittsylvania are legally authorised to proceed to Business at the said Courthouse, which was erected by the order of said Court, where said Court had chosen for the Purpose and where the Business of the County has always been done for twenty-five Years. That if it shall appear to your View, that it is not established as the Law requiers, - that you may pass an Act to the Effect, and thereby establish as legal what has been transacted at the said Courthouse, except the late Determination in November term.

And also the said Richard Johnson, the present proprietor of the said Courthouse, is desirous to have seven or eight Acres of Land laid off in a Township at said Courthouse in such Direction as said Johnson shall direct and sold off to the public in half acre lots -- and prays that your Honourable Body may pass an Act for the same - and your Petitioners, as in Duty bound, will pray.

The petitioners of Pittsylvania County are signed as follows:

Richard Johnson, Samuel Callands, Will Tunstall, William P. Harrison, Thomas B. Tunstall, Peter Markham, Saml. Steele, Richd. Jones, Thos. Shelton, Christopher Conway, W. G. Herring, Abraham Parrish, Samuel A. Muse, William Thompson, John Emmerson.

Daniel Dunbar, Robt. White, Jos. Hubbard, Godfrey Burnet, George Glexco, Lawson H. Carter, Joel Muse, John Muse Jr., Abraham Rorer, John Giles,

Argerible Doss, James T. Johnson, Abra. Shelton, Jos. Ferguson Jr., George I. Inge.

Robertson Shelton, Thompson Robertson, Saml. Mayhue, Peter Fontaine, John Davis Jr., James Dunn, William Payne, Williamson Astor, Isham Myers, Jer. White, Benja. Shelton, Jno. White, Horatio Thompson, Thomas Giles, James Nelson.

William Nelson, Morten Waggener, Peyton Graves, Solomon Hensley, Jacob Hedrick, Phillip Mease, Jacob Bargar, Peter Barter, Jacob Myers, John Myers, Vincent Railey, Isaac Butcher, Hickman Spiller, Wm. Shelton, Wm. Yancy.

Lewis Smith, John Dunn Jr., Fountain Price, Joseph Clay, James Murphey, John Stokes, Washington Thompson, Absalom Black, Daniel Bradley, John Muse, Samuel Parsons Jr., Meardith Meade, Wm. Watson Sr., Josiah Farguson Sr., Saml. Fuqua.

Edw. P. Paul, William W. Nance, Jos. Davis, Benjamin Rice, Fraics Epperson, David Thompson, Francis Dabney, Lovill Farguson, John T. Farguson, David Motley, Joseph Mottley, John Mottley, Langston Johnson, Charles Nicholas, John Ball.

Amos Watson, Shad. Corder, William Ricketts, Richd. Gross, Daniel Crider, John Plexico, Jno. Parrish, James Barding, Reuben Stephens, Peter Parrish, Saml. Hubbard, Thomas Davis, David Echols, George Watson, Thos. Watson Jr., John Giles Jr., Stephen Yates, Rice B. Linthicum, Wm. Farguson James Allen.

Jeremiah Terry, Wilson Vaden, George Shelton, Thos. Gwin, William Price, W. Wilkinson, A. Wills, Adam Sutherlin, Sam Thompson, Robert Haynes, Thomas Harmon, William Bradley, R. Walrond, Wm. Terry, Doctor C. Williams, M. Wilkins Jr., Humphrey Henchee, William Hines.

James Sawyers, William Walton, George Sutherlin, James Sutherlin, Henry Crider, James Hart, Jacob Foust, Joel Thacker, Peter Thacker, Edwd. Hoskins, John Adkins, Drury Atkins, Jeremiah Walker, Henry Jacobs, Andrew Crider, J. W. Turner, Henry Butcher, Benjamin Butcher.

-County of Pittsylvania Courthouse, to courts of Justice repo,
Dec. 1806 Virginia House of Delegates

REQUEST FOR CIVIL WAR VETERAN'S PHOTOS

Was your ancestor in the Civil War? The Department of the Army asks you to loan them photographs of your ancestor for copying. In return, the Department of the Army will send you a free 8 x 10 copy and will return your own copy. The goal is to have a likeness of every Civil War soldier. These are catalogued and made available for researchers and scholars.

Please include identifying information such as name, rank, unit, dates and places of birth and death. Write first to receive a franked mailing label to use in mailing the photo free of charge. Write to Dr. Michael J. Winey, Curator, Department of the Army, Military History Institute, Carlisle Barracks, PA 17013-5009. - (Bedford, VA Genealogical Society)

The younger we are, the more we want to change the world. The older we are, the more we want to change the young.

Sometimes politicians forget that they were appointed - not anointed.

No Words Can Really Describe Christmas

BY PATRICIA B. MITCHELL

The Christmas season is a time to savor present joys and to remember. And what is remembering? It is history. Memories of home and family, good days and hard times, times of peace and times of war. Personal memories intertwined with world events -- a favorite Christmas gift received, a Confederate Christmas in 1864, mama's turkey dressing, and World War II rationing -- all these recollections together weave a tapestry of images in a person's mind.

Christmas can be a time to weep for departed loved ones, for vanished homeplaces, for long-gone dolls and cap pistols, for one's own lost youth; but what's the use? Why not just enjoy the pleasant aspects of the holiday and try to recall only the happy times?

Here is an evocative Christmas recollection written during the American Civil War. -- The Harrison family of Richmond was able to leave the city and its deprivations, and find respite in a Virginia country home:

"... [W]e were in enjoyment of intense physical relief, seated around a fire of generous logs sending out a glow that wrapped us in its warmth; and in half an hour we sat down to a table heaped with old-time luxuries: partridges; a sugar-cured ham; spareribs; and sausage...corn pone; biscuits; fresh, delicious butter; pitchers of mantling cream; and coffee, hot, rich, fragrant, tasting of the bean! We had literally no words!

"Dear, cheery little 'Cousin Nannie,' our hostess...did not stop lamenting over us till we had eaten a disgraceful amount of supper. As soon as possible, she insisted that we girls should go to our rooms, and there, sinking into lavender-scented, linen-spread featherbeds, with a fire dancing itself out upon the hearth, and a smiling Negro woman waiting to extinguish the candles, elysium was attained. Was it true -- could such home comforts still be for us war-worn children of the Confederacy?...

"Next day, a quiet cosy morning on a sofa wheeled up before the fire, with winter sunbeams glancing through crimson curtains into a room bowered in Christmas garlands...

"[Then:] Such a dinner! Served a three o'clock P.M. (after a luncheon, at twelve, of cordials and cakes), the host at his end of the long table dispensing an emperor among turkeys, 'Cousin Nannie' at hers, engaged in carving another ham (that of the night before having already gone to its long rest among the house servants) -- a ham befrilled with white paper, its pink slices cut thin as shavings, the fat having a nutty flavor -- with cloves stuck into a crust of sugar. I remember a course of game, and then the plum pudding, with a berg of vanilla ice cream and a mould of calves'-foot jelly, together with many little iced cakes and rosy apples in pyramids."

Southerners certainly do enjoy Christmas. An 1861 report states that Northern soldiers confined in a Richmond military prison were "in a high state of enjoyment, singing, laughing and shouting, as if their present position was an improvement upon anything they had been accustomed to at home." Even a war

could not squash the Virginia holiday spirit!

The following recipes will help you create an old-timey Christmas dinner to remember.

SMITHFIELD HAM (THE HAM THAT MADE VIRGINIA FAMOUS)

Soak a ten to twelve pound ham for twelve hours, then boil, cooking very slowly for four to five hours, until tender. Cool in the cooking liquid. When cold, remove the skin and make crisscross gashes in the top of the ham with a sharp knife. Sprinkle on top of the ham two tablespoons of cracker crumbs, two tablespoons of brown sugar, and a little black pepper. Stud the ham with whole cloves and pour a wineglass of sherry over the top of the ham. Bake in a hot oven (450 degrees F.) for twenty minutes until brown. Garnish with watercress and parsley.

VIRGINIA PLUM PUDDING

2 c. finely chopped suet, 2 c. sugar, 2 c. seeded raisins, 2 c. currants, 1 c. finely chopped citron, 1 c. whiskey, 1 tbsp. rum flavoring, 1/2 c. sherry wine, 3 beaten eggs, 1 tbsp. finely cut orange peel, 1 tbsp finely cut lemon peel, 1 c. chopped blanched almonds, 1 tsp. ground cinnamon, 1 tsp. ground cloves, 1 tsp. ground nutmeg, 1 tbsp. salt, 2 tsp. vanilla, 2 c. finely rolled lady fingers, 1 c. flour.

Mix the suet and sugar thoroughly, and then add the other ingredients, adding the lady fingers and flour last. Fill tin molds (or large cans), cover with waxed paper, and put on close fitting tops (or aluminum foil). Steam in a covered pot 3/4 full of water six hours. Keep for two weeks in a cool place, and steam two hours before serving. Serve with Hard Sauce.

HARD SAUCE

1/2 c. butter, 1 c. confectioners' sugar, 1 tsp. vanilla extract or brandy
Cream the butter and sugar together and work in the flavoring. Serve cold.

(Note: Patricia B. Mitchell currently has 38 cookbooks in print. Four of these 40 page books are about Christmas, and six about the Civil War. For a complete list of titles, please write Patricia B. Mitchell Foodways Publications, P.O. Box 429, Chatham, VA 24531.)

VALUABLE INFORMATION IN OLD NEWSPAPERS

The genealogist who ignores newspapers misses a great deal of valuable material. Newspapers are the day to day diaries of local community events.

While vital records such as birth, marriage and death are the most commonly used, we can also include other local news items: probate court and legal notices; real estate transactions; political biographies; announcements; notices for settling debts; school news, biographical sketches; public announcements and advertisements; and missing persons.

Helpful in finding these old newspapers are Clarence Brigham, *History and Bibliography of American Newspapers, 1690-1820*; Gregory's *American Newspapers, 1821-1926*; and the Library of Congress, *Newspapers on Microfilm*.

If there were no newspapers published in a particular town or county of interest, a nearby town may have been the news center serving the area.

Diphtheria main killer 'back then'**Heart Attacks, Cancer Seldom Mentioned in Last Century**

Heart attacks and cancer were seldom mentioned, and AIDS had not been discovered in this county during the period 1853 to 1896, according to Mrs. Lonnie Crosby, who compiled the record of 3,486 deaths in Pittsylvania County during the 43 year period before the turn of the century.

Diphtheria was the major cause of deaths in the county "back then," based on the records gathered by Mrs. Crosby from the county's clerk's office files.

The book also shows that "flu" (a type of dysentery) was a close second cause of deaths. Both took heavy tolls among the young, especially in the age brackets from one year to 13-years-old.

Other often mentioned causes for bringing on the "grim reaper" were "dropsy," 10 percent; typhoid fever, eight percent; consumption (TB), eight percent; pneumonia, six percent; old age, six percent; and childbirth, three percent.

There were listed a number of other different diseases or causes of deaths which are not familiar today such as erysipelas, gravel, jaundice, quincy, scurvy and scrofula.

A variety of other diseases are listed in Mrs. Crosby's book as causes for taking the lives of the county people in the 1853-1896 period.

But none of these have a very fatal effect today. They include whooping cough, ulcer, cholera, croup, hives, nervousness, convulsions, rheumatism, spasms, bronchitis, palsy, poisons and meningitis.

The records of the book show that the average age for those dying in the 1853-1896 span was 20 years, four months. Thus this indicates that young people, especially children were victims of the early age diseases "back then."

It is heart-warming to note that modern medicine has just about conquered the battle against diphtheria, polio, consumption and most diseases that killed children.

But heart attacks, cancer and the new danger, AIDS, are far from being brought under control, even with all the advances in the technical sciences of today.

Checking through the 179 pages of Mrs. Crosby's book, it is interesting to see some of "other" causes of death in the period before the turn of the century such as burned to death in house fire; killed by falling tree; killed at saw mill; hanging by neck; run over by train; fall off house; smothered in cradle; murdered by wife.

The War Between The States also took its toll.

For instance, two brothers, Silas Barber and William Barber, soldiers in the Confederate Army, were reported killed in battle. Their father, David Barber, reported that Silas was slain May 31, 1862 at the Battle of Seven Pines, and William was killed four months later on October 20, 1862 near Manassas.

Thomas and Permelia Templeton suffered the tragedy of losing five children in the month of July 1860 who were victims of diphtheria.

Their ages were 14 months, four-years-old, six-years-old, nine-years-old

and 14-years-old - all dying within a two week period.

The heartaches that go with deaths are revealed in the pages of Mrs. Crosby's book of records, even though they are cold figures.

Although the story isn't written out, it is plainly told on page 157, because it is known that a mother and father had awaited eagerly to hear from their soldier son. He was in the battle at Gettysburg - and the word finally came...he had been killed in action...the son had just turned 18.

Ain't It The Truth!

Dear Sir:...My shattered financial condition is due to federal laws, state laws, county laws, city laws, mother-in-laws and outlaws.

Because of these laws, I am compelled to pay a sales tax, a business tax, a property tax, an amusement tax, a head tax, a school tax, a poll tax, a food tax, a cigarette tax, a gas tax, water, gas, electric and garbage tax, phone line tax and of course, there is always the inevitable income tax.

I also must buy a hunting license, marriage license, business license, car license, driver's license, truck license and dog license.

I am required to contribute to every charitable, fraternal and maternal organization which the genius of man is capable of putting together for the purpose of extracting as much money as possible from every person, living or dead, who has a mailbox or a phone number.

I am told for my own safety to buy health insurance, life insurance, liability insurance, burglar insurance, tornado insurance, accident insurance, unemployment insurance, old age insurance, hurricane insurance and fire insurance.

My business is so closely supervised by the government that it is no easy matter for me to figure out how much is mine and how much belongs to Uncle Sam.

I have been inspected, expected, suspected, disrespected, rejected, examined, re-examined, informed, required, summoned, fined and commanded until I have provided an inexhaustible supply of money for every known need, desire, hope and dream of mankind.

However, the wolf that has become a stationary fixture at our front door just had pups. I sold them this morning for dogs and here is the money I owe you!!!

Signed - John Q. Public

VIRGINIA VITAL RECORDS ON COMPUTER DISKS

Cincinnati Bell Information Systems, Inc. is in the process of copying Virginia birth and death records (1912-1939) onto computer disks. The project is now in its final stages and has reduced 2.8 million birth and death certificates onto fewer than 30 optical disks for the Virginia Division of Vital Records. Each document and anything attached to it had to be microfilmed, then checked for image quality, and each image scanned and stored in the computer. The result will let state workers grab birth and death certificates from 1912, (the first year they were recorded) to 1939 almost instantaneously via computer instead of hoisting moldy old volumes off towering bookshelves. (Norfolk, VA Genealogical Society)

November 1993 Queries

(Free to members to aid others with similar interests.)

Need info on Joseph **BARTTETT** married _____ **SIMS**, 1783, dau. of _____ and Sarah **SIMS** in Pittsylvania County or Henry County, VA. Joseph and wife had sons James and John, and dau. Sarah. After death of wife, children were raised by the grandmother until they joined Joseph in Overton, Tenn. Any info will be appreciated. Vera Barttett **METZ**, 375 Harrison St., Twin Falls, ID 83301.

Want info on James and Anne (Blamar) **HOLBERT**, They had two sons that I know of, Jacob Conrad **HOLBERT**, and Riley. There were several half brothers and sisters, one that Jacob had come north to live with in Columbi, Pa. Jacob was born supposedly in Martinsburg, W. VA. but understand that was part of Virginia. He was born February 2, 1839, so their births would be around 18 in the teens or at the latest early 1820s. James was paymaster for the railroad. Some of the information should include, wedding data, births, deaths, burial information, and their parentage on these ancestors. The name may have been changed from **HULDBREHT**. Janet **BRICKER**, 4768 Bossler Rd., Elizabethtown, PA 17022.

I would like to correspond with anyone who is researching the family name of **BRAWNER**. Any help appreciated. Write to Edna C. **BRONER**, 580 Maxine Lane, Kimberly, Idaho 83341.

Wish info on Lucy **BROWN**, who married Richie **PITTS**, who died in 1809 in Pittsylvania County, VA. Lucy's father was John **BROWN** and guardian of all her children. Write to Rosa Lee R. **CALAME**, 2017 Singing Brook, Austin, TX 78723.

Am interested in **DODSON** and **FITZGERALD** families who were in Pittsylvania and Halifax Counties in early 1700s. I am researching "old" John **FITZGERALD** who died 1824. Does he appear on church roll in Pittsylvania County? Claudine **TERRY**, 118 Dallam, Dumas, TX 79029.

THORNTON/TURNER. Seeking info on Rowland (Roland) **THORNTON** (1765-1828) and his wife Elizabeth **TURNER** (? - 1837), both of Pittsylvania County. **ROWLAND** was son of Presley **THORNTON** who came from Orange County to Pittsylvania County prior to 1782. Interested in exchanging information of any sort on these families. At present have no information at all on the **TURNER** line. Write: Richard T. **FOX**, 2412 Sterling Point Drive, Portsmouth, Virginia 23703.

Seek information on **MYERS** family. James M. **MYERS** married Angeline M. **TUTTLE** in Nuckols Co., Ky. July 9, 1835. He moved to Johnson County, Missouri where he died 12-1-1899. Write Norma **MYERS**, Box 415A, Medora, N.D. 58645.

Seek information on Elizabeth **COLEMAN**, b. 12-25-1810 in Pittsylvania County, VA first time to Robert **HARPER**, m. second time to John I. **SINGLETON**. I want to know who were her parents? Please write or call T. Richard **FERRELL** Jr., 2138 Seven Lakes S., West End, NC 27376. Phone 919-673-1289.

(QUERIES -- CONTINUED)

Seek information on Christena, wife of Jacob **BERGER** (1743-1837). She was born about 1750, married about 1770. She died about 1830 and is buried at Toshes, Pittsylvania County, VA Write Sandy **CARNEIRO**, 1052 C, Second Avenue, Dover, DE 19901.

My forbears lived in Pittsylvania County, VA before moving to Missouri. William **OAKES** died in 1819. His son **ELLIOTT** died the same year as did **ELLIOTT's** wife, Sarah. Also Susannah Oakes **POTTER** and her husband, Isaac **POTTER** died in 1819, and also Lemuel **OAKES** and his wife Elizabeth died the same year. Was there some sort of natural catastrophe or plague in Pittsylvania County, VA in 1819? It seems that this many persons in the same family to all die in the same year could not just be coincidental. Does anyone have information on this. (Lemuel was my great-great-grandfather). Write to Robert L. **OAKES**, 10003 West 97th Terr. Overland Park, KS 66212.

Seek info on Eusebius (or Usiveous) **HUBBARD** (or **HUBARD**) who was mentioned as a son in a will of John **HUBBARD** and wife Sarah, 1745/46. Eusebius signed oath of allegiance as 32-year-old in 1777 in Henry Co. VA. Tithable records list him in 1774-75-76 in Pittsylvania County, VA. Deed book in Bedford Co., VA has a will of Eusebius acknowledged by his wife Amy 8-23-1768. However Eusebius was listed as taxpayer in Henry Co. in 1782-87 and Franklin County in 1786. Some time between 1786 and 1790 Eusebius and his family moved to Kentucky and then on to St. Louis County, MO where he died 1810 at home of his daughter, Sarah Jamison **PATTERSON**. I wish to know the maiden name of Amy and names of children of Amy. I wonder if there was more than one Eusibius? Write to Jennie **PUMPHREY**, 12805 W. 100th Terr. Lenexa, KS 66215.

TIFFIN, DRAIN, MURPHY, THORNTON, WALKER. Seek info on Thomas **TIFFIN**, age 75, 1822 Pittsylvania County Revolutionary War Pension S-3844. Son Peter L. **TIFFIN** died before Nov. 1826 (widow married 2nd Richard L. **GOSNEY**); daughters - Elizabeth married 1816 Stephen **WALKER** (liv. 1850 Lincoln Co., TN); Mary married 1819 Reuben **THORNTON** (liv. 1850 Giles Co., TN); Nancy married 1820 Hezekiah Drain (liv. 1850 Pittsylvania Co., VA); Lucy married 1822 John B. **MURPHY** (she died 1838 Todd Co., KY). Write Patricia Lee **MURPHY**, 1611 Wilmington Island Road, Savannah, GA 31410-4519.

Seek info on Reuben **GOAD**, b. May 25, 1770 in Pittsylvania County, VA and his wife Mary "Molly" **WITCHER**, b. 1770 in VA. They were m. Oct. 30, 1789. Not sure when they left VA but Macon County, Tenn. was formed 1842, and they were one of the first families listed when the county was formed. They are also in 1850 Macon Co. Census, the first census taken in the county. Would anyone know Reuben's parents or brothers or sisters. Write Tina R. **GOAD**, 8687 Sunrise Road, Red Boiling Springs, TN 37150.

EPITAPH RAISES QUESTION

Epitaph on tombstone in a country church cemetery:

"As I am, so you will be,

Prepare for death and follow me"

Someone scribbled underneath the epitaph: -

"To follow you I am not content,

Until I know which way you went."

- Contributed by Lewis Gregory, Java, VA.

MEMBERS WRITE LETTERS

I thoroughly enjoy reading **The Packet**. A lot of the names in it were my ancestors and the historical background about them is most interesting. I always recommend joining the PHS and cite my experience with the society. I have published my paternal history books and am receiving correspondence from people all over USA and Canada asking for help, and I do what I can. Lt. Col. Gordon S. Adams (Ret.), 1256 Balboa Ct. #4, Sunnyvale, CA 94086.

Thanks you and your staff for all the hard work in getting out this very interesting and useful publication. I received information that turned out to be the "missing link." I am continuing my search of the Bruces, Sweeneys and Thurmans. Dorothy Lou Bruce, 1507 E. 24th Place, Tulsa, OK 74114

Enclosed is my check for \$10 to get membership in the PHS. I am interested in the Hendersons who lived on Allen Creek in 1760s. I would like to know where Allen Creek is. Robert H. Henderson, 119 Pinewood Drive, Greer, SC 29651.

Enclosed is my check for membership. I should have joined the society a long time ago. Lyle C. Motley, President WMNA, Gretna, VA.

I enjoy reading **The Packet** very much and have gotten some good leads. I was upset to find four pages missing due to the collating in the last issue. Please send the issue to me. George Munro, 350 Orchard Ave., Grand Jct., CO 81501.

Here is my check to become a member. I am researching the Stanley family who lived in the county from about 1767 to 1777. They were in the area of Pittsylvania which became Henry Co. Alice Tyler, 5209 Washington Ave., SE, Charleston, W VA 25304.

I enjoy **The Packet**. I found a query in it from Robert R. Bays asking for information on my fourth great-grandfather's brother. My fifth generation was John Bays Sr. in Pittsylvania County. His son is buried there. Linda Bays Lancaster, Box 304, Wagoner, OK 74477.

I certainly enjoy each issue of **The Packet**. I only wish I was closer so I might visit the area where so many of my ancestors lived who were the Sparks, Stones, Sheltons, etc. Helen Sparks Dreher, 838 Lois Ave., Sunnyvale, CA 94087.

I am interested in becoming a member of the Pittsylvania Historical Society and receiving **The Packet**. All of my lines are from Virginia with most being Pittsylvania County, my birthplace as well. Do you have any information on any of these: McGhee, Blanks, Shelton, Hodnett, Hines, Still, Payne, Mayhew? Lois McGhee Sapp, 6 Miramar Rd., Stuart, FLA 34996.

I received your letter of August 17 and I want to give you my sincere thanks for the prompt and informative reply. It was helpful since I am trying to reconstruct the family history of Thorntons in Pittsylvania County 1782-1830. Capt. Richard T. Fox, 2412 Sterling Point Drive, Portsmouth, VA 23703.

I enjoy the various issues of **The Packet** and read them carefully hoping to find familiar names and sources. I would like to commend the society for the quality of the publication. Capt. Richard Thornton Fox, 2412 Sterling Point Drive, Portsmouth, VA 23703.

Thanks very much for your reply and offer to insert the query free of charge in **The Packet**. Vera Bartlett Metz, 375 Harrison St., Twin Falls, ID 83301.

I have a copy of **The Packet**. I enjoyed it very much. It looks as if your organization is doing a superb job in preserving local history. Chris Hartley, 805 Boyer Dr., Clemmons, SC 27012. (Note: Mr. Hartley is writing a biography about Chiswell Dabney of Pittsylvania County, VA.)

THOMAS FOSTER PHILLIPS HONORED

The 155th anniversary of the birth of Thomas Foster Phillips (1838-1929) was observed October 15-17 at Walkers Mill State Park northeast of Kearney, MO. A motorcade toured various sites, homes and cemeteries of many Phillips descendants. The highlight of the tour was a picnic at the home of Bob Kerr in Liberty, MO.

The Phillips family reunion was held earlier (July 16-18) at the Ralph Barnett farm near Hitchita, OK. (From Phillips family newsletter.)

MAKE HEIRLOOMS PART OF FAMILY HISTORY

Heirlooms are part of our family history, yet few pass down through families in a systematic way - that is, well-documented. Instead, we tell our young children a war medal belonged to great-grandfather Jones who fought in World War I. And we expect them to remember. Realistically, few people - even avid genealogists - recall all the information about their families without writing the information down. So why expect members of the family to accurately remember oral history connected with heirlooms?

Instead of leaving histories about heirlooms to chance, carefully document each heirloom and acquaint future generations with these keepsakes so they appreciate them. By doing so, you ensure heirlooms remain in the family where they will be cherished as more than just "old things."

YOUR RIGHT TO FEDERAL RECORDS is a pamphlet that can be ordered for 50 cents from R. Woods, Consumer Information Center, H.P.O. Box 100, Pueblo, Colorado 81002. It includes how to use the Freedom of Information Act and Privacy Act to obtain records from the federal government. Order by number 449T...from Treasure Chest News, Vol X #5.

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THE PACKET is the quarterly publication of the Pittsylvania Historical Society for members and those who are interested in the history of their families and the area in which they lived.

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To order, write MRS. KATHERINE BUCK, P.O. Box 138, Chatham, VA 24531, Phone (804)-432-8992.

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