

The Pittsylvania Packet

Winter 1992



Pittsylvania Historical Society

COMMENTS BY THE PHS PRESIDENT

We had a "packed house" for the PHS November meeting when Claude Owen Jr., the distinguished president and CEO of Dibrell Brothers Inc. (billion dollar corporation) was the speaker.

We had the honor also of having four county officials present for the meeting...they were new Sheriff Harold Plaster, new Commonwealth's Attorney David Grimes, Treasurer Glen Brown and Commissioner of Revenue Hunt Meadows.

I am delighted to report that the "Colonial Christmas in Chatham" celebration was a huge success, financially and in attendance -- setting records in both.

Spearheaded by the PHS, much credit goes to PHS members Garland Turner and Frances Hurt and others who guided the event along with the support of several hundred who participated.

There are already calls for "encore, encore" for next year!

The PHS is looking into taking steps to get a Virginia Historical road marker to honor Pittsylvania native Claude A. Swanson, who was a former congressman, Governor of Virginia, U.S. Senator and Secretary of the Navy under President Franklin D. Roosevelt.

LET'S HEAR FROM YOU

After I became the new editor of "The Packet," I asked for articles or clippings, etc... of historical interest, either serious or humorous to go in the PHS publication.

You know what? I didn't receive a single thing. Nobody responded!

Surely some of you have something you can send me to go in "The Packet." (I need items that are about 50 to 150 words long.)

Come on, be a contributor.

I'll write you and thank you! Preston B. Moses, Editor of PHS "The Packet," Box 1206, Chatham, VA 24531.

FUN MEETING COMING MONDAY, FEBRUARY 17

"County History with Live Humor" is the subject for the PHS February 17 meeting.

The meeting will feature Thomas Hardy, educator, author, humorist and an interesting speaker, and also an all around nice guy -- and he's the fellow who fills the role of "Samuel Callands" at the Callands Festival each year.

Hardy will tell about and show colored slides of some of the historical homes of Pittsylvania County.

He will mix history with funny stories and an assortment of sassy jokes.

It will be a fun meeting. Don't miss it! The date is Monday, February 17 at 7:30 p.m. in the old 1813 Clerk's Office at the back of the Chatham Town office building.

"THE PACKET" -- Published by the
PITTSYLVANIA COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
 Box 1206 -- Chatham, Virginia -- Phone (804) 432-5031

The Sergeant's Tomahawk Mill

Sergeant James Anderson was among those Confederate soldiers with Robert E. Lee on that historic day at Appomattox in April of 1865. Like the other thousands with him, he sadly stacked his rifle, wiped away his tears and trudged homeward.

His home was on Tomahawk Creek in Pittsylvania County and his unit was Company I of the 57th Virginia Regiment - better known as the "Pigg River Greys." They were survivors of Melvern Hill, Second Manassas, Sharpsburg and Gettysburg.

Their most memorable experience came when they found themselves near the point in Pickett's famous charge on Little Round Top at Gettysburg.

Anderson then resumed his life as a tobacco farmer at the family home on Tomahawk Creek. The dark days of the Reconstruction, the Panic of 1873 and the arduous life on the farm soon convinced the ex-infantryman that there was a better way to earn a living.

General Lee's surrender was 22 years past when James Anderson filed a petition with the Pittsylvania County Court to erect a grist mill on land he inherited from his father, Watt Otey Anderson, on Tomahawk Creek.

His request was granted in the Spring of 1887, and the energetic veteran threw up a wooden dam; erected a grist and sawmill and founded the community of Tomahawk.

His brother Charles, built a store on family land near the mill. Charles' wife, Nannie Pigg Anderson, became the Postmistress of the newly founded Tomahawk Postoffice when it began operations in the back of Anderson's Store in 1893.

Tomahawk became a thriving community with Anderson's Mill as its center. Moreover, it was ex-Sergeant Anderson who found time along the way to help found Greenpond Baptist Church nearby.

For the next hundred years, the sturdy old mill survived floods, wars and economic depressions while grinding wheat and corn for its neighbors along the Tomahawk.

James Anderson passed from the scene in 1908 and was succeeded by his son Otey, who kept the mill humming for another 67 years.

After graduation as an engineer from Virginia Tech, Otey had to forego a career in industry to take over the reins at Anderson's Mill.

He eventually modernized the mill machinery and erected the rock and concrete dam that stands today some 50 yards above the mill. Otey managed to secure a contract with the Lane Company in Altavista to provide thousands of pounds of flour annually which was used to manufacture glue for use in furniture making.

He was a "millwright's miller" who tried very hard to keep alive the institution of water-powered milling and even set the mill's production record by grinding 26,000 bushels of grain in one year. It was the Otey



JAMES ANDERSON
BUILDER OF TOMAHAWK MILL
SGT. IN "PIGG RIVER GREYS"
(Company I 57th Infantry Regiment)

Anderson who gave jobs to scores of youngsters and bread for the tables of many unfortunate families during the Great Depression.

Try as he might, he was unable to cope with changes in the eating habits of Americans who preferred their bread purchased in packages.

Electricity succeeded water-power, and like thousands of such mills across the U.S., Anderson's Mill experienced a decline well before Otey dressed his last millstone. He was 95 at his death in 1975.

Some millers who worked there were O.C. Betterton, Renford Thornton, L.J. Arrington, Larry Witcher and Ronnie Shelton. After the latter almost lost his life in a mill injury in 1985, an account of the incident appeared in *READER'S DIGEST* under the by-line of ace editor and reporter, Henry Hurt. The mill became, briefly, the most famous in America.

It was renamed Tomahawk Mill by its present owner, Walter Crider, an Anderson descendent, who converted the mill into a promising winery in 1988.

It is open on Saturdays (March-November). Tomahawk Mill Wines have enjoyed good customer response and a trip there on County Route 649 is time well spent.

A portion of the mill has been converted into a tasting room, and one can sample Tomahawk Mill wine amid memorabilia of a survivor of Pickett's Charge at Gettysburg.

Sgt. Anderson made history there and also here, when he erected his mill on Tomahawk Creek over a century ago.

(NOTE: The above is copied from Herman Melton's PITTSYLVANIA'S NINETEENTH CENTURY GRIST MILLS. This book can be purchased for \$25 by writing to Herman Melton, Route 5, Box 5B, Chatham, VA 24531.)

GRANDPARENTS SOURCE FOR GENEALOGY INFO

How sad the statement: "Grandmother could have helped me with my genealogy if I had only been interested and asked her."

If your grandparents have nothing written for you to build on, go ask them. Take a cassette player along and tape it and later write it down and check it out.

The oldest people are the best source for beginning a family tree. Get it while they are living and while they can remember.

Genealogy is the only business where one goes backward. To take a surname and start several generations back and try to come forward is like following the trail of an ant colony -- with many branches to follow.

Too many people are reluctant to give information about their family for fear of disclosing a bad mistake one has made.

Wrongs in past generations did not prevent your being a member of the family. They are responsible for their mistakes, and you for yours.

I want to cry when I find an illegitimate child left out of a family will -- or a birth or death record.

That child did not ask to be born but is part of a family. Sometimes they turn out to be the most successful.

(An excerpt from book entitled "Genealogy" written by Mrs. Lonnie Crosby, Route 4, Box 289, Gretna, Va. 24557. The book was compiled from her newspaper columns on that subject. The book sells for \$10.)

Concerning Confederate Currency

When the Southern states seceded from the Union in 1861, one of the big problems facing the new Confederate government was the issuance and printing paper currency.

Probably you didn't know it, but the first Confederate paper money (notes) was printed in New York.

However, after the war actually started, the printing was done in the South.

A total of a billion and a half dollars, (actually \$1,549,324,458) worth of paper money was issued by the Confederate government during the four years. An additional untold amount of paper notes was issued by the individual states and counties.

Those who had the Confederate paper at the end of the War Between the States in 1865 found to their sorrow that it had become worthless.

Today those who may have these Confederate notes are finding them to be collector's items. Some rare issues may be worth many times their original values.

DINNER AT PRESIDENT'S HOUSE

Isaac Coles, secretary to President Thomas Jefferson, writing in his diary, tells about a typical dinner served by President Jefferson at the White House.

According to Coles' diary: "On a brisk spring day in 1804, four principal members of President Jefferson's cabinet, who were guests, sat down to dinner consisting of soup bouille, a quarter of bear, partridges with sausage and French cabbage, turkey with rice stuffing, potatoes, spinach, beans, salad, pickles and a ham in the center of the table.

"Second course: a kind of custard with a floating cream on it. At the end of the table were apples in cloves on a thin toast, a French dish on each side and three in the middle.

"Third course: Apples, oranges, olives and 12 other plates of nuts. The wines served were imported."

No wonder President Jefferson left the President's house \$10,000 poorer than when he entered it...Jefferson refused to stint. (An excerpt from Elizabeth Langhorne's interesting book "Monticello.")

Mrs. Earl Allen of Chatham was the lucky winner of the "Lone Star" quilt given away in the Pitsylvania Historical Society (PHS) raffle on December 7.



This is a confederate one dollar note issued by the Bank of Pitsylvania, Sept. 1, 1861. L.B. Conway is cashier and W.W. Keen is President. Below is a Virginia \$5 Treasury note.



Student days at Chatham Hall**Recollections of a famous artist**

By Frances Hurt

The great artist, Georgia O'Keeffe, whose fame seems to magnify with every passing year like one of her gargantuan blossoms, used to prowling the woods and hills of Pittsylvania County. In 1903-05 she attended Chatham Hall.

It was called Chatham Episcopal Institute in those days, founded on a hill in the old Gilmer home in 1896. In her stunning book of her paintings, with text by herself, O'Keeffe speaks of its kerosene lamps and mostly unpainted floors, and of the art studio which, she writes, was her "home about the place."

"Every day during those two years," she writes, "the students took an afternoon walk in a line headed by a teacher out across the hills and woods, I loved the country and always on the horizon far away was the line of the Blue Ridge Mountains -- calling -- as the distance has always been calling me."

Even then, although she was only 16, she was such a Presence that the other girls regarded her with something close to awe. She was already a painter, studying and working at it with the single-mindedness that made her a formidable challenge to men painters in a day when women were not supposed to compete. They were supposed, to stay, by George, at home.

Of special interest to Pittsylvania County is that fact that mothers of two residents were O'Keeffe's devoted friends -- Sue Wilson (Mrs. Carter) Coleman and Curtis Cocke (Mrs. Camden) Whitehead. Mrs. Coleman's late mother of Charlottesville, Susan Young Wilson, was given a painting by O'Keeffe which the family still owns. It is extremely rare -- a water color of a bowl of pansies -- because O'Keeffe tore up all her work at school because, she said, she didn't want her early work around to haunt her after she became famous. The family treasured it from the beginning not because of anticipated fame, but it was a charming painting done by a dear friend.

Mrs. Wilson told wonderful stories about their life at the school. They were especially grateful to Aunt Jencie, her head all covered in wigs, who came in very early every winter morning to make a fire in the bedroom stove. She was such a friend that she also never failed to alert the girls when Mrs. Willis, the headmistress, was getting up from her nap. Then they had to get back to whatever they were supposed to be doing in the first place.

Mrs. Whitehead's late mother of Williamsburg, Christine McRae (Mrs. Preston) Cocke, made a place for herself in art history by describing the artist in the Angeleus, journal of Kappa Delta sorority which both girls help organize at CEI. O'Keeffe had just been delivered by hack, up from the train depot. She met the girls with the complete composure she always had, and NOT WEARING A CORSET. In this room of girls with pinched in waists, frothy blouses and high-rise pompadours, she was, Mrs. Cocke writes,



Early art work of Georgia O'Keeffe

"right straight down all the way." Her hair was pulled straight back, with pigtail.

The younger girls, admiring her from afar, described her as loner, but her friends found her fine and lively company. She taught them to play poker and lured them off on woods walks. She played the piano and drew illustrations for the Mortar Board, the school yearbook, so lively they almost jump off the page. These are now on microfilm at the Museum of Modern Art.

Chatham Hall is in the process of establishing a Chair in Fine Arts in her memory, building on a gift of \$100,000 from Paramount Studios for its use of the school to film "Crazy People".

Georgia O'Keeffe would never ask, but her admirers would appreciate contributions.

OUTSTANDING CHATHAM CITIZEN REMEMBERED

I had the privilege of having known Dr. Ernest D. Overbey, Chatham dentist. In addition, he was a member of the Chatham Town Council, mayor, member of County Board of Supervisors, founder and organizer of the Cedars Country Club, organizer and manager of the Chatham semi-pro baseball team.

I could go on and on in telling that this remarkable citizen was responsible for obtaining the Cherrystone Reservoir to upgrade the town's water supply under the soil erosion program.

He headed the County War Bond Campaign through the war period, was a Sunday School teacher and leader in many civic activities.

I have fond memories of the one-of-a-kind loveable person who had a wonderful sense of humor that made him a delightful after dinner speaker at all kinds of functions.

Of the many jokes he told about himself and his family, here is a sample that remains in my recollection:

"Mother was whipping my brother Jesse when he was a little fellow for saying "damn it." She was really laying it on him. When she had finished, she asked, 'Now young man are you ever going to say that again?' Still feeling the effects of the thrashing, Jesse exclaimed, 'Hell no.' She then proceeded to give him more of the same. He later declared, 'Damn if I'm ever going to say hell again in front of Mama.'"

PHS SALUTES NEWEST ADDITIONS ON MAIN STREET

The Pittsylvania Historical Society salutes Chatham Square Restaurant & Antique Court and the Virginia Bank & Trust as the newest additions to Main Street.

The beautifully decorated restaurant is family oriented featuring an old-fashioned soda fountain. The antique court on the lower level of the Chatham Square has an astonishing collection of certified antiques, gifts, arts and crafts.

Virginia Bank & Trust is on North Main and proclaims it is "Your Hometown Bank."

The PHS membership is holding up really great with a total of 453 members in 36 states.

GENEALOGICAL RESOURCES AT THE PITTSYLVANIA COUNTY LIBRARY

By Henry H. Mitchell

The November 1991 Packet contained an article listing genealogical resources available in the office of Pittsylvania County's Clerk of Court. This article continues that theme, briefly describing related resources found at the Pittsylvania County Public Library on Military Drive in Chatham.

In the stacks, the genealogical section contains many local and regional histories, as well as numerous published genealogies of families of local and Virginia interest. Also found in this section are alphabetized versions of the Marriage Register of Pittsylvania County for the early years 1767 - 1861 (at V.929.3C and V929.P).

In the microfilm cabinets at the Reference Section are found the following National Archives microfilms of the U. S. Census:

- 1790 - includes all of Virginia, Rhode Island, South Carolina and Vermont;
- 1820 - includes Greensville, Ohio, Pendleton, Pittsylvania and Tyler Counties;
- 1830 - all of Virginia;
- 1840 - Orange, Patrick and Pittsylvania Counties;
- 1850 - all of Virginia, including slave records;
- 1860 - Pendleton and Pittsylvania Counties, including slave records for 12 counties including Pittsylvania;
- 1870 Pittsylvania County;
- 1880 - Pittsylvania, Prince Edward, Prince William and Prince George Counties.

Photocopies and copies from microfilm are 10 cents per sheet.

Library hours are Monday - Thursday 9 a.m. to 8 p.m.; Friday 9 to 5; and Saturday 10 to 12.

METHODIST CHURCH BELIEVED CHATHAM'S OLDEST

The Watson Memorial United Methodist Church is believed to be the oldest church in the county seat at Chatham.

This belief is based on the Journal of Bishop Francis Aslibury who recorded August 13, 1780 he rode to the Pittsylvania County Courthouse (Chatham) and went to the Methodist preaching house, a log building, and spoke on the parable of "The Sower."

The exact location of the "preaching house" is not definitely known, but it is believed to have been the beginning of the Methodist Church which is in Chatham now.

The present site of the Methodist Church in Chatham was deeded in 1844 by Chesley Martin to the church trustees - who were Samuel Tunstall, William Faulkner, Thomas J. Watson, David P. Lewis and Ichabod T. Watson.

Since then, on this site (North Main Street) the local Methodists have had three church buildings.

The first was built in 1844, another in 1874, and the present in 1896 with various renovations and additions along the way.

Tobacco Plays Role In Our State History



*Rolling tobacco to seaport
to be exported to England.*

Many of you readers of "The Packet" may not smoke...and some of you probably believe tobacco is a health hazard...But before you condemn it as an evil that should never have been grown --- you

should consider the fact that if it hadn't been for tobacco, the history of this country (especially Virginia) probably would have been vastly different.

And you, yes you and me too, might not be in existence today had it not been for tobacco..

Read on...

It was tobacco that was mostly responsible for saving the Virginia Colony in Jamestown from abandonment.

Starvation, exhaustion, disease and general discouragement had caused the original colonists and the newcomers to give up and decide to abandon the colony in 1610.

However, just as they were getting ready to sail away from Virginia, they were met by John Rolfe and his members of an incoming fleet. Rolfe urged the colonists to stay and try again.

Rolfe was able to persuade the colonist to stay to start growing what he called an "experiment" with "magical" Spanish tobacco seed - a new and better crop.

The colonists agreed to stay, and by 1612 the experiment became so successful that the Virginia colonists were exporting tobacco to England.

The excellence of the Virginia leaf grown in the rich fertile Virginia soil gave the tobacco a competitive advantage over the tobacco grown in the Spanish colonies.

Thus, growing and exporting tobacco became the major industry for the Virginia colony saving it from abandonment.

Throughout the colonial period, tobacco occupied a major role in the economic history of Virginia, affecting the political, social and religious life of that time - tobacco therefore helped to shape the future years of the history of our country.

In the early history of the colonial period, tobacco was used as money to purchase goods and services. Actually, as a monetary base, it was most often used in place of currency.

A publication printed in 1620 had this item:

"The shipping charge for young women of good families to come to Virginia as prospective brides for planters is 120 pounds of the better grade of Virginia tobacco."

(Perhaps -- well, maybe, some of our forebearers were brought over here by certain planters putting up 120 pounds of tobacco!)

Salaries of preachers were set at the rate of a total of 16,000 pounds of "good tobacco" per year.

A regulation adopted in 1624 stated - "No person may dispose of his tobacco before the minister is satisfied - and the payment is to take precedence over all other debts."

MARRIAGES OF PITTSYLVANIA COUNTY, VIRGINIA
(Taken from original Bond, Consent or Minister's Return)

- AARON, Abraham, Jr. - 29 Aug 1795 - to Chloe PEARSON. Sur. John PEARSON.
- AARON, Isaac - 7 Feb 1797 - to Polley WALKER, dau. of Elisha WALKER who consents. Sur. Jacob ARNN.
- ABSTON, Francis - 15 Feb 1790 - to Sally FARMER, dau. of Thomas FARMER who consents. Sur. John W. CLEMENTS. Married by Rev. James KINNEY.
- ABSTON, John - 29 Jul 1789 - to Frances THURMAN, dau. of Zithard THURMAN. Consent of father dated 29 Jul 1789. Sur. William CLEMENTS. Minister's Return of Rev. James KINNEY lists "marriages from 7 Feb to 24 Jun 1789 - John ABSTON and Francis THURMAN."
- ADAMS, Elijah - 13 Apr 1785 - to Elizabeth MANEAS. Married by Rev. Samuel HARRIS. MR
- ADAMS, George - 21 Nov 1780 - to Esebell WILSON. Sur. Sylvester ADAMS.
- ADAMS, Harris - 1795 - to Frances CHATTIN. Married by Rev. Matthew BATES. MR
- ADAMS, Joel - 1800 - to Dionisha WALDEN. Married by Rev. John TENKINS. MR
- ADAMS, Joel - 22 Dec 1804 - to Jeney/Jaincy PAYNE. Sur. Dudley FARTHING. Married 26 Dec 1804 by Rev. Thomas PAYNE.
- ADAMS, John - 9 Feb 1796 - to Nancy BURTON, dau. of Elisha BURTON who consents. Sur. Thomas PROSIZE.
- ADAMS, John - 21 Dec 1803 - to Martha WALDEN, dau. of Charles WALDEN who is surety.
- ADAMS, Joshua - 14 Jan 1803 - to Tabitha BROOKS, who signs her own consent. Sur. Gabriel BROOKS.
- ADAMS, Larkin - 8 Mar 1797 - to Nancy CHAMBERS. Sur. Martin HARDIN. Married 9 Mar 1797 to Rev. Richard ELLIOTT.
- ADAMS, Lewis - 15 Nov 1804 - to Molly/Mary MEADE, dau. of James MEADE. Sur. William WILLIAMS. Married by Rev. David NOWLIN.
- ADAMS, Nathan, Jr. - 19 Jul 1790 - to Agnes CAMPBELL, dau. of Abram CAMEL who consents. Sur. George WATSON. Married 1/4 Aug 1790 by Rev. Richard ELLIOTT.
- ADAMS, Simon - 8 Mar 1787 - to Henrietta DIX. Married by Rev. Samuel Harris. MR
- ADAMS, Spencer - 10 Feb 1796 - to Sarah CORBIN, dau. of Rawley CORBIN who consents. Sur. Charles WOMACK.
(Contributed by Lucille and Neil Payne)

MAKING BREAD IN EARLY AMERICA

By Patricia B. Mitchell

Imagine how hard our ancestors worked to produce a loaf of bread! Often the procedure began with sowing the wheat, rye, corn or other grain. (Some individuals bought or bartered to get the grain.) After growth, cultivation and harvest, the cereal plant had to be cleaned (the outer covering or chaff removed). Then the grain had to be ground into flour. This might be done by hand using a mortar and pestle or hand mill, or the grain was taken to a grist mill for grinding.

When the flour was finally ready for baking, the next obstacle to overcome (for breads which needed to rise) was the production of some sort of yeast or starter. If one lived near a brewery one could buy yeast. Other possibilities for making bread starter included planting hops and eventually harvesting the plant "before the September winds blow over them." (These plants could be dried for future use.)

The hops were cooked with a mixture of water and potatoes, strained, and then perhaps sugar, salt and some older starter (if available) was added. Flour was stirred in. At this point "rubs" or yeast cakes could be made by adding enough cornmeal to make a stiff dough. This dough was pinched off, the pieces allowed to dry, and later softened in milk or water to use. Alternatively, the starter could be used within a day or so when it bubbled and became active, or it could be stored in a cool place and kept for several weeks.

Now the housewife had the flour and "riser." Next she needed water from the well, heated over the fire, or milk from the cow. Salt and sugar were often scarce and expensive, but possibly could be purchased. Molasses, honey or maple syrup could be used. (If these substances were home-produced, much more labor was entailed.)

Finally, the breadmaker had her ingredients assembled. Next she mixed and kneaded - all done manually, of course. The dough rose...She built a hot fire in the bake oven -- whether adjacent to the hearth or a separate brick or stone structure outdoors - using dry "oven wood." After the blazing fire died down, the ashes were swept out, the flue closed, and the bread inserted in the brick-lined oven, using a long-handled shovel known as a "peel." The door was closed. Experience and a knowledgeable sense of smell told the baker when to open the door and remove the baked bread. -- No easy task, but delicious results!

THE MEANING OF THE PACKET

A number of members have asked how the PHS publication got the name "The Packet?"

According to Webster, the name "packet" means (1) a small pack or package of anything, and, or (2) a boat that carries goods, mail, etc., regularly on a fixed route, and or (3) to bind up in a package or parcel."

Now you understand why the name of "The Packet" was given to the PHS quarterly publication: - It is a small package on a regularly fixed route!

February 1992 Queries

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

NEED INFORMATION on the **MOXLEY** family. Lottie Bell **MOXLEY** b. 10 Jun 1875 in Danville, daughter of James Thomas **MOXLEY** b 1850 and Martha Jennings **SMITH** b 1855 d 1939. Write Tammy **KIRK**, 223 Evalyn St., Madison AL 35758.

WANTS TO KNOW if Dr. Henry Walker **DEJARNATT**, who resided in Pittsylvania County from 1815 until about 1840 appears in any local histories or family genealogies of that area? I will pay cost of copying. Charyl C. **BREWER**, 285 Shasta Drive, Loncnberry, NH 03531.

ADAMS, LUCK. Need Polley **ADAMS** family. She married John **LUCK** in Pittsylvania County 1784. John's 1842 will named son James Adams **LUCK** of Pittsylvania County. James married Susan Harreson **COLEMAN** 1832, daughter of Col. Daniel **COLEMAN**. I have no record of Polley other than marriage bond. Write to Felix Earle **LUCK**, 8 St. John Avenue, Box 506, Mt. Tabor, NJ 07878.

SEEK INFO on John **THOMPSON**, married to Mary **EDWARDS** September 1814 in Pittsylvania County. Did they go to Kentucky or Tennessee and finally settle in MS? Write: Mary **NELSON**, 863 Beech Avenue, Chula Vista, CA 91911.

WANT NAMES of parents, brothers, sisters of Adeliltha **HALL**, b. 1801 in Caswell County. Married Miles G. **WILMOUTH** Sept. 11, 1820. Want info on James Quinn, M. Dicy **MARTIN** in Pittsylvania County January 4, 1802. Write Lula B. **TONER**, 28448 East 121 Street, Cowety, OK 74429.

DOSS, CREWS, need birth and death dates for William **DOSS** b. 1785 d. 1820, married Martha Patsy **CREWS** 29 Apr 1812 in Pittsylvania County. She married second time to Nicholas **DILLARD**. Write: Mrs. James R. **MCKINLEY**, 2740 La Cuesta Drive, Los Angeles, CA 90046.

SEEK INFORMATION about Peter **DOWNEY** and wife Margaret (Asten) **DOWNEY**, lived on Buffalo Creek 1766-1778 about 400 acres located on county line between Halifax and Pittsylvania County. Some neighbors were Collins, Doss, Dillard, Davis, Echols, Murphey, Vaughan families. I have deeds, probates, tax list...but need other material that researchers may uncover about **DOWNEY** surname. Write S.L. **SNITILY**, 1051 4th East Wenatchee, WA 98802-5410.

WISH TO CORRESPOND with those interested in the **HUNT**, **STAPLES** and **HAIRSTON** family names. Especially interested in Confederate histories. Want information on any **WARD** connections with **HUNTS**. Write Robert **HUNT** Jr., 105 Coral Reed Drive, Goose Creek, SC 29445.

I AM DESCENDANT of George **HOMES** (or **HOLMES**) **GIVEN** of Pittsylvania County. He apparently lived in Buckingham County before moving to Pittsylvania County Thomas Given married Molbe **BAKER** about 1801. Their son George Homes **GIVEN** was my great-grandfather. I want to know where the name **HOMES** (or **HOLMES**) came from because we are still using it as a middle name. Write Ross Neal **GIVEN**, 2720 Cherokee Road, St. Cloud, FL 34772.

(QUERIES -- CONTINUED)

I am searching for ancestors of my DAR Patriot William CORNELIUS, b 184 in NC or SC, d 27 July 184 in Blount Co. Ala. William and Moses CORNELIUS are listed on tithable list for Pittsylvania Co. in 1767. One died before 1770 when Ann DODSON CORNELIUS, (in second marriage) married George PHILLIPS, DODSON and DILLARD lived in Pittsylvania County during American Revolution. I will pay for info. Write Gertrude WILLIAMS, Route 2, Box 30, Hale Center, TX, 79041.

I am researching my father's family of BOWMAN of Washington Co., KY. Our John BOWMAN had five children: Jacob, George, John, Mary (m. Jacob SATTERLY) and Sally (m. William Case). I wish to learn if anyone in your area has done research on Bowman family name. I will be able to match my research with others. I would like to have a BOWMAN file with family charts. I would like to have photo copy of any listing of BOWMAN. Write: Thelma WOODS, 403 Beech Grove Drive, Forrest City, AR 72335.

I am descended from John SLATE, born in VA 1761-63, m. Anne TURNER. I want to determine if John SLATE is from Pittsylvania Co. and the son of Samuel SLATE. Samuel's will dated 1805 lists his wife, Mary, and children - John, Samuel, William, Abraham, Isum, Sally, Anne, Lucy and Oney. T.S. PRICE, 2229 E. Balto St., Baltimore, MD 21231.

Seeking parents of David Gideon FARMER, b. 3 Apr 1833, Pittsylvania County, resided in Macon, MISS 1860-1894, d. 4 March 1901 in New Orleans. Married Louisiana Augustus 28 July 1865. Children included Mrs. M.A. SMITH of Chaney's Pittsylvania County, Mrs. N.B. CLARK of Peytonsburg. May be part of family in Pittsylvania County in 1850 census with John L. FARMER. Is this his father? Is he related to Assalom and Isham FARMER? Write Mrs. Francis J. BARRY Jr., 4301 Dumaine St., New Orleans, LA 70119.

Note: Janice BARRY B.A., J.D. willing to swap hours of research in New Orleans for research on FARMER and allied families in Pittsylvania, Halifax and Lunenburg Co. (18 years in genealogical research)

Seek information on George W. DOBBS/DABBS who m. Elizabeth W. Coleman 16 Oct. 1826 in Pittsylvania County or their descendants. Would like to correspond with any DOBB/DABBS researchers. Write: Virginia HAYES, Box 624, Minco, OK 73059.

William SMITH Sr. m. Hannah YEATTS (YATES) daughter of John YEATTS (YATES) 1755-60. Lived on Dan River west of Danville. Need information as to parents of William. Write: John SHELTON, 1024 Judson, Ft. Scott, KS 66701.

Want to correspond with descendants of Joseph and Sandal Vaden MART, m. Pittsylvania County 1802, and from Joseph's previous marriage, wife unknown. Also information on William and Mary "Polley" VADEN, m. Pittsylvania County, October 1800. They were maternal grandparents of my g.g. Sanford MART, Logan County, KY. Will share information and answer letters. Write: Lloyd M. MART, 311 East 8th Avenue, Hutchinson, KS 67501.

MEMBERS WRITE LETTERS

I'll introduce myself as a great, great, great-grandson of George Homes Given of Pittsylvania County. I'm interested in joining the PHS to learn more about the Given bunch who came from that county. Ross Neal Given, 2720 Cherokee Road, St. Cloud, FL 34772, Phone (407) 957-2839.

Dear President, Thank you for your reply and copy of "The Packet." I want to become a member of the PHS, so a check is enclosed for me and my husband. Norma Myers, Box 145A, Medora, ND 58645.

I enjoyed receiving the recent Fall issue of the PHS "Packet." Although I live far from Virginia, several lines of my family are from Pittsylvania County. The PHS has been a great aid in my research. Enclosed is my renewal for my membership. Tammy Kirk, 223 Evalyn Street, Madison, AL 35758.

My wife and I visited the Chatham Public Library and commend it for the fine resource material collected there.

I have documents about the DOSS family, and it should be of interest to those researching the DOSS family.

I am enclosing check to give me membership in the Pittsylvania Historical Society. James Doss, Box 388, Weatherford, TX 76086 (Note: Copy of document about DOSS family may be obtained by writing to "The Packet" and by sending a self-addressed stamped envelope.)

A cousin told us about the PHS publication "The Packet," and we would like to get the Fall issue. I also want to join your society. Wilma Hutchings, Route 6, Box 86, Neasho, MO 64850.

I received the PHS new newsletter "The Packet." It helped me to make up my mind to remain a member.

Recently, I asked for assistance in several areas of research and the assistance was freely given. Robert Hunt Jr., Goose Creek, SC 29445.

I recently read in our Clarksville newspaper "The Sun" an article entitled "Climbing the Family Tree" by Joanne Lovelace Nancy in which she described the PHS and its new quarterly "The Packet."

Therefore, I am very interested in becoming a member of your society and receiving the quarterly.

Enclosed is my membership fee. Dorothy B. Inghan, Box 17781, Clarksville, VA 23927.

200 YEARS OF THE BILL OF RIGHTS

It was 200 years ago on December 15, 1791 that Virginia became the 11th state to ratify the Bill of Rights making the 10 Amendments part of the U.S. Constitution.

The amendments were written specifically to protect individual liberties and to guarantee freedom of religion, freedom of speech and freedom of the press. They were also written to protect those accused of crimes and expressly to forbid cruel and unusual punishment.

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Your Name

You got it from your father,
'Twas the best he had to give,
And right gladly he bestowed it -
It is yours the while you live.

You may lose the watch he gave you
And another you may claim,
But remember, when you're tempted,
To be careful of his name.

It was fair the day you got it,
And a worthy name to wear,
When he took it from his father
There was no dishonor there.

Through the years he proudly wore it,
To his father he was true,
And the name was clean and spotless
When he passed it on to you.

Oh, there's much that he has given
That he values not at all,
He has watched you break your play-
things
In the days when you were small.

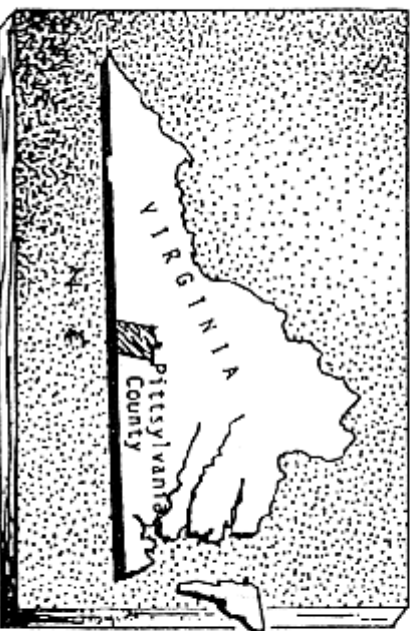
And you've lost the knife he gave
you,
And you've scattered many a game,
But you're careful of his name.

It is yours to wear forever,
Yours to wear the while you live,
Yours, perhaps, some distant morn-
ing
To another boy to give

And you'll smile as did your father
Smile above that baby there,
If a clean name and a good name
You are giving him to wear.

--Edgar A. Guest

THE PACKET - Box 1206 - Chatham, VA 24531



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.

PITTSYLVANIA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

MEMBERSHIP FORM

(Please send to Mrs. Jeannette A. Brown, Membership Secretary, Route 1, Box 8K6, Chatham, VA 24531, Phone: (804)-432-2607)

Dues: \$10 single, \$15 couple per year. Dues include receiving the Packet, the society's periodical publication.

Name: _____

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