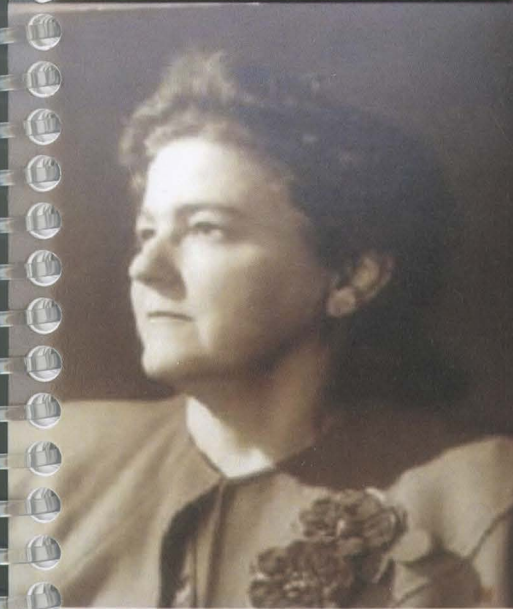


# Legends of Our People



# Legends of Our People

Volume 3

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I dedicate this book to all of my students at  
Surry Community College  
Who have worked very hard to research and write  
these narratives in order to share them with their  
classmates, their families, and with the future. I  
appreciate their efforts.

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## Preface

Family history is a journey. Whether one's ancestors are indigenous or immigrant, their stories are journeys in time, moving from past to present. Tracing those lines of ancestry can tell us much about ourselves, but it also tells us much about the everyday-lives of our ancestors: their challenges, their triumphs, their tragedies. Their lives are the backbone of our nation, they are not insignificant, and they should not be forgotten: from the farmer raising a living from the land, to the immigrant seeking a better life, to the soldier willing to stand for a cause, the unsung heroes of history are an important part of our heritage and should not be forgotten. That is what this project is all about.

*Legends of Our People* is the result of the research and hard work of my American Literature students in the fall of 2017. They were tasked with investigating previous generations of the families they claimed, whether biological, adoptive, or chosen. They then researched the time periods and

cultures within which those people lived, and they recorded their discoveries in the form of narratives.

The stories in this resulting collection range through five centuries and four continents. They tell tales of childhood hardships and dangerous careers, of hopeful dreams and tragic reality. Regardless of the time or place in which these stories take place they all contribute to the cultural and ethnic richness which is the melting pot which we call America. All of the students who took part in this project had the opportunity to practice their skills in researching and writing, drawing upon various modes of composition. I hope that they had fun in the process, and I hope that you enjoy the results.

## Table of Contents

Preface.....	3
Burkhart Family .....	8
Flat Rock Fire by Harmony Carter .....	9
Cain Family.....	15
A Bout of Greed by Weston Powell .....	16
Camilleri Family .....	23
Camilleri Military Life by Rachel Hayes .....	24
Ceja-Rangel Family .....	34
The Tragedy of 1910 by Jasmine Rocio Martinez.....	35
Escutia-Nava .....	43
Conception Escutia-Nava by Leslie Belmonte .....	44
Ford Family.....	53
Ford’s Series of Events by Bailey Taylor .....	54
Fowler Family.....	66
A House Divided by Kathleen D. Fowler.....	67
Golding Family .....	93
Double-Murder or Murder-Suicide: The Mysterious Death of Dock Golding by Chase Stanley .....	94
Hickok Family .....	103
“Wild” Bill Hickok by Amyleigh Kunkel .....	104
Horn Family .....	116

Battle Scars by Katherine Horn .....	117
Lanford Family .....	127
Coaching Legend by Logan Draughon .....	128
Lawson Family.....	138
Charlie Lawson by Destiny Martin.....	139
Meehling Family.....	148
The 1876 Meehling Murder	
By Kameron Winesett.....	149
Parks Family .....	162
A Single Mother in the 1900s	
By Lexie Wood.....	163
Pell Family .....	171
The Unknown by Sommer Chilton.....	172
Rodriguez-Vico.....	181
La Resiliencia de Una Mujer Mexicana	
by Monica Varona-Macedo .....	182
Sidden Family .....	192
Regretful Life? By Carly Collins.....	193
Simmons Family .....	200
Simmons Family History by Chloe Simmons	201
Smith Family.....	209
Growing Up in the 1900's by Lillian Smith ...	210
Smythers Family .....	219
The Storm of Stony Point	
by Andrew Craig Smythers.....	220

Thompson Family .....	228
The Forgotten War by Danyelle Thompson ...	229
Xiong Family .....	239
<i>Siab Ntev</i> : Patience by Selena Lor .....	240



# Burkhart Family

# Flat Rock Fire

By Harmony Carter

Pansy Burkhart (abt. 1950-present)



The date February 22, 1957, was the date many lives changed forever.<sup>1</sup> That was the day that Flat Rock school went down in flames.<sup>2</sup> More than 400 children were in the school at the time of the fire, of those children one was my grandmother Pansy. She was only 6 years old when the event occurred. She was in kindergarten at the time. She still remembers the events of that day so vividly and

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<sup>1</sup> “Flat Rock School fire survivors tell their stories.”  
*Mt Airy News*, Mount Airy News, Feb 22, 2017

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid.*

every emotion she had experienced that day. She has shared with me many times exactly what happened that day, as it is a time she will never forget. That day will forever haunt her memories. A day that was supposed to be full of learning and excitement, was instead filled with horror and panic.

Her classroom was located on the basement floor of the school at the time of the fire. They were sitting in class trying to learn, when someone burst in the room saying the building was on fire. She said she felt so scared and shocked at what was happening. Everyone panicked and started running out the door and climbing out the windows to try and escape. Her teacher at the time, left them to find their own way out of the fire while she jumped out of the window to escape. She claimed that if it wasn't for some eight graders helping her and her other classmates climb out of the window, they probably wouldn't have made it out that day

According to the principal of the school at the time, the school went up in flames and smoke so

quickly that he was in shock.<sup>3</sup> It was not even an hour after the fire started, the school was wrecked by the flames.<sup>4</sup> Although many people were saved, many were injured, and one person even died that day and another person died later of critical burns<sup>5</sup>, those two were a 9-year-old handicapped boy who was in a wheelchair and a teacher who stayed behind to try and help him get out.<sup>6</sup> That little boy and teacher are shown below. One of the people who also got burned was my grandma's cousin. When she escaped the burning building her, her sister, and brother, who were also in the school at the time, immediately ran to their home. As they were running home to try and find safety, a man in a vehicle stopped and asked them why they were walking all alone. My grandma told him about the burning school the best way she could cause she was still in shock and couldn't believe that it really happened. Due to the traumatic experience, my

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<sup>3</sup> Beitler, Stu. "Mount Airy, NC School Fire Kills One, Injures Many, Feb 1957." *GenDisasters*.

<sup>4</sup> Ibid.

<sup>5</sup> Ibid.

<sup>6</sup> Ibid.

grandma claims that she has developed a fear of buildings or homes catching on fire. Every time she tells me the story of what happened, I can see the sadness and fear in her eyes as she thinks back to that horrific time in her life.



*Figure 1 The boy and the teacher that saved him*

*Source: <https://i.ytimg.com/vi/CVdVb80QYdU/maxresdefault.jp>*

The cause of the fire was and is unknown, even today.<sup>7</sup> All they know is that according to a student at the time, the fire started out on the stage curtains.<sup>8</sup> Even though the school was rebuilt, the memories are still there. My grandma relives those memories every day. All the lives that were injured

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<sup>7</sup> Ibid.

<sup>8</sup> Ibid.

and the ones that were lost will forever stay in her heart along with the other people affected by this traumatic experience. It's such an important part of history for not only my family, but for all the other family's affected. My grandma's life will forever be affected by the day that turned her life upside down.



*Figure 2 Flat rock school today*

Source: Flat Rock School

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# Cain Family



A Bout of Greed  
By Weston Powell



2. Sanford Cain (1878-1920) brother of Joseph Cain (~1890-1920) sons of Henderson and Martha Cain.

Prohibition in North Carolina was first instated in 1909. This blocked the sale and

distribution of all alcoholic spirits and beverages.<sup>9</sup> However, this did not discourage the efforts of some mountain living entrepreneurs: people like Joseph “Joe” Cain, and Sanford “Gardner” Cain. These boys felt it was their right to partake of spirits should they so desire. Their father, Henderson Cain, was a preacher at a “Primitive Baptist Church,” and he felt strongly about the use of alcohol in terms of faith. He felt so strongly in fact that he taught his sons that, “...the fishing hook, the rabbit chase, or even the still were better employments for Sunday than the school in which the Bible is taught.”<sup>10</sup> One can only speculate as to what he implied with this message, as this isn’t a statement often considered acceptable by a man in his position.

The Cain household was well-known in the area to be a place to obtain alcohol. It was well known also that the Cain’s had a prohibited still on their property.<sup>11</sup> Due to the propensity for solidarity

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<sup>9</sup> Johnson, Todd K. “Prohibition.” *NCpedia*, 1 Jan. 2006, [www.ncpedia.org/prohibition](http://www.ncpedia.org/prohibition).

<sup>10</sup> “Cain Brothers are Electrocutted.” *The Mount Airy News*. 11 March. 1920, p. 1.

<sup>11</sup> “Cain Brothers are Electrocutted.” p. 1.

around Surry County, this still was rarely overtly revealed or turned into the proper authorities. This changed on a fateful Sunday morning July 21, 1918.

Jim Easter, son of Riley Easter, reported having found a still to the sheriff of Surry.<sup>12</sup> The Sheriff, acting on the laws of the land, went forward to destroy the still and charge the owners with the production and sale of alcohol. The owners of the still, the Cain family, were very much angered by this. Why had they been ratted out by this nobody's son? Had he no respect? Having been raised on the idea that alcohol was so intrinsic to their religious beliefs, this felt like an attack on what and who they were as Christians. Now, one could speculate that he was speaking in parable and didn't literally mean that alcohol was important to his beliefs. However, there are no sources confirming this. Nevertheless, they felt that action, absolutely, had to be taken against such a transgression.

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<sup>12</sup> "Murder in Surry." *The Mount Airy News*. 25 July. 1918, p. 2.

Monday, July 22, 1918, the Cains went to the home of Riley Easter and informed him that they believed that his son had stolen their still and that they must have it back by 9 p.m. or else action would be taken against him.<sup>13</sup> Later this day, the Sheriff led a raid of the location where Jim Easter had reported the still and found more than 500 gallons of beer. The sheriff had this stockpile and still destroyed. This only angered Cain's more and decided that swift action must be taken to avenge the loss of their still.

That evening a group of five men, which included Joe and Gardner Cain, drove up to the Easter property in Mt. Airy. They had with them a single-shot shotgun, a five-shooter Smith & Wesson, and a six-shooter Colt. They walked calmly up to the door of Riley Easter's home and knocked calmly. Riley Easter answered the door and saw that it was these five men and invited them inside. By the time the words of invitation had left his lips, the Cains opened fire with their weapons

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<sup>13</sup> "Murder in Surry." p. 2.

and struck down Riley Easter.<sup>14</sup> This killed him, and his young child who was with him at the door instantly. The men, feeling justified in their actions, abandoned the scene and returned to their homes.

The following day the Surry County Sheriff's Department arrested the five men involved in the crime and charged them with the operation of the production of intoxicating liquors, the distribution of aforementioned liquors, and the first-degree murder of Riley Easter and his young daughter. The jury of the Superior Court of Surry County found the boys to be guilty of all charges. The Cains petitioned to have themselves pardoned by Governor Beckitt<sup>15</sup> as they felt that it was the public that had wronged them. However, the governor could find no cause to pardon as all sources of evidence were clear and no leeway could be identified.

The Court sentenced the Cain boys to death by electrocution. The Cain's maintained in their

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<sup>14</sup> "Murder in Surry." p. 2.

<sup>15</sup> "Cain Brothers are Electrocuted." p. 1.

final statements that it was not they who were wrong but instead society that had failed them. They felt that the murder, being justified, was a lesser crime than even the charges of alcohol sale and production. Joseph “Joe” Cain and Sanford “Gardner” Cain both died in March 5, 1920.<sup>16</sup>

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<sup>16</sup> “Two Cains To Die In Chair March Fifth.” *The Mount Airy News*. 26 February. 1920, p. 2.

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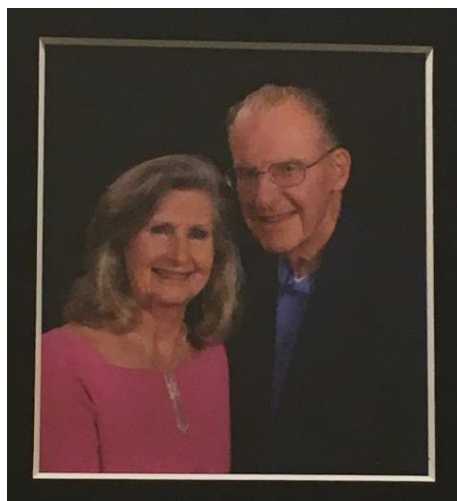
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# Camilleri Family



## Camilleri Military Life By Rachel Hayes



Camilleri, Betty and Terrence. "Family Picture." 2014. jpg.

Betty Camilleri (January 25, 1937 - living) and Terrence Camilleri (April 10, 1936 – May 3, 2017) married in 1963 at Norfolk, Virginia.<sup>17</sup> Terrence was Captain of the Navy, which made the couple

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<sup>17</sup> "Public Member Tree," database, Ancestry.com, "Hayes Family Tree," entry for Terrence Camilleri (b. April 10, 1936).

travel the world and have five children, 11 grandchildren, and many happy memories together.

Growing up during the 1940's, Betty Camilleri was just 12 years old when Japan bombed Pearl Harbor in Hawaii, starting up World War II. She remembers closing the curtains and turning off the lights when the precautionary alarm would sound throughout the country. The alarm only happened about once a week or so, but it was enough to scare people into hiding. Being one of three children, the whole house was on lockdown. Never did she think she would be marrying a man from the military.

Terrence Camilleri was in the Navy from 1959 until 1986, starting out in Infant rank and ending as a Captain. Promotion to a new rank came every 2-3 years where you were automatically moved up to the next rank and, to Terrence, being Captain was the pinnacle of his career in the military. While he was never in combat, there were parts where he would be gone for long amounts of time, the longest being 6 months. He left when he

had to leave and came back when he could, so there was no set schedule for him.

They started dating in 1962 and fell in love almost instantly. Many ups and downs, meetings with the in-laws, and their spending first date chasing their friends cat around the front lawn in the pouring rain made them closer as a couple. Just before he left for a long 6-month journey, he proposed to her in 1963. Without a second thought, she agreed to his proposal. With that surprising turn of events, he had a Navy ship awaiting his help for their departure the next morning. He boarded the ship to aid the men packing when he was followed by his fiancé. She had gotten onto the ship behind him and was showing off her new engagement ring to all of the men on the ship. Because she wasn't supposed to be on the boat, he soon had to escort her off of the surface ship. As the days went on since he left, letters were being sent back and forth about the wedding that had to be planned. That's one of the unique things about being in the middle of the ocean; you can't just pick up a phone and call

home, you had to either write letters called “Family Grams” or use a radio that communicated mostly via Morris code.<sup>18</sup> He would receive mail from her asking about what sort of plates and napkins he wanted at the wedding and all of the girly details. Because they were so far out at sea, it would sometimes take 3-4 weeks to hear a reply back from a letter that you’ve sent. Mail would get stopped up and you might not receive anything for 4 weeks and then get 5 letters the next day all at once.

Messages were delayed getting to and from the sender and the receiver, so by the time he sent back a reply of not caring what color they wanted everything, she had already made a decision. Meanwhile, back on the surface ship, he was discovering some new family members. The ship that he was on cruised from Virginia to Naples, Italy. The ship’s name was called ‘The Destroyer’ with big guns mounted onto the deck of it.<sup>19</sup> On the

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<sup>18</sup> Camilleri, Betty. Personal communication. 24 Sept. 2017.

<sup>19</sup> Camilleri, Terrence. Personal communication. 7 Dec. 2014.

boat, there were about 130 people doing different jobs and he was one of the 12 officers that were designated for that voyage. Instead of going to the pier, they had to anchor out in the middle of nowhere and travel to the shore on little ships, due to the classified trip.

The surface ship that he was on was just floating around when a rowboat began to approach them. From where he was standing, he could see a woman and a younger girl. They came up to the side of the boat and asked for a man named “Camilleri”. He said that there was a man on the ship of that name and helped them onboard. It was easy to misidentify someone with the last name “Camilleri”; “Camilleri” populated Malta and now the last name is as common as “Smith” is here. Turns out, that woman was his aunt and the younger girl was his cousin. They knew of his father and thought that was him, calling him by his father’s name and just babbling away while he was trying to tell them that they were referring to his father and he was his son. After a bit of conversation, he

convinced him that he wasn't his father and they went back to the shore. The Navy boat they were on, 'The Destroyer', stopped at the port when they arrived and he ended up spending a few nights at his aunt's house.<sup>20</sup>

Back at home, his fiancé was hard at work planning the wedding. Time seemed to slug along as they both waited the day that he would dock the ship he was on for what felt like the longest 6 months of their lives. The ship arrived at the pier of Norfolk, Virginia and he arrived home safely. Not before too long, they were married there in 1963. The wedding was billed to the two of them, so they had to sell anything from radios to cars to pay for the expenses of a small marriage. The lovers had a Navy wedding and were wed at a Catholic chapel. When they walked out of the chapel, the men that accompanied him were holding swords in respect for the family member of the Navy. As they walked under the canopy of metal, it was a tradition to tap the bride on the rear with the sword as a wish of

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<sup>20</sup> Ibid.

good luck for the marriage. The reception was a budget-friendly champagne brunch and only a small number of people were invited to it.<sup>21</sup>

His job took them from Virginia to California, so they spent 46 hours in the car as their “honeymoon”. To celebrate the new marriage and the happy years to come, they saved up enough money to buy them a brand new car to take them across the country. The car that they bought was quite unique; it had a navy blue interior with bucket seats and there were only about 20 of those cars made. He had postgrad school in Monterey, California and she was beginning to learn what it was like to be a military wife. Just to show how quickly plans change in the military, they were supposed to stay in California for 3 years and only ended up staying a month because he got offered a position in a nuclear power program in Idaho Falls. When you’re in the military, you’re requested to be stationed at all different parts of the world, so

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<sup>21</sup> Camilleri, Betty. Personal communication. 7 Dec. 2014.

you're never in one place too often. It's not easy for either party; one is constantly away from home for months at a time and the other is making friends just as they're picking up and moving.

In that time period, the military families all lived pretty close to the bases that the men were deployed at and support groups were made by the military wives. Betty found support groups to be one of the best things to come out of being away from her husband for so long because she always knew she was never in this alone. There were 12 officer's wives (her included) and about 100 listed wives, so there were plenty of people to hear stories from and go to for relief. It was comforting to know that other people were going through the same things together and, because they moved around so much, there were support groups everywhere that they went. He retired from the military in 1986, but continued to stay with the Navy branch as a consultant for another 10 years, as he helped implement what the Navy could do in the civilian world. He retired in 1996 and, from there, Terrence



and Betty stayed in Tennessee, which would be the longest they've ever stayed in one house.

People definitely don't join the military for the money; there's a level of respect for your country that drives strong people, like my grandfather, to recruit and make the sacrifice of being without the people you love that make the time they spend together that much sweeter. Being in the military is an adventure and, while you miss out on important events sometimes, the heartfelt reunions make everything worth it.

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## Ceja-Rangel Family

# The Tragedy of 1910

## By Rocio Martinez

Josefa Ceja (abt. 1890-1977) married to Manuel Rangel (abt. 1885-1973) the couple immigrated to Greeley, Colorado working as farmers; later settled in Guanajuato, Mexico.

The village in Guanajuato, Mexico where Josefa and Manuel settled consisted of a large farm owned by a Patron. The farm was so large that the Patron did not have enough time throughout the day to travel all the way around his land one time. The people from the village cultivated and grew the crops for the Patron. He offered the land and the people did the labor. The cultivated crops were distributed and divided amongst them. The Patron stored his share (seeds) in a barn for the upcoming year to plant and grow.

The Mexican Revolution began in 1910 and Pancho Villa was appointed the captain.<sup>22</sup> Pancho Villa was a bandit; he shot a man for harassing his

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<sup>22</sup> Trimble, Marshall. "Pancho Villa Pt. II: The Rise to Power" *True West*, <https://truwestmagazine.com/pancho-villa-pt-ii-rise-power/>

sister and fled; he was later imprisoned but escaped.<sup>23</sup> Villa was living as a fugitive and joined Francisco Madero's uprising against Porfirio Diaz.<sup>24</sup> For several years Villa was involved in clashes with other Mexican military groups.<sup>25</sup>

When Pancho Villa and his soldiers arrived at the village, Josefa was with her father planting crops on a portion of the land (approximately in June).<sup>26</sup> One man yelled out, "Aye señor! What are you doing here don't you see that the soldiers are coming. Look at all the dust in the air!"<sup>27</sup> The dust was being kicked up by the feet of the horses ridden by the soldiers. They heard gunshots, and they ran back to the village.<sup>28</sup> The shooting caught up to them, but they dodged the shots.<sup>29</sup> Finally, they arrived home safely.

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<sup>23</sup> History.com Staff. "Pancho Villa" *History.com*, <http://www.history.com/topics/pancho-villa>

<sup>24</sup> Ibid.

<sup>25</sup> Ibid.

<sup>26</sup> Rangel, Amalia. Personal interview. 23 Sept. 2017

<sup>27</sup> Ibid.

<sup>28</sup> Ibid.

<sup>29</sup> Ibid.

The village was soon full of horses and soldiers who were desperately hungry. They ate all the food including the tortillas, and they drank all the water.<sup>30</sup> Josefa's father was put in charge of the farm because the Patron feared the soldiers. They were so afraid of the soldiers because they would torture them or kill them to rob their possessions.<sup>31</sup> Patrons fled the farm and went to hide in Aguascalientes, Mexico.<sup>32</sup> When they went back to their farm they found that the soldiers searched everything including their barns where they stored their share of crops. Their crops which consisted of beans, corn, and grain were fed to the soldier's horses.<sup>33</sup> They also took their chickens and everything there was, most likely eating them on their way back.<sup>34</sup> The horses consumed all their crops and the soldiers ate the food found inside homes. Pancho Villa's soldiers stayed for two days

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<sup>30</sup> Rangel, Amalia. Personal interview. 23 Sept. 2017

<sup>31</sup> Ibid.

<sup>32</sup> Ibid.

<sup>33</sup> Ibid.

<sup>34</sup> Ibid.

to rest and ate all the food they could find.<sup>35</sup> Later the soldiers left to continue their Mexican Revolution journey.<sup>36</sup>

Since they were just starting to plant their crops in June, they could no longer plant anything because all the seeds were consumed. When the soldiers finally abandoned the village, there was nothing left to eat because in that time people were poor and barely had jobs. They survived through a time of starvation. This starvation lasted about two years and as a result, many people died during this time.<sup>37</sup> When the time of starvation ended there was an epidemic of the flu; this caused more deaths.<sup>38</sup>

Individuals from other villages and states would walk to Guanajuato asking for help and food.<sup>39</sup> These people believed that the soldiers hadn't arrived in Guanajuato yet, but the soldiers had already traveled through Guanajuato. There were occasions Josefa's father wouldn't bother

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<sup>35</sup> Ibid.

<sup>36</sup> Ibid.

<sup>37</sup> Rangel, Amalia. Personal interview. 23 Sept. 2017

<sup>38</sup> Ibid.

<sup>39</sup> Ibid.

opening the door to people knocking.<sup>40</sup> People from the village had nothing to give or offer to those who traveled by foot in hopes that someone would help them.

Josefa's family was blessed because they were left with one cow that produced milk.<sup>41</sup> Beans were also left scattered on the ground, leftovers from the soldiers.<sup>42</sup> Obviously, only beans were left because the birds ate all the corn and grain off the ground. Her mother would pick a handful of beans from the ground to boil them in water.<sup>43</sup> The beans they ate consisted of mostly water and barely any beans, which is how they survived. Her grandmother walked from Zacatecas to Guanajuato; she was hungry and they gave her about two ounces of milk.<sup>44</sup> She later died from an infection. There were so many deaths that they needed to gather piles of people onto horse wagons.<sup>45</sup> The people

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<sup>40</sup> Ibid.

<sup>41</sup> Ibid.

<sup>42</sup> Ibid.

<sup>43</sup> Ibid.

<sup>44</sup> Ibid.

<sup>45</sup> Ibid.



would be burned in the woods instead of buried because there wasn't enough room for them all. Crows would eventually eat the dead people who had died from starvation or the flu.<sup>46</sup> Some of "The deceased" were thought to be dead but weren't; some were just passed out (flu or starvation). Gaining back their consciousness some realized they were being burned alive and panicked.<sup>47</sup> It was hard for Josefa to overcome and survive all these obstacles. Especially, witnessing people being burned alive.

Although Josefa lived through a horrendous time, she thankful had no scares and survived. It was difficult to survive during this time, but her family would find small amounts of food and bring it back to share amongst themselves. After the Mexican Revolution was over everyone that survived in the village lived in constant fear and paranoia that Pancho Villa and his soldiers would return. After the days, months, and years passed

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<sup>46</sup> Ibid.

<sup>47</sup> Rangel, Amalia. Personal interview. 23 Sept. 2017.

they all realized that they would not return to the village. As the years past her family became financially stable, and they were able to raise their children. Manuel Rangel later saw Josefa when she was older, and she immediately grabbed his attention it was love at first sight. He was so in love with her that he abducted her. They grew older, and later the feelings between them grew mutual. They later decided to marry each other at a very young age between 14 and 15 years old. Manuel and Josefa had a total of eight children.

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## Escutia-Nava

# Conception Escutia-Nava

## By Leslie Belmonte

Conception Escutia Nava (1909-1984; Married Alejandro Copandaro, widowed and remarried to Gregorio Belmonte. Conception went through the Mexican Revolution and suffered through the aftermath.)



Location of Miguel Silva in the state of Michoacán, Mexico.  
“Michoacan State.” *A Congregation of Souls*, 22 Dec. 2012,  
[jennylouhunley.wordpress.com/2012/12/](http://jennylouhunley.wordpress.com/2012/12/).

It is the year 1930 in what is today known as Miguel Silva, Michoacán, Mexico. After succeeding in overthrowing the rule of the president, Porfirio Diaz, Mexico has finally ended its Revolution. The ruthless bandit, Pancho Villa, has been captured, and Mexico is beginning to return to normal.

However, the Mexican economy has been severely disrupted.<sup>48</sup> The labor force has declined, the banking system has crashed, and the livestock supply is short.<sup>49</sup> In addition, straggling groups of bandits inspired by Poncho Villa's tactics are aiming for suburban areas.<sup>50</sup>

They hope to find gold to recover from the aftermath of the Revolution. Concepcion Escutia Nava is 21 years old and has been conditioned to run to the mountains sides for cover whenever she hears the bandits are coming.

Concepcion was raised on a plantation village. She married Alejandro Copandaro at the age of 16.<sup>51</sup> Both she and her husband worked on cultivating their land for corn and beans. As she grew, she used

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<sup>48</sup> Salvucci, Richard. "The Economic History of Mexico." *EHnet*, Trinity University, [eh.net/encyclopedia/the-economic-history-of-mexico/](http://eh.net/encyclopedia/the-economic-history-of-mexico/). Accessed 20 Sept. 2017.

<sup>49</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>50</sup> "The Blurred Lines Between Banditry, Revolution, and the Establishment of a Governing Force." *Evidence for Historical Banditry and Folk Noble Bandits in the Ancient World*, [noblebandits.asu.edu/Topics/BlurredLines.html](http://noblebandits.asu.edu/Topics/BlurredLines.html). Accessed 21 Sept. 2017.

<sup>51</sup> Belmonte, David. Personal interview. 17 Sept. 2017.

the information given by elders to better her skills for the sake of the family plantation. After about three years, Mexico started their Revolution. Concepcion had to adjust to the danger and brutality, that the soldiers imposed on those who owned small plots of land.<sup>52</sup> The soldiers would come and take the crops as they pleased, making the village go through hard times with food deprivation.<sup>53</sup> As the Revolution ended, the village started their path to recovery. However, the Mexican economy was rumored to be entering a depression, and people began to spend their gold coins wisely.<sup>54</sup> This made it difficult for Concepcion's village to fully recover. The neighbors they usually sold their crops to started to keep their gold coins in hiding for things that were considered more important.<sup>55</sup>

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<sup>52</sup> Ibid.

<sup>53</sup> Loeza-Belmonte, Lilialma. Personal interview. 21 Sept. 2017.

<sup>54</sup> Ibid.

<sup>55</sup> "Mexico Revolution and Aftermath." *Mexico Revolution and Aftermath - Flags, Maps, Economy, History, Climate, Natural Resources, Current Issues, International Agreements, Population, Social Statistics, Political System*,

Gold started to become more valuable than ever. On top of the depression, a sickness was starting to spread between the villagers, making them ill with fever and body aches.<sup>56</sup> The sickness was primarily affecting women, forcing Concepcion to abandon the land to tend to her community.<sup>57</sup> Times were rough for those in the village, but it only continued to get worse.

After the Revolution ended, plantations like the one Concepcion was living on became the first target of straggling groups of bandits looking for gold.<sup>58</sup> Rumor had spread from other locations, that the bandits were imitating Pancho Villas's strategies, and were not only taking gold coins and

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Photius Coutsoukis, 2004, [photius.com/countries/mexico/economy/mexico\\_economy\\_revolution\\_and\\_after~9948.html](http://photius.com/countries/mexico/economy/mexico_economy_revolution_and_after~9948.html). Accessed 22 Sept. 2017.

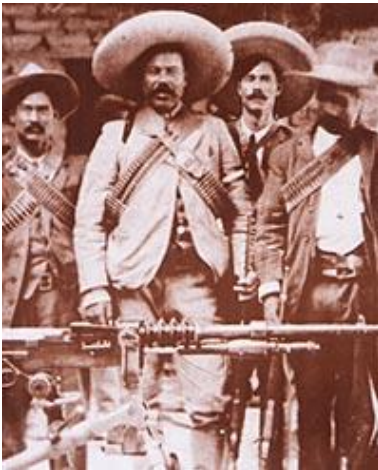
<sup>56</sup> Loeza-Belmonte, Lilialma. Personal interview. 21 Sept. 2017.

<sup>57</sup> Ibid.

<sup>58</sup> Granados, José A. Tapia, and Ana V. Diez Roux. "Life and Death during the Great Depression." *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, National Academy of Sciences, 18 Aug. 2009, [www.pnas.org/content/106/41/17290.full](http://www.pnas.org/content/106/41/17290.full). Accessed 19 Sept. 2017.



valuables, but women as well.<sup>59</sup> Many young women were being kidnapped, the lucky ones returning, and the others were murdered in front of their families.<sup>60</sup>



Example of the groups of bandits that would go

around to steal from Mexican residents. Source: New York: The New Press.

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<sup>59</sup> Loeza-Belmonte, Liliama. Personal interview. 21 Sept. 2017.

<sup>60</sup> Ibid.

Coming in waves, at any time of the day, Concepcion had to keep not only herself safe, but also sick villagers whom she was looking after.<sup>61</sup>

She, along with several others, carried the ill to safety each time. Luckily the village was not facing these bandits alone. The government was aware of the bandits' existence.<sup>62</sup> They tried to catch the bandits in action, but that always failed. So, they began to chase the bandits in a town called Hundacareo. And each time, the bandits dropped a trail of gold coins, and other items they stole as they were being chased.<sup>63</sup> After months of chasing, the government was finally successful and ended the attacks of the stragglings bandits.

Today, Hundacareo is known as the "Town of Gold" as it prospered and grew because of the valuables the bandits dropped before being captured.<sup>64</sup> The villagers wanted a new place to

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<sup>61</sup> Ibid.

<sup>62</sup> Belmonte, David. Personal interview. 17 Sept. 2017.

<sup>63</sup> Ibid.

<sup>64</sup> Ibid.

forget about the ordeals they had gone through.<sup>65</sup> So, Concepcion and her village moved east and settled in a new location.<sup>66</sup> The villagers named the new location Miguel Silva. Concepcion's husband, Alejandro, died and she later remarried my great-grandfather Gregorio.<sup>67</sup> The town was formed as a place for new beginnings for all the villagers and was the start of my family.

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<sup>65</sup> Ibid.

<sup>66</sup> Ibid.

<sup>67</sup> Ibid.

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# Ford Family

## Ford's Series of Events By Bailey Taylor

John Ford III (abt. 1636-Mar. 6 1699; married Mary (abt. 1641-1706): they were immigrants from England to what is now called Richmond County, Virginia.<sup>68</sup>

During the reign of King James I, a struggle for power between the king and parliament began to mount.<sup>69</sup> That struggle was then transferred to King Charles when he took the throne in 1625.<sup>70</sup> The country became divided, so it was Cavalier against Roundhead.<sup>71</sup> This eventually led to an outbreak of

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<sup>68</sup> "Public Member Tree," database, Ancestry.com (<http://www.ancestry.com>: accessed 25 Sept. 2017), "Carling Family Tree," entry for John Ford (b. 1636); submitted n.d. by Christine Louise Carling.

<sup>69</sup> "Civil War, English (1642 - 1651)." The Macmillan Encyclopedia, Market House Books Ltd, 2nd edition, 2003. Credo Reference, [https://login.proxy172.nclive.org/login?url=http://search.credo-reference.com/content/entry/move/civil\\_war\\_english\\_1642\\_1651/0?institutionId=4270](https://login.proxy172.nclive.org/login?url=http://search.credo-reference.com/content/entry/move/civil_war_english_1642_1651/0?institutionId=4270). Accessed 22 September 2017.

<sup>70</sup> Ibid.

<sup>71</sup> "How John Got to America." Transcription of Notes taken from Mr. and Mrs. John Bennett Boddie. Historical Southern Families. Vol. 23, Clearfield, 1998. Ancestry.com. Posted by Nora Yahl500, 10 Aug 2016, [ancestry.com/mediaui-viewer/tree/13949696/person/19977245455/media/a4ab3aba-56dh-49f0-884e-1356d44303dc](https://www.ancestry.com/mediaui-viewer/tree/13949696/person/19977245455/media/a4ab3aba-56dh-49f0-884e-1356d44303dc). Accessed on 25 Sept 2017.

war in the country. The Ford family had been living in Abbeyfield Park in Cheshire, England since the mid-1500s, and they friends of the crown which meant they were also members of the “royalist party”.<sup>72</sup> When war began in England this caused many families, including the Fords, to flee to safer places.<sup>73</sup> The Fords went to Ireland along with many other families. One day on the coast of Ireland, some young boys were playing on the shore; one of the boys was John Ford who was about eight years old at the time.<sup>74</sup> John’s mother was in the crowd of people, supposedly watching the children, trying to find out any information about her home in Cheshire.<sup>75</sup> What happens next is something that John and his mother never saw coming.

A man approached the boys on the shore and invited them to come aboard his ship.<sup>76</sup> The boys hesitated, so the man told them if they came to his

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<sup>72</sup> Ibid.

<sup>73</sup> Ibid.

<sup>74</sup> Ibid.

<sup>75</sup> Ibid.

<sup>76</sup> Ibid.



ship they would each get a knife of their own, but they had to come aboard to get it.<sup>77</sup> Some of them did not go, but some of them did, including John.<sup>78</sup> Once the boys were on the ship they were “seized, gagged, and hidden, and the ship sailed off with them.”<sup>79</sup> The ship was headed to America, covering over 3000 miles through the North Atlantic.<sup>80</sup> At this time, the ships were very small and were normally overcrowded when people were going to America.<sup>81</sup> The boys probably survived on unclean water and spoiled food during the journey.<sup>82</sup> The ship arrived at the port of Kicotan, now called Hampton, at the entrance of the James River.<sup>83</sup> After docking, the men offered John for sale as an indentured servant.<sup>84</sup>

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<sup>77</sup> Ibid.

<sup>78</sup> Ibid.

<sup>79</sup> Ibid.

<sup>80</sup> "America the Story of US: Life in Jamestown History." Youtube, uploaded by History, 23 April 2010, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ssS6UoBoiuc>.

<sup>81</sup> Ibid.

<sup>82</sup> Ibid.

<sup>83</sup> “How John Got to America.” Transcription of Notes taken from Mr. and Mrs. John Bennett Boddie. *Historical Southern Families*. Vol. 23.

<sup>84</sup> Ibid.

An indentured servant was someone that wanted to come to America to live but could not afford the price of passage.<sup>85</sup> Indentured servants signed a contract with an agent, captain, or merchant and eventually the contract would be sold to the landowner that needed a servant.<sup>86</sup> Indentured servants were mostly used in agricultural labor, so the servants in Virginia were needed in the production of tobacco.<sup>87</sup> The life and treatment of an indentured servant varied from person to person, and normally if the servant ever caused a problem, the time of servitude would be added to the contract.<sup>88</sup> So, when it comes to John, he would have been more like a slave than an indentured servant because he was unwillingly taken to America to be sold. Fortunately, he was not sold as

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<sup>85</sup> Reese, Ty M. "Indentured Servants." *Encyclopedia of World Trade: From Ancient Times to the Present*, edited by Cynthia Clark Northrup, Routledge, 1st edition, 2013. Credo Reference, [https://login.proxy172.nclive.org/login?url=http://search.credo-reference.com/content/entry/sharpewt/indentured\\_servants/0?institutionId=4270](https://login.proxy172.nclive.org/login?url=http://search.credo-reference.com/content/entry/sharpewt/indentured_servants/0?institutionId=4270). Accessed 23 September 2017.

<sup>86</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>87</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>88</sup> *Ibid.*

a servant. During this time period, it was the custom for widows, orphans, and abandoned children to be taken care of by the vestry, which was run by the local minister.<sup>89</sup> The minister of Hampton Parish, at this time, was Rev. Phillip Mallory, and he recognized John immediately from his indentured servitude.<sup>90</sup> Mallory had known the Ford family when he was in Sandbach Parish in Chester County, England.<sup>91</sup> Before he immigrated to America, had been the pastor at the Moberly Parish which was a short distance from the Ford residence.<sup>92</sup>

The Rev. Mallory had John released shortly thereafter, which probably means he had to pay the price of his passage.<sup>93</sup> From there the Reverend and his family took John in, feeding, clothing, and educating him.<sup>94</sup> Sixteen years later John married

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<sup>89</sup> “How John Got to America.” Transcription of Notes taken from Mr. and Mrs. John Bennett Boddie. *Historical Southern Families*. Vol. 23

<sup>90</sup> Ibid.

<sup>91</sup> Ibid.

<sup>92</sup> Ibid.

<sup>93</sup> Ibid.

<sup>94</sup> Ibid.

Phillip Mallory's niece, Mary Mallory.<sup>95</sup> Mary was the daughter of Rev. Thomas Mallory who was the Dean of the Cathedral Church in Chester, England.<sup>96</sup> Between the years of 1661 and 1668, John and Mary had a son and a daughter: John Ford IV and Elizabeth.<sup>97</sup>

When Rev. Phillip Mallory died in 1661 he left his nephew, Captain Roger Mallory, his plantation in Virginia.<sup>98</sup> This was Mary's older brother, and it is likely that she and John lived with Roger at the plantation.<sup>99</sup> It was not an uncommon thing for extended families to live together in one house on the same property during this time period.<sup>100</sup> Roger's name is recorded on several county documents pertaining to landownership,

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<sup>95</sup> Ibid.

<sup>96</sup> Ibid.

<sup>97</sup> "Public Member Tree," database, Ancestry.com, "Carling Family Tree," entry for John Ford.

<sup>98</sup> "How John Got to America." Transcription of Notes taken from Mr. and Mrs. John Bennett Boddie. *Historical Southern Families*. Vol. 23.

<sup>99</sup> Ibid.

<sup>100</sup> Education, Discovery "Life in Colonial America." *Youtube*, uploaded by Jamie Summers, 4 Dec 2015, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KLuYPsw2tPI> Accessed 23 September 2017.

making him part of the upper class or “gentleman class”.<sup>101</sup> Being that the customs of education and apprenticeship were brought over to the colonies, John would have only been able to move up so far in social status if he had not been able to marry Mary.<sup>102</sup> Since she was his wife, John was able to move up as a “Virginia gentleman,” and they very well could have been living with Captain Roger Mallory in his home.<sup>103</sup>

The Mallory family bought and sold land in the northern region of the colony as well as in the York River Valley and Rev. Phillip Mallory, at one time, owned 1000 acres in “Old” Rappahannock County.<sup>104</sup> This is probably part of the reason why John’s name appeared on county records as living on Rappahannock Creek close to the river.<sup>105</sup> John became very active in county affairs when he came

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<sup>101</sup> “How John Got to America.” Transcription of Notes taken from Mr. and Mrs. John Bennett Boddie. *Historical Southern Families*. Vol. 23.

<sup>102</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>103</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>104</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>105</sup> *Ibid.*

to own 500 acres in King and Queen County.<sup>106</sup> It is thought that this land might have been Mary's inheritance from her father.<sup>107</sup> John served on the county grand jury in 1685 and 1693, he also had a contract to operate a ferry boat over the river.<sup>108</sup> John received a contract on January 16, 1686, to transport footmen from the mouth of the Rappahannock Creek to property owned by a Mr. John Daingerfield on the Rappahannock River and back the day before court, the day of court, and the day after court.<sup>109</sup>

In 1675 Mary died in Richmond, Virginia at the age of 35.<sup>110</sup> Five years later John remarried to a woman by the name of Patience Newman, and they had one son named James Ford.<sup>111</sup>

John Ford died on March 6, 1699, in Richmond County, Virginia at the age of 63.<sup>112</sup>

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<sup>106</sup> Ibid.

<sup>107</sup> Ibid.

<sup>108</sup> Ibid.

<sup>109</sup> Ibid.

<sup>110</sup> "Public Member Tree," database, Ancestry.com, "Carling Family Tree," entry for John Ford.

<sup>111</sup> Ibid.

<sup>112</sup> Ibid.

Even though his will was badly damaged, it was still legible and read, that his “legatees are wife Patience and son John”.<sup>113</sup> The odd thing was that there was no other reference to his first wife Mary or his other children.<sup>114</sup>

John Ford III had a very interesting life to say the least. He went through some very difficult trials and ended up being very successful. The ironic thing about his life is that, he came from an upper-class family that was friends of the crown. Then he was kidnapped and was forced into slavery, or “indentured servitude,” so he was then a lower-class member.<sup>115</sup> But he persevered through it all with the help of friends and Mary’s family, and was able to once again be a member of the upper class.

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<sup>113</sup> “How John Got to America.” Transcription of Notes taken from Mr. and Mrs. John Bennett Boddie. *Historical Southern Families*. Vol. 23.

<sup>114</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>115</sup> *Ibid.*

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# Fowler Family

# A House Divided

## By Kathleen D. Fowler

Daniel Fowler I (b. ca. 1714 in Isle of Wight, VA; d. ca. 1793 in Duplin Co., NC)

Daniel's Brother: D'Arcy Fowler (b. ca. 1716 in Duplin, Co., NC; d. ca. 1775 in NC)

Daniel's Sons: John Fowler (b. ca. 1747 in Duplin Co., NC; d. ca. 1845 in Pike Co., AL)

William P. Fowler (b. ca. 1752 in Duplin Co., NC; d. ca. 1820 in NC)

Daniel Fowler II (b. ca. 1755 in Duplin Co., NC; d. ca. 1825 in NC)



Reenactment of the Battle of Moore's Creek Bridge  
Source: National Park Service

Daniel Fowler the Elder was already sixty-one years old when the news came in April 1775—the British had attacked Lexington and Concord.

War seemed inevitable. North Carolina has already begun planning for armed conflict. Militia units were being raised and efforts were being made to secure gunpowder and lead. Although the Royal Governor, Josiah Martin tried to quell what he called, “the monster, sedition,”<sup>116</sup>North Carolinians, like other Englishmen born in the Colonies, were fed up with being treated more like sources of revenue for England and less like her subjects. They listed their grievances with the British government: limitations on their religious freedom and on their ability to sell products, no representation in the British Parliament, and as a result, unfair taxation.<sup>117</sup> In August 1774, the NC Assembly created a Provincial Congress which condemned

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<sup>116</sup> Rankin, Hugh F. *The North Carolina Continentals*. Chapel Hill, NC: The University of North Carolina Press, 1971. 10; Saunders, William L. *Colonial Records of North Carolina*. 10 vols. Raleigh, NC, Goldsboro, NC, etc., 1886-98. IX. 1194, 1214-15; Moore, Frank, ed. *Diary of the American Revolution from Newspapers and Original Documents*. NY: 1863. I. 63.

<sup>117</sup> *First in Victory: North Carolina's Role in the American Revolution*. North Carolina Society of the Cincinnati, You Tube, 21 Dec. 2013, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Rj--dszFe5c>. Accessed on 27 Aug. 2017.

these Intolerable Acts and openly challenged the power of the Royal Governor by electing three delegates to send to the Continental Congress: William Hooper, Richard Caswell, and Joseph Hewes.<sup>118</sup>

So, when news came of the Battles of Lexington and Concord, local colonial governments responded by issuing statements denouncing the attacks and resolving to oppose such tyranny.<sup>119</sup> Anti-British sentiments ran high, and there were calls for independence. Governor Martin recommended to his superiors in the British government that a battalion of 3,000 troops be raised from among the Scottish Highlanders which had recently arrived in NC and which he had judiciously forced to swear oaths to the Crown before issuing any land.<sup>120</sup> He hoped that these troops would provide him the strength which he needed to regain control of the province.

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<sup>118</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>119</sup> *Colonial Records*. X. 141-151, 232.

<sup>120</sup> Rankin 32; *Colonial Records*. X. 327, 577.

Meanwhile, on 6 June 1775, the Continental Congress established the Continental Army and appointed General George Washington to command it.<sup>121</sup> A little over a month later, on 24 August 1775, North Carolina pledged funds to support the army, and by the end of the same month, it had also pledged troops.<sup>122</sup> One thousand men were to serve as a state militia until they were absorbed into the Continental Army.<sup>123</sup> On 1 September 1775, the NC Provincial Congress arranged for these troops were to be divided into two regiments of 500 men each with some stationed in the coastal districts of Wilmington, Salisbury, New Bern, and Edenton in case of a British invasion by sea.<sup>124</sup>

Daniel Fowler and his family were living in Duplin County, North Carolina at this time. He was a staunch supporter of the Patriot cause, and when he heard about the mustering of the minutemen and militia, he and three of his sons, John, William, and

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<sup>121</sup> Ibid. 16.

<sup>122</sup> Ibid.

<sup>123</sup> Ibid.

<sup>124</sup> Ibid.

Daniel the Younger, volunteered for service in the Wilmington District which was at the time under the command of Colonel Alexander Lillington.<sup>125</sup>

Daniel's brother, D'Arcy, however, sympathized with the British.<sup>126</sup> On 10 June 1775, when Governor Martin called for all Loyalists in North Carolina to unite in suppressing the rebellion, he rallied to the cause. The Loyalists were to meet at Cross Creek in Brunswick and march to the coast where they would be supported by ships from the British navy.<sup>127</sup> Key to Martin's plan were the Scottish Highlanders who had taken oaths of allegiance to the Crown. Martin knew they would not go back on their oaths. To enlist these new recruits, the British had sent two veteran soldiers, Donald MacDonald, whom Governor Martin

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<sup>125</sup> Fowler, Richard G. *A History of the Fowler Family of Southeastern North Carolina*. Norman, OK: R.G. Fowler, 1989; "The Privates, Horsemen, Fifers, Drummers, Etc.—Last Names Beginning with 'F.'" *The American Revolution in North Carolina*, [http://carolana.com/NC/Revolution/nc\\_patriot\\_military\\_privates\\_f.html](http://carolana.com/NC/Revolution/nc_patriot_military_privates_f.html). Accessed on 20 Aug. 2017; Rankin 16-17.

<sup>126</sup> Fowler, *A History of the Fowler Family*.

<sup>127</sup> Rankin 28-32.



appointed brigadier general of the Loyalist militia, and Lieutenant Colonel Donald McLeod, his second-in-command.<sup>128</sup>

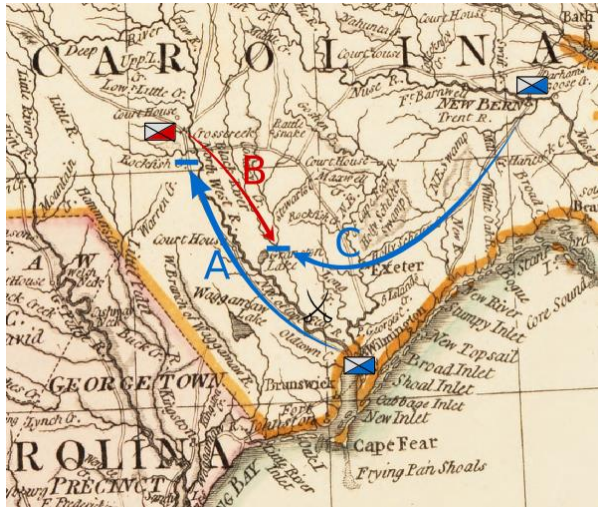
When they arrived in New Bern, the local Committee of Safety was immediately suspicious and detained the pair of them. Questioned about their reasons for coming to New Bern, they managed to convince the committee that they had been severely wounded during the Battle of Bunker Hill in June of that year and were no longer fit for military service. They wanted to recuperate from their wounds among their Highland friends and possibly settle with them in North Carolina.<sup>129</sup> However, as soon as the Committee of Safety let them go, MacDonald and McLeod actively began recruiting. Their Highland recruits were to meet up with other Loyalists at Cross Creek. It was not long before Colonel Alexander Lillington, the commander of the Wilmington District's militia,

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<sup>128</sup> Ibid. 35; *Colonial Records*. X. 443.

<sup>129</sup> Rankin 33; *Colonial Records*. X. 117, 325; *Gentleman's Magazine*. XLVI. June 1776. 281-82; Almon, J. *The Remembrancer: Or Impartial Repository of Public Events for the Year 1776*. Part I. London, 1776.

was alerted to their activities and ordered to send his troops to stop them, thus unwittingly pitting brother against brother, nephew against uncle in the Fowler family.



Map of the movements of Patriot (Blue) and Loyalist (Red) troops leading up the Battle of Moore's Creek Bridge on 27 Feb. 1776.

Source: Wikimedia Commons

Colonel Richard Caswell's militia and minutemen from New Bern District were also ordered out. This force of 600 men was to meet

Colonel James Moore and his 500 men at Rockfish Creek, just seven miles from Cross Creek where the Loyalist forces were gathering.<sup>130</sup> Together they were to stop MacDonald and his recruits from reaching the coast and the waiting British fleet.

By 15 February 1776, MacDonald and McLeod had managed to assemble 1,400 Loyalists at Cross Creek. However, they only had 520 guns.<sup>131</sup> Raiding parties were sent out to confiscate guns from Patriot sympathizers in the area; but only 130 were found.<sup>132</sup> Thus, MacDonald had more men than Moore, but he was outgunned, Moore's militia being armed not only with firearms but also with light-artillery.<sup>133</sup>

MacDonald knew that his primary duty was to deliver the recruits to the coast, not to fight

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<sup>130</sup> Rankin 40; Clark, Walter, ed. *The State Records of North Carolina*. 16 vols. Goldston, NC, Winston, NC, etc., 1895-1914. XI, 283, 628.

<sup>131</sup> Rankin 40; McLean, Alexander. A Narrative of the Proceedings of a Body of Loyalists in North Carolina, in Genl. Howe's Letter of the 25<sup>th</sup> April 1776, English Records, Colonial Office, 1776 (transcripts). North Carolina Department of Archives and History, *Raleigh, NC*.

<sup>132</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>133</sup> *Ibid.*; *State Records*. XI. 282, 628.

Moore, so on 18 February, he sent a message to the Patriot Colonel ordering him to stand down and let them pass. Moore stalled for time. MacDonald understood why when messengers informed him that Richard Caswell and his men were marching toward them and were barely a day away. With the threat of armed conflict imminent, some of the new recruits defected and fled to their homes.<sup>134</sup> His forces diminished, MacDonald decided to evade Moore and Caswell by crossing the Cape Fear River at Campbell Town and heading east for Negro Head Point on the Coast.<sup>135</sup>

Moore didn't hear about their departure until the following day. He sent a message to Colonel Caswell warning of the troop movements and directing him to position his militia at Corbett's Ferry on the Black River.<sup>136</sup> Colonel Alexander Lillington and his men were sent to reinforce Caswell and secure the crossing at Moore's Creek

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<sup>134</sup> *Ibid.* 41; *McLean, Loyalist Narrative.*

<sup>135</sup> *Ibid.* 42; *McLean, Loyalist Narrative; North Carolina University Magazine*, VII. November, 1857. 139; *Colonial Records*. X. 595.

<sup>136</sup> *Ibid.* 42-43; *State Records*. XI. 284.

Bridge.<sup>137</sup> When Caswell received his orders, he moved in on Corbett's Ferry and deployed his troops. His two light-artillery pieces, affectionately named "Old Mother Covington and her daughter" were positioned to cover the river crossing.<sup>138</sup> He instructed the local Patriot sympathizers to destroy all of the bridges in the path of the Loyalists.<sup>139</sup>

Once MacDonald and his men crossed the Cape Fear at Campbell Town, they burned their boats to discourage pursuit;<sup>140</sup> however, by doing so, they also cut off their escape route if anything went wrong. They were committed to their march to the sea, but they made slow progress because they had to strengthen and repair the bridges as they went. On 23 February, MacDonald received word that Caswell was camped at Corbett's Ferry. He drew up his troops into battle formation and positioned his shock troops, under the command of

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<sup>137</sup> Rankin 43; *State Records*. XI. 284.

<sup>138</sup> Rankin 43.

<sup>139</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>140</sup> *Ibid.*; McLean, Loyalist Narrative.

Captain John Campbell, in the center, arming them with broadswords and claymores.<sup>141</sup>

Scouts upstream had found a way to cross the Black River at a different point some distance from Corbett's Ferry, but before moving the troops to this new site, MacDonald ordered a diversion.<sup>142</sup> Men moved noisily through the trees, squealing bagpipes and beating drums.<sup>143</sup> Occasionally they would fire a gun just to make Caswell and his militia think that the Loyalists were heading that way.<sup>144</sup> By 23 February, all of his men had crossed the river and were resuming their march eastward.<sup>145</sup>

When Caswell discovered that he had been fooled, he sent word to Colonel Moore who ordered him to march at once to Moore's Creek Bridge. Colonel Moore ordered his own men to board boats and transported them sixty miles downstream to

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<sup>141</sup> Rankin 44; McLean, *Loyalist Narrative*.

<sup>142</sup> Rankin 44; State Records. XI. 284; McLean, *Loyalist Narrative*.

<sup>143</sup> Rankin 44; McLean, *Loyalist Narrative*.

<sup>144</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>145</sup> *Ibid.*

Dollison's Landing, arriving late in the afternoon on 26 February.<sup>146</sup> Once there, he received a dispatch telling him that Caswell and Lillington had both reached their destination and had entrenched themselves.

Moore's Creek Bridge itself was in a perfect defensive position. A narrow bridge built on a sandbar, it commanded the highest point of land in an otherwise marshy wood. Moore's Creek itself was only about five feet deep, but its dank waters were some fifty feet wide, and its bottom was covered with a swampy muck, making it very difficult to cross.<sup>147</sup>

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<sup>146</sup> Ibid. 45; *State Records*. XI. 284.

<sup>147</sup> Rankin 45.



Bridge over Moore's Creek

Source: The American Revolution in NC

Colonel Lillington had arrived at the bridge first with his Wilmington battalion of minutemen, Daniel Fowler and his sons among them. They fortified the little knoll on the east side of the river. When Caswell arrived, he took charge and had the men cross the bridge and put up a new entrenchment on the west side of the river.<sup>148</sup>

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<sup>148</sup> Ibid.; *Colonial Records*. X. 482; Force, Peter, comp. *American Archives*. 4<sup>th</sup> Series. 6 vols. Washington, 1837-46. Vol. 5. 62-63.



MacDonald's men were six miles from Moore's Creek Bridge when scouts reported the position of Caswell and Lillington.<sup>149</sup> The brigadier general ordered his troops to set camp. Exhausted by the forced march to the coast, he became ill and was forced to rest in his tent.<sup>150</sup> Nevertheless, he still sent a messenger to Colonel Caswell urging him to surrender.<sup>151</sup> Caswell refused, but the messenger fulfilled his true function by gathering intelligence about the layout of Caswell's camp and fortifications. When he returned to MacDonald's camp with his information, the brigadier general called a council of his officers.<sup>152</sup> They urged him to engage Caswell even though they were outnumbered, outgunned, and outmaneuvered. Despite his better judgement, MacDonald gave in and ordered the preparations for the attack to begin immediately. Only 500 of his now 1,600 men were

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<sup>149</sup> Rankin 46; McLean, *Loyalist Narrative*.

<sup>150</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>151</sup> *Ibid.*; MacDonald to Caswell, 26 February 1776, Donald MacDonald Papers, North Carolina Department of Archives and History, Raleigh, NC.

<sup>152</sup> Rankin 46; McLean, *Loyalist Narrative*.

armed, either with guns or blades.<sup>153</sup> Nevertheless, they started the attack at 1 AM. Making their way through the swampy woods at night, the Loyalist troops were soon lost and mired in the mud. It was not until just before dawn that they saw the campfires of Caswell's entrenchments on the west side of the river.

Because he was still not feeling well, MacDonald had ordered his second-in-command, Donald McLeod to command the attack.<sup>154</sup> Once they had reached the enemy camp, McLeod ordered his men to form a battle line and wait for his signal. Then with a rallying cry of, "King George and broadswords," followed by three cheers, they stormed the Patriot camp.<sup>155</sup> They found it empty. During the night, Caswell had ordered his men back

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<sup>153</sup> Rankin 47; McLean, Loyalist Narrative; *State Records*. XI. 368.

<sup>154</sup> Rankin 47; Certificate of Colonel MacDonald, English Records Transcripts, Foreign Office, 1783-1794; McLean, Loyalist Narrative.

<sup>155</sup> Rankin 47; *State Records*. XI. 368; Carruthers, E.W. *Interesting Revolutionary Incidents: And Sketches of Characters, Chiefly in the "Old North State."* Philadelphia, 1854. 190.

across the river, leaving the campfires burning to fool the Highlanders into thinking they still occupied the old camp.<sup>156</sup>

When everyone was safely across the bridge, Caswell ordered the planking pulled up and the two bare logs that were left were greased with soft soap and tallow, making them extremely slippery.<sup>157</sup> Crossing them would be dangerous and difficult. One could argue that the attempt to do so was foolhardy, but Donald McLeod gave the command; then taking the lead, he started crossing one of the logs, while John Campbell led the way across on the other.<sup>158</sup> They steadied themselves by driving their broadswords into the wood of the beams, but when they finally reached the other side, Caswell gave the signal and Old Mother Covington

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<sup>156</sup> Rankin 47; *State Records*. XI. 368.

<sup>157</sup> Rankin 48; Smyth, J.F.D. *A Tour of the United States of America*. 2 vols. London, Dublin, 1784. Vol. I. 231; Stedman, Charles. *A History of the Origin, Progress, and Termination of the American War*. 2 vols. London, 1794. Vol. I. 181; Carruthers, *Interesting Revolutionary Incidents*, 184-85.

<sup>158</sup> Rankin 48; *North Carolina University Magazine*. VII. November 1857. 139; *State Records*. XI. 285. XV. 784-85.

and her daughter spat a volley across the bridge, mowing down the Highlanders who were still attempting to cross.<sup>159</sup> Wounded and dying men fell into the water. Some managed to make it to shore and were gunned down.<sup>160</sup> Most died in the murky depths. Many disappeared, never to be seen again, their bodies still covered by the swampy mire.



The Battle of Moore's Creek Bridge

Source: National Park Service

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<sup>159</sup> Rankin 48; *North Carolina University Magazine*. VII. November 1857. 139; *State Records*. XI. 285. XV. 784-85.

<sup>160</sup> Rankin 48; *North Carolina University Magazine*. VII. November 1857. 139; *State Records*. XI. 285. XV. 784-85.

McLeod and Campbell fell only feet from the Patriot entrenchments.<sup>161</sup> Both were mortally wounded, but McLeod struggled to rise, circling his broadsword to rally his men.<sup>162</sup> A volley of musket fire laid him low.<sup>163</sup> Without their commanding officer, the surviving Loyalists fled.<sup>164</sup> The Patriots leapt over their entrenchments and followed them, capturing as many as they could, including Donald MacDonald who was still recovering from his illness in his tent.<sup>165</sup> The Loyalist officers, numbering about thirty men, were taken to Halifax

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<sup>161</sup> Rankin 48; *North Carolina University Magazine*. VII. November 1857. 139; *State Records*. XI. 285. XV. 784-85.

<sup>162</sup> Rankin 48; *North Carolina University Magazine*. VII. November 1857. 139; *State Records*. XI. 285. XV. 784-85.

<sup>163</sup> Rankin 48; *North Carolina University Magazine*. VII. November 1857. 139; *State Records*. XI. 285. XV. 784-85.

<sup>164</sup> Rankin 48; *Pennsylvania Evening Post*, 23 March 1776; Force, *American Archives*, 4, V, 170; McLean, Loyalist Narrative; Stedman, *History of the American War*, I, 181; Moore, *Diary of the American Revolution*, I, 209-10.

<sup>165</sup> Rankin 49-50; Ashe, S.A. *History of North Carolina*. Greensboro, NC, 1908-25. I. 504; *Colonial Records*. X. 482; Force, *American Archives* 4. V. 63. VI. 613-14; *State Records*. XI. 285; Moore, *Diary of the American Revolution*. I. 209; *Virginia Gazette*. 22 March 1776; *The North Carolina Historical Review*. XXX. January 1963. 50-55.

and imprisoned.<sup>166</sup> D'Arcy Fowler was among them.<sup>167</sup> The Loyalist recruits, numbering about 850 men, were stripped of their weapons and allowed to return to their homes after swearing an oath to never take up arms against the Patriot cause again.<sup>168</sup> Loyalist homes in the area were raided and stripped of their arms and ammunition as well.<sup>169</sup>

Among the arms and ammunition seized from the Loyalists were 350 guns and shot bags; 150 blades; 1,500 firearms; two medicine chests from England, one of which was valued at £300; and thirteen wagons with their teams.<sup>170</sup> A local man revealed the location in Cross Creek where the Loyalist had hidden beneath the floor of a stable, a chest filled with £15,000 sterling in gold coins.<sup>171</sup>

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<sup>166</sup> Rankin 50; Force, *American Archives* 4. VI. 613-14.

<sup>167</sup> Fowler, *A History of the Fowler Family*.

<sup>168</sup> Rankin 50; *Colonial Records*. X. 486; Carruthers, *Interesting Revolutionary Incidents*. 108-9; *State Records*. XI. 503.

<sup>169</sup> Rankin 49; *State Records*. XI. 285.

<sup>170</sup> Rankin 50; *Virginia Gazette*, 23 March 1776; *Colonial Records*. X. 485-86.

<sup>171</sup> Rankin 50; *Virginia Gazette*, 23 March 1776; *Colonial Records*. X. 485-86.

Loyalists like D’Arcy suffered even further indignities. Persecuted by their Patriot neighbors, many were not allowed to return to their homes but had to hide in the woods and swamps, their property confiscated, in families harassed.<sup>172</sup> D’Arcy himself was taken to Halifax where he was imprisoned.<sup>173</sup> He died later that same year (1775).<sup>174</sup> No child of the Fowler family has been named after him since.<sup>175</sup>

Daniel Fowler and his sons continued to fight for the Patriot cause. Daniel enlisted in the 1<sup>st</sup> NC Regiment on 1 June 1776 and served three years, being discharged on 28 June 1779.<sup>176</sup> He marched to the defense of Charleston, SC before being ordered to join General George Washington’s

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<sup>172</sup> Rankin 50-52.

<sup>173</sup> Fowler, *A History of the Fowler Family*.

<sup>174</sup> Fowler, *A History of the Fowler Family*.

<sup>175</sup> Fowler, *A History of the Fowler Family*.

<sup>176</sup> “The Privates, Horsemen, Fifers, Drummers,

Etc.—Last Names Beginning with ‘F.’” *The American Revolution in North Carolina*,

[http://carolana.com/NC/Revolution/nc\\_patriot\\_military\\_privates\\_f.html](http://carolana.com/NC/Revolution/nc_patriot_military_privates_f.html). Accessed on 20 Aug. 2017.

Continental Army in Philadelphia.<sup>177</sup> Under the command of Major General Nathaniel Greene, he helped to cover the Army's retreat at the Battle of Brandywine and fought again at the Battle of Germantown before wintering with Washington at Valley Forge.<sup>178</sup>

Daniel's sons also continued to serve the Patriot cause. Both John and Daniel the Younger joined the 1<sup>st</sup> NC Regiment, like their father, and served as privates for at least a year from 1776 to 1777.<sup>179</sup> After they were discharged, both continued to serve as members of the local militia in Duplin County, NC, protecting the farms and homes of their family and neighbors from Loyalist raids.<sup>180</sup>

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<sup>177</sup> Carrère, Charlotte R. *Military Records in the North Carolina State Archives, 1711-1865*. Raleigh, NC: Carolina Abstractors, 1991. 18.

<sup>178</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>179</sup> "The Privates, Horsemen, Fifers, Drummers, Etc.—Last Names Beginning with 'F.'" *The American Revolution in North Carolina*, [http://carolana.com/NC/Revolution/nc\\_patriot\\_military\\_privates\\_f.html](http://carolana.com/NC/Revolution/nc_patriot_military_privates_f.html). Accessed on 20 Aug. 2017.

<sup>180</sup> "North Carolina Revolutionary Pay Vouchers, 1779-1782," database with images, Family Search (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:QZWT-GQMT>; accessed 20 August 2017), Daniel Fowler, 25 Mar. 1782: citing Wilmington, New Hanover, North Carolina,



William served as a private in the Duplin County Regiment, but little is known of his unit or of his dates of service.<sup>181</sup>

The Battle of Moore's Creek Bridge had a profound and lasting effect on the Fowler family of Duplin County, North Carolina. Split in their loyalties to king and country, brother fought against brother, both willing to die with what they believed in. Although we celebrate the sacrifice of Daniel and his cause for the Patriot cause, we should not forget D'Arcy. He may have found himself on the losing side of the battle and of the Loyalist cause; nevertheless, he still had the courage to take a stand and the honor to stand by his decision even to the death.

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<sup>181</sup> "The Privates, Horsemen, Fifers, Drummers, Etc.—Last Names Beginning with 'F.'" *The American Revolution in North Carolina*, [http://carolana.com/NC/Revolution/nc\\_patriot\\_military\\_privates\\_f.html](http://carolana.com/NC/Revolution/nc_patriot_military_privates_f.html). Accessed on 20 Aug. 2017.

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## Golding Family

# Double-Murder or Murder-Suicide: The Mysterious Death of Dock Golding

By Chase Stanley

Dock J. Golding born on 10 Apr. 1911 in Surry Co., N.C. He died 24 May 1967 in Surry Co., N.C. Married Louie Elizabeth Flippin on 15 Dec. 1930 in Surry Co., N.C. Louie was born 19 May 1913 in Surry Co., N.C. She died 4 Mar. 1938 in Surry Co., N.C. from tuberculosis, left behind four children that were under the age of seven. Her sister Allie took over the household, then Dock and Allie got married, and gave birth to nine more children.



Family of Dock and Allie Golding. Personal family

photograph. N.d.

Dock Hollinsworth “Dock” Golding played the banjo and bootlegged all of his life, which a lot of people in Lowgap did during that time.<sup>182</sup> If anyone wanted some liquor, they could pull up in Golding’s yard and ask for a pint, a quart, or a half-gallon.<sup>183</sup> He paid off the law until they stopped bothering him.<sup>184</sup> In Dobson, Golding had to go to court one time because he was selling liquor.<sup>185</sup> All thirteen of his kids marched in the courtroom to watch their dad being tried.<sup>186</sup> When this happened, Golding asked the judge, “If you had this crowd to feed, what would you do Judge?”<sup>187</sup>

Around 1940 or 1941, a man named Aubrey Payne came home to Sage Creek when he found Golding building a house on the north side of Hwy #89 west of Payne’s home.<sup>188</sup> Dock and Payne’s

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<sup>182</sup> Wilma J. Hiatt, ed., *Descendants of Dock J. Golding 1911-1967* (Surry County Genealogical Society, May 2012), 1.

<sup>183</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>184</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>185</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>186</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>187</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>188</sup> *Ibid.*



father, Gold, were first cousins and was a regular consumer of Golding's moonshine that lived half a mile between each other.<sup>189</sup> One day when Payne and Gold briefly stopped by Golding's house to pass the time, they felt uncomfortable when Golding started laughing, but nobody said anything funny.<sup>190</sup> Once Payne returned from college or the Navy, his father told him that Golding just had finished a term for trafficking in non-tax paid liquor in the Atlanta Federal Penitentiary.<sup>191</sup> Payne said that Golding had no other source of income and was not a farmer.<sup>192</sup>

On May 24, 1967, at 10 o'clock that morning in the Round Peak area of Surry County, a neighbor discovered the dead body of 41-year-old, Mrs. Reatha Higgins Oakley, who had eleven children.<sup>193</sup> She was found in the Round Peak area

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<sup>189</sup> Ibid.

<sup>190</sup> Ibid.

<sup>191</sup> Ibid.

<sup>192</sup> Ibid.

<sup>193</sup> "Lowgap Man, Round Peak Woman Meet Violent Death Tuesday Night," *The Mount Airy News*, 26 May 1967, 1.

underneath a ramshackle log crib and stable.<sup>194</sup> Mrs. Oakley had four bullet wounds that penetrated her neck, chest, and side.<sup>195</sup> The neighbor was searching for Mrs. Oakley because the woman's children were worried about the absence from home of their mom overnight.<sup>196</sup>

When a deputy arrived on the scene where Mrs. Oakley's body was lying, three of the woman's children were in the deputy's police car.<sup>197</sup> After seeing their mother's dead body on the ground, they were distraught by what they have seen, so they were taken to a neighbor's house for comfort.<sup>198</sup> A 1958 Chevrolet, which belonged to Mrs. Oakley, was parked no more than 30 feet from her dead body.<sup>199</sup> With the driver's door open, in the front seat laid Mrs. Oakley's untouched pocketbook lay among some freshly gathered onions in the backseat.<sup>200</sup>

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<sup>194</sup> Ibid.

<sup>195</sup> Ibid.

<sup>196</sup> Ibid.

<sup>197</sup> Ibid.

<sup>198</sup> Ibid.

<sup>199</sup> Ibid.

<sup>200</sup> Ibid.

Oakley had been living in Lowgap on Golding's farm, until that house burned down a few days earlier.<sup>201</sup> Detective Joe Simmons and G. M. Eldridge of the Mount Airy Police assisted officers to fingerprint Mrs. Oakley's car.<sup>202</sup> While they sent out an alert to Sheriff Jim Taylor to pick up Golding for questioning because Golding knew Mrs. Oakley, Simmons and Eldridge never found Golding's fingerprints.<sup>203</sup> In addition, Golding was nowhere to be found at that moment.<sup>204</sup> On that Tuesday, between 5:30 and 6 p.m., a resident that lived just off a small dirt road in Round Peak, told officers that she recognized Golding's black pickup truck and Mrs. Oakley's Chevrolet entering a dead end.<sup>205</sup> Golding's pickup returned, but not Mrs. Oakley's Chevrolet an hour later.<sup>206</sup>

As Sherriff Jim Taylor and Surry Coroner Dr. Carl L. Thomas were examining the

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<sup>201</sup> Ibid.

<sup>202</sup> Ibid.

<sup>203</sup> Ibid.

<sup>204</sup> Ibid.

<sup>205</sup> Ibid.

<sup>206</sup> Ibid.

investigation, they received a report that Golding's body had been found.<sup>207</sup> Behind Golding's house on Highway 89 near Mount Vernon Church about three-fourths was a burned tobacco barn, here they found Golding's body beside his black pickup truck. Lying across his body was a .22 caliber rifle.<sup>208</sup> There was one bullet wound in his chest, and the other one in his head.<sup>209</sup> According to the coroner, either wound would have been fatal.<sup>210</sup> One of Golding's sons and a hired man on the farm had discovered his body.<sup>211</sup>

From piecing all the information together, the officers speculated that Golding and Mrs. Oakley were together in the barn where Mrs. Oakley's body was found.<sup>212</sup> From the footprints in the barn, there was an indication that a man was with her at the garden gathering onions.<sup>213</sup> Apparently, Golding left the old shed to drive

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<sup>207</sup> Ibid.

<sup>208</sup> Ibid.

<sup>209</sup> Ibid.

<sup>210</sup> Ibid.

<sup>211</sup> Ibid.

<sup>212</sup> Ibid.

<sup>213</sup> Ibid.

straight to where his body was found in the old tobacco barn.<sup>214</sup> After examining each body, Dr. Thomas estimated that Mrs. Oakley died between 6:30 and 7 p.m., and Golding died around 8 p.m. that Tuesday evening.<sup>215</sup> Sherriff Jim Taylor traveled to the State Crime Laboratory in Raleigh to determine if the shots from Golding's rifle killed both of the deceased with ballistics tests.<sup>216</sup> The theory is that Golding shot Mrs. Oakley and then drove to the barn to commit suicide.<sup>217</sup> On the other hand, Dr. Thomas believed that Golding shot himself in the chest, but he was still conscious, so he shot himself in the head.<sup>218</sup>

While Sheriff Taylor's theory was unlike Dr. Thomas's theory, neither one them found out, if it was the same rifle that killed Golding and Mrs. Oakley. The motives that might have occurred during this situation are Golding could have got into an argument with Mrs. Oakley and accidentally shot

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<sup>214</sup> Ibid.

<sup>215</sup> Ibid.

<sup>216</sup> Ibid.

<sup>217</sup> Ibid.

<sup>218</sup> Ibid.

her, then himself, or somebody else had a grudge with Golding because Golding cheated them out of money when they paid him for moonshine and knew that Mrs. Oakley was living on Golding's property. In the end, nobody will truly know what happened on that day, which the truth is still a mystery.

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Family of Dock and Allie Golding. Personal family photograph. N.d.

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# Hickok Family



## “Wild” Bill Hickok By Amyleigh Kunkel

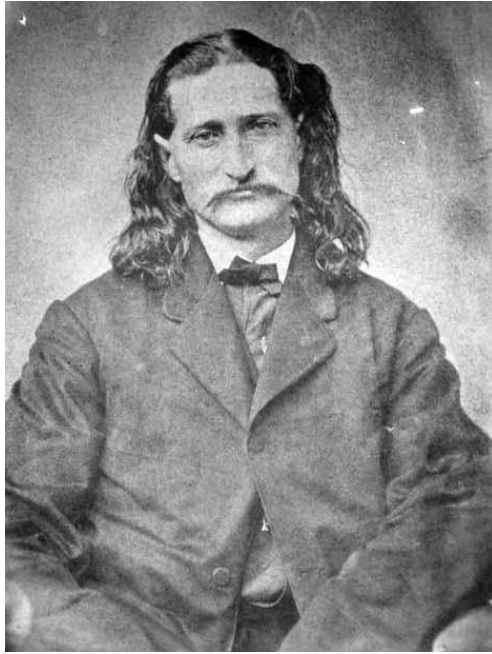
My Great Aunt Fay decided to do research on our family tree because nobody had ever done one. While doing this research she found the usual things that runs in people’s families, crazy aunt, drunk uncle etc. However, the deeper she searched she found our fifth cousin down the line was a famous man known as “Wild” Bill Hickok.

Wild Bill Hickok’s real name is James Butler Hickok, and he was born in Troy Grove, Illinois on May 27, 1837<sup>219</sup>. Hickok grew up with six siblings and moved to the western front with his family at an early age. Many people moved to the western states in hopes of finding new opportunities. Families would produce many children in order to have more workers on the

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<sup>219</sup> Richard, John. “Chronology on Life of James Butler (Wild Bill) HICKOK.” *Chronology on Life of James Butler HICKOK, Wild Bill Hickok, Old West Kansas*, Kansas Heritage, [www.kansasheritage.org/gunfighters/JBH.html](http://www.kansasheritage.org/gunfighters/JBH.html). Accessed 26 Sept. 2017.

frontier during that time period. They would help out with the farm, so that way the family did not have to hire so many workers. Growing up on the farm lands, Hickok was more than likely expected to work hard because he was a male. During those days, children were expected to help around the house, and the farm in order to keep it up and running. Around ages eight to ten, is when the Hickok siblings, and James himself, would start helping on the actual hard work in the fields. Growing up without electricity, or running water, made life harder for people like Hickok. His chores took longer, and he would do things like collect water from the well, cut and collect wood, and plant things, like corn, for the family.



James B. "Wild Bill" Hickok<sup>220</sup>

When the discussion of division of states because of slavery started to spread across the states Hickok got right on board with the non-slaves supporting states. Hickok and his family supported the freedom of the slaves and had the escaped slaves come to their farm and sneak them into a cellar and down a passage that lead them to the free

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<sup>220</sup> "James B. "Wild Bill" Hickok." *Kansas Historical Society*, Feb. 2011, [www.kshs.org/kansapedia/james-b-wild-bill-hickok/16518](http://www.kshs.org/kansapedia/james-b-wild-bill-hickok/16518). Accessed 27 Sept. 2017.

states<sup>221</sup>. Hickok was close with his families' former slave named Hannah which lived with the family for many years and she helped the escaped slaves sneak out.<sup>222</sup> While all this was going on Hickok oversaw the chores around the house and including bringing the meat for the family by hunting for meat in the lands around their house.

As one could imagine Hickok was full of energy and life, but he also was a hot head. He was bored of the small town and being a farmer, so he packed his stuff up and moved to a different part of Illinois and became a wagon driver.<sup>223</sup> One-day Hickok and another man got into a fight because the man was abusing the horse. Hickok grew up with animals on the farm and he believed that they

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<sup>221</sup> Richard, John. "Chronology on Life of James Butler (Wild Bill) HICKOK." *Chronology on Life of James Butler HICKOK, Wild Bill Hickok, Old West Kansas*, Kansas Heritage, [www.kansasheritage.org/gunfighters/JBH.html](http://www.kansasheritage.org/gunfighters/JBH.html). Accessed 26 Sept. 2017

<sup>222</sup> Ibid.

<sup>223</sup> Socolofsky, Homer E. "Hickok, "Wild Bill" [James Butler] (1837–76)." *The New Encyclopedia of the American West*, edited by Howard R. Lamar, Yale University Press, 1st edition, 1998. *Credo Reference*. Accessed 14 Nov 2017.

should be treated right. During this fight Hickok pushed the other man off the canal. Thinking he had killed this man, Hickok once again packed up his stuff and moved to Kansas. After bouncing around from job to job he finally ended up joining the “Kanas Free Staters” which was considered pre-army.<sup>224</sup> After being mullied by a bear and being seriously injured, he was sent to Rock Creek Station. When he was stationed here another man named McCanles and Hickok would always fight because McCanles would call Hickok “Duck Bill” because according to him he thought Hickok’s face looked like a duck. One-day McCanles came looking for trouble and brought his friends with him and decided to pick on Hickok. During this fight McCanles was just about to pull out his weapon, but Hickok was quicker and shot McCanles first.<sup>225</sup>

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<sup>224</sup> Richard, John. “Chronology on Life of James Butler (Wild Bill) HICKOK.” *Chronology on Life of James Butler HICKOK, Wild Bill Hickok, Old West Kansas*, Kansas Heritage, [www.kansasheritage.org/gunfighters/JBH.html](http://www.kansasheritage.org/gunfighters/JBH.html). Accessed 26 Sept. 2017

<sup>225</sup> Socolofsky, Homer E. "Hickok, “Wild Bill” [James Butler] (1837–76)." *The New Encyclopedia of the American West*, edited by Howard R. Lamar, Yale University

A while after this incident Hickok joined the Union Army in the Civil War. He played his part in the “Wilson Creek Battle.”<sup>226</sup> This battle scared Hickok; he wrote to his brother expressing this was one of the few times that he was scared. A year after that battle Hickok was named chief wagon master, and he was riding along when he came to a saloon where an angry mob crowd was trying to hurt the saloon owner over an incident that escalated. Hickok went and stood in front of the saloon owner and shot his gun right above the leader of the mob gang which gave him the name “Wild Bill” Hickok.<sup>227</sup> There are other versions on why Hickok got his name but that is said to be the most accurate one.

Hickok was asked by the union army to become a spy for them and go over into enemy territory and get information for them.<sup>228</sup> At this

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Press, 1st edition, 1998. *Credo Reference*. Accessed 14 Nov 2017.

<sup>226</sup> Rosa, Joseph G. *They called him Wild Bill: the life and adventures of James Butler Hickok*. Easton Press, 1992.

<sup>227</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>228</sup> *Ibid.*

point in Hickok's life, he liked being the detective, enforcer, and doing police work. He was wild but wanted justice and to do the right thing. After the Civil War Hickok was surprised he survived and won the war. Hickok once again packed up and moved to Spring field, Missouri to start his next chapter of his life.<sup>229</sup>

This was the exciting part of Hickok's life. Hickok got into a relationship with Dave Tutt's sister,<sup>230</sup> this didn't sit well with her family because Hickok was one of the hillbillies that wanted the slaves to be free and roam around. Tutt stole from Hickok and decided to prance around town, and show off the watch he had stolen. Meeting in the middle of town, Hickok threatened Tutt to give back what belonged to him, and Tutt mocked him in front of the town and at the same time the men drew their guns. For the second time in his life Hickok

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<sup>229</sup> Ibid.

<sup>230</sup> Richard, John. "Chronology on Life of James Butler (Wild Bill) HICKOK." *Chronology on Life of James Butler HICKOK, Wild Bill Hickok, Old West Kansas*, Kansas Heritage, [www.kansasheritage.org/gunfighters/JBH.html](http://www.kansasheritage.org/gunfighters/JBH.html). Accessed 26 Sept. 2017.

had the quicker hand and shot Tutt right in the chest. He then turned around and threatened any man that would challenge him.<sup>231</sup>

Years passed, and Hickok still managed to find some sort of trouble everywhere he went. However, he was still on the right side of the law, he was a Deputy U.S Marshal.<sup>232</sup> During the year 1867 one of Hickok's famous shootouts occurred.<sup>233</sup> Hickok wanted to clean up the City of Hays, and in doing so he went to "clean" out the local saloon. In this saloon, the biggest trouble maker in town named Strawhun sat on a barstool.<sup>234</sup> This man refused to leave and was annoyed by the audacity that Hickok had to disturb his drinking. He reached for his gun and when Hickok saw this movement he quickly drew his gun and shot Strawhun in the back of the head. Strawhun's friend got mad and decided to go after Hickok, and he shot him too. During his

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<sup>231</sup> Ibid.

<sup>232</sup> Socolofsky, Homer E. "Hickok, "Wild Bill" [James Butler] (1837–76)." *The New Encyclopedia of the American West*, edited by Howard R. Lamar, Yale University Press, 1st edition, 1998. *Credo Reference*. Accessed 14 Nov 2017

<sup>233</sup> Ibid

<sup>234</sup> Ibid



time in this town he shot other men who were on the path to stop his cleaning up of this town. However, throughout his life Hickok only got more aggressive and this eventually ended his career on the good side of the law.

Hickok had a major gambling problem throughout his life, but when he got out the law enforcement field it only got worse. One the day he died, Hickok was gambling at “Number 10 Saloon”.<sup>235</sup> He sat with his back against the door, and this as the first time ever doing this because he was always wanted to always be able to watch the door. The town’s crazy man came into the saloon and shot Hickok in the head. The reason his death is so famous is because when he died Hickok’s hand was filled with black aces and eights with the fifth card being Jack of Diamonds hand will forever be known as “The Dead Man’s Hand”.<sup>236</sup>

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<sup>235</sup> Rosa, Joseph G. *They called him Wild Bill: the life and adventures of James Butler Hickok*. Easton Press, 1992.

<sup>236</sup> *Ibid*



The Ball that Killed Wild Bill<sup>237</sup>

“Wild Bill” Hickok lived a fast and adventurous life. This led to him being able to explore and see different parts of the country. However, it also led him to being famous for his shootouts with other men in attempts to cleaning up his towns. Hickok lived for the gun, and he also died by the gun.

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<sup>237</sup> Thomas, Andy. “The Ball that Killed Wild Bill.” *True West Magazine*, 29 Sept. 2015, [truewestmagazine.com/the-ball-that-killed-wild-bill/](http://truewestmagazine.com/the-ball-that-killed-wild-bill/). Accessed 28 Sept. 2017.

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Thomas, Andy. "The Ball that Killed Wild Bill."

*True West Magazine*, 29 Sept. 2015,

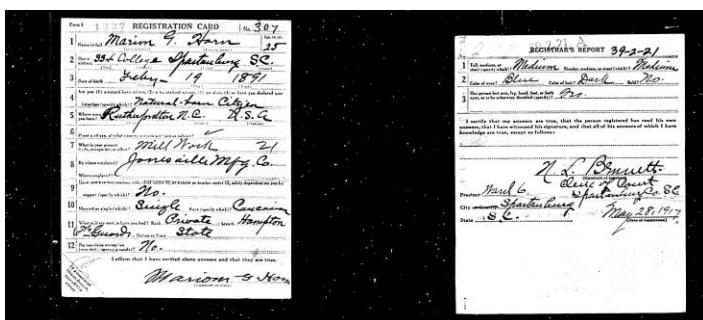
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# Horn Family

# Battle Scars

## By Katherine Horn

Marion Garland Horn Sr. was born February 19, 1891 in Rutherford County, North Carolina. He married Letha Adelia Augusta Emeline Robbins, who was born June 27, 1896. They married on April 15, 1922. Marion fought in World War 1 from May 24, 1917 to April 22, 1919. Marion and Letha had seven children of their own.



Marion G. Horn Sr.'s Draft Card<sup>238</sup>

Marion Garland Horn was the one out of five brothers and sisters, and which he was the youngest son out of his siblings.<sup>239</sup> MG, which was his nickname growing up, grew up in Rutherford

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<sup>238</sup> “World War 1 Draft Registration Cards, 1917-1918.” Digital images. *Ancestry.com*. <http://www.ancestry.com>:2017.

<sup>239</sup> Holland, Iva Horn. Personal interview. 21 September 2017.

County, North Carolina with his family by his side. He was known as a loving, caring man who would've done anything to help his family during those hard times from living meal to meal.

1917 impacted Marion's life from that point until his death. During this year, on May 24, 1917, MG was drafted for World War I.<sup>240</sup> Two days later, Marion's father General Jackson Horn, passed away at a mere sixty-seven years old.<sup>241</sup> This gave Marion the drive to keep pushing through the rough parts—because Marion was drafted at the age of twenty-five years old.<sup>242</sup> He knew his father would want him to do what he had to do for his family.

During this time, the United States was involved in World War 1. Marion was in the 117<sup>th</sup> Engineers 42<sup>nd</sup> division.<sup>243</sup> As it is today, all the

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<sup>240</sup> South Carolina, General Assembly. *The Official Roster of South Carolina Soldiers, Sailors and Marines in the World War, 1917-18*. Vol. 1, pt. 2. [Columbia, S.C.]: General Assembly, 1929. p. 531.

[http://dc.statelibrary.sc.gov/bitstream/handle/10827/21984/OAG The Official Roster of SC Soldiers 1929 V1 Pt2.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y](http://dc.statelibrary.sc.gov/bitstream/handle/10827/21984/OAG%20The%20Official%20Roster%20of%20SC%20Soldiers%201929%20V1%20Pt2.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y). Accessed 24 September 2017.

<sup>241</sup> Ibid.

<sup>242</sup> Ibid.

<sup>243</sup> Ibid.

draftees were sent to boot camp. For Marion Horn, his boot camp was in Camp Mills located in Long Island, New York.<sup>244</sup>

Their training began at 5:30 in the morning, breakfast, and drill practice between 7:30 and 11:30. After this, the soldiers were given a lunch break only to resume drill until it was dinner time at 6:00. Lights were required to be out at 9:45.<sup>245</sup> This schedule was his lifestyle for the next six weeks. By the fourth week of boot camp, soldiers marched over eight miles equipped.<sup>246</sup> While marching was important, boot camp prepared the soldiers for their specific area of work.<sup>247</sup> Marion's particular place of work was engineering.<sup>248</sup>

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<sup>244</sup> Horn, Martha Tate. Personal interview. 22 September 2017.

<sup>245</sup> Snead, David L. "South Carolina Engineers in the 42nd (Rainbow Division) in World War 1." *Digital Commons*, 2003, [digitalcommons.liberty.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1011&context=hist\\_fac\\_pubs](http://digitalcommons.liberty.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1011&context=hist_fac_pubs).

<sup>246</sup> Ibid.

<sup>247</sup> Ibid.

<sup>248</sup> Ibid.



Marion was in the United States Army Reserves<sup>249</sup> where he was stationed in Spartanburg, South Carolina.<sup>250</sup> After following boot camp, soldiers were sent for a voyage to France for two weeks.<sup>251</sup> There was not much physical application due to space, but soldiers were expected to learn abandon the ship type of drills, stand in a line for hours, and they were allowed to be on deck for an hour a day.<sup>252</sup> The ships were packed tight, so soldiers were lucky if they got to eat once every twenty-four hours.<sup>253</sup>

During his time as an engineer, it was Marion's department who built various things such as hospitals, bath houses, barracks, etc.<sup>254</sup> The 42<sup>nd</sup> division was given limited training in trench warfare, marksmanship, marches, and close order drill.<sup>255</sup> Eventually, the engineers started to maintain and build trenches, dugouts, roads, barracks,

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<sup>249</sup> Ibid.

<sup>250</sup> Ibid.

<sup>251</sup> Ibid.

<sup>252</sup> Ibid.

<sup>253</sup> Ibid.

<sup>254</sup> Ibid.

<sup>255</sup> Ibid.

artillery and machine gun positions, and observation posts.<sup>256</sup> Their job became just as dangerous as those who were in the infantry because the enemy would often use artillery to shell American trenches—which was only used as harassment tactic.<sup>257</sup> Because of this tactic, engineers were required to be ready as soon as possible because engineers had make additional repairs under all the fire that was being thrown.<sup>258</sup> One particular incident of this harassment occurred when the engineers worked to dig out the buried soldiers who were caught in the raids.<sup>259</sup>

In one of the raids that were made on October 7, 1918, Marion was trying to dig out the trenches.<sup>260</sup> He heard the enemy coming. He heard the stomping, with gunfire in the background. The sound of the fire brought a ringing into his ears. In

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<sup>256</sup> Ibid.

<sup>257</sup> Ibid.

<sup>258</sup> Ibid.

<sup>259</sup> Ibid.

<sup>260</sup> Ibid.

that moment, he was absolutely terrified. He prayed to God for this could be the end.<sup>261</sup>

To hide for cover, he climbed up a tree as it was the closest refuge that Marion could find on short notice. His heart was pounding out of his chest as he heard the enemy come closer and closer. He remembers the sound of their boots stomping. Marion thought about his family within this moment because he was fighting to see them again. He thought of his father, rest his soul, who would want Marion to keep fighting and living for as long as he could.<sup>262</sup>

As he gained shelter, he thought he was camouflaged enough for safety. Unfortunately, the enemy saw him at the last second. The enemy pivoted his gun towards my great grandfather and fired at him in the tree. As Marion was about to surrender over to them with his hands stretched in the air, his middle finger was then blasted off with their weapon.<sup>263</sup> As the enemy thought they had

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<sup>261</sup> Ibid.

<sup>262</sup> Ibid.

<sup>263</sup> Ibid.

killed Marion, they scurried off to find other people to rack up more casualties and wounded.

Marion yelled in agony over his finger as blood poured down his hand. Dirt covered him from head to toe. He waited for a little while for the coast to be clear from anymore strikes from the enemy. As he slid down the tree, he made his way to his commanding officer. He was sent to medical unit, although his fellow soldiers and officers thought he was as sure as dead. Though he did find his finger that had been shot off, there was no hope in being able to reattach his finger. So, Marion continued on throughout the rest of his service with nine and half fingers. <sup>264</sup>

As weeks passed, Marion endured one more wound that scarred him until the day he died. He was digging the trenches, when a another raid was commenced. This time, he was gassed when he least expected it. <sup>265</sup> He told his children later on about how he remembered the feeling of suffocation

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<sup>264</sup> Ibid.

<sup>265</sup> Ibid.

within that moment. He exclaimed about how his life flashed before his eyes, but somehow he made it out of the trench in time before the gas did actual permanent damage.

*Bn. N. C. Iago, at enl. 25-4 (Over)* RW ORIGINAL

CHECK TYPE REQUIRED <small>(Use Indemnitive liability)</small>		APPLICATION FOR HEADSTONE OR MARKER <small>(Print in black ink on Form in duplicate)</small>			
<input type="checkbox"/> UPRIGHT MARBLE HEADSTONE	ENLISTMENT DATE May 24, 1917	SERIAL NO. 187492	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ENBLEM (Check one)		
<input type="checkbox"/> FLAT MARBLE MARKER	DISCHARGE DATE April 22, 1919	PENSION NO. XG-196785	<input type="checkbox"/> CHRISTIAN	<input type="checkbox"/> NONE	
<input type="checkbox"/> FLAT GRANITE MARKER		STATE, COUNTY, & HOME N. C. P. I.	COMPACT NO		
<input type="checkbox"/> BRONZE MARKER		U. S. REGIMENT, STATE ORGANIZATION, AND DIVISION 117th Engineers 42nd Division			
NAME (Last, First, Middle Initial) Horn, Marion G.					
DATE OF BIRTH (Month, Day, Year) February 19, 1891	DATE OF DEATH (Month, Day, Year) July 27, 1953				
NAME OF CEMETERY Cool Springs	LOCATION (City and State) Forest City, North Carolina				
SHIP TO IT (CERTIFY THE APPLICANT FOR THIS STONE HAS MADE ARRANGEMENTS WITH ME TO TRANSPORT THE STONE FROM THE FREIGHT STATION TO THE CEMETERY) Harrold, N. C. 27534		NEAREST FREIGHT STATION (City and State) Forest City, North Carolina			
SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT <i>W. H. ...</i>		POST OFFICE ADDRESS OF CONSIGNEE P. O. Box 215 Henrietta, N. C.			
DO NOT WRITE HERE		I certify this application is submitted for a stone for the unmarked grave of a veteran. I hereby agree to assume all responsibility for the removal of the stone promptly upon arrival at destination, and properly place it at the decedent's grave at my expense.			
FOR VERIFICATION ORIGINAL MARBLE OR GRANITE NO. NY 2451714	DATE 8 NOV 1950	APPLICANT'S SIGNATURE <i>Letha R. Horn</i>		DATE OF APPLICATION 8/14/53	
SHIPPED		ADDRESS (Street, Care, Street) Rt-1 Forest City, North Carolina			

DDMS FORM 1-50 623      IMPORTANT—Complete Reverse Side      16-11482-0 GPO

Headstone Application for Marion G. Horn Sr.<sup>266</sup>

Marion G. Horn was finally honorably discharged from the military on April 22, 1919. At the end of his service with only two major wounds, he was left only 30% disabled.<sup>267</sup> Marion married Letha Robbins on April 15, 1922. They had seven children: Juanita, Wilma, Iva, Marion Jr., Geneva,

<sup>266</sup> “Public Member Trees.” Database. *Ancestry.com*. <http://www.ancestry.com> : 2017.

<sup>267</sup> *Ibid*.

Donald, and Carolyn.<sup>268</sup> He told many stories to his children about his time in during the war and its horrors.<sup>269</sup> Marion G. Horn Sr. died on July 27, 1953 due to a heart attack.<sup>270</sup>

To honor him and his service, his wife Letha applied for his headstone for the work he did during World War I. Marion G. Horn Sr. died on July 27, 1953 due to a heart attack.<sup>271</sup> MG was a man of many passions and traits, but his characteristic of bravery has shown through his services through World War I.

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<sup>268</sup> Horn, Marion Garland III. Personal interview. 25 September 2017.

<sup>269</sup> Ibid.

<sup>270</sup> Ibid.

<sup>271</sup> Ibid.

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# Lanford Family



# Coaching Legend

## By Logan Draughon

Fred Lanford was born December 27, 1943 in Woodruff, South Carolina. He married Phyllis Westmoreland in 1963 and had two children, Caroline in 1969 and Andrew in 1975. He experienced an impressive coaching career, with the emphasis on baseball.



Coach Fred Lanford at South Caldwell in 1982  
Source: Phyllis Lanford, Private Collection

Fred Lanford is a well-known baseball, basketball, and football coach in the state of North Carolina. The majority of his recognition stems from his baseball coaching. He was admitted into five halls of fame, has a baseball field named after

him, and has received many other honors due to his marvelous coaching.<sup>272</sup> Today, his players are thankful and firmly express their gratitude for everything that he taught them. Fred constantly preached to them that “hard work leads to success,” and he definitely knows that from experience.<sup>273</sup> His hard work, love of the game, and thirty-five years of dedication to educating younger generations about baseball has made him into the coaching legend he is today.

Fred’s love of baseball started when he was young. He was born in the small town of Woodruff, South Carolina, where he began playing when he was nine years old as part of a little league team.<sup>274</sup> In high school, he played sports year round, including football, basketball, and baseball, but his main and favorite one was baseball.<sup>275</sup> During his sophomore and junior years, 1958 and 1959, he was

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<sup>272</sup> Lanford, Phyllis. “Fred Lanford: NCBCA Hall of Fame.” 2009. PDF File, <http://www.ncbca.org/Portals/0/PDF/FredLanfordHOF.pdf>.

<sup>273</sup> Lanford, Fred. Personal interview. 25 September 2017.

<sup>274</sup> Ibid.

<sup>275</sup> Ibid.

a left-handed pitcher on the 3A State Championship teams.<sup>276</sup> Left-handed players are uncommon and typically have an advantage in baseball. Fred also played five years on an American Legion team throughout his adolescence.<sup>277</sup> After graduating, he played two years at Spartanburg Methodist College, then transferred to Appalachian State University.<sup>278</sup> His wife, Phyllis, worked to pay for his tuition, so he could play baseball and finish his schooling.<sup>279</sup> He knew the only way he could continue to be involved in baseball would be to coach, so he pursued a teaching career.<sup>280</sup> He did his student teaching at Hudson High School and was immediately offered a job teaching and coaching after graduating with a Bachelor of Science in Social Studies in 1965.<sup>281</sup>

At his first teaching and coaching job, he

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<sup>276</sup> Ibid.

<sup>277</sup> Ibid.

<sup>278</sup> Ibid.

<sup>279</sup> Lanford, Phyllis. Personal interview. 25 September 2017.

<sup>280</sup> Lanford, Fred. Personal interview. 25 September 2017.

<sup>281</sup> Ibid.

was a history teacher and the assistant football, head basketball, and head baseball coach.<sup>282</sup> He was mostly known for his baseball coaching because he led the Northwest 3A baseball team to the state championship four times while coaching there.<sup>283</sup> Meanwhile, he and Phyllis extended their family with a daughter, Caroline in 1969 and a son, Andrew in 1975.<sup>284</sup> In 1977, he thought it was best to make a change for his family and made a career move to become a teacher and the assistant football, head basketball, and head baseball coach at South Caldwell High School.<sup>285</sup> Again, he was mostly known for his baseball coaching. In 1982, his team won the 4A State Championship, which was his most memorable achievement as a coach.<sup>286</sup> The pitcher from that championship team went on to

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<sup>282</sup> Ibid.

<sup>283</sup> Lanford, Phyllis. "Fred Lanford: NCBCA Hall of Fame."

<sup>284</sup> Lanford, Phyllis. Personal interview. 25 September 2017.

<sup>285</sup> Lanford, Fred. Personal interview. 25 September 2017.

<sup>286</sup> Ibid.

play at Appalachian State University.<sup>287</sup> From 1985-1991, his team won seven consecutive conference championships.<sup>288</sup> In 1995, his team finished as the only undefeated team in the state of North Carolina with a record of 24-0.<sup>289</sup> In his twenty-three years at South Caldwell, he had a career record of 538-151, which is a seventy-eight percent winning record, reached the state playoffs nineteen years, and won nineteen conference titles.<sup>290</sup> He made the decision to retire in 2000 and at that time, he was ranked one of the top five coaches in North Carolina.<sup>291</sup>

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<sup>287</sup> Lanford, Phyllis. Personal interview. 25 September 2017.

<sup>288</sup> Lanford, Phyllis. "Fred Lanford: NCBCA Hall of Fame."

<sup>289</sup> Ibid.

<sup>290</sup> Ibid.

<sup>291</sup> Lanford, Fred. Personal interview. 25 September 2017.



South Calwell's "Lanford Field"  
Source: Phyllis Lanford, Private Collection



Fred receiving his NCHSAA Hall of Fame ring in Chapel Hill,  
North Carolina in 2009.  
Source: Phyllis Lanford, Private Collection

Fred's outstanding coaching accomplishments did not go unnoticed, as he was inducted into multiple halls of fame and won many awards. In 1994, he was inducted into the Woodruff High School Hall of Fame and the Caldwell County Hall of Fame.<sup>292</sup> He was honored with "Fred Lanford Week" in Caldwell County in 1999.<sup>293</sup> He was North Carolina's Coach of the Year in 1982 and 1994.<sup>294</sup> He was the Northwest Conference Coach of the Year fifteen times.<sup>295</sup> He was inducted into the George Whitfield Baseball Hall of Fame in 2006, as well as the NCHSAA Coaching Hall of Fame and NCBCA Hall of Fame in 2009.<sup>296</sup> His most recent honor was having South Caldwell's baseball field renamed the "Lanford Field," which took place on April 22, 2017.<sup>297</sup> These awards were no small feat and ensure that he will be remembered

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<sup>292</sup> Lanford, Phyllis. "Fred Lanford: NCBCA Hall of Fame."

<sup>293</sup> Ibid.

<sup>294</sup> Ibid.

<sup>295</sup> Ibid.

<sup>296</sup> Ibid.

<sup>297</sup> Lanford, Fred. Personal interview. 25 September 2017.

in years to come.

Since his retirement in 2000, Fred has assisted his son in coaching basketball at Jacobs Fork Middle School in Hickory, North Carolina and the team has won five conference championships.<sup>298</sup> He spends his free time playing golf and has won many club championships at Cedar Rock Country Club and Lenoir Golf Club.<sup>299</sup> Additionally, he and his wife have visited fifteen major league baseball parks with the expectation of seeing all thirty.<sup>300</sup> They also enjoy traveling and spending time with their five grandchildren.<sup>301</sup> He hopes to pass down his legacy to his grandchildren and many later generations.<sup>302</sup> After spending numerous years teaching and coaching others, he will spend the rest of his life relaxing and surrounded by his family.

Coach Lanford, as most refer to him, taught his players about much more than baseball. His

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<sup>298</sup> Lanford, Phyllis. Personal interview. 25 September 2017.

<sup>299</sup> Ibid.

<sup>300</sup> Ibid.

<sup>301</sup> Ibid.

<sup>302</sup> Lanford, Fred. Personal interview. 25 September 2017.



teams were built around fundamentals, discipline, and loyalty to each other.<sup>303</sup> He taught them how to deal with the good times and the bad times, how to recover from a loss, and how to celebrate after a victory.<sup>304</sup> Every player felt as if they were part of a family, and he set a perfect example for them to follow. His players use the lessons he provided for them throughout their entire lives. The combination of leaving his mark on his players, his determination, and his commitment is what made him an exceptional, legendary coach.

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<sup>303</sup> Ibid.

<sup>304</sup> Ibid.

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# Lawson Family

# Charlie Lawson

## By Destiny Martin

Charlie Lawson of Germanton, North Carolina, was a sharecropping farmer, husband to Fannie Manring, and father to seven children<sup>305</sup>. He was born May 10, 1886 and died December 25, 1929 due to suicide after the murders of his wife and six of his 7 children<sup>306</sup>.

Charlie Lawson rounded his children up, trying to contain the unorganized mess that was his family trying to leave the house: four girls, three boys, plus his wife. With the oldest being 17 and the youngest being only 4 months old, the ruckus created had to be extraordinary<sup>307</sup>. “Everyone hurry up,” Charlie yelled shortly, “we don’t have much time left.” Something seemed very odd with his and

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<sup>305</sup> “Charlie Lawson.” *Geni*, <https://www.geni.com/people/Charlie-Lawson/6000000009148329933>.

<sup>306</sup> *Ibid*.

<sup>307</sup> *Ibid*.

Fannie's relationship lately, so she was beginning to wonder what he was planning with this surprise trip to the town, as no special occasion was present.

Everyone got to the town in one piece, and they were all pleasantly surprised with Charlie's surprise of new clothing for everyone. The family took their time finding beautiful dresses and handsome suits, although they had no idea what the occasion was. After everyone had what they wanted, Charlie had spent around \$200, which was a hefty price, even when buying clothing for nine people that was nicer than any of their Sunday best<sup>308</sup>. After the family's shopping, Charlie pushed for them to get their photo taken at a local shop<sup>309</sup>; this photo ended up with a significance no one but Charlie Lawson himself could have predicted. Fannie knew something was wrong with Charlie, but she had no idea this would be the last picture of

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<sup>308</sup> Martin, David. Personal Interview. 12 Sep. 2017.

<sup>309</sup> "Triad Murder Mystery: Lawson Family Christmas Day Massacre." *WFMYNews2*, <http://www.wfmynews2.com/news/local/triad-murder-mystery-the-lawson-family-massacre/180817902>.

her family, or that would be seen by thousands more people<sup>310</sup>.

After the photo, they headed home with Charlie Lawson remaining just as reserved as he had been all day, making Fannie seriously worry about not only his, but her entire family's well-being. After some more thought, she figured it must be the stress of Christmas approaching and decided to not give it another thought. A couple weeks passed and other than Charlie's slightly distant behavior, everything seemed fine; they woke up on Christmas day, exchanged what few gifts there were and went about their day. Charlie had his eldest son, Arthur, go to town to run an errand<sup>311</sup>, reinforcing the notion for Arthur to take his time making sure it got done right, keeping him out most of the day.

Once Arthur was away, Carrie and Maybell, two of Charlie's daughters, made their way to their

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<sup>310</sup> "Charles Lawson Family Murders." *NEW YORK TIMES*, 26 Dec. 1929. Retrieved from: *Timothy Hughes Rare & Early Newspapers*, <http://www.rarenewspapers.com/view/618728>.

<sup>311</sup> "Triad Murder Mystery..." *WFMYNews2*.

aunt and uncle's house<sup>312</sup>, taking them some cookies their mother had baked. Once they passed the barn, their own father, Charlie Lawson, shot them both, beating them to ensure their death<sup>313</sup>. He returned home, killing his wife on the front porch in the same fashion<sup>314</sup>. He then heard the screams of his eldest daughter, Marie, and followed the screams into the house, killing her as well<sup>315</sup>. He then moved on to attempting to find his other two sons, who he knew had to be hiding somewhere within the house. Searching through the house, room by room, he finally found the boys hidden in a small closet; so near to completion, Charlie continued his brutal mission, murdering two of his three sons<sup>316</sup>. He went and looked outside, estimating how much time remained before Arthur returned home; then, he realized he forgot someone: Mary Lou, his precious four-month-old daughter. Sensing trouble, the baby began to scream and cry,

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<sup>312</sup> "Charlie Lawson." *Geni.Com*.

<sup>313</sup> *Ibid*.

<sup>314</sup> *Ibid*.

<sup>315</sup> *Ibid*.

<sup>316</sup> *Ibid*.

but with no remorse, Charlie killed his last victim<sup>317</sup>.

Still having most of the day before he had to make his escape, Charlie gathered his deceased family in the barn, crossing their arms and lying their heads on pillows as if they were only taking a quick nap<sup>318</sup>. After arranging his family, he went into the woods and began to pace back and forth, trying to decide what to do. Charlie started to leave his final notes but couldn't get out the words he wanted to say<sup>319</sup>; once he heard neighbors beginning to approach after hearing the gunshots, Charlie Lawson then took his own life, leaving only Arthur Lawson to carry the Lawson name<sup>320</sup>.

The townsfolk found six of the eight members of the Lawson family, and seeing their gunshot wounds along with the blood around and inside the house, they went looking to see if they could find who committed this gruesome act. This

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<sup>317</sup> Ibid.

<sup>318</sup> "Triad Murder Mystery..." *WFMYNews2*.

<sup>319</sup> Martin, Keith. Personal Interview. 12 Sep. 2017.

<sup>320</sup> "Charles Lawson Family Murders." *NEW YORK TIMES*.



is when they found Charlie, dead, above ground that had been worn to dirt from constant pacing. Arthur returned, finding his entire family murdered while he was gone on an “errand,” and he realized how his role in being away was vital to Charlie Lawson’s plan to mutilate their entire family. If Arthur had been home, he could have defended the family and possibly talked some sense into Charlie, ultimately saving eight lives that didn’t need to end<sup>321</sup>.

It took some time to do the investigation, as it wasn’t immediately known that Charlie Lawson was the murderer. During this time, the Lawson farm became a tourist attraction; each person was charged a entry fee to see the “exhibit” that was the crime scene<sup>322</sup>. The story became so extremely popular within the town, being that many children lost several of their school mates and people were attempting to unravel the mystery of this mass murder. Thousands of people from all over the

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<sup>321</sup> Martin, David. Personal Interview.

<sup>322</sup> “Charlie Lawson.” *Geni.Com*.

South came to the funeral of the family, not realizing their burial outfits had only been worn one other time, for a family photograph that seemed entirely random at the time. Newspaper articles were written on the murders, all trying to find a reason as to why Charlie Lawson would kill all but one of his family members<sup>323</sup>. Some claim that Charlie had a head injury that altered his personality, making him more prone to aggression, which could explain the brutality of the killings<sup>324</sup>. Meanwhile, others have speculated that Charlie Lawson and one of his daughters had a relationship most uncommon of the majority of “father-daughter” relationships<sup>325</sup>. It has been said that the eldest daughter, Marie, told her best friend that she was pregnant, and Charlie Lawson was the father; the shame of getting his own daughter pregnant may have been why he killed his family<sup>326</sup>. Whether it be shame, guilt, or even a head injury, the murders of

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<sup>323</sup> “Charles Lawson Family Murders.” *NEW YORK TIMES*.

<sup>324</sup> “Triad Murder Mystery...” *WFMYNews2*.

<sup>325</sup> *Ibid*.

<sup>326</sup> *Ibid*.

Charlie Lawson's family are ones that won't be forgotten due to the mystery that continues to lurk behind them.

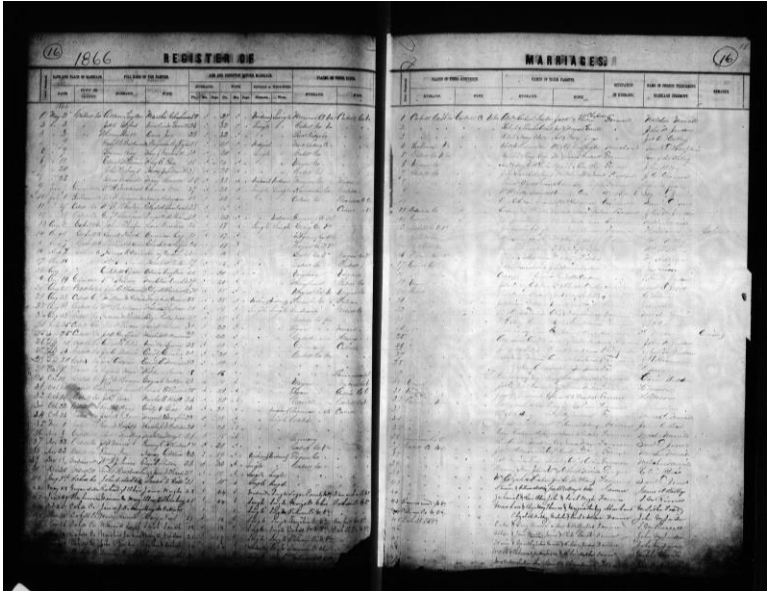
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# Meehling Family

# The 1876 Meehling Murder

## By Kameron Winesett



Marriage Records for Cabell County 1866<sup>327</sup>

Born in 1845, Charles Meehling and his family moved to America from Germany in 1850 to start their life anew. Matilda Mays, born in West

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<sup>327</sup> West Virginia, West Virginia State Archives, Marriage Certificates, Chas P Muhling (sic) & Matilda Mayes (sic); WV State Archives Vital Record Research Project.

Virginia, would go on to marry Charles on November 6, 1866. They had four kids together; Elizabeth, John, Charles F., and Joseph. Charles was a farmer, and owned quite a bit of land from the surrounding area where they lived. Having so much land he decided that a farm hand was needed, and after some, looking Ed Williams was hired in 1873.<sup>328</sup> What Charles didn't realize at the time was that this mistake would cost him his life.

Ed Williams was a young farm hand and quickly caught the eye of Matilda. Pretty soon they were seeing each other more intimately, and for the coming two years Williams would visit often. These visits began to annoy Charles driving him to grab his shotgun at one point to run Williams off.<sup>329</sup>

Unbeknownst to Charles, Matilda devised a plan to get rid of her husband. She wanted to finally be able to run off with Williams, and the fastest course of action was to kill Charles. The plan was to poison

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<sup>328</sup> Woodard, Benjamin. "The 1876 Meehling Murder & Hanging, Barboursville, West Virginia." *Clio*, 2 Feb. 2017.

<sup>329</sup> Woodard, Benjamin. "The 1876 Meehling Murder & Hanging."

her husband, and just wait for him to die. Over the next three months she poisoned him twice, leaving him bedridden and very ill, but not dead.<sup>330</sup> Due to incorrect dosage she had forced her husband to endure incredible pain, and realizing that the poison would take far too long to kill her husband, She sent Williams after her husband with an axe to finish the job. Charles had seen Williams approaching and told his son to pray because he knew that he was going to die. Williams charged into the house and, in full view of a then seven-year-old John, bashed Charles over the head several times with the axe. The only problem was that Charles still wasn't dead, and Williams knew this. With exasperation Williams headed back to Matilda and informed her of Charles's condition. Being told that the job still wasn't finished, Matilda went into her house and slit the throat of her husband with a butcher's knife before completely dismembering the body. The remains were scattered about the horse pen and

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<sup>330</sup> *The Wheeling Daily Intelligencer*. (Wheeling, W. Va.), 24 Jan. 1876. *Chronicling America: Historic American Newspapers*. Lib. of Congress.



allowed to be trampled on, so it seemed more like an accident, and they eventually shoveled him out with the manure. They then returned to the house to threaten John and tell him to keep his mouth shut for fear of ending up the same way his father had.

Over the coming days, people grew wary of the absence of Charles, and of Ed's convenient move into the Meehling house at the same time. After the inconsistencies in their cover up began to pile up, the people of Cabell County got the sheriff to search the house, where they found a scared John and bloodstains. Not long into the search the dog barked out behind the horse barn where after some digging through the pile of manure they found the remains of Charles Meehling. News travels fast in a small town, and before long a lynching mob had formed poised and ready to execute both Ed and Matilda on sight. The mob freed them from jail the very same day they had been put in and, despite the pleas of the reverend, hanged Ed Williams. However, Matilda had a few more grueling years to live through before she was served her justice.

## ADDITIONAL TELEGRAPH.

### Murder in West Virginia.

BARBOURSVILLE, W. VA., January 22.—Charles F. Meeling, a promising young gentleman, of Cabell county, was to-day found murdered and buried in his stable. He disappeared Sunday night, and, not having been seen since, people commenced diligently searching for his body this morning. The supposition is that Meeling was murdered by his wife and Edmund Williams. Williams has been for some time accused of unlawfully cohabiting with Meeling's wife. Mr. Charles Miller says he saw Meeling on Wednesday, but Mrs. Meeling and Williams reported him absent since Sunday. This raised a suspicion. He evidently was killed Wednesday or since. Williams and Mrs. Meeling are now in Cabell county jail. A jury has been convoked for the inquest.

CINCINNATI, January 23.—A *Gazette* special says Edward Williams, who with Mrs. Meeling was arrested for the murder of the latter's husband, was taken

Article on the Murder of Charles Meehling<sup>331</sup>

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<sup>331</sup> *The Wheeling Daily Intelligencer*. (Wheeling, W. Va.), 24 Jan. 1876.

CINCINNATI, January 23.—A *Gazette* special says Edward Williams, who with Mrs. Meeling was arrested for the murder of the latter's husband, was taken from the jail last night at Barboursville, W. Va., and hanged by a mob. The parties were assured by a minister that sufficient evidence of their guilt had been obtained, and the jail was surrounded by a mob of excited people, but both denied any complicity in the act, although the minister continued praying with them and asking for a confession. The mob finally forced the keys from the jailer and took Williams out and placed him under a tree in the Court House yard, where with a rope around his neck, standing on a barrel, he made a confession and expressed the hope that the crowd might obtain God's forgiveness for their crime as he had for his, and declared he was happily started on his journey home to heaven. He died after fifteen minutes of terrible agony.

Mrs. Meeling was then brought out and placing her in front of the dead murderer the crowd called for her confession. She said that Williams had been

Article on the Murder of Charles Meehling<sup>332</sup>

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<sup>332</sup> *The Wheeling Daily Intelligencer*. (Wheeling, W. Va.), 24 Jan. 1876.

terrible agony.

Mrs. Meeling was then brought out and placing her in front of the dead murderer the crowd called for her confession. She said that Williams had been her paramour for three years; that she had been trying for the last three months to poison her husband without success; that Williams struck Meeling on the head with an ax while he was asleep on Wednesday night, afterwards cutting his throat. She assisted in destroying the evidences of the murder and in burying Meeling. She accused herself of being the cause of the murder, but begged pitifully for life. Though the feeling was very strong against her, and the crowd voted unanimously for her execution, no man could be found who would put the rope around her neck, and she was returned to jail. Williams' body was left hanging until cut down by the authorities this morning.

### **The Murder of the Girl Grombacker--Threats of Lynching.**

YOUNGSTOWN, O., January 22.—The coroner's inquest in the Grombacker murder case was concluded to-day, the

Article on the Murder of Charles Meehling<sup>333</sup>

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<sup>333</sup> *The Wheeling Daily Intelligencer*. (Wheeling, W. Va.), 24 Jan. 1876.

\$100, but that he denies all knowledge of the other \$42 which is charged against him.

Mrs. MATILDA MERRING, who was convicted of the murder of her husband, in Cabell county, on the 13th of March, 1876, and sentenced to the Penitentiary for life, paid the penalty Friday night last. The unfortunate woman had suffered with consumption for many months past, and knew that she could not recover, and with a bravery seldom met with, gladly awaited the summons that was to cancel her debt to an outraged law, both divine and human, and end her imprisonment and earthly troubles at once. Fears of future punishment never appeared to enter her mind, as she cheerfully bade Capt. Lowe "good bye," adding that "she would never see him again," the evening she died. She was buried in the prison burying ground Sunday. Rev. Loomis, of the M. E. church, lately of this city, performing the funeral

ceremony. Mr. Loomis also preached the dead woman's funeral sermon at the prison chapel.

JOHN BRADLEY paid a fine of \$10 and costs yesterday, in Police Court, for assault on Mrs. Swartz, of East Wheeling.

A SEVEN-YEAR convict from Fayette county was discharged from the Moundsville prison Saturday last, also a one year man from Lewis county.

CHARLES AMMONS, a vagrant, who was picked up in East Wheeling about midnight Sunday, by Officer Morris, was sent to the hill for a half year yesterday.

LAST evening a number of the friends of John Heckel called on him at his father's house on Market street for the purpose of welcoming him home. John has been away from home about eight months. An amateur orchestra, composed of his friends, who have been under the direction and leadership of Prof. Kramer some time past, was present and rendered some very agreeable music.

ON last Thursday an article was printed in the INTELLIGENCER, taken from the Chicago Tribune, concerning a Wheeling man, A. M. Dray, who claimed to have been robbed in Chicago. The article affected to doubt the truth of Dray's story. We are in receipt of a letter from him, in which he reiterates the story of the robbery, and says the embellish-

## Obituary from The Wheeling Daily Intelligencer

October 28, 1882<sup>334</sup>

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<sup>334</sup> *The Wheeling Daily Intelligencer*. (Wheeling, W. Va.), 31 Oct. 1882. *Chronicling America: Historic American Newspapers*. Lib. of Congress.

While Ed had been hanged until dead, Matilda had managed to convince a few that she was pregnant. This was of course a blatant lie, but she was still spared from the rope because of it. She was, however, given a trial in front of one Judge Vermont Ward.<sup>335</sup> He spared her no mercy letting her know that she had blackened the annals of time with what she had done, and reminding her that all her worldly pleasures are now forfeit.<sup>336</sup> Instructing her that whenever she got out of prison it would be before another judge, the great judge of all, God. With that she was sentenced to life imprisonment as the only female in West Virginia State Penitentiary in Moundsville.<sup>337</sup> She would go on to live out the rest of her life out in that prison, dying six years later of consumption on October 28, 1882.<sup>338</sup> Without a care in the world she left the Captain of

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<sup>335</sup> Ibid.

<sup>336</sup> Woodard/Simpkins/Hay/Smith. "Charles P. Meehling." *Charles P. Meehling (1845-1876) - Find A Grave Memorial*, 15 Jan. 2016.

<sup>337</sup> Ibid.

<sup>338</sup> *The Wheeling Daily Intelligencer*. (Wheeling, W. Va.), 31 Oct. 1882.

the prison a final farewell saying, “Good bye,” and that, “she would never see him again.”

With Matilda’s death she left behind a mark on Cabell County, and certainly on the minds of her children. John most certainly being the most likely damaged by the murder of his father. Nevertheless, John went on to marry Julia Bishop, and together they had my great grandmother, Eathel Meehling. Eathel would marry Porter Jarrell, and, along with thirteen other children, have my grandfather, Ronald Dean Jarrell. After he married Barbara Jo Jarrell my mother came along, and of course I’m here now, writing a paper on my family history that many in my family would probably want buried. But what’s the fun in that? Truthfully, what happened that day in 1876 was an egregious way for someone to react to a situation, and I don’t think I’d be remiss if I said that Matilda Mays deserved what she got, but a part of me is still amazed that there was a story like this bedded into my family history. Even though this probably isn’t the worst thing I could dig up on my family, it has truly made

me realize the importance of history and its effect on the present.



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# Parks Family

# A Single Mother in the 1900s

## By Lexie Wood

Margie Holyfield (born December 28, 1918 in Surry County, North Carolina; died October 23, 1979 in Surry County, North Carolina) married Robert Lee Parks (born March 8, 1918 in Smyth County, Virginia; died November 11, 1985 in Reidsville, North Carolina).



A family picture of Robert, his wife Margie and their son Bruce; my grandpa. The picture was taken in 1940.<sup>339</sup>

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<sup>339</sup> Gaye Wood, Private Collection.

Margie married Robert Parks on March 8, 1939 when she was 21 years old. It was almost a year until he was drafted into World War II.<sup>340</sup> No one knows for sure if Robert was ever deployed, but he did have a draft card.<sup>341</sup> Margie was left at home alone to raise a son and to take care of the household by herself. Margie worked as a seamstress at a local mill and Robert worked at a tobacco warehouse.<sup>342</sup>

Robert registered and received his draft card in 1940.<sup>343</sup> All records indicate that Robert received

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<sup>340</sup> *Virginia Divorce Records, 1918-2014*. Database. *Ancestry.com*. <http://ancestry.com>: 2017.

<sup>341</sup> Quesinberry, Maedell. Telephone interview. 25 September 2017.

<sup>342</sup> Maedell Quesinberry Interview.

<sup>343</sup> *U.S. WWII Draft Cards Young Men, 1940-1947*. *Ancestry.com*. [https://ancestrylibrary.com/interactive/2238/32892\\_24214062\\_64\\_0057-03612?pid=1228151&backurl=http://search.ancestrylibrary.com/cgi-bin/sse.dll?i](https://ancestrylibrary.com/interactive/2238/32892_24214062_64_0057-03612?pid=1228151&backurl=http://search.ancestrylibrary.com/cgi-bin/sse.dll?i): 2017.

his draft card at the age of twenty-two<sup>344</sup>. There are no records that indicate that Robert was ever called to active duty. About six months or a little longer Margie found out she was expecting a baby and gave birth a few months later to a daughter.<sup>345</sup>

After being married for eight years, one day Robert left his family.<sup>346</sup> Throughout the eight years the couple had five children, two boys and three girls. When Robert left, his oldest son, Bruce, my grandpa was in eighth grade and he had to drop out of school to help his mom take care of his younger siblings while she was at work.<sup>347</sup> Margie worked as a seamstress at Spencer's for twenty-nine years until she retired.<sup>348</sup> As long as she lived she never

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<sup>344</sup> Ibid.

<sup>345</sup> Maedell Quesinberry Interview.

<sup>346</sup> Ibid.

<sup>347</sup> Ibid.

<sup>348</sup> Ibid.

drove, so she would have to get a ride from a friend she worked with.<sup>349</sup> In the winter she would walk to the end of the driveway because the road would be icy and the vehicle would not be able to make it up the long and winding driveway.<sup>350</sup>

While Margie was working and her children were not in school, she would take them to stay with her parents.<sup>351</sup> She would get up very early to take the children to her parent's house and make it back in time to get a ride to work.<sup>352</sup> Thankfully, her parents lived on the same road that she did, so she did not have to walk far with her five young children.<sup>353</sup>

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<sup>349</sup> Ibid.

<sup>350</sup> Ibid.

<sup>351</sup> Ibid.

<sup>352</sup> Maedell Quesinberry Interview.

<sup>353</sup> Ibid.

The house that Margie lived in with her kids was a three-bedroom house that had no running water.<sup>354</sup> The house had a well and outhouse that were both located outside. They had a bucket that was used to carry water into the house, so she could cook with fresh water.<sup>355</sup> Margie used a woodstove to cook all their meals and either she or her kids, when they were old enough, would cut firewood for the stove and to heat the house.<sup>356</sup> In the winter when they had to use the restroom, it would have been difficult to get to the outhouse in the middle of the night, especially through the snow and ice. If they washed their hands before returning inside they would have to break the layer of ice on top of the

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<sup>354</sup> Ibid.

<sup>355</sup> Ibid.

<sup>356</sup> Ibid.



water in the well, and it would have been extremely cold.<sup>357</sup>

Margie and Robert were separated in 1947, but they did not get a divorce until twenty-two years later in 1969.<sup>358</sup> No one knows why the two waited so long to get a divorce.<sup>359</sup> This was Margie's only marriage, but after the divorce Robert married again.<sup>360</sup> After he abandoned his family he moved to Virginia, where he was originally from, remarried and became a mailman.<sup>361</sup>

Margie had a very difficult life because of being abandoned by her husband after eight years of marriage and having to raise their five kids by herself. When Robert left her, she had to learn to do

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<sup>357</sup> Ibid.

<sup>358</sup> Virginia Divorce Records, 1918-2014.

<sup>359</sup> Maedell Quesinberry Interview.

<sup>360</sup> Ibid.

<sup>361</sup> Ibid.

everything for herself because she was the only person to do the cooking, cleaning, and looking after the children. She struggled to support her family because she didn't get paid much being a seamstress. Even though her husband decided to leave her and her children she had to put on a brave face and move in with her life.

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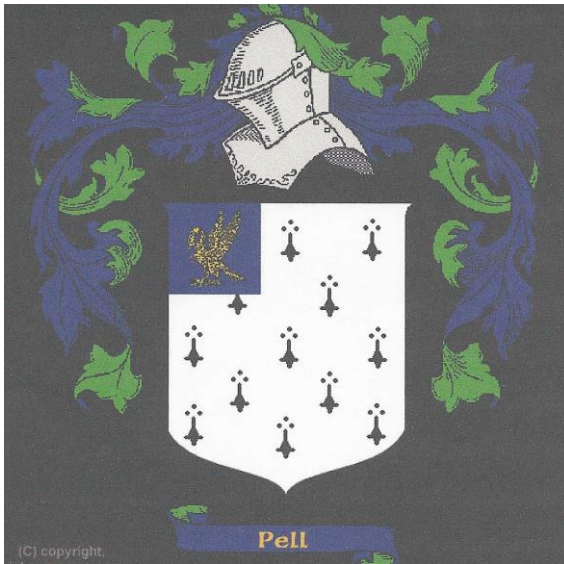
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## Pell Family

# The Unknown

## By Sommer Chilton

Richard Pell (abt. 1725-1807) married Elizabeth Fairfax (abt. 1727-1820) in 1759 in Maryland, Virginia. Richard was forced in bondage to move to the colonies from Surrey, England when he was almost ten years old. During his time at the colonies he was trained as an iron worker and became very skilled in that line of work. He eventually was freed at the age of 21, married, and obtained free land.



Pell Family Crest

“Public member photos and scanned,” digital images,  
*Ancestry.com*.<sup>362</sup>

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<sup>362</sup> “Public member photos and scanned,” digital images, *Ancestry.com*, 03 Jan 2014.

It was the year of 1735 that many life changing events would occur for young ten-year-old Richard Pell. In Surrey, England it was just another ordinary day for Richard and his friends, roaming the streets in their knee length breeches, white linen shirts, and buckled shoes looking for something to do. They made sure to stay away from the rough areas of town, for they had to be careful about where they explored because ever since the early 1600's the English courts had sent approximately 2,300 convicts including children over to the American colonies.<sup>363</sup> Richard and his group of friends started playing an old-time ball game with a ball they found near Richard's house.<sup>364</sup> Suddenly, the ball got thrown over into a nearby hog lot and Richard being the brave one out of the bunch went to fetch the ball, so they could continue to play their game.<sup>365</sup> Unfortunately, when he did this an old sow

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<sup>363</sup> Salmon, Emily Jones. "Convict Labor during the Colonial Period." *Encyclopedia Virginia*. Virginia Foundation for the Humanities, 27 Oct. 2015. Web. 23 Sept. 2017.

<sup>364</sup> Jackson, Hester Bartlett. *The Heritage of Surry County North Carolina Volume I – 1983*. Surry County Genealogical Association, 1983.

<sup>365</sup> *Ibid.*

and her group of baby pigs charged at him, ready to attack.<sup>366</sup> Defending himself, Richard bent down and picked up a rock that was beside him and threw it at the sow expecting it to hit her, but instead the rock struck one of the baby pigs and ended its life.<sup>367</sup> English laws at that time had to be very strict because there was such a significant amount of crime happening therefore, Richard was immediately arrested and charged with “pig murder.”<sup>368</sup> Richard was then convicted and sentenced to be sent a convict later to America.

Richard felt helpless, as well as terrified, for he would be departing from his family, friends, and home that same year and there was nothing he could do about it. He was going from his regular life where he knew the people, his routine, and daily schedule, to a life of uncertainty where he wouldn't know a single person or know what to expect. Time passed and finally the dreaded day came. After telling his loved one's farewell and hugging each of

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<sup>366</sup> Ibid.

<sup>367</sup> Ibid.

<sup>368</sup> Ibid.

them for the last time, he had to prepare himself for the long journey ahead, he was about to endure. However, little did he know there was nothing any of the emigrants could do to fully prepare themselves for the experiences they would encounter on their journey to the American colonies.

Richard boarded the ship called *Forward* from his hometown of Surrey, England in 1735.<sup>369</sup> This ship, like many others, was used only for emigrants in bondage which included both men and women who had been charged with some type of criminal offense, ranging from the theft of a handkerchief to highway robbery.<sup>370</sup> Therefore, Richard was forced to make his journey to America with criminals. The early 1700's was also when England was shipping as many criminals as they could to the American colonies, so it would decrease their crime rates as well as help the

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<sup>369</sup> "Emigrants in Bondage, 1614-1775," database, *Ancestry.com*, Richard Pell, *Baltimore*, Surrey to Virginia, Leaving 1735.

<sup>370</sup> *Ibid.*



colonies with their labor problems. Therefore, each emigrant ship was packed to its max with men and women leaving no room to breathe.<sup>371</sup>

Immigrant Ship 1700's



“Public member photos and scanned,” digital images, Clipper Ship, *Ancestry.com*.<sup>372</sup>

It only took a short period of time for Richard to realize the journey to the American colonies was not going to be a pleasant one. Before

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<sup>371</sup> Ibid.

<sup>372</sup> “Public member photos and scanned,” digital images, Clipper Ship, *Ancestry.com*.

his time on board he wasn't sure what to expect, after the first two weeks he wasn't sure if he was going to survive. Although he was grateful to be getting some type of nourishment, because anything was better than nothing, he couldn't help but think of how much he missed fresh food instead of the hard brick biscuits, oatmeal, and molasses he was getting.<sup>373</sup> He longed for the refreshing taste of cool water going down his throat, but instead he had to drink mostly tea because of how filthy the water on board was. Their living conditions were nothing to brag about either. Since they were traveling as criminals to the colonies the living conditions were worse than regular emigrants. The smell of vomit was always amongst them because passengers had either gotten seasick or simply became sick due to infection and disease.<sup>374</sup> On top of that there was hardly ever a night when Richard felt as if he had gotten a good night's worth of sleep. The passengers' beds were very narrow as well as

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<sup>373</sup> Huber, Leslie Albrecht, *Understanding Your Ancestor's*. 2006, Web. 24 Sep. 2017.

<sup>374</sup> *Ibid.*

closely packed together and the ship was rocking back and forth all night also made it hard for every passenger on board to get good sleep.<sup>375</sup> However, the worst threat to passengers while traveling to the colonies would have to have been the quick spread of various diseases which consisted of cholera, typhus, and dysentery.<sup>376</sup> These diseases caused many more deaths than any number of ship wrecks combined.<sup>377</sup>

Although Richard was only ten years old at the time, the conditions that he had to suffer through and the experiences he went through will never leave his mind. Richard arrived in Virginia in the year 1737 having traveled a long two-year journey.<sup>378</sup> For emigrants, the voyage to America was an important and very memorable experience. It was not only the changes that the arrival in America brought to their lives, but the very trip itself that made a lasting impression on their lives. Richard,

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<sup>375</sup> Ibid.

<sup>376</sup> Ibid.

<sup>377</sup> Ibid.

<sup>378</sup> “Passenger and Immigration Lists Index, 1500’s-1900’s,” database, *Ancestry.com*, Farmington Hills, MI.

after being away from home for two years now, was slowly learning at a young age how to let go and accept what has happened, what was currently happening, and that the future might hold anything. As he stepped off the ship he was ready to face the unknown.

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Rodriguez-Vico

# La Resiliencia de Una Mujer Mexicana

## By Monica Varona-Macedo

Rita Rodriguez-Vico is estimated to have been born in 1917. However, the exact date of her birth is unknown since her family never celebrated it. She lived most of her life in La Laja, Guerrero, pictured below. Rita still lives in La Laja to this day, at the age of 100.



Comisaria de La Laja, Guerrero<sup>379</sup>

Rita Rodriguez-Vico was only nine years old when her father left for the fields at the crack of dawn to never return. After months of not knowing what fate he might have suffered, she became responsible for caring for her family, meaning she would have to find a job. After all, attending school

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<sup>379</sup> “Comisaria de la laja.” *Panoramio*, 20 May 2012, [www.panoramio.com/photo/72352923](http://www.panoramio.com/photo/72352923). Accessed 25 Sept. 2017.

was not an option for her. During these times, children of poverty-stricken families did not have the privilege to an education.<sup>380</sup> Only those who could afford to live in urban areas could attend school, leaving people like Rita to learn the skills of farming. Days later, she began to work for a bourgeoisie family that exploited her labor. Rita, and the others who worked alongside her, never actually received any monetary compensation for their hard work. Instead, they paid her in grains of *maíz*, kilos of beans, or leftover fruits and defective vegetables from their harvests. In fact, this was not an uncommon exchange between the rich and the those that worked for them.<sup>381</sup> No matter how little she earned that day, she would always share her winnings her three sisters, younger brother, and single mother. As Rita's family slowly approached starvation, she knew that she had to find another possible source of income in a surrounding town.

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<sup>380</sup> Presley, James. "Mexican Views on Rural Education, 1900-1910." *The Americas*, vol. 20, no. 1, 1963, pp. 64. *JSTOR*, JSTOR, [www.jstor.org/stable/979673](http://www.jstor.org/stable/979673). Accessed 28 Sept. 2017.

<sup>381</sup> Varona, Jesus. Personal Interview. 25 Sept. 2017.



However, this became a challenge amid the Cristero Rebellion.

The Cristero Rebellion, or Cristero War, occurred from 1926 to 1929 in many central regions of Mexico. It began after the Mexican government attempted to restrict the power of the Catholic church by creating the 1917 Mexican Constitution.<sup>382</sup> The constitution stated that the Church was “not allowed to own property, run schools, convents or monasteries, have more than a certain number of priests...nor defend itself publicly in the courts.”<sup>383</sup> Catholics grew to resent the government for their religious oppression. They subsequently responded in the form of the Cristero Rebellion. Those angered Catholics called themselves “soldiers of Christ” or *cristeros*. The

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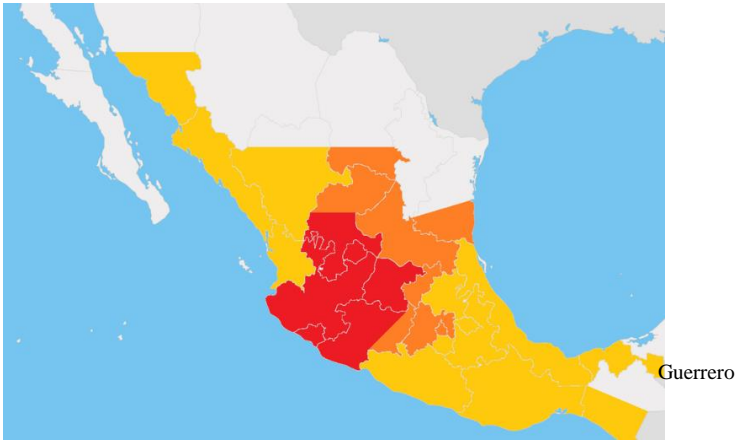
382 Mintzer, Zachary John. “The Heterogeneous Cristero Identity.” *Western Oregon University*, May 2010. Accessed 28 Sept. 2017.

383 Salinas, Lisa Toth. “Mexico’s Forgotten Pain: The Persecution of Catholics and the Cristero War.” *The Catholic Gene*, 6 June 2012, catholicgene.wordpress.com/2012/05/27/mexicos-forgotten-history-the-persecution-of-catholics-and-the-cristero-war/#comments. Accessed 28 Sept. 2017.

second side of the rebellion consisted of the government and of some farmworkers that sided with them.<sup>384</sup> Those that did choose to side with the government would receive land seized from the church as payment for their loyalty. The states of Jalisco, Michoacán, Zacatecas, and Guanajuato, colored red in the picture below, are zones that were affected the most from the rebellion. Again, Rita lived in Guerrero, which was a state that was not as intensely affected as its neighboring red state, Michoacán. However, the rebellion impacted most of Mexico since soldiers from both sides were scattered almost everywhere.

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<sup>384</sup> Mintzer, Zachary John. "The Heterogeneous Cristero Identity." Western Oregon University, May 2010. Accessed 28 Sept. 2017.



Mapa de la Guerra Cristera <sup>385</sup>

That became a problem. Because there were so many *cristeros* and government soldiers, it was hard to distinguish the opportunists from those that had pure motives. The opportunists abused their role as soldiers to forcefully take the possessions of the people they encountered.<sup>386</sup> Word eventually spread throughout of their unpleasant actions, instilling fear in small communities, for they had

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<sup>385</sup> “Guerra Cristera.” *Wikipedia*, 17 Sept. 2017, [es.wikipedia.org/wiki/Guerra\\_Cristera](https://es.wikipedia.org/wiki/Guerra_Cristera). Accessed 28 Sept. 2017.

<sup>386</sup> Mintzer, Zachary John. “The Heterogeneous Cristero Identity.” *Western Oregon University*, May 2010. Accessed 28 Sept. 2017.

little to offer but much to lose. Everyone who remained unaffiliated became rightfully cautious and suspicious, including Rita. As the soldiers from both sides of the rebellion would pass from town to town, she and the people who commuted with her would dig trench-like holes in inconspicuous areas to hide from them.<sup>387</sup> However, as people became desperate to regain what soldiers had taken from them, they began to side with the government, contingent upon receiving property for their service.<sup>388</sup> This cast, even more, skepticism between neighbors, since nobody knew anybody's intentions.

Nevertheless, Rita bravely continued her journey from town to town in search of a job, though she had no luck in these confusing and deceptive times. Eventually, Rita and her siblings went to unclaimed and unowned portions of the mountains to look for sources of food that grew naturally. The mountains, or *sierras*, were far from

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<sup>387</sup> Varona, Jesus. Personal Interview. 25 Sept. 2017.

<sup>388</sup> Macedo, Eliazer. Personal Interview. 25 Sept. 2017.

where she lived and proved to be a challenge since she could only carry so much in one trip. The most memorable edible food that Rita gathered were tender tree roots and bulbs from budding plants.<sup>389</sup> Rita also collected jícamas from vines, mountain guavas, and plantain-like fruits that also grew at high altitudes.<sup>390</sup> Most admirably, Rita shared what she collected with other hungry families in her immediate community, especially those with young children.

Rita, like many Mexican people in the 1900's, lived a complicated and hard life. However, thanks to Rita, her community was able to have brief moments of unification in the midst of opposing sentiments in regards to the Cristero Rebellion. She understood how trying life could be and she did everything in her power to help those around her. She was always able to resist, survive, and propel herself forward by facing every single

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<sup>389</sup> Ibid.

<sup>390</sup> Ibid.

challenge that she encountered. She is a resilient Mexican woman.

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# Sidden Family

## Regretful Life?

By Carly Collins

Almost one hundred and twenty years ago on November 8, 1898, a girl by the name of Alverta Sidden was born<sup>391</sup>. The first of the ten children that were born to Charlie and Emma Sidden, her parents could have never imagined the life their child would live.

Alverta was only twenty when she had her first child, a boy by the name of McKinley Leff. This little boy is my great-grandfather. When my great-great-grandmother gave birth to my great-grandfather, she was not married. Alverta was known to be the type of person that slept around with lots of men, and because of that it, is sadly unknown who my great-grandfather's father is. My grandfather was not the only child my great-great-grandmother had. Great-grandpa had three other siblings and they were said to all have different fathers. My great-grandpa was eventually given up

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<sup>391</sup> "Cook-Frey Family Tree." Database, Ancestry.com, , entry for Alverta Sidden

for adoption, and he was adopted by a couple in Alleghany County that owned a farm where they were foster parents to several other children.<sup>392</sup> He is the only one that was ever officially adopted by the family. Their sole purpose for the adoption and fostering the other children was to have help on their farm. Did Alverta regret the decision she made to give him up? Was she glad he had a good life or glad to be rid of him? These are questions I wish I could have asked her. He was not given up as a baby, so she spent time with him before giving him up. For me that would be so hard. In his later adult life he and Alverta had a mother-son relationship, but great-grandpa never forgave her for giving him up, and they did not have the greatest of relationships.

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<sup>392</sup> Sparks, Doris. Personal communication, 15 September 2017.



Alverta Sidden

While Grandma Sidden had no formal education, she could read and write and had a job. Her job was one that was unusual, interesting, and well a job that is to this day illegal. She along with two of her sisters were prostitutes in Winston-Salem. She worked in a big fancy hotel in

downtown Winston called the Zinzendorf<sup>393</sup>.

Grandma Sidden always made her presence known by the way she dressed and acted. My mother and grandmother recall her always having lots of big flashy jewelry and bright red lipstick and always making sure her nails were painted brightly at all times—Classic attire of a lady of the night who was known to get around town.<sup>394</sup>

Grandma Sidden eventually found her a man that she became serious with. That man was named William Royal. He was born only a few months before Grandma on Aug. 10, 1898, in Yadkin County. While married to this man, Grandma Sidden had two more children. She claimed they both had the same father while others were hard pressed to believe it. Her husband William was a carpenter, and they lived in Winston-Salem. This marriage is where Grandma Sidden's life gets even more interesting.

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<sup>393</sup> Sparks, Doris. Personal communication. 17 September 2017.

<sup>394</sup> Sparks, Doris. Personal communication, 13 September 2017.

In the later years of their marriage William began to develop dementia. Dementia can be a horrible disease which causes one to do things they would never have normally done. Grandma told everyone that William became very hard to handle and would wander off at night after she went to bed. When he became unable to take care of some of his basic needs, Grandma Sidden choose to take care of William in a way that was easiest for her.

Grandma decided she would put William on their covered back porch and nail the door shut, so he was unable to escape at night. Grandma claimed that she would let him in the house during the day and only locked him on the porch at night, but while she let him in she would not feed him. Because of his dementia William had forgotten how to cook and was unable to care for himself. Since he was unable to do anything and grandma did not seem to either, William began to starve.

On November 19, 1970, William passed away. The causes of death were his dementia, malnutrition (due to the fact that he was unable to

feed himself and grandma would not feed him), and pneumonia because grandma had locked him on the back porch and left him for days. Grandma was arrested in the death of William Royal, but she only stayed in jail for a week and was never formally charged with his death because there was not enough evidence to prove it was her fault he starved to death and that her actions were the cause of his death. Alverta even admitted to the police that she nailed the door shut each night but that it was for his own safety.

Alverta's life seemed sad, and I have wondered if she ever had any regrets about the choices she made with her education, job, and marriage. Did she regret the way she treated William and her children? I wonder if she would have done life differently had she had the chance. Maybe she would have done it all the same again. Alverta died from breast cancer and is buried in the same cemetery as her son, my great-grandpa Sexton. They are laid to rest within feet of each other. They weren't close in life but close in death.

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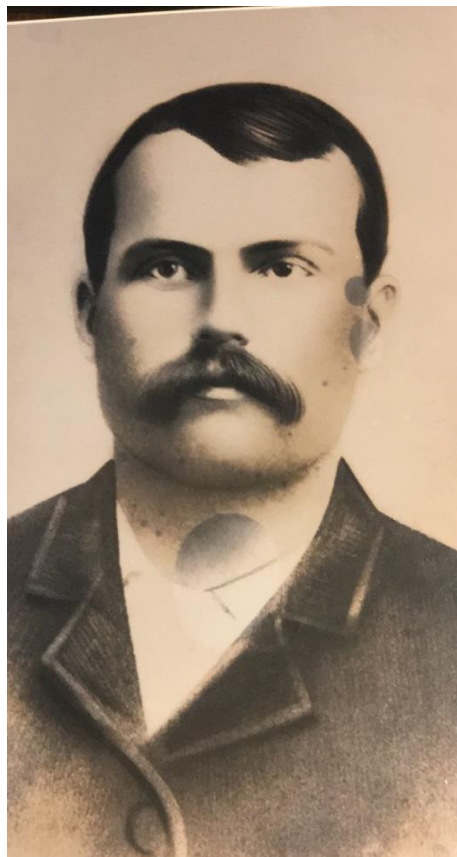
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# Simmons Family

# Simmons Family History

By Chloe Simmons



This is my great-great-grandfather James Millard Simmons  
Source: Personal Collection

I was intrigued to hear about doing this project because I didn't know too much about my family and was interested in learning about them. I had gone to my grandfather, Dean, who seemed thrilled that I had asked about his family. He talked a lot about his father. His family stories weren't dramatic tales about murder or immigration, but tales about simple and humble farmers. They were humble and down to earth folks who focused on farming, family and God.

My grandfather and I still didn't know much about my family, so we went to my great aunt, who had books and books of our family genealogy. She was very interested in keeping up with the pictures, documents, and pedigrees of our family. I was unsure exactly why she had put forth so much effort to preserve our family's history, but I was glad she had. I hope that she will pass it down to some of the younger generations in our family, so we can show our children and grandchildren one day. If it wasn't for her, I wouldn't have much of a project.

We traced the family back five generations to Gabriel J. Simmons and his wife Mary E. Taylor Simmons. They were people whom I had never heard of. I knew of my great aunts and uncles and my great grandpa, but no one after that. I saw many pictures of my great-great-grandparents, uncles, and aunts. I also saw a few documents, like marriage licenses and death certificates. She even let me have an original copy of a photo of my great-great-grandfather James Millard (shown on the title page)!

James Millard, and his wife Mary Johnson Simmons, were the earliest relatives that she had traced back to with a good amount of information. James was born June 29, 1868, to Gabriel James Simmons and Mary Emily Taylor Simmons. He was a farmer from a young age, just like his father, and continued to farm his whole life. Mary was born May 10, 1872, to John and Rachel Kidd Johnson. She tended to sheep and made wool products before marriage.

Mary and James married on February 8, 1891. They had eight children together; Johnny Wesley, James Dewey, Jacob, Nora, Nonnie Rachel, Mary Olivia, Elvah, and Martha. Although they believed in disciplining their children, Mary was a fantastic mother and James Millard never raised his voice at the children. If the children didn't mind their parents, they were switched. Needless to say, they learned very quickly. One of my favorite stories included my great grandpa, James Dewey. He had "went out" and kept the horses out late until the morning hours, so his father switched him, and great grandpa J.D. never did it again! I guess teenagers haven't changed much since.

James Millard and Mary kept a very calm household. There weren't many instances of an outpouring of affection from them towards the children, but they were the kindest and most loving people you could've met. The family all knew they were loved by each other, so they didn't show it that much. James and Mary lived by the traditional division of labor. Mary cooked, cleaned, and did

housework all while James tended to the farm. My great aunt said Mary's children always said, "She was the best cook in the world".

They kept God in their lives and in the lives of their children. Mary loved to go to church, and she loved hymns, for she was a very religious woman. Her favorite hymn was "Going Home". Her and James would always "load up the cart" and take the children down to the Union Primitive Baptist Church. Back in those days, church only met once a month on both Saturday and Sunday.

Mary also had a passion for flowers and plants, a passion which my grandfather and I share as well, and she always kept flowers around her house. James helped Mary have a large garden every year. They raised their own livestock for meat, churned their own butter, and the children helped with all of this. James really believed in his family taking their part in the crop. He worked extremely hard to provide for his family through his farming.

He was an extremely successful tobacco farmer. He was a very reserved and soft spoken man and was a family man. There wasn't anything James wouldn't do for his family. He never left the house because he never felt the need to leave the farm at which he lived. He had a certain love for horses and would ride one any chance he got, just for the fun of it. James would also trade and sell horses and land to make extra money, which worried Mary, possibly because she didn't want him to take any risks.

James read the Bible all the time and his children said he would always say, "I don't understand it all, but I sure enjoy it!" Then he would just chuckle. If James was working, there was a good chance that he would sing "Amazing Grace" which was his favorite song. Their religion was a big part of their lives. This probably was why they loved to celebrate Christmas in this household, putting up a tree and decorations, having a grand feast, and family time. Mary, James, and all the children spent time together by fishing the river and bringing the catch home and having it for supper.

Religion and family time were the main beliefs in their family.

James Millard died in 1935 of a brain tumor at the age of 67. Oddly enough, his son, James Dewey died at age 68 of a brain tumor as well. Mary died in 1956 at the age of 84. I have always felt that my family was important to me. I am very humbled to come from my family. They were farmers up to five generations back, maybe more, and they are still farmers today. My great aunt and great uncle still live on the farm that James Dewey had raised them on. I know my family narrative might have been simple and boring compared to others, but they are literally who made me who I am today. If I didn't have my grandpa, who is my greatest influencer, then I wouldn't be what I am today. He wouldn't be who he is today without his family and his beginnings. I also learned that I have a few things in common with my ancestors, which is an awesome discovery!



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# Smith Family

# Growing Up in the 1900's

## By Lillian Smith

Paige Smith (born May 3, 1924 in Beulah, North Carolina) Married Mildred Cox (born September 9, 1931)  
Second Marriage Dorothy Booker Chappell (born February 14, 1931. Died May 2, 2016). Fought in WWII 1940-1947.

My grandfather, Paige Smith, has lived almost an entire century and has witnessed many changes and advancements in science, technology and medicine.



Paige Smith posing for the camera.  
Private Collection owned by David Smith

He has seen and done things few other people can say they have seen or done.

Growing up I always knew my grandfather was a fascinating man because he always had a story to tell. But they were not your average stories. A story my grandfather has told for years that has always stuck with me is the story about his older brother cutting my five-year-old grandfathers thumb off. One afternoon Paige and his older brother, Warren, were cutting wood for the stove. Grandpa, who was five years old, was holding the wood while Warren was swinging the axe. As Warren was swinging the axe he accidently cut my grandfathe'rs thumb off.<sup>395</sup> To this day my grandfather still tells that story and that's just one of many. The most captivating time of was when he was a young man. All of the jobs he had made him the ninety-three year-old man he is today.

Imagine having five siblings all under the age of thirteen living in a house with no power, and

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<sup>395</sup> Smith, David. Personal interview. 18 Sept. 2017.

no bathroom.<sup>396</sup> Paige Smith was born in Beulah, North Carolina, to Tilden and Ethel Smith.<sup>397</sup> Paige's father abandoned his family when Paige was a young boy, leaving his mother Ethel with a rowdy bunch of boys and one daughter to raise on her own. Food was scarce and money was virtually non-existent. The family worked on their own land to provide food, which they traded for money, medical needs and any life necessity.<sup>398</sup> Working on the farm instilled a great work ethic in my grandfather, as he was the only one to graduate high school in his family.<sup>399</sup>

During his high school years, my grandfather played basketball for Beulah High School. During this time they made it to a tournament in Winston Salem.<sup>400</sup> This was the first time my grandfather left his home place. His mother

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<sup>396</sup> Smith, Paige. Personal interview. 20 Sept. 2017.

<sup>397</sup> Smith, David. Personal interview. 18 Sept. 2017.

<sup>398</sup> Smith, Sandy. Personal interview. 19 Sept. 2017.

<sup>399</sup> Ibid

<sup>400</sup> Ibid

gave him a dime, the only money they had, and he bought his first ice-cream cone.<sup>401</sup>

To give an example of how rowdy my grandfather's brothers were, after high school they sawmilled during the day and helped their uncle, Granville, make moonshine at night on Skull Camp Mountain, on the other side of Beulah.<sup>402</sup> Story goes, while carrying one hundred pound sacks of sugar on their back, if you broke a twig while climbing the mountain you would be in major trouble.<sup>403</sup> Any noise could alert the revenuers to their illegal activity.

After my grandfather graduated high school he became a welder in Norfolk, Virginia, at a shipyard. He welded for a year and was drafted into the Navy at age 18, during World War II, 1940-1947.<sup>404</sup> My grandfather spent four years on an escort ship.<sup>405</sup> As many veterans do not like to

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<sup>401</sup> Smith, David. Personal interview. 18 Sept. 2017.

<sup>402</sup> Ibid

<sup>403</sup> Smith, Paige. Personal interview. 20 Sept. 2017.

<sup>404</sup> Ancestry.com. *U.S. WWII Draft Cards Young Men, 1940-1947*. Lehi, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2011.

<sup>405</sup> Smith, David. Personal interview. 18 Sept. 2017.

discuss what it was like in the war and what they went through, it was hard to discuss with my grandfather what it was like to be out there so young and fighting for his life, but he did tell me what his job was in the war, and it was a signal man. After his four years were up in the Navy, he started driving a Greyhound Bus, which only lasted for a couple of years because they cut his pay for driving while smoking cigarettes.<sup>406</sup> Since he quit driving the bus he had to find another job. His next job was working at Hennis Freight Lines for seven years.<sup>407</sup> My grandfather was quickly changing jobs. The next job he had was buying his own truck and becoming an owner operator.<sup>408</sup> My grandfather wanted to take the next step in the trucking business; he bought his own trucking company, Cooke Trucking Company, Inc. Freddie Cooke was the first owner of Cooke Trucking Company. Freddie and my grandfather started out as partners. Eventually my grandfather bought Freddie

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<sup>406</sup> Ibid.

<sup>407</sup> Smith, David. Personal interview. 18 Sept. 2017.

<sup>408</sup> Smith, Paige. Personal interview. 20 Sept. 2017.

completely out of the business. Making him sole owner. Paige worked at Cooke for six or seven years before his son, my father, David, left college at Western Carolina University to help my grandfather. With my father's help Cooke grew from having only twelve trucks to seventy trucks. The son and father duo was astonishing. Cooke Trucking Company has become one of the most successful trucking companies in Mount Airy, NC.

My grandfather, being ninety-three years old has outlived almost all of the friends and family he knew. To me, that is both a blessing and a curse within its self. My grandfather has seen events or things that people will probably never be able to see, again meaning my grandfather got to witness a man land on the moon, as well as the advancements of computers and the cellular phone. From being a young boy to the older man he is today. He had to learn how to work for what he has wanted in life. I know for a fact he has never depended on anyone else. Going through life the way he did, it has shaped him into the man he is today. The man he is



today is a stubborn man who is ninety-three but acts thirty. He is no longer working at Cooke Trucking Company. He still finds ways to keep himself busy. Most days you will find him on a lawnmower mowing for eight hours, or you will find him working on one of his antique cars.



Paige and David with a Cooke Trucking Truck.

Source: Private Collection owned by David Smith

My grandfather has had a remarkable life. His younger years and all of his many jobs have made him the person he is today. I believe that going through trials and tribulations make you a stronger person, and I believe all the hurdles of life

my grandfather has gone through have made him tougher. Our generation could never survive what my grandfather's generation went through. He belongs to the greatest generation. Going back through my grandfather's life has really opened my eyes. We are so fortunate to have all the access to the technology, medicine and research available. Unfortunately, in recent days, my grandfather has fallen ill and is unable to finish telling his story. My dad proudly stepped in and told his story on my grandfather's behalf. His generation is truly one of a kind, and I am honored I could tell my grandfather's story and reflect on his life.

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# Smythers Family

# The Storm of Stony Point

## By Andrew Craig Smythers

It was a scorching hot summer evening in Stony Point, New York. Twelve hundred of George Washington's finest men were assembled on July 15, 1779 to raid a hill occupied by the British<sup>409</sup>. The Americans used to occupy the hill until they were overrun by a large number of British troops and had to retreat<sup>410</sup>. The beautiful hill overlooks the Hudson and is located a couple miles below West Point, New York<sup>411</sup>.

Sixteen-year-old Stephen Smythers is among the twelve hundred men chosen to storm Stony Point. Private Smythers was a part of the Eighth Virginia regiment.<sup>412</sup> He was one of the youngest soldiers in his regiment. Stephen was born in 1763 in the state of Virginia. The Virginia

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<sup>409</sup> "Annals of Augusta County, Virginia, from 1726 to 1821," database, *Ancestry.com*. Chapter X, The War of the Revolution, etc., from 1779 to 1781. <http://ancestry.com>: accessed 20 August 2017.

<sup>410</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>411</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>412</sup> *Ibid.*

regiment is considered a highly trained division of the American military, which is why George Washington chose them to carry out this important mission. Captain Robert Gamble led both the Seventh and Eighth regiments on the Storm of Stony Point.<sup>413</sup>

Stephen Smythers and a few of his fellow soldiers were sitting around a fire a mile out from Stony Point. Stephen looked at John Trotter (another Private of the Eighth regiment) and asked, “Do you think we can take this fort back again?” Trotter replied, “Well there is twelve hundred of us and only six hundred of them. I would hope we could take this fort.” This brought an uneasy laugh to the crowd sitting around the fire. They all knew they outmanned the British two to one, but knew they were without ammo and could only defend themselves with their bayonets.<sup>414</sup> Most of the army’s muskets worked and had sufficient ammo, but Private Smythers and his friends unfortunately

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<sup>413</sup> Ibid.

<sup>414</sup> Ibid.

did not. Still this was only a small portion of their army that was at a disadvantage so taking Stony Point should not be a tall task for the Americans.

Smythers and his fellow soldiers sat there sharpening their bayonets in hopes it would increase their effectiveness in battle. The strategy was for the Seventh and Eighth regiments to storm the fortress first because they did not have any ammo. The rest of the army would come in behind them and from either side of the hill to cover the Seventh and Eighth regiments.<sup>415</sup> Captain Gamble let the militia know that they would attack before sunrise on July 16. This sneak attack strategy in the middle of the night would prove to be a great decision by the Captain and his commanding officers. Smythers and his regiment are the key to victory in this raid. If they can make it close to the walls of the fortress without being spotted then everything would go smoothly for the Americans. Rewards were to be given to the first five soldiers to enter the fort starting at \$500

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<sup>415</sup> Ibid.

for the first person and \$100 for the fifth.<sup>416</sup> Stephen looked at George Sell and said, “I could care less about getting prize money. I just hope I survive this raid with only a bayonet!” Trotter laughed at Smythers and replied, “There is no need to be scared Stephen. Fight like a warrior and don’t worry about surviving because that’s when you get hurt. I’ll be watching your back and so will the rest of this regiment. You just worry about killing every last one of the Red Coats you spot inside that fort.” Sells comments helped ease the sixteen-year-old’s mind, but he was still a little nervous. After all he was a teenager fighting against grown men.

Finally, it was time to execute their mission. It was around five o’clock when the army started its march to Stony Point. They had an eight-hour march ahead them before they were to arrive near

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<sup>416</sup> Johnson, James M. “Stony Point, Battle Of.” *Encyclopedia of New York State*, Edited by Peter R. Eisenstadt and Laura-Eve Moss, Syracuse University Press, 2005, p. 1491. Academic One File, [go.galegroup.com/ps/i.do?p=AONE&sw=w&u=dobs37232&v=2.1&id=GALE%7CA194198618&it=r&asid=2f891914f0445ebca80df28d97a187e7](http://go.galegroup.com/ps/i.do?p=AONE&sw=w&u=dobs37232&v=2.1&id=GALE%7CA194198618&it=r&asid=2f891914f0445ebca80df28d97a187e7). Accessed 25. 2017.



the fortress. <sup>417</sup>All twelve hundred marched in a single file line across the terrain.<sup>418</sup> Once they finally arrived at the base of the hill all of the soldiers got into position. The Seventh and Eighth regiments were the two flanking columns that would use only bayonets.<sup>419</sup> They were to enter the fortress covered by the rest of the militia and their muskets. Once everyone was into position they started to inch forward closer and closer to the fort trying to avoid being spotted by the British. The two flanking groups were within fifty feet of the fortress walls when they were finally spotted. The British and the Americans opened fire. Quickly the Seventh and Eighth regiments hopped over the walls and infiltrated the British fort. Even though they did not have any ammo, they used their bayonets with deadly effect. The rest of the Americans started to push forward and enter the fort as well. Quickly the British figured out that they were outmanned two to one and retreated. It is said that Colonel Fleury was

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<sup>417</sup> Ibid.

<sup>418</sup> Ibid.

<sup>419</sup> Ibid.

one of the first to enter the fort and strike the British flag.<sup>420</sup> This is the ultimate sign of defeat when you claim the enemies flag in battle. Fifteen brave Americans lost their life in the Storm of Stony Point and eighty-three were wounded. Sixty-three British were killed and five hundred and fifty-three were taken prisoner.<sup>421</sup>

The raid turned out to be a huge success for the Americans. George Washington ordered for the fort to be destroyed.<sup>422</sup> The entire Seventh and Eighth regiments showed amazing courage and bravery by fighting with only their bayonets. They played a huge role in this victory for the Americans. Private Stephen Smythers especially showed a lot of bravery. He was only sixteen-years-old when this

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<sup>420</sup> “Annals of Augusta County, Virginia, from 1726 to 1821,” database, *Ancestry.com*. Chapter X The War of the Revolution, etc., from 1779 to 1781. <http://ancestry.com>: accessed 20 August 2017.

<sup>421</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>422</sup> Johnson, James M. “Stony Point, Battle Of.” *Encyclopedia of New York State*, Edited by Peter R. Eisenstadt and Laura-Eve Moss, Syracuse University Press, 2005, p. 1491. Academic One File, [go.galegroup.com/ps/i.do?p=AONE&sw=w&u=dobs37232&v=2.1&id=GALE%7CA194198618&it=r&asid=2f891914f0445ebca80df28d97a187e7](http://go.galegroup.com/ps/i.do?p=AONE&sw=w&u=dobs37232&v=2.1&id=GALE%7CA194198618&it=r&asid=2f891914f0445ebca80df28d97a187e7). Accessed 25. 2017.

battle took place. It is hard to even imagine a sixteen-year-old fighting in a war today. Luckily Stephen Smythers survived the Storm on Stony Point and survived the entire Revolutionary War. Smythers died in 1805. I definitely consider him a family hero for fighting for our country's freedom from the British, especially given his young age.

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# Thompson Family

# The Forgotten War

## By Danyelle Thompson

Henderson Thompson (May 13, 1794-1881; married Sarah (Sally) Wright). Henderson fought in the war of 1812. He enlisted in the first regiment of Surry county troops with his brother.



Uniform from the War of 1812<sup>423</sup>

Henderson Thompson was born in Surry County on May 13, 1794, to Joseph Thompson Jr.

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<sup>423</sup> Uniform worn by soldiers during the war of 1812. “War of Andrew Jackson”, Google, <https://i.pinimg.com/736x/cf/58/97/cf58971a55f0135dd5d37d13ea8fea90--war-of--andrew-jackson.jpg>.

and Mary Cates Thompson. Henderson Thompson died May 6, 1881, and lived to be 87. His life consisted of fighting in the war of 1812 and being a loving husband and father. He was also a slave owner.

The war of 1812 is otherwise known as the forgotten war. Not many Americans or Brittan's know much about the war of 1812. There were a lot of efforts in trying to get volunteers for the army. "The governor referred to the 'glory and the renown' to be won on the battlefield and to the 'bravery' and 'patriotism' of North Carolinians willing to be among the 50,000 volunteers."<sup>424</sup> Henderson Thompson's pay range was from \$8.00 to \$12.00 a month and plus \$124.00 bounty for enlisting. They also got 160 acres of free land.<sup>425</sup>

When we declared war in 1812 Henderson Thompson and his brother Elijah Thompson enlisted in the first regiment in Surry County.<sup>426</sup>

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<sup>424</sup> Lemmon, Sarah, North Carolina and the War of 1812.

<sup>425</sup> Ibid.

<sup>426</sup> 1. Hester, Jackson, The Heritage of Surry County North Carolina Vol. 1.

Two regiments from North Carolina made the trek north towards Norfolk, Virginia. The first regiment was one of these regiments. The Thompson brothers made their way north towards Norfolk, Virginia. Americans were afraid that Norfolk was going to be attacked by the British and sent over 7,000 militiamen.<sup>427</sup> The men in Norfolk did not witness much fighting, although they did witness a British naval bombardment.<sup>428</sup>

Henderson Thompson did not witness any fighting. A lot of the time when he woke up in the morning beds would be missing people. There were a lot of desertions in the war of 1812.<sup>429</sup> When the Thompson brothers was in Norfolk their job was to make sure the Chesapeake Bay would not be attacked by the British. The British wanted the bay because it would have stopped more resources and trade leaving North Carolina and Virginia and also

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<sup>427</sup> Norris, David, "The War of 1812".

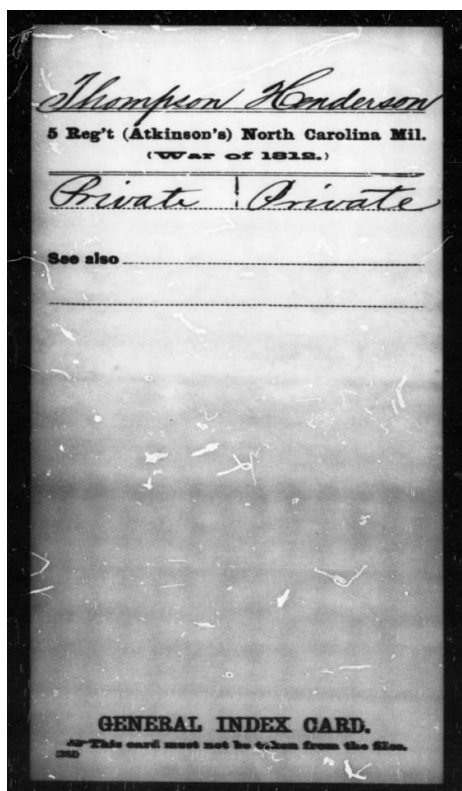
<sup>428</sup> Ibid.

<sup>429</sup> Ibid.



coming in. Like most North Carolinians Henderson  
Thompson supported the war of 1812.<sup>430</sup>

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Henderson Thompson's service card.<sup>431</sup>

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<sup>430</sup> Lewis, D. "The Known Military Units of North Carolina"

<sup>431</sup> Henderson Thompson War of 1812 Draft card saying he was in the 5th regiment in North Carolina and was

Henderson would wake up every morning to the sound of a drum and began his daily routine which consisted of making his bed and getting dressed in his uniform. He has a dark blue coat with a buff lining and yellow buttons. He also wore white pants with black shiny boots. After getting dressed he would do his daily chores such as cleaning, sweeping, and getting water from the nearby river or lake.<sup>432</sup> There was more than likely morning inspections to make sure the soldiers cleaned their rooms well. After the morning inspections, they would do the jobs they were assigned based on their experience and qualifications.

During his time in Norfolk, he saw many of his men die, not in combat, but from diseases. There was no modern medicine such as antibiotics, anesthesia, or even a stethoscope. Hygiene of the men in the war of 1812 was horrific. Luckily,

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also a private. War of 1812 Draft Registration Cards, 1812-1815.

<sup>432</sup> Henderson, Robert.

Henderson and his brother survived the war of 1812.

When the Treaty of Ghent signed on December 24, 1814, it returned all territorial conquests made by the two sides.<sup>433</sup> Henderson and his brother made the long trek back to Surry County. Upon Henderson's return, he met a woman named Sarah Wright and married her. The two had six children at his farmhouse on the west bank of the Mitchell River in what is now known as the small community of Devotion in Surry County, North Carolina.<sup>434</sup> With the 160 acres Henderson received from the war, he began a farm and he utilized slave labor. It is said when Abraham Lincoln released the slaves they asked Henderson if they could stay and the slaves he had are buried in the Thompson Family burial ground in Devotion, North Carolina.

After the death of his wife Sarah, he remarried to a woman named Elizabeth Snow.

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<sup>433</sup> Norris, Davis. "The War of 1812."

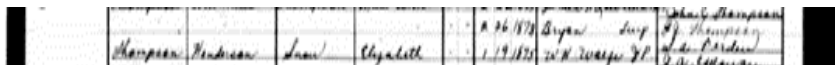
<sup>434</sup> Hester, Jackson, The Heritage of Surry County North Carolina Vol. 1.

Henderson Thompson died on May 6, 1881 and is buried in the Thompson family burial ground in Surry County. Elizabeth died as a widow.

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Henderson Thompson's Gravestone in Devotion, Surry, North Carolina.



Marriage record for Henderson Thompson and Elizabeth Snow<sup>435</sup>

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<sup>435</sup> Marriage record for Henderson Thompson and Elizabeth Snow

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## Xiong Family



## *Siab Ntev: Patience*

By Selena Lor

It is a cultural practice among the Hmong that girl are automatically engage when they are born. When girls are born, villagers are naturally supposed to come over and check the baby girl out and see for themselves if her family is rich enough or holds a high enough reputation for their sons to marry in the future. Reputation and family legacy was a big part in the Hmong culture. Reputation and family legacy represented respect.<sup>436</sup> If the baby girl and family held high enough status, then other villager were allowed to give a hands-in-marriage fee to the father of the girl. From then on, she was considered an engage child, and she would be married off in the future to the villager's son who has paid her parents in advance, when she was just born.<sup>437</sup>

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<sup>436</sup> L, Lor. Personal communication, 24 September 2017.

<sup>437</sup> Mb. "Traditional Hmong Weddings and Marriages." *A Hmong Woman*, 3 Nov. 2016,

It was somewhere back in the 1950's when Song first heard about how she was the property of someone else. Song Xiong is from the Xiangkhouang Province of Laos. She was raised in a family of farmers, craft-man and tailors. Song's father held a respectable reputation in the village because of his talented way of blowing *qeej* (traditional bamboo instrument). Her family lived in small shack houses that were made from the remains of wood, leaves, bamboo, and bushes.



This is an example of what kind of houses Hmong use to live in back in the mountains and villages. These kind of house are made with woods and leftover bamboo tree.

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[ahmongwoman.com/2011/10/08/traditional-hmong-weddings-and-marriages/](http://ahmongwoman.com/2011/10/08/traditional-hmong-weddings-and-marriages/).

From the time she was eight, she had already learned the duties of how to be a *nyab* (house wife). In Song's family, men were expected to farm from the sound of roosters crying in the morning, until the sun set every day. Women were expected to farm, cook, take care of the household, and do *paj ntaub* (an important type of embroidery of the Hmong) to provide a source of income for the household.



This is a *paj ntaub* and it is commonly stitched in the Hmong culture by females. This kind of *paj ntaub* is made into cloths and clothes that is worn during the Hmong New Year celebration



This is a modern *paj ntaub*. This modern *paj ntaub* is hung as decors around the house. The stitches and art is a way crafters express how the Hmong's use to live like back in the mountains and villages.

Song was a beautiful Hmong daughter who knew her duties as a daughter well; she knew how to respect her elders and nourished them to their needs. She could cook, clean, farm, and stitch *paj ntaub* well. Aside from her unique skills as a Hmong daughter, she was also talented in the way she sang her *kvv txhiaj* (traditional folk song). Her *kvv txhiaj* seduced the ears of the young and old people that surrounded her village. Even though Song was highly admired by males that lived in the same village as her, for her beauty and talent, she was always unappreciated in her household. Song's

household did not appreciate her because she was a daughter, and she will not bring honorable recognition to her father. Soon she was going to be married off to her fiancé- who she had not even seen or met before. Therefore, she was going to become “their” people, and not a part of her father’s property anymore.<sup>438</sup>

When Song reached the age of 15, she was forced to marry Tou Lor. Tou Lor was the eldest son in his family, so he had to get married to continue his family’s tradition and legacy.<sup>439</sup> Back during Song and Tou’s time and generation, being married at such a young age was a norm and practiced in Southeast Asia, so this was nothing unexpected. When Song married Tou, there were many tensions and much awkwardness between them because of how there was never really love or a connection between the two. Tou respected that Song was still young, and there was no love between them; so they lived individually and never

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<sup>438</sup> L. Lor, Personal communication, 24 September 2017.

<sup>439</sup> Xiong, Song. “Kuv Lub Neej.” Perf. 1990. Side A. Tape.

attempted to invade each other's privacy. As months passed by, the elders pressured Song and Tou into having kids, so the legacy of Tou's family would continue and grow. It was always a tradition to have as many children as possible because the more children a couple was able to have, the more hands there was to help around in a household, and their family name was able to spread faster.<sup>440</sup>

Song and Tou had kids, and their small family started to grow and that was how my grandparents met and got married. That was also how my aunts, uncles, and dad were brought into this world. I specifically chose to write about how my grandparents met because of my culture norm. I appreciate my culture practices and the stories of how my ancestors came to be. I am most fortunate to grow up in a civilized country that allows me to be able to live freely. Having to hear stories about how most of my ancestors met and how they got married made me realize how much freedom meant to me, and what it can allow me to do.

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<sup>440</sup> Xiong, Song. "Kuv Lub Neej." Perf. 1990. Side B. Tape.

Even though my family still lives by some of these practices with double standards and arranged marriage. I am one of the few lucky ones who are able to choose our own future and paths. I specifically named this narrative “*siab ntev*” which translates to “patience” in English to symbolize the silence that Hmong daughters are expected to maintain. The only thing Hmong parents teach their daughter, is how to be silent and patient. Duties of a Hmong daughter are only to worship and continue the legacy of our parents’ name and future husband’s name. <sup>441</sup>In most cultures, grandparents would tell their grandkids that they met in High School or church. But in my culture, marriage is only made through reputations and family legacy, not love.

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<sup>441</sup> “Txhawb - California Asian Directory.” Txhawb - California Asian Directory: Stories, [txhawb.com/?site=stories&read=27](http://txhawb.com/?site=stories&read=27).

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