



ALBEMARLE GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

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Albemarle Genealogical Society, 142 Waterlily Road, Coinjock, NC 27923

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NEXT MEETING & PROGRAM

Please note the changes in LOCATION and TIME for the upcoming AGS meeting. All Albemarle Genealogical Society meetings are free and open to anyone interested in the topic presented or in genealogy in general.

Time: Saturday, April 12, 2014 12:30 - 1:30 pm with lunch provided at noon.

Location: Kill Devil Hills Library, 400 Mustian St., Kill Devil Hills, NC 27948.

Noon lunch: salad and sandwiches.

Guest Presenter: Jim Trotman of J. Aaron Trotman Photographers.

Topic: Photograph Preservation and Organization.

About the presenter: Jim Trotman is an award winning Outer Banks photographer specializing in wedding photography and Outer Banks beach lifestyle photography. With a modern indoor photo studio located in Nags Head for portrait photography, Jim is renowned for his Outer Banks photography capturing beach family, beach wedding and candid children's beach photography throughout the entire Outer Banks. He has restored cherished old photographs for families and spoke at a recent DAR meeting about this topic.

AGS Conference Planning Meeting (at 1:30pm following the presentation) to discuss and plan the Second Annual Albemarle Genealogical Society Conference

NORTH CAROLINA GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

NCGS Webinars – The North Carolina Series

www.ncgenealogy.org

The North Carolina Genealogical Society are offering webinars that are viewed on their website for free the first three days of their release. After the three day free view period they are available to NCGS members anytime. You can go to their website and sign up for webinar and event notices on their homepage. Their most recent webinar is titled "Proving Parentage with Probate Records."

A Common Confederate Soldier's Diary
Company "B"
61st Virginia Infantry Regiment

“A Common Confederate Soldier’s Diary for the Period 1861-1865” by author Faye Marsha Benjamin. The diary was written by an ordinary common confederate soldier, using the talking style of that era, to explain to those that were not there what it actually was like. The events and dates are correct but some of the narrative is the author’s creative style in providing a better insight into what was happening during this period. This diary dates from Jan 1862 till April 1865.

Continued from January 2014 newsletter

Jan 24, 1862 Promotion list Co. B; 3Lt. James Scott, 1Sgt Benjamin Baxter, 2Sgt Ahaz Fisher, 3Sgt John Tucker-meritorious service 2 ranks, 4Sgt Willoughby Barnard- meritorious service 2 ranks, 5Sgt Francis Williams- meritorious service 2 ranks, 1Cpl Thomas Williams- meritorious service 2 ranks, 2Cpl. Ivery Brown-elected by men, 3Cpl. John Halstead-elected by men, 4Cpl. James Tucker-elected by men.

Feb. 14, 1862 Peter Basnett, Ryland White join Co. B Blinkhorn Pt.

Feb. 18, 1862 W. Wicker Co. B died measles.

Feb. 22, 1862 Pvt. Gammon Co. B found guilty of sleeping on picket duty. Sentenced to mark time 3 hours a day for 2 weeks.

Feb. 25, 1862 When men ain’t bad sick or bad wounded they go to hospital tent or field hospital. More serious cases are sent to Camp Winder, Chimborazo, or Jackson Hospital in Richmond. There are Confederate hospitals in Petersburg, Staunton, Charlottesville, Lynchburg, and Culpeper. I hear these hospitals are overcrowded, short on doctors, dirty, depressing, and death rate is high. I hope I never go.

Mar 8, 1862 Battle of Hampton Roads – 7th Battalion Virginia Co at Sewells Point shelled Yankee warships USS Minnesota, USS Roakoke, USS Lawrence, and Fort Wool.

Suffered 4 casualties Co A; Pvt. Cooper wounded, Capt Wallace wounded, Pvt, Ferrell KIA, Pvt Warden MWIA.

Mar-Apr 1862 Manned Burnett Point Battery.

Mar 14, 1862 Celius Curling, Willis Gammon, John Hodges, James Mills, Tazewell Stewart joined Co. B from Blinkhorn Pt.

Mar 24, 1862 Pvt. Thomas Flarity Co. D arrested and jailed for 3 months charge assault and battery in Portsmouth.

Mar 25, 1862 Spent several hours today in the school of the soldiers. Stand erect; face left or right; salute; march forward, to the rear, by the flank and obliquely; shift arms to various positions; load in 9 times, load in 4 times, or at will; fire in standing, kneeling and prone positions; and parry and thrust with the bayonet. I ain't ever goin to get all this soldier stuff right.

Mar 29, 1862 Pvt C. Jones Co B died measles.

Apr 30, 1862 3Cpl J.Halstead transferred Signal Corps.

Apr 1-2, 1862 Yankee army sighted near Hampton unloading from fleet of ships. They might be headed up the peninsula to Richmond.

May 1-10, 1862 Yankee forces captured Norfolk, Portsmouth, Newport News, Williamsburg, and Suffolk.

May 4, 1862 John Bowden, William Cooper, Christopher Wicker, William Wicker, William T. Waterfield joined Co B at Barrett's Pt. We hear our army has withdrawn from Yorktown.

May 11, 1862 Pvt Ballentine Co B died fever.

May 12, 1862 Pvt Rogers Co B died measles.

May 13, 1862 Pvt Curling, Pvt, Ferrell, Pvt Gammon, and Pvt W. Hall Co B deserted. These 4 shirkers.

May 19, 1862 1Sgt B. Baxter Co B transferred cavalry.

May 19, 1862 Promotion list Co B : 1Sgt Ahaz Fisher, 2Sgt John Tucker, 3 Sgt Willoughby Barnard, 4Sgt Francis Williams, 5Sgt Thomas Williams, 1Cpl Ivey Brown, 2Cpl James Tucker – meritorious service 2 ranks, 4Cpl Henry McClanan – elected by the men.

May-June 1862 Ordered to City Point near Petersburg on James River.

May 26, 1862 My messmates are Pvt Ansell, Pvt Smith, Pvt Bunnell, Pvt Dempsey, Pvt McPherson, Pvt Q.Williams, and Pvt S.Stanley. We cook together and camp together. We know each other and we get along.

Jun 5, 1862 Pvt Hodges Co B died fever.

Jun 10, 1862 Pvt Parker Co B sentenced bucked and gagged for stealing. Seated ground, hands and feet bound, knees drawn between arms, rod inserted under knees and over arms for 3 hours a day for 1 week. Mouth gagged.

Jun 17, 1862 Pvt Fanshaw Co B detailed teamster/ambulance driver.

Jun 18, 1862 Pvt Stantey Co B died fever.

Jun 22, 1862 Pvt A. Waterfield Co B died fever.

Jun 24, 1862 Sgt Goodall Co I reduced ranks absent from last muster.

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Jun 26, 1862 Teamed up with gunners at Fort Darling to turn back Yankee warships coming up the James River. Musician Bunkley Co B deserted. We hear there is heavy fighting near Mechanicsville. Pvt Q Williams was transferred to cavalry Co B.

Jun 27, 1862 We hear there is heavy fighting at Gaines Mill. Weather is very hot, humid, and frequent rainstorms.

Jun 28, 1862 Gen Joseph Johnson is bad wounded. He has been replaced by Gen Robert E. Lee. Yankees are retreating back down the peninsula toward Hampton.

Jul 1, 1862 3Sgt H. Etheridge Co A appointed regimental hospital steward.

Jul 3, 1862 Pvt Storm Co B deserted.

Jul 17, 1862 Pvt J Ferrell Co E KIA Battery 10 Richmond while firing on Yankee warships coming up the James River.

Aug 8, 1862 George Ferrell, Thomas Williams, Wilson Williams joined Co B at Oak Grove. 2 more companies join us.

Capt Maximillian Herbert's Co becomes Co K from Norfolk County.

Capt Charles McAlpine Billsoly Blues become Co I from Norfolk County.

7th Battalion Virginia Company has enough companies (10) to become a regiment. We are organized into the 61st Virginia Infantry. Men elected Virginius Groner colonel of the regiment. William Niemeyer was elected LtCol of the regiment. William Stewart was elected Major of the regiment. Each company has around 100 men, the regiment has around 1,000.

Aug 22, 1862 Pvt Parker Co B deserted.

Aug 28, 1862 Yankees have withdrawn from the peninsula and Hampton. Richmond is safe.

Aug 31, 1862 61st Va. ordered to Gordonsville away from Petersburg. Men's spirits high after hearing about our victory at Manassas. We have whipped the Yanks twice there.

Sept 1, 1862 61st worked as carpenters and laborers construction a bridge across the Rapidan River for 10 days.

Sept 10, 1862 5Sgt T. Williams Co B detailed regimental ordnance sergeant.

Promotion list Co B: 5Sgt Ivey Brown, 1Cpl James Tucker, 3Cpl Henry McClanan, 4Cpl Seth Creekmore – elected by men

Sept 1862 61st Va Co B marched from Warrenton to Bristoe Station to collect supplies. Gathered \$200,000 worth of abandoned property. Skirmished with Yankee cavalry under Gen David Birney.

FAMILY STORIES

John J. Waterfield

by Alton L. Waterfield (edited by Jeanne Meekins Murray)

(The following is an edited version of a handwritten story in the Waterfield file in the Currituck County Library's vertical file and now in digitized version. The entire file contains family group sheets and other information. If you'd like the full contents, email Jeanne at jeannemurray@gmail.com or jmurray@earlibrary.org.)

Sources of Information: Dennis Simmons Waterfield, legal papers of John J. Waterfield, and Ethel Waterfield Ansell

Some think that John J. Waterfield (b. 1807) came here by way of Wilmington. He is said to have been a "Gentleman with servant" and his purpose was to settle. He could not have been much more than sixteen and traveled with an older brother. After they divided their resources, the brother left the area and was never heard from again.

Despite his young age, he was a typical stiff necked English gentleman, proud and arrogant, with no intention of soiling his hands to make a living. He was a far cry from the first Waterfield to reach these shores, one Leonard Waterfield, a pauper recently released from debtor's prison.

John J. used his resources to buy land and slaves. He played to the power crowd and within two years he ingratiated himself with the powerful Jarvis family. He married Mary Ann "Polly" Jarvis, the daughter of Samuel and granddaughter of Col. Thomas Jarvis of Revolutionary War fame. She was four years older than he and in her own right the owner of considerable acreage. He set up as a country squire and I am told enjoyed the good life, even to the extent of wearing clean shirts and taking baths.

Since he could read and write, in addition to managing his own farms, he acted as trustee and executor for others. Grandma Lydia was the first born. Then came the twins Sarah and Elizabeth. Sarah married a preacher named West. They had no children. Elizabeth married Tart Etheridge, a lighthouse keeper. He died young and left no children. Then she married Jackson Etheridge, Tart's brother. Jackson not only married his brother's widow, he took over as lighthouse keeper. Some say he had been "hanging round." All of this gave rise to the saying, "Who's taking care of the lighthouse keeper while the lighthouse keeper is taking care of the light?" Jackson had been married before to Jane Jarvis, daughter of Edward S, son of Thomas, but not Colonel Thomas mentioned above. Jane was a widow when Jackson married her, having been married to a Gard. I have a letter from a Gard descendant.

Dennis Simmons, for whom my Uncle Dennis was named, died young and left no issue. Last came Samuel, the only male heir. He had two daughters, Ethel and Betty. Sometime in there, things didn't go very well financially. Imagine the humiliation to John J. when they wanted to sell a property to get money to live on. He had to take Mary Ann before a magistrate to swear she was disposing of her property of her own free will without any coercion on the part of her husband. Uncle Dennis said his mother told him when she broke the news to her father she was going to marry Grandpa Joseph he was "mortified" and tried to talk her out of it. After she was married he tried to have the marriage annulled. He never helped her with a dime when he was living and in death cut her off without a cent.

There is another story to that, however. His will was supposed to read that if Samuel died without male heirs the land was to go to the male heirs of Lydia and someone substituted for that between the righting and the reading as far as I know the two lines were never spoken. But I went to see Samuel's daughter Ethel Ansell. She was a very gracious lady and her story was very similar to what I had heard before.

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John J. and Mary Ann lived out their lives through the terrible war. He died the year after. They are buried at his home place, the Rudee Bonney farm. Also buried there is Mary's brother Captain Samuel Jarvis who married Affie White (no issue).

The American experience is a great leveler. A John J. and Samuel descendant, the only one I know not in the Lydia line, works at a filling station on Laskin Rd. A Michael Benjamin descendant became Lieutenant governor of Kentucky, although they don't know their seaboard cousins.

Dr. William Tillett Family

(From the Tillett vertical file, transcribed and edited by Jeanne Meekins Murray)

In the mid-eighteenth century, Dr. William Tillett immigrated from France to America. It is assumed that he was shipwrecked on the Outer Banks of NC in the Dare County area. He married one of the natives and settled in the Nags Head community which comprised all the wooded section now referred to as Old Nags Head. He had one son known to survive, Thomas Tillett.

Thomas Tillett became a seafaring man and later attained the rank of Captain. Captain Samuel Tillett, son of Captain Thomas Tillett, followed in the career of his father and died on shipboard in the West Indies on 8 April 1876. Fully aware of his approaching death of yellow fever, he requested that his body be returned to Nags Head for interment. There being no modern day equipment and facilities for embalming in those days, his body was sealed in a metallic casket filled with India rum to keep it preserved for the long voyage home.

Three years after his death, the ship finally arrived and his last request was fulfilled. He was buried in the original Tillett family cemetery. In recent years, soundings have been made at the gravesite and the metal casket detected. It appears to be intact still. This information is further substantiated by inscriptions on existing grave stones and from information passed down from preceding generations.

The line of ancestry is as follows:

Dr. William Tillett, date of birth and death unknown

Capt. Thomas Tillett, son of Dr. William, 25 Nov. 1762-25 Dec. 182? [document cut off]

Dolly Tillett, wife of Thomas, 10 April 1776-20 August 1829

Capt. Samuel Tillett, son of Thomas, 29 Mar. 1798-8 April 1876

Durant, son of Thomas, 1 March 1806-7 Feb. 1831

Isaac, son of Durant, birth and death dates unknown, buried in Dully cemetery

Willis Tillett, son of Isaac, 28 July 1840-12 Jan. 1907

Eva Tillett, daughter of Willis, 14 Feb. 1885-1 Jan. 1960

Callie, daughter of Willis, 20 April 1886-30 June 1980

Polly, daughter of Willis, 3 Jan. 1889-23 Jan. 1918

Isaac, J., son of Willis, 22 Jan. 1891-16 May 1909

William D., son of Willis, 31 Dec. 1892-24 April 1911

Willis II, son of Willis, 18 May 1894-28 Jan. 1915

Mack. R., son of Willis, 15 Sept. 1901-30 November 1966

EARLY SETTLER MISCELLANEOUS INFORMATION
From the files of Jane Brumley

Remember the final dividing line was not completed until 1728 between NC & VA

ANSELL

A John Axstell (Ansell) was in Lower Norfolk in Virginia approximately 1650.
In 1726 a John Ansell, from Knotts Island appointed by Virginia Council to be a tobacco counter.

DOZIER

(Dauge, Douge, Doudge)
French Huguenots with a land patent dated 1689 at Washwoods.

DUDLEY

The name of Dudley dates back to 1637 in Virginia. Thomas Dudley came to Princess Anne County in 1708 and settled on Knotts Island. A Thomas Dudley was appointed by Virginia Council to be a tobacco counter. This was, most likely, Thomas Jr. for the senior Dudley, by this time, was deemed very old and unable to work and, therefore, exempt from paying any levy. The Dudley family name goes back to the 11th Century in England.

ETHERIDGE

Thomas Etheridge, from England, was in Norfolk County in the 1600's. Will dated 1671.

FENTRESS

In 1673 Michael Fentress received a land grant for 450 acres. His will was probated in Norfolk County on November, 19, 1695.

JONES

Cornelius Lloyd Jones received land November 1646 for paying Richard Jones way to America. By 1682, Richard's wife, Rachael Jones, receives land on Knotts Island, in Lower Norfolk County. It is interesting to note that Richard and Rachael had eight children.

MORRIS

Thomas Morris settled in Lower Norfolk County (later Princess Anne County) in 1683. From Wales he, arrived from Bermuda, thru Old Currituck Inlet near Mauna (Mons) Island. It is likely he settled in what is known today as Morris Neck in lower Virginia Beach.

SPRATT

Henry Spratt's will dated February 26, 1686/87 in Norfolk County. His son, Frances Spratt purchased land in 1693 in Muddy Creek, Princess Anne County, Virginia.

WHITEHURST

Richard Whitehurst came to Virginia in November, 1636, from Stratford, England. Obtained land patent October 1648 for 250 acres in Lower Norfolk County.