



ALBEMARLE GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

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

VOLUME XXXIV Number 2

April 2015

Spring Quarter

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NEXT MEETING & PROGRAM

The next meeting will be Saturday, April 11, 10:30am, at the Currituck County Public Library in Barco. A brief business meeting of the Albemarle Genealogical Society will be held 10:00 a.m. before the presentation. All Albemarle Genealogical Society meetings are free and open to anyone interested in the topic presented or genealogy in general.

Our speaker will be Tama Creef. Tama is an Acquisitions Archivist who joined the staff at the Outer Banks History Center in 2007. She graduated from Virginia Commonwealth University with degrees in education, public administration, and fine arts with a strong interest in art history and conservation. Since moving to Manteo with her husband David, who is a native of the area, she served as Development and Event Coordinator at the Elizabethan Gardens and Education Manager for the Roanoke Island Historical Association and was the previous Acting Director of Environmental Education for the Maymont Foundation in Richmond, Virginia.

The presentation "The U.S. Lifesaving Service on Currituck Banks" will look at the long and heroic history of those who fought the seas to rescue mariners from almost certain death. Participants will learn about the unique architecture of the stations, the equipment used, and will hear a few of the famous and not so famous stories of those who risked their lives to save others.

Participants can look forward to learning about how to access the many genealogical and historical resources available through the Outer Banks History Center and State Archives and will get a "teaser" view of their current exhibit - "A Heritage of Heroes: The U.S. Coast Guard in North Carolina."

**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 2015 newsletter

May 3, 1863 10:00am Our division (Anderson) united with Jackson’s Corps near Fairview. Yankees are retreating toward the river. Heavy shelling has caused many forest fires. Many of the wounded are burned alive. General Jackson and General A. P. Hill are both wounded, and General Stuart is now in command of Jackson’s Corps.

May 3, 1863 12:00 noon. Gen Lee ordered our brigade to Salem Church to stop Yankee Gen. Sedgwick’s Corps coming from Fredericksburg. Our brigade shifted north of Salem Church. 61st VA ran to the front as skirmishers. Set up along a natural hedgerow running north toward the river.

We was fightin Yankees from 26th NJ, 23rd NJ, 3rd VT, 4th VT, 3rd NJ. Next two days we pinned Sedgwick’s boys against the river. A company from the 9th AL occupied a log schoolhouse about 60 yards from Salem Church. They were overran by the 121st NY but were rescued by the 9th and 10th AL later. Mr. James Orrock’s home was hit by a Yankee shell that went down the chimney into his basement. He grabbed it and threw it out into the yard. The dowman family was able to flee their home.

May 4th, 1863 11:00pm attacked 6th Maine retreating toward river. Failed to stop them crossing pontoon cause of big bluff at Brooks Ford and dark shadows. Did take some prisoners.

May 5, 1863 We gathered up wagon loads of abandoned weapons and provisions. A violent thunderstorm hit during the afternoon.

May 10, 1863 We mourn the death of Gen. Jackson killed by accident by southern hands. He died at the Chandler Plantation. His wife and baby were escorted to her father’s home in N.C.

Confederate Roll Of Honor

Pvt Joseph Fentress Co B pulled wounded Sgt between lines to safety while under heavy fire.

Pvt Willoughby Nicols Co B saved the lives of some of his comrades and greatly imperiled his own by picking up and throwing away a lighted shell which had fallen in our company.

May – June 1863 After Chancellorsville our brigade was ordered to relieve Barksdale's Mississippi Brigade at Marye's Heights Fredericksburg for picket duty. Our brigade became part of Gen A.P. Hill's III Corps. After Gen Jackson's death Gen Lee divided the Army of Northern Virginia into 3 corps. I Corps commanded by Gen Longstreet, II Corps commanded by Gen Ewell, and III Corps commanded by Gen A. P. Hill.

May 18, 1863 Pvt. W. Waterfield Co B died of pneumonia

May 23, 1863 Pvt Bunnell and I went to the Doc for the itch from bites. He mixed up white elder flower ointment, flour of sulphur, oil of peppermint. He told us to rub our bites in it. It helped some. That night I prayed: "Now I lay me down to sleep, while graybacks oe'r my body creep, if I should die before I wake, I pray the Lord their jaws to break."

May 31, 1863 Following were court martialed found guilty of AWOL by board. Pvt Woodson Grimes 12th VA, Pvt Edward Hobeck 41st Va, Pvt Edward Scroggins 41st Va, Pvt John Williams 41st Va.

June 2, 1863 Gen A.P. Hill's Corps was left to observe the enemy at Fredericksburg. We were charged with screening Gen Ewell and Gen Longstreet's movements west of Culpeper.

June 3, 1863 Following were court martialed found guilty of AWOL by board. Pvt Edwin Scott 41st VA, and Pvt John Sperry 41st VA.

June 8, 1863 Gen Ewell and Gen Longstreet reach Culpeper.

June 10, 1863 Gen Ewell's Corps is moving in the Shenandoah Valley.

June 13th, 1863 Gen Ewell is near Winchester.

June 14th, 1863 Our Corps (Hill) starts towards the Valley via Culpeper Courthouse and Front Royal.

June 15th, 1863 Gen Longstreet's Corps leaves Culpeper moving eastern slope of Blue Ridge Mts. Our corps (Hill) passes the rear of Longstreet's Corps and moves westward through Snicker's Gap and Ashby's Gap.

June 19, 1863 Pvt Lockland Co C deserted.

June 20, 1863 Getting ready to turn in when one of fellers went by just a cussin. I asked him what was wrong. He said he spent last 2 hours hunting graybacks. I asked his how many fleas did he kill. 53 he said. He said the only army around here was made up of fleas, lice, buffalo gnats, blow flies, gallinippers (mosquitoes), and ticks. Our Corps (Hill) is near Winchester.

Next month the 61st Virginia Infantry Regiment will March to Pennsylvania

AGS APRIL 2015

WILL OF ABEL ASHBEE, oldest son of Solomon Ashbee. Dated April 7, 1803-Eula Griffin Bibb his great granddaughter, has the original will, which is not recorded in Currituck County Court House.

In the name of God, Amen. I, Abel Ashbee of Currituck County, North Carolina, being weak but sound in mind and memory, Blessed be God - do, this seventh day of April one thousand eight hundred and three make and publish this my last will and testament, in manner and form as following, that is to say, I give up myself to God and my body to be buried in a clean and decent manner, hoping to meet with a happy Resurrection in the judgement of the great day through the Blood & Rightousness of a Dear Redeemer, and as to touching my worldly Estate which it has been please God to Bless me with, I do give and despose of same in the following manner.

Item. I give and bequeath to Mary my beloved wife all my lands that *I* do possess, and all my negroes, and all the Rest of my Estate, both within doors, and without to her, during her natural life. or widowhood, in order that she should be able to bring up my children and educate them, that is not married, and support my family - Item. I give to my daughter Sarah Cavender, wife of Joseph Cavender, the yous of two negroes, by the name of Briad & Zebdee, during her natural life or so long as she keeps the said negroes in her possession, but should she die, or in any wise be disposed, I wish that her heirs lawfully begotten of her body should have them forever. For the want of just heirs I desire they should return to my heirs and that my Executor, hereafter mentioned, claim them when she is disposed, for the heirs as afor aaid mentioned. Likewise I give her all I have possessed her with all ready to her and her heirs forever. Item. - I give to my son Samuel Ashbee, the use of all my land that I have bought of Samuel Johnson, Esquire, that lies to the westward of Linton's new Road, bounded as follows, beginning at Morris Baum's Corner on Albemarle Sound, then following said Morris Baum's line Eastwardly to Linton's new road, then southerly along an old road, then along said road to Solomon Ashbee 's Senior line, from there southerly along sd. Solomon Ashbee's Senior line, to the aforesaid Sound, during his natural life. After his death I give the aforesaid land to his male heirs lawfully begotten of his body forever. Likewise I give to my son Samuel Ashbee, three negroes, that is Bob, and a girl Chat and Woman Temer, to him and his heirs forever.

Item. I give to my son Solomon Ashbee the use of the plantation during his natural life that I bought of Samuel Mydyett Senior on Roanoke Island, and after his death I give the aforesaid plantation to his male heirs lawfully begotten of his body forever.

Item, I give to my son Solomon, three negroes, Woman Rachel, boy Zefry, and man Zack, to him & his heirs forever-

Item, I give *to my* daughter Elizabeth Jarvis wife of Samuel Jarvis, the youse of woman Hager, and her increase & boy Jim, to the heirs of his body forever.

Item, I give to my son Abel Ashbee, use of the plantation on which I now live and likewise I give him the use of all the lands I bought of Samuel Johnson, Esq. on the Eastard side of Roanoke Island that I have not given away all ready during his natural life & after his death I give the afoursaid lands to male heirs of my sd son lawfully Begotten forever, likewise I give to Abel Ashbee three negroes, man William and woman Scot and boy Benjamin, to him and his heirs forever- **Item,** I give to my son William Ashbee, the use of all my land which is known by the name of Great Collington Island, during his natural life & after his death the sd land to the male heirs of my aforesaid son William which have lawfully begotten forever, likewise I give to my son William Ashbee, four negroes, woman Alemon & boy Pompey & boy March & girl Page to him & his heirs forever

Item, I give to my daughter Mary my Plantation on the head of Scuppernong River which I bought of Abitree (?) Spruill and Mr. Mariner, to her & her heirs forever, but if my afoursaid daughter should die without an heir, lawfully begotten of her body, I give afoursaid land to my daughter Affee Ashbee & her heirs forever.

Item, I give to my daughter Mary Ashbee three negroes, woman Agnes, Girl Dorothy and girl Claricy, to her and her heirs I likewise give to my daughter Mary one bed and furniture and one mare and two cows and calves, and hundred mildollars, to her and her heirs.

Item, I give to my daughter Affee Ashbee, a plantation and tract of land I bought of Caleb Brickhouse. Deed lying in Tyrrell County, to her and her heirs but if my daughter Affy should die without an heir lawfully begotten of her body I desire her lands should desolve to my daughter Mary Ashbee and her heirs. **Item**, I give to my daughter Affey Ashbee three negroes, woman Susana, Girl Teany & boy Cam & one bed and furniture, one mare, two cows and calves and one hundred Mildollars, to her & her heirs.

Item I give to my son William Ashbee one bed & furniture, one mare, and two cows & calves to him and his heirs. But my desire is that none of my aforesaid children shall possess the aforesaid gifts real or personal until the expiration of the widowhood of my wife, that is I mean until her death or marriage.

Item, I give my vessels Virginia & Hannah to my four sons Samuel, Solomon, Abel & William Ashbee, to be equally divided between them after the death or marriage of my wife to them & their heirs. **Item**, my will is that if there should be any perishable part of my estate I have not given away at her discretion, sell or have it she do not want it to live on children both male and female and equally, also my desire is raise or sell, as much of my raise three hundred dollars education of my son William die or marry before the afores my desire that my daughters should finish their education as far as the money goes.

(One corner of will torn away or crumbled from age.)

Item, last of all my desire is that, if there should be any of my estate remaining after the death or marriage of my wife, that I have not already given away, I desire it should be Equally divided between my following children, that is to say my sons Samuel, Solomon, Abel & William Ashbee & my daughters Sarah Cavendor, Elizabeth Jarvis, Mary and Affey Ashbee. To them and their heirs. Last of all I do make and ordain my well beloved wife Mary my whole & sole Executor to this my last will and Testament, set my hand and seal, the day and date written.

ABEL ASHBEE (SEAL)
SIGNED, SEALED published &
Delivered by the sd. Abel Ashbee
the atestor as his last will
in the presents of us who were present

Thomas Etheridge, Senior
Stephen Weskett
William Etheridge, Senior

Note here, wherer I have given lands above to the male heirs of my sons after they die I do here further desire that for the want of such male heirs that the said land or lands shall go to the females of my sforesaid sons forever and if either of them have neither male or female heirs lawfully begotten my desire is that (Corner gone and the part of two lines remaining are illegible except for "some witnesses".) (Abel Ashbee died March 23, 1808 on Roanoke Island, Eula send this date.)

Improved HeritageQuest Online Available

Information provided by Naomi Rhodes

As of March 2015, HeritageQuest, the genealogy database available to library borrowers from home or in the library, has a new interface powered by Ancestry, streamlining the search process.

The new HeritageQuest Online offers new capabilities and benefits:

- An intuitive interface similar to Ancestry.com
- The U.S. Federal Census 1790-1940 – a highly valued resource now includes complete every-name indexes and unique interactive maps.
- Census data exceeding 700 million records that can now be discovered using Exact Match, Phonetic, Variant, Soundex, Wildcard and Keyword Searches.
- Searching full-text of the expanded collection of more than 40,000 family and local history books – is now enhanced with thumbnail images and hit highlighting.
- A new Image Viewer offers basic and advanced capabilities without any plug-in, making it easy to share images with family and friends.
- Image resolution that is significantly improved with the addition of greyscale and color.

The enhancements are a result of the expanded partnership and distribution agreement between ProQuest and Ancestry. A new Research Aid replaces the Learning Center and include topics such as Getting Started, Census, Beyond the Basics, Military and Ethnic.

New Genealogy Web Links

Information provided by Naomi Rhodes

On the East Albemarle Regional Library website www.earlibrary.org click on Web Links to access all of the genealogy links listed in the Genealogy category.

Recently added links include:

Steve Morse's One-Step Webpages

<http://www.stevemorse.org/>

His One-Step method simplifies searches of other genealogy databases, such as Ellis Island, Canadian and British Census, and others to give you better results. His search engines provide more powerful interfaces for searching existing databases that may not be able to find your search due to variant spellings.

Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) Library <http://www.dar.org/library> The Genealogical Research System, or GRS for short, is DAR's online genealogical portal to their Ancestor Database, Member Database, Descendants Database, DAR Library Catalog, DAR Genealogical Records Committee database and more.

A letter to the Editor

Editor - I am a long-time member of the Albermarle Genealogical Society, descending from the early Currituck Taylor and Nicholson families. It occurred to me that I had used the 1985 Currituck Heritage book in a way I had not reported to society members.

As a California state legislator in the last decade, from time-to-time I would be asked to perform civil marriage ceremonies for friends and associates. Twelve years ago, it got to the wedding day for the first couple I married - when I realized I just had a paper script, and it wouldn't look very dignified to hold that up in front of the gathering for the ceremony. The 1985 Currituck heritage book is black with a gold seal on the front - and provides the perfect ceremonial touch for these events. I have now used it on multiple occasions for just that purpose, and had not reported back. Thought the members would want to know that the book is not just an excellent family history resource - but has played a valuable role in the unions of many couples. This weekend, that first couple celebrates their twelfth anniversary, so maybe the book is a charm.

John Laird
Santa Cruz, CA