Number 5, Volume 4

1992

# New Year, New Editor, New Things To do!

It's time for renewal! Yes, 1993 is on us and the Fairfield Genealogical Society needs all of us to renew our membership as soon as possible so the treasurer can get the list of names off to the state society. The state society makes up its list in March and we need everyone to renew by then so as not to miss the new, expanded, and indexed Carolina Herald. You will find a membership blank in this Newsletter. You can either make a copy of it, rip it out and use it, or simply send in your membership information on your own stationary.

Helen Rexroad, with the help of Gloria Blackwell, will be taking over the position of Corresponding Secretary and Editor in 1993 so there will be some new ideas and a new direction and probably a new "look" to the Fairfield Newsletter. We all look forward to their view of things. Don't forget, these ladies will need your charts, bible records, family histories, tidbits of information, genealogical stories, abstracted genealogical material, cemetery surveys and anything else that you can send that will be helpful.

We also want you to send to the Newsletter any cartoons and genealogical oriented humor you may spot. For several years I've clipped cartoons as I've seen them, but now I have only about two left that have not been printed. The cartoon strip "Frank and Earnest" is a good source, but my local paper no longer carries it so I know I'm missing some of them. "Family Circle" also prints genealogical cartoons, but not as frequently as "Frank and Earnest." One of the cartoons in this issue of the Newsletter came from a political magazine, so they can be found anywhere. As you come across cartoons please clip and send them to the Society so we can all share our own brand of humor, too. Please don't let our new editors down. Send information to the Society at the Winnsboro Post Office box.

We want to thank Susan Busby for the forms she sent this time. We always look forward to contributions from our members.

Thank you all for your help in the past, and I hope you all have a happy new year hunting ancestors!

## Bible Records Are A Wonderful "Find"

For several years I've requested bible records from our members, but so far no one has sent any. Possible this is because none of our members has an old family bible with any records in it. I know I only have one page that was torn out of my grandmother's bible and it only list my father's brothers and sisters. Since it is so recent and since it contains so little information and since that information is readily available elsewhere, I've opted not to publish it. But, surely there must be someone of our nearly 100 members who has some bible records to share. If so, please either copy them down or make a xerox copy of them and send them in.

I have ancestry from the "dreaded" Orangeburg district where the courthouse has burned three times. If it weren't for church records and family bible records (and Federal Censuses) there would be almost no information on that area at all. I've hit several blank walls on various lines and have had to follow individual leads. I have been corresponding all over the nation trying to find if anyone has any family bible records that might be helpful. Bible records are about my only remaining hope in that area.

Bible records and church records are very important and I urge you to please submit what you have. Unless family bible records are published somewhere they are only helpful to the <u>one</u> family that currently possess the <u>one</u> bible where the information is recorded.

Below is a written Bible record (as opposed to a Xerox copy of one) that appeared in the Catawba-Wateree Chapter Newsletter, "The Messenger." It is from the Bible of a Fairfield family and it may just be the information someone needs now or in the future.

BIBLE RECORD - William Watts
Fairfield County, South Carolina

William Watts married Jane Thompson in 1790.

**BIRTHS** 

William Watts was born in 1768 in Ireland Jane Thompson was born in 1768

CHILDREN

Martha Watts was born December 14, 1791
John Watts was born February 2, 1794
Margaret Watts
James Watts was born in 1795
Margaret Bell Watts was born February 14, 1801 (James Watt's wife)
William Watts was born September 25, 1801
Charles Watts was born June 2, 1803
Jane Watts
Thomas Watts

#### MARRIAGES

Martha Watts married Hugh Bell in 1814

John Watts married Anne (Nancy) Kincaid February 2, 1819

(She was a daughter of Alex and Anne McMorries Kincaid)

Margaret Watts married Thomas Ware

James Watts married Margaret Bell in 1821

William Watts married Nancy Martin (sister of John Aiken Martin)

Charles Watts married Wyatt Martin (daughter of Captain Edward Martin and his wife, Mary Aiken Martin)

Jane Watts married David Hamiter, Fairfield County, South Carolina Thomas Watts married Harriet Gandy

#### DEATHS

Martha Watts Bell died December 29, 1871
John Watts died July 7, 1845
James Watts died May 9, 1851
Margaret Bell Watts died April 6, 1861
William Watts was killed in the explosion of the "Lucy Walker" on the Ohio
River near New Albany, Indiana, October 25, 1844



#### **IN MEMORIAM**

Just as the Newsletter had gone to the printer last quarter we received the sad news that Lacy Ratliff had died. Lacy was a faithful member of The Fairfield Chapter and we miss him at our meeting. We extend our condolences to his wife and his family.



# The Fairfield Chapter of The S.C. Genealogical Society Welcomes Two New Chapters

Chapter number 20

Old St. Bartholomew Chapter 125 Wade Hampton Walterboro, S.C. 29488 Chapter number 21

Lexington Genealogical Association P.O. Box 1442 Lexington, S.C. 29071-1442

## Where To Find Church Archives

And speaking of church records...Here is a list of some Church archives where church records are stored. I abstracted it from a newsletter in Nebraska and while it does not contain every church in which one might be interested, but it is a start. If you have hit a blank wall on some ancestor try to determine what church he attended and write the church archives to see if there are any records from that church. If the addresses here are not just the right one you need the people who work there will surely help you locate the best repository for the church you are looking for. I know how helpful the people at Furman University have been when I called them.

On a trip looking for one set of church records I discovered a book from another church that was started in 1824. That original old book was for Tabernacle Baptist Church in Aiken county (it used to be in Orangeburg) and was pleased to find a good list of members. I had no idea that any of my ancestors were members there, but when I started looking through the pages I was surprised to find my ancestor, Wylie Jackson, and his wife, Elizabeth Evans Jackson, were members there in the 1830's. The two other male Evanses who were members then gave me the clue to figure out who her father was. Sondon't overlook church records!

BAPTIST: American Baptist Historical Society, 1100 S. Goodman Street, Rochester, N.Y. 14620

SOUTHERN BAPTIST: Historical Commission, Southern Baptist Convention, 127 9th Avenue, Nashville, TN 36234

EPISCOPAL: Library and Archives of the Church Historical Society, 606 Ratherview Place, Austin, TX 78767

FRIENDS (QUAKERS): Friends Historical Society, Swathmore College, Swathmore, PA 19801

LUTHERAN: Archives of the Lutheran Church in America, Wartbury Theological Seminary, 333 Wartburg Place, Dubuque, Iowa 52001

METHODIST: Commission on Archives and History of the United Methodist Church, 36 Madison Avenue, Madison, NJ 17904

PRESBYTERIAN: Presbyterian Historical Society, United Presbyterian Church of the United States, P.O. Box 847, Montreat, NC 28757

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST AND CONGREGATIONAL: Congregational Library, 14 Beacon Street, Boston MS 12108

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST AND CONGREGATIONAL--GERMAN REFORM: Phil Schaff, Memoral Library, Lancaster, PA 17603

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST AND CONGREGATIONAL--EVANGELICAL AND REFORM: Eden Archives, Eden Theological Seminary, 475 East Lockwood Avenue, Webster Groves, MO 63119

(From "Westward Into Nebraska", Sept, 1990)

### "INDENTURED SERVANTS"

If you have found an early ancestor in the colonies listed as "servant" or "indentured" take heart, he still could be a member of the landed gentry. The following definition is from the Explanatory Notes, page xxviii, of Adventures of Purse and Person, Virginia, 1607-1624/25, published by the Order of First Families of Virginia:

SERVANT: A term generally used in the modern sense of employee. Younger sons of the gentry in England, having no opportunity to acquire a landed estate due to the laws of primogeniture which dictated that the oldest son inherit all of his father's estate. often obligated themselves by "articles of indenture" to serve required years in order to obtain free passage to the promising land of Virginia. They, with others, therefore, are listed as "indentured servants." Adam Thorowgood, a well-to-do early colonist. who married the daughter of Robert Offley, merchant of London, is listed in the muster as a "servant." Randall Holt, apprenticed to Dr. John Pott, Surgeon General of the Colony, was required by the Court to serve his "full time" after which he married the heiress Mary Bayley. became a member of the House of Burgesses and he was a relative of Dr. Potts. The daughter of Christopher Calthrope, of a family connected with royalty, married Thomas Ragg listed in the inventory of her father's estate as an indentured servant.

There are known instances of people who were armigerous, that is, they were genuine holders of armorial bearings (coats-of-arms) and who descended from Barons and Earls. who struck a deal with someone, often a relative, to act as their servant. The employer supplied room, board, clothes, paid the passage from Englnad, and taught the servant a trade (usually farming, but it could be the complete range of trades at the time) and often set the servant up in business with a set of farming tools, or other tools of the trade. when their period of service was up. It was a good deal for the "servant," especially if they were young and were in the emplov of a watchful relative. The employer got land, usually 50 acres, sometimes more, for each person he transported to the colony, whether they were his wife or child, his relative or "servant." It was a good deal all around and probably as many as one fourth of the people who came to Virginia during the first 100 years, be they of high birth or otherwise. came as servants.

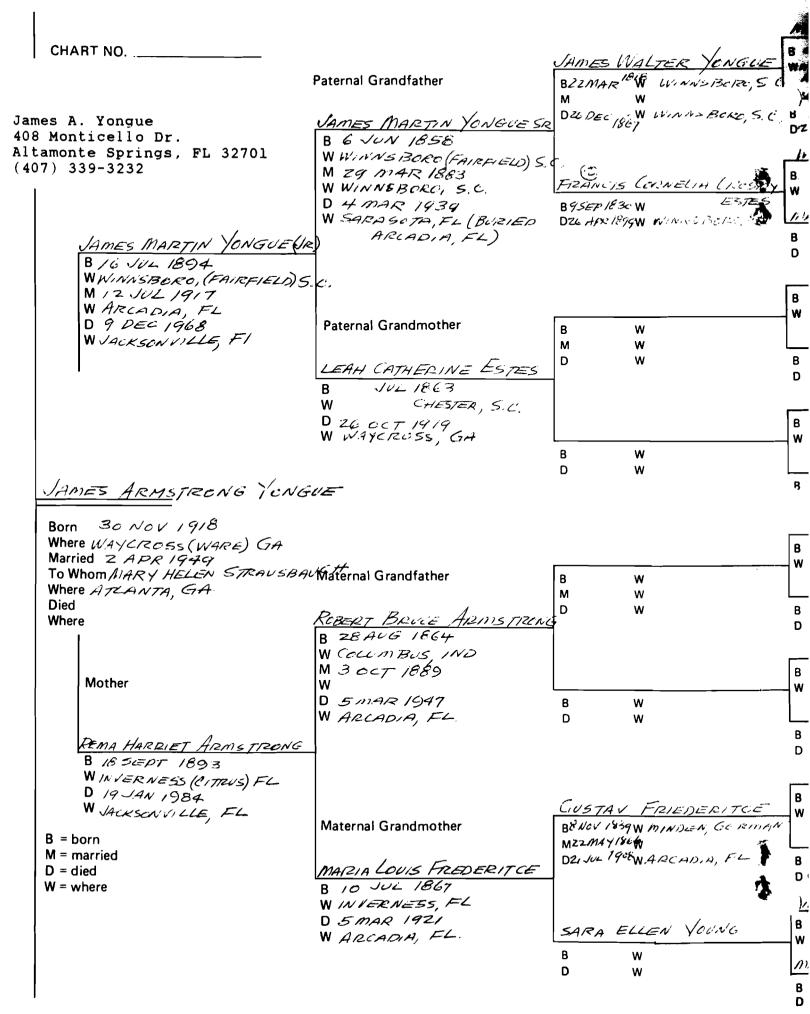












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# Two New Forms One Very Interesting, One Very Helpful

Susan Busby, a new member from Columbia who just joined us this year, is a well organized genealogist. She likes to keep her information filed properly and she tries to locate various forms she can use to make her organizing task easier. When she joined the chapter she told me she would send a few forms she has collected, or designed, and said please us any that might seem helpful. They all were good and in due course we will probably publish them all.

Included in this issue of the Newsletter are two forms you may find helpful for two entirely different reasons because they are two entirely different forms. I've never seen any form like them so I thought they would make a good addition to our hobby.

The first form is a simple, but helpful, form that anyone can use when surveying a cemetery. We've all done that from time to time and when I do it I usually have a "yellow pad" and start writing the information down at random. In fact I did just that several months ago and when I got back home I had to struggle over the information I had collected. From now on I'm going to carry a few of these sheets in my master genealogical book and when I need them they always will be there.

The second form is quite different. It is a form for the health record of you and your family. It may, at first, seem a bit macabre, but in my lifetime I found I needed just such information. As my oldest daughter grew up she developed a large gap between her front teeth and we were shocked when her dentist pointed out she was missing two of her upper side teeth. Our dentist pointed out that it was a hereditary trait. Both my wife and I were baffled because we did not know of anyone in the family who had that trait. When I was telling my mother she looked surprised because she was missing two of her upper side teeth too even though she hadn't thought about it for decades! I never would have guessed because my mother's teeth were strait and pretty.

The dentist cautioned my daughter that if she married a boy who was also carrying the same recessive trait then their children may be born without the majority of their teeth! He said he had one patient who had only two teeth and one who had only a seven.

This hereditary trait may not seem so terrible, but how would you like to have only a few teeth because you parents were never told they were carrying such a hereditary trait? Many of our traits and many physical weakness or propensity for ills are inherited. Cystic fibrosis, for instance, is hereditary. If two parents are carrying the recessive for cystic fibrosis it is a fifty-fifty chance that their children will have it.

It used to be we only married the girls and boys we met at church or, as one writer has said, we married the girls who were within one day's mule ride of home. When that was the situation we were more careful of the heredity of our mates. Now that we are looking farther afield and not marrying our cousins we don't worry so much about our hereditary traits. But, I doesn't hurt to know what hereditary weaknesses our family carries and make our children aware of them. It may prevent a real tragedy one day for our descendants.

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#### FAIRFIELD CHAPTER

Fairfield Chapter P.O. Box 696 Winnsboro, S.C. 29180

# NEW MEMBER APPLICATION SOUTH CAROLINA GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY, INC.

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# A Great Genealogical Newspaper Free For The Asking

The item below was clipped from the "The Family Tree" which is published bi monthly by the Ellen Payne Odom Genealogical Library in Moultrie, Georgia. This short clipping gives an example some of what you will find in that interesting publication. The Library operates on an endowment which enables it to provide, at no charge, this newspaper to genealogists. All you have to do to receive it is write and ask. They do welcome donations, however, of any amount, to help with postage.

"The Family Tree" is a 44 page tabloid size newspaper that sports a large queries section (also free), plus lots of ads for services and genealogical aids. It does lean heavily towards the Scottish heritage side of genealogy because over 30 Scottish name societies use the library as the repository for their archives, but it is quite useful even if you have no Scottish interest. If you would like to receive the Newspaper write to:

The Editor,
The Family Tree
Odom Library
P.O. Box 1110
Moultrie, Ga 31776-1110

Page 6, The Family Tree

# "Messaging" in Cemeteries! A Great Idea! Try it!

Phyllis Friesner of Eagle Rock, MO found a way to communicate with unknown family members by making contacts in cemeteries! She leaves basic genealogical information in a small jar at her ancestors grave sites, including her own name and address. She has been surprised to receive responses as much as three years later, from previously unknown cousins who visited the same cemeteries.

Now, she says, she has discovered another possibility that may have much longer data-preservation implications. Her parents are buried in a cemetery in which only bronze plates (markers) are installed flush with the ground. Many of these have an attached vase that can be upright when in use or turned upside down at other times and stored beneath the marker. With this type of marker, she finds there is a nice space underneath in which an olive-type jar can be placed containing family information.

Ms. Friesner says she thought of this when reading a story about an old house that was being torn down. When the steps of the old house were being removed, a jar was found. It was family history-preserved by someone who at one time, lived there and wanted the family to be remembered!

Thanks to both the Antique Week and San Diego Genealogical Society Newsletter.