

# *The Thrasher Newsletter*

*Editor Barbara Eger Circulation: John F. Thrasher III Volume 31 No. 4 December 2013*

## **Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to All!**

This issue of the Thrasher Newsletter brings to a close the end of a special collection of Thrasher Newsletters - ones that Barbara Eger, editor, prepared. Barbara assumed the position at the Thrasher Reunion as editor following the Thrasher Reunion in Ashburn, Georgia in the summer of 1995. Her first issue of the Newsletter was in November 1995. Can you believe it? Eighteen years of dedicated service to the Thrasher Family Association. How did the association get so lucky? Barbara has always maintained high standards for the Newsletter and it showed.

On behalf of the entire TFA I say to Barbara, We have truly have enjoyed the Newsletters and appreciate your generous gift more that you realize. Many thanks and well done.

**The 2014 Thrasher Reunion is only six months away.**

I believe you all know that Joe and Angie Grooms have volunteered to host the 2104 Thrasher Reunion. They have done the necessary spade work and have made the basic plans.

The reunion will be held the weekend of June 20 - 22, 2014 in Reidsville, N. C.

The Reidsville/Ruffin area was the homeplace of John/Ruth Cloud Thrasher and their family (sons Joseph Cloud Thrasher, Isaac/Ruth Barton Thrasher and John/Susan Barton Thrasher during the Revolutionary War.

Just a few miles to the SW of Reidsville is where another branch of our family lived during the Revolution. There lived William William Thrasher, the earliest ancestor of the Tennessee Thrasher/Threshers. It would be fun to seek out his homesite too.

Local attractions are the Lick Fork Baptist Church (land donated by Joseph Cloud Thrasher), the Guilford County Battlefield Site, and the Thrasher properties.

Joe has made reservations for a block of rooms at the Holiday Inn Express in Reidsville, N. C. Room rates are \$89 to \$93 per night plus 11% tax. A buffet dinner is being planned at a local restaurant for Saturday night. More information will be available in the next issue of the Thrasher Newsletter, BUT go ahead now and mark the dates (June 20 - 22, 2014) on your calendars now!

Joe and Angie can be reached at: [grooms75@Bellsouth.net](mailto:grooms75@Bellsouth.net)

From the Atlanta Constitution 14 December 1889

## Shot in His Chair

by a young lawyer formerly a resident of Atlanta  
and a woman the cause of it

The Mayor of Starke, Florida Killed in His Private Office  
by A. B. Thrasher, who Confessed the Crime

A. B. Thrasher (Barton Albert Thrasher,) a young man once well known in Atlanta, figures in a very sensational shooting affray in Gainesville, Florida, last Wednesday. He shot and killed Mayor Witkouski, of Starke, Florida, in his private office. Thrasher gave himself up and is now in the hands of the sheriff.

It has been about ten years since Thrasher, a member of the firm Ashby & Thrasher, was a citizen of Atlanta. He was then only a boy, fourteen or fifteen years old, but at that age he had already made a reputation for wildness. He was well connected, a son of the senior member of the law firm of B. H. & A. M. Thrasher, then doing an extensive practice. His father is dead, but his uncle A. M. Thrasher, is at present Mayor of Sanford, Florida, one of the foremost citizens of the state. Besides being prominently connected in Florida, Thrasher is related distantly to several influential Atlanta families.

The Gainesville killing is of a very mysterious and shocking nature, and created a great deal of excitement in that section.

### Thrasher's career

A gentleman who was familiar with young Thrasher and his family said yesterday when acquainted with the facts: "He was always what you would call a wild boy. After his father moved to Florida, he was sent away to Tennessee to school to keep him from mischief. There he got into a muss and to keep from being expelled ran away, coming to Atlanta where he got hold of enough money to take him back home. Mr. Thrasher never knew of his son's running away from college to the day of his death. While he was wild, Thrasher was exceptionally bright, and I have heard him express some very high ideas of honor. The killing appears to have been cold blooded, but the explanation may clear it up and present the young lawyer in a better light."

Those who were acquainted with Thrasher are not surprised at the affair if, as stated, the good name of a woman is at stake.

### **Descendants of George Thrasher (1780 - 1851)**

So much of the genealogy we work with is concerned with the past -- the real past. I've spent so much time working with family research from the 1700s, 1800s, & 1900s that it is very refreshing to have Montana Thrasher and his wife, Whitney, become a part of the Thrasher Family Association and to be documenting and seeking answers to family matters and genealogy within his own life time as well as the "past."

I'm sure those of you who were privileged to attend the Thrasher Reunion last May in Athens, Georgia, enjoyed meeting Montana and Whitney and viewing the material he presented concerning his father.

Montana was seeking a connection to anyone already tested in the TFA's DNA project, but so far there are no matches. As you know, we have already identified several different and distinct Thrasher family lines within our membership, but we need more Thrasher males to be tested in the effort to create other links. If you know someone who is eligible for testing, please encourage him to contact Nancy Cherry or me for information.

Perhaps too, you have some research materials that might shed new light on this interesting family.

**John E. Thrasher III**

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### **Descendants of George Thrasher**

#### **Generation No.1**

1. George Thrasher was born 1780 in Weisenberg Township, Northampton, Pennsylvania, and died March 17<sup>th</sup> 1851 in Botetourt County, Virginia. He married Mary Catherine "Polly" Nance on April 4<sup>th</sup> 1808.

Notes for George Thrasher:

References:

1850 U.S Federal Census, District 8, Botetourt County, Virginia.

Virginia Marriages 1740-1850

The Newsletter of the Mid-Atlantic- Thrasher Association Volume 9, Issue 2 details the dedication of John Quincy Adams Thrasher's new military headstone, as well as his Thrasher genealogy. John Q.A. Thrasher was the 8<sup>th</sup> child of George and Mary Catherine "Polly" Nance. In a statement provided to Dr. Marion Thrasher for the purpose of his book The Thrasher Family, John Q.A. Thrasher states that his grandfather immigrated to America from Germany (Johann Christoph Drescher, AKA Christopher Stoffel/Stophel Thrasher). John then states that his father (George Thrasher) was born in Pennsylvania, moved to Maryland at 2 years of age, and then onto Botetourt County, where he lived the remainder of his life. John then mentions living siblings Adeline Zimmerman, Mary McCartney, Susan Firebaugh. John then goes on to mention that he has two nephews in merchandising in Springwood, Botetourt County, VA, name W.T. Thrasher (great-great-grandfather of Montana Jason Thrasher), and J.M. Thrasher.

Notes for Mary Catherine "Polly" Nance:

References:

1850 U.S Federal Census, District 8, Botetourt County, Virginia

Virginia Marriages 1740-1850

Children of George Thrasher and Mary Catherine "Polly" Nance are:

- |                      |               |
|----------------------|---------------|
| 1. Eliza Thrasher    | b.1809 d.1883 |
| 2. Margaret Thrasher | b.1811 d.1894 |

3. Mariah Thrasher	b.1814 d. Unknown
4. Adeline Thrasher	b.1815 d.1894
5. William Powell Thrasher	b.1818 d. 1860
6. Mary C. Thrasher	b.1820 d.1894
7. George Charles Thrasher	b.1822 d.1873
8. John Quincy Adams Thrasher	b.1826 d.1902
9. Elizabeth Susan Thrasher	b.1828 d.1908
10. Prudence Thrasher	b.1838 d.1898
11. James Thrasher	b.1832 d.1863
12. Mark Fulton Thrasher	b.1834 d. unknown

#### Generation No. 2

William Powell Thrasher (George) was born on June 7<sup>th</sup> 1818 in Botetourt County, Virginia, and died on January 15<sup>th</sup> 1860 at Botetourt County, Virginia. He married Mary Susan Stever on August 31<sup>st</sup> 1840. Mary Susan Stever was born August 28<sup>th</sup> 1813 in Botetourt County, Virginia, and died August 31<sup>st</sup> 1889.

Notes for William Powell Thrasher:

References:

1850 U.S Federal Census, District 8, Botetourt County, Virginia

Virginia Marriages 1740-1850

Virginia Death and Burials Index 1853-1917

Listed as sole executor for George Thrasher, will signed on March 27<sup>th</sup> 1839.

Listed on 03-24-1853 as the owner of a black female slave, N.N. Thrasher.

Notes for Mary Susan Stever:

References:

1850 U.S Federal Census, District 8, Botetourt County, Virginia.

1860 U.S Federal Census, District 8, Botetourt County, Virginia. Mary is the head of the household. Real Estate \$4500.00; personal property: \$2,875.00.

1870 U.S Federal Census, Buchanan, Botetourt County, Virginia. Real Estate: 3,358.00; personal property: \$600.00.

Virginia Marriages 1740-1850.

Children of William Powell Thrasher and Mary Susan Stever are:

1. Mary A. Thrasher	b.1841 d.1911
2. Virginia M. Thrasher	b.1847 d.1911
3. William Taylor Thrasher	b.1849 d.1906
4. James Marcus Thrasher	b. 1852 d. 1904
5. Floyd Wilson Thrasher	b.1852 d.1855
6. Anna Powell Thrasher	b.1859 d.1947

### Generation No. 3

William Taylor Thrasher (William Powell, George) was born on August 28<sup>th</sup> 1849 at Botetourt County, Virginia, and died July 2<sup>nd</sup> 1906 at Botetourt County, Virginia. He married Louisa E. Obenchain on December 14<sup>th</sup> 1871. Louisa was born February 6<sup>th</sup> 1855, and died May 17<sup>th</sup> 1925 at Botetourt County, Virginia.

Notes for William Taylor Thrasher:

References:

1860 U.S. Federal Census, Botetourt County, Virginia. Living with mother.

1870 U.S. Federal Census, Buchanan, Botetourt County, Virginia

1880 U.S. Federal Census, Jackson, Botetourt County, Virginia. William is a merchant.

1900 U.S. Federal Census, Buchanan, Botetourt County, Virginia. William is a merchant.

Children of William Taylor Thrasher and Louisa E. are:

1. Rosa L. Thrasher b.1874
2. Ethel H. Thrasher b. 1875
3. Samuel Thrasher b.1876
4. Cora A. Thrasher b.1880
5. James W. Thrasher b.1880
6. Roy A. Thrasher b.1882
7. Boyce Thrasher b.1890
8. Atwell T. Thrasher b.1893
9. Clarence Thrasher b.1894

### Generation No. 4

James William Thrasher (William Taylor, William Powell, George) was born January 8<sup>th</sup> 1880 in Botetourt County, Virginia, and died April 1945. He married Pearl S. Crush October 23<sup>rd</sup> 1900. Pearl S. was born September 21<sup>st</sup> 1880, and died May 1977.

Notes for James William Thrasher:

References:

1880 U.S. Federal Census, Jackson, Botetourt County, Virginia.

1900 U.S. Federal Census, Buchanan, Botetourt County, Virginia.

1910 U.S. Federal Census, Staunton, Bedford County, Virginia.

1920 U.S. Federal Census, Augusta County, Virginia. James is a telegraph operator.

Children of James William Thrasher and Pearl S. are:

1. James Lacy Thrasher b.1902
2. Alonzo Thrasher b.1904
3. Alma P. Thrasher b.1907
4. Ella E. Thrasher b.1909
5. Eunice F. Thrasher b.1911
6. Winifred Thrasher b.1918
7. Garnett C. Thrasher b.1921

## Generation No. 5

James Lacy Thrasher (James William, William Taylor, William Powell, George) was born on October 14<sup>th</sup> 1902 in Virginia, and died March 17<sup>th</sup> 1992 in Roanoke, Virginia. He married Virginia Wesley Darst on August 17<sup>th</sup> 1925 in Virginia. Virginia died in December 1988 in Salem, Roanoke County, Virginia.

Notes for James Lacy Thrasher:

References:

1910 U.S Federal Census, Staunton, Bedford County, Virginia.

1920 U.S Federal Census, Augusta County, Virginia.

1930 U.S Federal Census, Roanoke(Independent City), Virginia. Worked at the Rayon plant.

1940 U.S Federal Census, Cave Spring, Roanoke County, Virginia. Worked as a retail motor salesman.

Social Security Death Index.

Notes for Virginia Wesley Darst:

Aline G. Darst, mother in law, is living with the family in 1940.

Children of James Lacy Thrasher and Virginia Wesley Darst are:

1. Fred Thomas Thrasher born November 3<sup>rd</sup> 1928, Virginia, died May 17<sup>th</sup>, 2011 in Abingdon, Virginia
2. John Darst Thrasher born September 8<sup>th</sup> 1933, Virginia. Currently lives with his wife Audrey in Vinton, Virginia.
3. Wallace Samuel Thrasher born June 27<sup>th</sup> 1940, Roanoke, Virginia, missing and presumed dead since November 1984.

## Generation No. 6

Wallace Samuel Thrasher( James Lacy, James William, William Taylor, William Powell, George) was born June 27<sup>th</sup>, 1940 in Roanoke County, Roanoke, Virginia, and is missing and presumed dead since November 1984. He married Olga Lillie Wright on December 21<sup>st</sup> 1977 at Hotel Roanoke, Roanoke County, Roanoke, Virginia. Married by the Mayor of Roanoke, Virginia. Olga was born on December 12<sup>th</sup> 1956 in Azores, Portugal, and is currently living in Gainesville, Georgia.

Notes for Wallace Thrasher:

Graduated from Pulaski High School June 1958. Was a standout football player for the Pulaski Orioles, and earned the nickname squirrel for his ability to outrun trouble on the football field.

United States Navy 1958-1964, both active duty and reserve.

Attended private flight training school in Roanoke, Virginia 1967-68

Was a charter pilot from 1969-1984. From the early 1970's until 1984, Wallace was a transporter of Marijuana, smuggling it into the United States from the Bahamas, Mexico, and Central America.

Wallace fought a Gorilla named Butch at the Virginia State Fair on August 15<sup>th</sup> 1970. He was given a football helmet as protection, but unfortunately had the helmet taken away from him by the Gorilla, who proceeded to use it against Wallace. Wallace stood his ground however, and received a handsome certificate from Noel's Ape Fighting.

Wallace has been missing and presumed dead since November 1984, following an incident where one of his planes was that was transporting marijuana, was involved in an accident on Fancy Gap Mountain, Virginia. Wallace was not in the plane at the time of the accident, however the plane did belong to him, and so to the authorities, he became a prime suspect in the case.

Wallace left Virginia for Belize, Central America in late October 1984, in order to reimburse his associates, or to buy more marijuana, and was never seen again. There have been reports that he may have been double crossed by his associates and killed, or that he perished in a plane crash after his plane was sabotaged by his associates.

Wallace's case was profiled on Unsolved Mysteries in February 1995, and America's Most Wanted in February and June 2010, March 2011, and March 2012.

Notes for Olga Lillie Wright:

Olga was born in Azores, Portugal on Dec 12<sup>th</sup> 1956 to Maria do Carmo da Silva, and an unknown father. Olga's given name was Olga Maria da Silva. She was adopted by Wilbur (Bill), and Maria Wright, from her mother in 1962. The adoption was due in part to hardships (lack of work, support etc.) being experienced by Olga's mother at that time. Olga later reestablished a relationship with her mother, and several siblings.

Children of Wallace Samuel Thasher and Olga Lillie Wright are:

1. Montana Jason Thrasher born August 6<sup>th</sup> 1978.
2. Maya Darst Thrasher born September 26<sup>th</sup> 1979.

Generation No. 7

Montana Jason Thrasher (Wallace, James Lacy, James William, William Taylor, William Powell, George) was born on August 6<sup>th</sup> 1978 in Palm Beach County, Boynton Beach, Florida. He married Whitney Leigh Dale on March 25<sup>th</sup> 2006, at Banks County, Alto, Georgia. Whitney Leigh Dale was born on May 3<sup>rd</sup> 1980 in Hall County, Gainesville, Georgia.

Notes for Montana Jason Thrasher:

Graduated from Council Rock High School in June 1997

Graduated from Northeast Georgia Police Academy in September 2003

Employed by the Gainesville Police Dept. Gainesville, Georgia May 2004-Present

Graduated from Columbia Southern University in December 2012 with an Associate of Applied Science in Criminal Justice.

Appeared on America's Most Wanted in February 2010, and briefly discussed my father's case and disappearance.

Appeared in an article published by the Pulaski Patriot on August 11<sup>th</sup> 2011, titled Thrasher Legend Comes to An End? The article explains my reasoning for placing a Veterans Administration marker for my father in a Newbern, Virginia Cemetery. The article also reexamines the details surrounding my father's case.

Notes for Whitney Leigh Dale:

Graduated from Brenau University in May 2008 with a Bachelor's degree in Early Childhood Education.

Employed by Hall County Schools from January 2004 to present.

Children of Montana Jason Thrasher and Whitney Leigh Dale are:

1. Landon Wallace Thrasher, born March 19<sup>th</sup> 2010, Hall County Gainesville, Georgia.
2. Hudson William Thrasher, due date October 8<sup>th</sup> 2013.

## Congratulations!

I really liked the last line in Montana's genealogy: Hudson William Thrasher, due date October 8<sup>th</sup> 2013!

Proud father Montana e-mailed that the baby Hudson was born right on the target date. Montana said that Hudson is a happy, healthy baby thus far.

I know that all of our readers will want to join me in saying again, "Congratulations and best wishes" to Whitney and Montana and Hudson's older brother, Landon.

## The TFA's New Newsletter Editor

I'm sure that all of you will be thrilled to know that the Thrasher Newsletter's new editor will be Dr. Susie Thrasher. Susie volunteered to assume the position last May at the Thrasher Reunion in Athens, Georgia, when Barbara Eger announced that she would have to retire.

Barbara said that she will be happy to assist Susie if needed and will prepare the TFA Directory for next year as she has done in the past.

Please give Susie your best support! Tell her about your family activities and events. Send her articles of interest about Thrashers and related folks. Tell her about your genealogical research. How about some good genealogical queries?

Susie can be reached at [drsuethrasher@gmail.com](mailto:drsuethrasher@gmail.com) and at 125 Holly Falls Dr., Athens, Georgia 30606-3801