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# *The Thrasher Newsletter*

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## ***In Memoriam***

### **Dorothy Sturgis Pruett**



The founder of the Thrasher Family Association, Dorothy Sturgis Pruett, 96, died Sunday, September 22, 2013, at Baptist South Hospital in Montgomery, Alabama, after a short illness. She was a longtime resident of Montgomery.

She was preceded in death by her husband, parents, three brothers, John Robert Sturgis, Ernest Thrasher Sturgis, and Aubrey Elbert Sturgis, Jr.; and one sister, Mary Evelyn Sturgis Jones. Survivors include a sister, Martha Sturgis Broughton of Montgomery, and dozens of cousins, nieces and nephews. She was a beloved matriarch for her nieces and nephews, and she was a loving grandmother and great-grandmother to all of her extended family.

Dot, as she was called, was born in Pensacola, Florida on November 29, 1916, to Aubrey Elbert Sturgis and Evelyn Brooks (Thrasher) Sturgis. She attended public schools in Atlanta, Georgia, graduating from Girls' High School and the Draughton School of Commerce. She was employed by companies in Atlanta and Montgomery and by the Federal Bureau of Investigation, where she was secretary to the Special Agent in charge of the Atlanta Office. On September 25, 1963, she married Joel Fleming Pruett at First United

Methodist Church in Montgomery. She and Joe lived in Macon, Georgia, but she returned to Montgomery after his death in January 1987.

Dot's special interest was family history, and she was author of several family genealogies. Our Thrasher Heritage was published in 1986 and included material from her Cousins by the Dozens, published in 1975, and a supplement published in 1978. She also published Pruett Past and Present, The Reverend Daniel Sturgis Story, and The Diary of Ann Browder. She was a member of the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR), Colonial Dames, and Magna Charta Dames.

While researching and compiling Cousins By The Dozens, Dot and her husband Joe invited several Thrasher contact members to their home for a "get acquainted" meeting and to discuss the possibility of holding a Thrasher reunion. That first meeting was held in September of 1974 and the first Thrasher reunion was held the following year. Annual reunions followed, usually held in Georgia or Florida and hosted by various cousins in their hometowns. Dues were \$5.00 to cover the costs of the printed updates that Dot had begun sending to interested parties. She published the first official Thrasher Newsletter in June 1983, and the 1984 dues were raised to \$15.00 to cover costs and administrative expenses. The Association elected a president and vice president at its 1988 reunion, but Dot continued to publish the newsletter until 1995. Both the Association and the newsletter have continued to the present day without interruption.

### **2014 Reunion Plans:**

## **Reunion in Good Hands With Joe and Angie Grooms**

The 2014 Thrasher Reunion is coming together nicely. The reunion will be held the weekend of June 20-22 in Reidsville, NC. Reidsville/Ruffin is the home place of John Cloud Thrasher and Isaac Thrasher. We have reserved a block of rooms at the Holiday Inn Express in Reidsville. Room rates are \$89 to \$93 plus 11% tax. Please ask for a room from the Thrasher Family block of rooms. The phone number for the Holiday Inn Express is 336-361-4000. The hotel address is 101 Express Drive, Reidsville, NC 27320.

A buffet dinner will be held on Saturday night at the Farmers Table in Reidsville. The restaurant will be open solely for our reunion group. The cost will be \$18.00 per person everything included. Please send your dinner reservations and deposit to Joe Grooms, Box 1137, Davidson, NC 28036. Planned activities include a tour of the Guilford Courthouse Battlefield (35 minutes away) where several relatives participated (Isaac did not participate, he had not yet returned from fighting at Kings Mountain). Another option is a trip to Ruffin (15 minute away) where Joseph Cloud Thrasher lived. A visit to the Lick Fork Baptist Church has been arranged. Joseph Cloud deeded the land for the church in 1793. Joseph Cloud Thrasher, Isaac Thrasher, Thrasher McCollum and the Stubblefields all lived within 2 miles of the Lick Fork Baptist church.

Hope to see y'all in Reidsville in June!

***Seen in the Newspaper:***

## Thrasher brothers of Elberton set for Aerial Hall of Fame at Las Vegas banquet

ATHENS BANNER HERALD – Friday, November 29, 2013 (excerpt)

The Thrasher Brothers of Elberton will be inducted into the Air Show Hall of Fame in a ceremony on Thursday at the Paris Hotel in Las Vegas during the International Council of Air Shows annual banquet.

The Thrasher brothers join two others in the Hall of Fame, which was created in 1995 to honor those who have made “a significant impact on the air show industry.”



The Thrasher brothers — Grady, Richard (“Bud”) and Tunis — were from Athens and began performing aerobatic shows in 1945. They established a base for operating their show in Elbert County where they performed as the Thrasher Brothers Aerial Circus.

They performed from 1945 to 1950 in 378 air shows in towns and cities throughout the southern and eastern United States, featuring original acts such as the “World’s Smallest Airport” by landing a Piper Cub on a platform atop a moving 1946 Ford.

The Thrasher Brothers and the other new inductees join 59 other members of the Air Show Hall of Fame. For more information, see the Web at [www.ICASFoundation.org](http://www.ICASFoundation.org).

***Visit our new Thrasher Family Association Website:***

Now we have yet another way to keep up with our *cousins by the dozens* by going to the *Thrasher Family Association* web page on the internet at:

<http://thrasherfamilyassociation.wordpress.com/>

## **Genealogy Query**



Chere Thrasher Athey  
685 Spartina Court  
Sanibel, FL 33957  
atheyc@earthlink.net

Dear Thrasher Cousins,

The photo is of my great grandfather, David Nelson Thrasher, son of James and Elizabeth (Robison) Thrasher. David Nelson was a blacksmith for a coal mining company in western Maryland in the late 1800 and early 1900s.

James Thrasher was found living in Frankfort, Hampshire County, VA area in 1870. James died around 1868 at about the age of 40. James' wife, Elizabeth (Robison) Thrasher then married John T. Waxler on 3 Nov, 1870. Elizabeth and the children moved to Rawlings, MD around 1870.

My uncle, Eugene Thomas Thrasher very graciously participated in the Family Tree DNA study. His results and those of two of my brothers match with no genetic distance and show a distant relationship to several of the Thrashers from the William William Thrasher and John/Susan Barton Thrasher lines.

### ***New Additions to the Family:***

Shirley (Thresher) Brewer wants everyone to know about her new grandson, Isaac Raymond Brewer, born Monday, December 16, 2013 in Jackson, Tennessee. His proud parents, Mark (Thresher) Brewer and Leia Brewer have quite a little clan: Caleb, Micah, Adi, Levi and now little Isaac. Congratulations!

### ***Welcome to the newest Thrasher Family Association members:***

Dr. Sue Thrasher, 1101 Christian Drive, Watkinsville, GA 30677. Susie is the eldest daughter of the late Col. Warren A. Thrasher and Caroline Burson Thrasher of Athens. She is retired now and volunteered at the last reunion to help edit the Thrasher Newsletter. "Bless her heart."

Bobbie and Chuck Hundley, 20910 Evans Rd., Perris, CA 92571. Bobbie is a descendant from the "Old" George Thrasher line through his son, George Washington Thrasher. Bobbie and Chuck have their own Jack, and breed mules and donkeys. They have animals for sale, so if you are interested, do contact them.

Jade and Saul Howard, 1498 N. 1335 W. Orem, UT 84057. Jade is a descendant of the William William Thrasher family line. A number of you will remember Jade who attended several Thrasher Reunions with her great grandparents, Bill S. & Velma Thrasher. They have a beautiful small son, Reese Howard.

**Historical document shared:**

We'll be visiting the Lick Fork Baptist church during the upcoming reunion. Joe Grooms recently shared his transcription of an historic deed from Joseph Cloud Thrasher to Thomas Mullen for one acre for what is now Lick Creek Baptist church. Joseph Cloud deeded the land for the church in 1793. Joseph Cloud Thrasher, Isaac Thrasher, Thrasher McCollum and the Stubblefields all lived within 2 miles of the Lick Fork Baptist church. This is fascinating. Thanks, Joe!

*Rockingham County, NC*

*Deed book D, page 47, 1793*

*Mullen Thomas & others*

*Deed for 1 acre*

*This indenture made this 6<sup>th</sup> day of June in the Year of our Savior Christ one thousand seven hundred & ninety three & in the 17<sup>th</sup> year of our independence Between Joseph Cloud Thrasher of Rockingham County and the state of North Carolina of the one part and the Reverend Thomas Mullen of the said county and state as the other part Witnesseth that the said Joseph C Thrasher for and in consideration of the sum of five shillings to him in hand paid the Receipt where of the said Thrasher doth acknowledge himself fully satisfied and paid hath bargained & sold [enfroht] and confirmed unto the said Thomas Mullen during his natural life One acre of land Butted & bound as followeth Beginning at a red oak tree in the Thrasher old line running partly north fourteen poles to a red oak sapling thence west fourteen poles to a hickory tree and then south fourteen poles to a white oak on [\_\_\_\_] line, thence east fourteen poles to the first station. To have & to hold & realizably enjoying the said acre & and with all that appertains thereto & unto the said Mullen during his Natural life and after his Death to be applied Solely to the use of the public for the purpose of worshipping the Almighty God, and the said Thrasher for himself his heirs & do [quit] all claims Right and title to this said acre of land and improvements do warrant and forever defend the same to the said Thomas Mullen during his natural life & then to the to the public in general for the sole purpose of building or any other way or means using it for the Worshipping God & in Witness where of the said Joseph C Thrasher hath set his hand & seal the day & the year above written signed sealed & delivered*

*Jos Cloud Thrasher (Seal)*

*In presence of*

*William McCollum*

*William [\_\_\_\_\_]*

*Richard Stubblefield*

*William Bethell*

## ***In Memoriam***

Roger Lee Thrasher, age 82, of Roswell, passed away on December 31. Graveside Services were held January 4, 2014 at White Chapel Memorial Gardens in Duluth, Georgia.



Roger, born in Buford on December 19, 1931, was the only son of the late, Lucile Thrasher. Roger served in the U.S. Army from 1951 to 1953, serving in the Korean War. In 1992 he retired from General Motors Assembly Plant in Doraville, where he had worked for 38 years. He was a longtime member of Roswell United Methodist Church. Roger loved children and animals. He was a beloved husband, father, and grandfather. He and his wife, Elizabeth were blessed to have celebrated 50 years of marriage in August 2013.

Survivors include his wife, Elizabeth; daughter and son-in-law, Lisa and Andy Farr of Crabapple; daughter, Karen Thrasher of Sandy Springs; daughter and son-in-law, Kelly and West Watton of Roswell. Grandchildren: Will and Anna Farr; Matthew and Elise Watton.

Roger's love and his quiet nature will be missed more than words can say.

## ***Changes of Address:***

- Joann Sumner Bandy: Unit 10, 1905 Bryan Ave., Shawnee, OK 74804
- Frances H. Leitner: 8450 Gate Parkway West, Unit 405, Jacksonville, FL 32216
- Louise Thrasher Carpenter: 1661 SE 31st St., Apt. #303, Ocala, FL 34471

## ***Editor's Corner***

It has been a real pleasure for me to put together *The Thrasher Newsletter* for the first time. Thank you for sending items for the newsletter to John E. and me. We would love to know about new babies, graduations, weddings and any bits of genealogy you might uncover. Please share your news with your "cousins by the dozens" by letter to: 1101 Christian Drive, Watkinsville, Georgia 30677 or by e-mail to: [drsuethrasher@gmail.com](mailto:drsuethrasher@gmail.com)