

The Thrasher Newsletter

Editor: Jeff Thompson Circulation: Jeff & Terry Thompson Volume 38 No.1 February 2020

Get ready for the Thrasher Family Reunion 2020!



Claudia and Bob Wynne have graciously volunteered to host the 2020 TFA reunion in Pensacola, Florida!!



Friday - Sunday, April 24th – 26th
Hotel Reservations can be made using the info below

We have 25 rooms blocked at
SpringHill Suites Pensacola
487 Creighton Road, Pensacola, FL 32504
Phone: 850-483-5605

<https://www.marriott.com/hotels/travel/pnsps-springhill-suites-pensacola/>

1 King Studio w/Sofa Bed \$129.00 per night includes Hot Breakfast
2 Queen Studio w/Sofa Bed \$129.00 per night includes Hot Breakfast

We also have 10 Suites blocked at the TownePlace Suites Pensacola, next door to the Springhill Suites

TownePlace Suites Pensacola
481 Creighton Road, Pensacola, FL 32504
Phone: 850-483-5605

<https://www.marriott.com/hotels/travel/pnsts-towneplace-suites-pensacola/>

1 Queen Studio \$124.00 per night includes Breakfast

RESERVATIONS MUST BE MADE BY 03/15/2020

All room rates are subject to local sales tax and occupancy tax.
May call in or book online to make your reservations. Everyone pays own.

Spotlight on a Thrasher



In this issue of the newsletter we are adding a new feature! **Spotlight on a Thrasher**.

This feature will become a place in every edition that we can focus on one of our members, their research of Thrasher ancestors, or a specific story about a Thrasher written from their perspective to tell us all a little more about our kin and their connections. To keep this going I'll need some help! Send me your stories and your photos if you have them, and I'll help put a spotlight on your Thrasher story!

-Jeff Thompson

Working back through my Thrashers, brick by brick

-Heather Thrasher

My line of Thrashers followed a pretty typical pattern during the era of the Great Depression: My father, Orval Wayne Thrasher, was the youngest of a family that moved to Arizona from Oklahoma in search of a better life during the 30's. His first childhood memory was picking cotton in the fields along with his siblings and extended family.



His father, Chester Matthew Thrasher, was born in Ardmore, Oklahoma and served in France during World War I. Chester returned from war, shell-shocked but alive, and married 16-year old Nina McKinney Thompson in Ardmore and fathered a large family before dying of sunstroke at the age of 46 in Ajo, Arizona. So far, status quo. But here is where the trail cools a bit.

Chester's father, my great-grandfather William "Henry" Thrasher, was born in Attala County, Mississippi sometime around 1869. Henry shows up on the 1880 Attala census as an 11-year old "orphan" farm laborer with the John and Nancy McMillan family... For

decades, this was as far back as our family researchers could go. William Henry was our first brick wall...

Thanks to Ancestry.com and the advancement of home DNA testing, I was able to tear away some of those bricks and determine which Thrasher line – if any, because nothing could be taken for granted at that point – Henry belonged to. Between multiple DNA matches and countless hours of tedious research, it became clear that Henry's ancestors include the paternal branch of Joshua W. Thrasher and Adaline Roland (through Marion J. Thrasher) in addition to the maternal line of Matthew Tubb and Elizabeth Hopkins (through Hanna Tubb). Woohoo, progress!

But the question begs... How and why did Henry come to be an orphan at such a young age and what happened to his family?

There must be a clue or a connection to other Thrashers in the area, there were only two listed in 1880:

1) Charles E. Thrasher (22) living with his wife Louvinia (19) and "stepdaughter" Bessie May (8/12). Also in the household is Charles' sister, Cordelia (14).

2) Lizzie Thrasher (41), living as a widow with her daughter Allice Wynne and son-in-law Edward. Also living with them is Lizzie's other daughter and Allice's sister, Sallie Teague. (Lizzie was previously married to M. S. Teague who died during the Civil War. She then married a "J. P. (or J. F.) Thrasher" in 1870 and he died a few years later, thus retaining the name through marriage.)

That's it for potential family members for William Henry listed in 1880... There are even fewer Thrashers listed in the 1870 census: zero. The trail seemed to end there. Another brick wall...

Henry went on to marry a local girl, Minnie Lou Bailey of Kosciusko, Mississippi, and they moved to Ardmore, Oklahoma by 1895, apparently in search of oil. They had 13 children and appeared to settle in, having no remaining ties to Mississippi... that is UNTIL an Ardmorite newspaper account dated December 27, 1911 reported that C.E. (Charles Edward) Thrasher of Center (Attala County), MS was visiting his brother Henry Thrasher near Overbrook. Aha! So, here was a link between Charles and Henry clarifying that they are brothers and NOT father and son as previously considered.

Since Charlie was born about 1857, he would likely first appear historically in the 1860 census. Sure enough, there are only two households with Thrashers in Attala County in 1860, and one is a Jasper "Thrasher" age 30 of Alabama with his 23-year old wife Hanna and their 3-year old son Charlie, both of Mississippi. The age of Charlie in both the 1860 and 1880 records are correct and confirm that this is the same Charlie...and if he and William Henry were brothers, then at least one if not both of those listed as his parents were likely to be Henry's also. And the brick wall crumbles a little more!

Through records and linkages, it appears Jasper and Hanna (Tubb) Thrasher had the following children: Charlie (born ~1857), Cordelia (born ~1865) and William Henry (born ~1869), all in Attala County.

Further research uncovered a Lulah J. Thrasher (born August 17, 1859 and died December 17, 1859) buried as the "Daughter of MJ and H Thrasher" in the Tubb family cemetery

A son named John Thrasher is assumed because of a listing in the "Educable Children of Attala County 1878" that lists a Charley Thrasher (18), a John (14) and a "Caurie" (12) - (Cordie, short for Cordelia) Thrasher right after a couple of Tubb children.

But as far as what ultimately happened to Jasper and Hanna (Tubb) Thrasher, there is no clear record. He survived confederate service in the Civil War but then the entire family unit disappears from record as of 1870. I'm still hoping that some as-yet-undiscovered clue will answer these questions and, ultimately, this Thrasher brick wall can be dismantled further...

Calling All Thrashers and Thrasher Cousins

Join or Renew Your Membership



Anyone who did not pay dues for the year at the reunion, or has not sent them in, is encouraged to do so by sending contact information and \$20 to:

**Mrs. Peggy Thrasher
TFA Treasurer
P.O. Box 491
Tiger, Ga 30576**

New members are asked to include a short description of their Thrasher connections.

**Please continue to share your news and photos with your
“cousins by the dozens”**

Jeff Thompson: P.O. Box 896, Clayton, DE 19938
or by email: thompson.jeff@gmail.com

Sue Q. Thrasher: drsuethrasher@gmail.com

Nancy T. Cherry: NancyTC@aol.com

John P. Thrasher: john.thrasher@numail.org

Be sure to visit our website: <http://thrasherfamilyassociation.com/>