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# *The Thrasher Newsletter*

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## *Valentine's Day*

### **Some of My Thoughts and New Findings**

John E. Thrasher, III

I am always afraid that I will be too wordy when I try to write about genealogy. I know from reading other reports that it can be boring, as well you know. I have been so involved with many of the different Thrasher family lines that comprise the Thrasher Family Association that I have to realize that if I talk about a William William Thrasher or an Isaac or a David or a Barton that the person I'm addressing probably doesn't know who I mean unless that individual is in their own family tree.

At the TFA Reunion in May of 2016 in Amherst County, Virginia, those attending were asked to take a cut-out paper leaf, write their name on it, and tape it on large charts below their earliest ancestor's name. It was really a family tree they created, but it was not shaped like a tree. If it could be proved and known, the kinship of the top row of earliest ancestor was linked. There were several large family groups that linked, and there were several family groups not linked to any other Thrashers.

I have printed family tree lines for the individual members of TFA at the last two reunions and have been happy to give those to some who wanted them. Those charts, though, tell you only from which ancestor you descend, not your relationship to other Thrashers.

Before I kick the bucket I want to get this chart information in a printable form that can be reproduced in the Thrasher Newsletter. Researchers need this information. If they then can identify the family line from which they descend, they will then find it easy to check with all of the printed information already in the Thrasher Newsletters going back to 1983.

I just don't know who is at this time actively researching on some aspect of their Thrasher family line except Chere Athey, Linda Thrasher Gee and Tom and Judy Smith.

Case in point: Right now the most exciting new family research going on is to find out how Tom Smith and Roger Thrasher and I are connected. Roger and I have the same DNA that matches other descendants of the John/Ruth Thrasher family. But, who connects Roger's ancestor William Thrasher (1812 - 1891) to us? Which Thrasher male?

As it turns out, Tom and Judy Smith have, on paper, shown that whoever that Thrasher guy was who sired William Thrasher in 1812 (See Roger's genealogy in the November 2007 Thrasher Newsletter) also sired a daughter, Elizabeth Jane "Eliza" Thrasher in 1826. (She would be William's sister and is Tom's Thrasher ancestor.) A match on Ancestry DNA linked Tom to me! We thought for sure that if Karen Thrasher, Roger's daughter, took the test she would for sure match Tom, but that was not to be.

Judy is following through with the possible links for Tom on Ancestry DNA. She has found that one link to Tom is Roger's Uncle Clarence A. Thrasher. This certainly proves the family connection between Roger's line and Tom's.

Further links tie Tom to the William William Thrasher line (our same John/Ruth Thrasher DNA group.) Another links Tom to the Benjamin/Sarah White family line which we know connects to the Benjamin line in Maryland. (Their DNA is not the same as the John/Ruth Thrasher group. Perhaps the link there is through a female.)

There are a couple more links that have not been explored at all.

Judy is doing a wonderful job of researching! That true connection of family lines, that guy who can link Tom and Roger to the John/Ruth Thrasher group may just be found. I'm betting on it.



## ***The next Thrasher Family Reunion***

***May 3-5th, 2019***

***Davidson, North Carolina***

***See the last page of Newsletter for  
Registration and Details!***

## Davidson Was Ranked As One of the Coolest Suburbs in America

Davidson, NC recently made the list of the [coolest suburbs in America](#) on Thrillist.com, based on the following factors;

- A good (or at least respectable) food/drink scene, with enough places to go close to home to not always have to trudge back into the city
- Not so far away from the city that the commute is awful
- A place with a history or its own unique elements that separate it from just planned suburban sprawl



Based on those rankings, Davidson was chosen as the coolest suburb in the Charlotte region, and one of the coolest in America.

In their description of Davidson, [the website](#) notes; “Never mind the fact that this town looks like it is the setting of one of Nicholas Sparks’ novels I totally haven’t read, and never mind the fact that the best basketball player in the world went to the beautiful college where you can bring your kids to watch basketball and tell them about him; never mind that it sits on a beautiful lake and has a Downtown that will make you weep with aesthetic joy, or that it is only 20 miles from Charlotte; just get the skillet burger at Kindred (it has infinity accolades nationally) during lunch, and you will understand.

By **Adrianna Robinson**

## Cousin John Moves to Toccoa

By Joseph Stine

An 1879 Harper's magazine article showed this sketch of Cousin John Thrasher ringing



a dinner bell at his Central, South Carolina, railroad restaurant. He had moved with his family from Norcross, Georgia, to Central before February 1878 according to a deed in which Margaret B. (Mrs. John J) Thrasher sold her only lot in Norcross for \$700. She had just bought the lot in the year before for \$300. It may have been their home in Norcross because it was a two story house containing nine rooms. While they were in Central neither John nor Margaret or any Thrasher bought property in Pickens County, South Carolina. I thought Thrashers always owned land but not in Pickens County, SC.

By November 1879 Margaret and probably John had moved to Toccoa, Georgia, as shown

by a deed where Margaret had purchased the lot next door to the hotel where they lived. The 1880 census taken on June 3, 1880, shows John Thrasher and family in Toccoa, Georgia. His occupation was hotel keeper. With him were his wife Margaret, son Willie, daughter Ellen Terry, son-in-law William Terry and grandson Edwin all living in the hotel. Son David O. Thrasher and his family were still living in Central, SC, according to the 1880 census. David O. would join his father in Toccoa in 1881 as his youngest child, Robert Toombs Thrasher, my grandfather, was born in Toccoa in 1881. *Our Thrasher Heritage* says Robert Toombs Thrasher was born on February 9, 1881, but his tombstone says he was born on August 1, 1881.

Margaret's initial purchase of a lot 50 feet by 100 feet on November 18, 1879, was next to Crawford's hotel and cost \$250 according to the deed description. In June 1880 she bought the 50 X 100 empty lot to the east for \$60 but she never acquired the Crawford hotel property on the corner. In October 1880, she bought a 22.31 acre tract for \$60.50 and in April 1881, she bought a 107 acre tract at Big A Place for \$250 from the estate of John B. Collins. The attached aerial photograph shows the hotel (in the center) before it burned in 1953. [The History of Stephens County Georgia](#), compiled and edited by



Kathryn Curtis Trogdon (1972), says the first hotel was called Toccoa Inn and “was run by ‘Coz’ John Thrasher.”

Cousin John never bought any property in his own name but his name appears on an 1882 deed as a trustee for the Baptist Church of Toccoa when they purchased a lot in Toccoa. Cousin John was always active in a Baptist church in his community. In the Toccoa history Cousin John is referenced, “They laid off a Public Square, on which the auctioneer, ‘Cousin’ John Thrasher, said someday would be built a courthouse.” When Stephens County was formed in 1905, the county courthouse was built on that public square.

Margaret began disposing of her property by selling two parcels in November 1881. She sold her last piece of property in August 1883 but the deed was not recorded until June 1892. In March 1883 she gave the property next door to the hotel to her daughter, Ellen Terrie, with this statement in the deed, “for and in consideration of the natural love and affection she has for her daughter.” Ellen Terrie sold the lot in November 1883 to Mary Cooper for \$500. In a later deed that lot was sold by the Estate of Mary Cooper with the deed description stating, “and bounded on the east by Major S. W. Crawford’s vacant lot (formerly owned by Margaret) and on the west by the Thrasher house there being a four room cottage thereon.” By the Thrasher house they must have meant the hotel. All the deeds state that Margaret B. Thrasher was a resident of Habersham County, Georgia, where Toccoa was then located. With these sales the John Thrasher family makes preparation for their move to Florida.

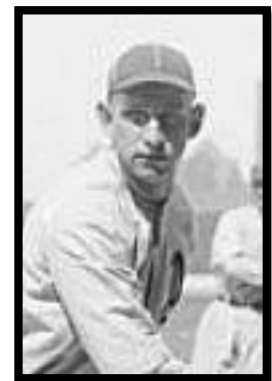
## **Update on Buck Thrasher, Baseball Phenom**

By John Paul Thrasher

Buck Thrasher (1889-1938) was a Major League Baseball right fielder. Thrasher played two seasons for the Philadelphia Athletics and also nine seasons in the minor leagues. He was 5 feet, 11 inches tall and weighed 182 pounds. He threw right handed and batted left handed.

Frank Edward “Buck” Thrasher was born in Watkinsville, Georgia, on August 6, 1889 to Isaac W. Thrasher and Louise Murry. Buck had four brothers who also played baseball: Ralph, Ike, Loren and Cloyce.

Buck Thrasher started his professional career in 1911. In his first season he batted .351 for the Appalachian League’s Cleveland (Tennessee) Counts. The following year he batted .340 and led the Appalachian League in hits (126) and total bases (163). Thrasher then moved to the Virginia League’s Norfolk Tars in 1914.



In 1915, he batted .348, hit a career-high 11 home runs and led the circuit in batting average, hits (150), and total bases (216).

In 1916, Thrasher played 103 games for the Atlanta Crackers of the Southern Association. He batted .337 for the Crackers and then joined the major league Philadelphia Athletics. Buck Thrasher made his Major League debut on September 27. In 7 late season games for the Athletics. Buck played right field and batted .310.

After being invited to Spring Training with the Athletics, Buck began 1917 as the starting right fielder. In the 7<sup>th</sup> game of the year after hitting 2 doubles off Red Sox starter Carl Mays, Buck was hit in the head by a pitch from the Boston pitcher. Mays had a reputation for throwing bean balls. Three years later a Mays' pitch hit and killed Cleveland shortstop Ray Chapman in the only such fatality in major league baseball. The book "Babe Ruth and the 1918 Red Sox" indicates that Mays would have been arrested if Philadelphia manager Connie Mack had not convinced Thrasher to not file charges. The beaning incident probably became one of the strongest memories Buck had of his time in the majors. In part of 2 years with the Athletics in 1916 & 1917, Buck played in a total of 30 games and had a career batting average of .255. Buck finished out the 1917 season back in Atlanta and helped lead the Crackers to the Southern Association championship. He batted .284, the first time in his minor league career he failed to hit .300, but set a record by getting 8 straight hits in a double header, finishing with a perfect day at the plate. That was his last full season as a player. Thrasher had two short stints with the Virginia League's Wilson Bugs in the 1920s and was a manager in the Georgia-Alabama League in 1929. Over his nine-season minor league career, Buck Thrasher played in 680 games, had 819 hits, and batted .330.

Buck married the former Grace Phillips. He died in 1938 at the age of 48 and is buried in the Fort Hill Cemetery in Cleveland, Tennessee. Ironically, Buck began his professional baseball career in the same town with the Cleveland Counts in 1911.



*Watkinsville and surrounding towns organized baseball teams. Loren and Ralph Thrasher, Buck's brothers and members of one of these teams, were good enough to try out for the majors. A fundraiser for the new Watkinsville school gym in 1933 was a BBQ at Wilson's Woods with Eugene Talmadge as a speaker, followed by a double header on School Field in Watkinsville. Watkinsville played Statham and Bishop played Commerce.*

## Thanks to the Record Keepers

By Judy Russell

When was the last time a librarian really helped you get the answer you needed?

When that one piece of paper, carefully and lovingly preserved in the vertical files that that librarian had fought hard to keep in that corner of the library that somebody else wanted for his pet projects was the one piece of paper you absolutely had to have?

When some bit of work an archivist did made the difference between finding the answer and not finding it?

When some obscure record set only he or she knew about was the key to solving a long-time family history mystery?

I have been in that position time and time and time again.

I've been in that little library in Kosciusko, Mississippi, where the librarian carefully kept a perfectly legible copy of a print-out of a census record that simply can't be read online. A relative's age could be three months or five months or eight months if you look at the very best online version of that record; it's clearly and unequivocally five months in the print-out.

I've been in the North Carolina State Archives and been handed that copy of a petition filed by my fourth great grandfather that proved his story about his discharge papers burning up in a house fire really was true - and the fire was on Christmas Eve 1785.



And I expect to be there more than once this week, as I spend a couple of days researching a couple of my own family lines in South Carolina.

Sometime today, I'm going to be looking at the notes of a South Carolina professional genealogist whose collection has been microfilmed and is available here at the "South Caroliniana Library" at the University of South Carolina. Because a librarian told me it was there.

Sometime this week, I hope to hold in my hands the land records of my ancestors who first walked this part of the country. Because an archivist made sure the records were preserved.

And every time something like this happens, I try to remind myself to make it very clear to that librarian, to that archivist, just how very grateful I am.

I try to remember simply to say thank you.

I try to remember even to send a note to his or her boss when a librarian or archivist goes above and beyond for me.

And I try to remember that our entire community needs to be there for them when the crunch time comes - and it always does - and the library's or archives' budget is up on the chopping block.

What the librarians and archivists and other record-keepers do makes genealogy possible. They're always there for us.

Let's be sure we're always there for them.

Give a rousing cheer for the record-keepers, the librarians and the archivists of this world... and stand ready to work with them whenever they need us to help them preserve all our records for the future.

Judy Russell's blog, called *The Legal Genealogist*: <https://www.legalgenealogist.com/>



Thrasher Family Association dues are \$20. You may mail a check to our treasurer, Peggy Thrasher, TFA Treasurer, PO Box 491, Tiger, GA 30576.

Welcome New Members!



Karen and Denny Zwigart from central Pennsylvania visited the Thrasher Farm in Frederick County, Maryland, recently. Karen is actively researching her Thrasher roots and is related to Jim Moule, Hershel Thrasher and Nancy Cherry.

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

Sue Q. Thrasher: 1101 Christian Drive, Watkinsville, GA 30677 or by email:  
[drsuethrasher@gmail.com](mailto:drsuethrasher@gmail.com)

Nancy T. Cherry: 3100 Elkridge Court, Beltsville, MD 20705-3239 or email:  
[NancyTC@aol.com](mailto:NancyTC@aol.com)

John E. Thrasher: 6424 SE 169th Avenue, Micanopy, FL 32667 or email:  
[fish\\_jet@bellsouth.net](mailto:fish_jet@bellsouth.net)

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



## Registration for the 2019 Thrasher Family Reunion

**May 3-5 in Davidson, NC**

(20 miles north of Charlotte)

We have reserved rooms at Homewood Suites, 125 Harbor Place Drive, Davidson, NC. We have reserved 30 rooms in our block. Code for the Thrasher Family Reunion group rate is TFR.

The TFR group rate for King suite is \$117 and one bedroom King suite rate is \$127, both breakfast included.

Please reserve by April 12, 2019 directly with hotel, phone number is 704-987-1818.

Friday night we will have a wood fired pizza dinner with gelato dessert at the Grooms house (2 miles from Homewood Suites). Pizza will be hand made with flour from Italy and organic unadulterated tomato sauce grown and made by your Thrasher kin.

Saturday until 2PM will be unstructured time. The meeting room is available for our use all day Friday and Saturday.

Local attractions of interest in Charlotte:

Billy Graham Library

NASCAR Hall of Fame

Levine Museum of the New South

Mint Museum Uptown

Bechtler Museum of Modern Art

Reed Gold Mine

Kings Mt. Battlefield

Davidson College

"The Pit" indoor car racing

NASCAR shops

Nearby attractions are:

US National Whitewater Center

The Thrasher Family Association meeting will be at 2PM Saturday in the meeting room 1st floor of the Homewood Suites. We will be having a catered buffet dinner Saturday at 6PM in the he meeting room. Cost will be \$20.00 per person.

If you have any questions please contact Joe Grooms at (704)451-4355 or at [grooms75@bellsouth.net](mailto:grooms75@bellsouth.net)

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Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Pizza on Friday # \_\_\_\_ Meeting attendance # \_\_\_\_ Saturday Dinner # \_\_\_\_

Please remit Saturday buffet payment and reservations by April 24<sup>th</sup> to:

Joe Grooms  
Box 1137  
Davidson NC 28036