
The Thrasher Newsletter

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Circulation: John E. Thrasher III

Volume 37 No.2

April 2019



It's Time for Our 45th Annual Thrasher Reunion!

John E. Thrasher, III

We have come a long way, haven't we? Our 45th annual reunion! The first was an organizational meeting which paid off with the plans for the next year's real reunion of all Thrashers and their descendants. Those attending at that first meeting were Vessie Thrasher Rainer and her son, Dr. Robert Rainer Jr; Dorothy "Dot" Sturges Pruett and her husband, Joe Pruett; Col. Warren A. Thrasher and his wife Caroline B. Thrasher; Elizabeth Thrasher Baldwin and her husband Asbury Baldwin; and Tom G. Thrasher and his wife Dorothy Thrasher.

The common Thrasher ancestors for this group were John/Ruth Cloud Thrasher through their son John/Susan Barton Thrasher. John & Susan had four sons: Barton, David, Isaac and John. Vessie and Robert Rainer were from the descendants of David. Dot and Tom were from the descendants of John; Warren and Elizabeth were from the descendants of Isaac. I would have represented the descendants of Barton. I am happy to say that Eleanor and I were invited to attend and very sorry that we just could not.

I feel that this 45th reunion will be very special. I am always excited to see old friends and to greet anyone new. The reunions have been such fun and just think of all of the family facts and materials we have gathered. We are still working on that, aren't we? This will be the first year that I will arrive by plane and not have a car to carry the stacks of family information that I usually bring with me. If you have room in your car, please bring some of your old Thrasher materials and your current research materials because we have built in time to share and discuss them with others in your family line. Don't forget something for "show and tell" time!



The Grandson of John E. and Eleanor Thrasher Gets Married

Mrs. Narges "Nina" Parviz & Mr. Iraj Ahmadi announce the marriage of their daughter Monika Ahmadi to William "Billy" Patrick Harris IV on October 26, 2018. The wedding took place in Encinitas, California. Bill holds an AA degree from Mira Costa College. He is a Life Guard Sargent with the City of Encinitas Ocean Safety Department. Monika graduated from Cal State in San Marcos, California with a Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree.

The couple will reside in Encinitas, California. Billy is the son of Gretchen Thrasher and William "Bill" P. Harris III of Del Mar, California. He is the grandson of the late Eleanor and John E. Thrasher III of Micanopy, Florida.

Honoring our Thrasher Mothers, a continuing series:

Readers are invited to submit stories for this series

Nancy Thrasher Cherry's "Mum's" given name was Vivian, but since she had not yet been christened by the time her father died, her mother Ana scrapped the middle name Nadine and named the baby Vivian Curtis instead, using the baby's father's name. No one ever called her Vivian, she was always Curtis. When she was in high school, she changed the spelling to Curtess, to make it more feminine.



Vivian Curtess Callahan Thrasher
(1915 – 1998)

Mum would not have approved of this article. She was humble; a stay-in-the-background kind of person. In her quiet way, though, she was remarkable, a perfect example of how the Thrasher family is strengthened by those who marry into it.

Mum's father, a carpenter and constable, died when she was eight months old, and her mother lost a leg to gangrene when Mum was only seventeen months old.

My grandmother took in dressmaking to support Mum and her sister, four years older. Mum enjoyed her childhood on the Eastern Shore of Maryland, spending time with relatives who were watermen and farmers, so she grew up with an affinity for plants, animals, and nature in general. In almost every picture of her as a child, she is holding an animal,

usually a cat, and her green thumb served her well all her life. She was an avid environmentalist before there was such a word. Chemicals were kept to a minimum on our farm, and she protected wildflowers all over our fields and thickets.

She and her mother and sister moved to Frederick when Mum was a young teen. Mum had just recovered from rheumatic fever, which left her with diminished hearing, a condition which worsened as she grew older. Despite this, she grew into a popular young woman. Before marrying my dad, she served as secretary to the International Nelson Eddy fan club, photographed the singer Lily Pons for a magazine, rode horses, and even enjoyed flying in small planes.

She and Dad met in Frederick, but they moved to Baltimore when they married. Dad worked for Glenn L. Martin Company, building planes for the war, but in 1943 he and Mum returned to Frederick County to help Dad's parents on the family farm.

Mum was innovative, creative, and whimsical. Kind, giving, and compassionate. She loved to read, and despite demands of family and farm, she kept up a deep understanding of current events. She potted a plant in any container she could find. She put up the proper structures to bring bluebirds back to our farm. She advocated for Native Americans. She hated to drive, yet she drove the wife of a hired man to Baltimore every day for six weeks so that the woman could receive chemotherapy. She saved her much-needed S&H green stamps to get me place settings of fine china for my wedding. She planted holly berries from a Christmas wreath, and now we have the second tallest holly tree in the county. She taught me to read long before I started school, and she loved making tea parties for me and my dolls.

To this day, I have things I wish I could talk over with her.

Important Reunion News

John E. Thrasher III

All are welcome at the Thrasher Family reunion hosted by Joe and Angie Grooms in Davidson, NC the weekend of **May 3-5th**. Our get-together, fun time is almost here again. April 12, 2019 is the deadline for holding our block of rooms and the hotel is going to be full because of multiple events in Davidson the weekend of our reunion so don't miss the deadline. Make your reservations right away to join us.

The Thrasher Family Association has come a long way since the initial meeting of the small group in 1974. This year's reunion will be just as much fun and as interesting as it was way back then. Early on, the emphasis was on getting organized, collecting family information and sharing family stories. My Dad was there and jumped up to tell a story, one which I had never heard before: "When Cousin John was laid out in his coffin in a white linen suit and all the folks were coming by to see him, two of the lady "cousins" remarked to the other, 'Ummmm - It must be hot where he is going!' (Remember, on that cold winter day in Florida, white is still OK.)



Wouldn't it be great for each of us to come prepared to tell a family story this year?

Our business meeting begins at 2 PM on Saturday. David Sumner has a short presentation at that time, and if any of you would like to also present something, please let me know right away.

Three matters of great concern need your serious input

First, Susie is not able to continue as Newsletter editor. She has done a fantastic job with the *Thrasher Newsletter* since her first compilation in February 2014. That's to say nothing of the wonderful TFA web site which is very important to us all! Susie will still maintain the web site, but needs to give up the Newsletter. I am sure you will all join me in expressing your appreciation to Susie for her outstanding publication. I'm hoping that one of you will step forth and volunteer to assume that position as editor.

Second, there has been a problem this year especially with collecting membership dues. I personally feel that much of the problem stems from the members who receive their Newsletter electronically, NOT printing them, and then forgetting the notices that dues are due. (Those who receive their printed notice also sometimes forget!) Peggy Thrasher, our Treasurer, is concerned that dues keep trickling in. She feels that there should be a date set for membership for that current year. It would surely make it easier for the Treasurer!

Third, I will not be able to continue as Chairman of the TFA. I was acting Chairman in 2004 and became the elected Chairman in 2005. I have enjoyed being our leader and will continue doing all I can to assist those who are in the leadership positions of the TFA. My special interest has been in working with Thrasher genealogies and I will continue with that as long as I live.

At this point, please seriously consider volunteering as I know that many of you are able to fill the leadership positions for the TFA. There will be an elections of officers held at the business meeting. I am looking forward to seeing each of you at the TFA reunion next month!

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NancyTC@aol.com

John E. Thrasher: 6424 SE 169th Avenue, Micanopy, FL 32667 or email:
fish_jet@bellsouth.net

A look back at our past reunions:



Thrasher Family Association Annual Reunions

| Date | City | Place | Hosts |
|----------------|------------------------|--|--|
| September 1974 | Macon, GA | Cag's Restaurant | Dot and Joe Pruett* |
| June 1975 | Macon, GA | Pruett Home | Dot and Joe Pruett |
| June 1976 | Macon, GA | Pruett Home | Dot and Joe Pruett |
| June 1977 | Athens, GA | Caroline and Warren's Home | Caroline and Warren A. Thrasher |
| June 1978 | Pine Mountain, GA | Callaway Gardens | Dot and Joe Pruett |
| June 1979 | Milledgeville, GA | Pruett's Lake House | Dot and Joe Pruett |
| June 1980 | Micanopy, FL | Masonic Lodge | Eleanor and John E. Thrasher |
| June 1981 | Quitman, GA | Country Club | James Cloud Thrasher descendants |
| June 1982 | Forsyth, GA | Holiday Inn | Dot and Joe Pruett |
| June 1983 | Quitman/Dixie, GA | Westbrook School | James Cloud Thrasher descendants |
| June 1984 | St. Simon's Island, GA | Epworth by the Sea | Tom Dodd/Rainers/Pruetts |
| June 1985 | Sweetwater, TN | KOA campground | Helen and Hugh Thrasher |
| June 1986 | Macon, GA | Quail's Nest | Dot and Joe Pruett |
| June 1987 | Macon, GA | Quail's Nest | Dot Pruett |
| June 1988 | Macon, GA | Quail's Nest | Dot Pruett |
| June 1989 | Jekyll Island, GA | Jekyll Island Inn | Eleanor and John E. Thrasher |
| June 1990 | Norcross, GA | Thrasher Park | Frank Combes |
| June 1991 | Athens, GA | Holiday Inn | Caroline and Warren A. Thrasher |
| June 1992 | Columbus, GA | Woodman Lodge | L.Z. and Margie Thrasher |
| June 1993 | McDonough, GA | Holiday Inn | Jane and Robert Rainer and "boys" |
| June 1994 | Athens, GA | Holiday Inn | Caroline and Warren A. Thrasher |
| June 1995 | Ashburn, GA | Lyn and Evelyn Thrasher home | Lyn and Evelyn Thrasher |
| June 1996 | Moultrie, GA | Colquitt Hotel | Gerald Bishop |
| June 1997 | Montgomery, AL | Hudson Cattle Ranch | Jerry Hudson |
| June 1998 | Montgomery, AL | Hudson Cattle Ranch | Jerry Hudson |
| May 1999 | Micanopy, FL | Thrasher Warehouse | Eleanor and John E. Thrasher |
| May 2000 | Thomasville, GA | Quality Inn | Barbara Eger |
| May 2001 | Newnan, GA | Hampton Inn | Paula and John Paul Thrasher |
| May 2002 | Flovilla, GA | Plantation Lodge | Peggy and Albert Thrasher |
| May 2003 | Micanopy, FL | Eleanor and John E.'s Home | Eleanor and John E. Thrasher |
| March 2004 | Dade City, FL | D.C. Garden Club | Frankie Goldsby, Joann Bandy and David Sumner |
| June 2005 | St Augustine, FL | Best Western Hist. Inn | Barbara Eger, Eleanor and John E. Thrasher |
| June 2006 | Tiger, GA | Peggy and Albert Thrasher Home | Peggy and Albert Thrasher |
| June 2007 | Jefferson, MD | Jefferson Community Center & Thrasher Farm | Nancy and Bill Cherry, Steve and Joleen Thrasher |
| June 2008 | Kingsland, GA | Country Inn & Suites | Frances Leitner |
| June 2009 | Vicksburg, MS | Holiday Inn Express | Glenda and Buddy Thrasher |
| June 2010 | Savannah, GA | Savannah Garden Hotel | Eleanor and John E. Thrasher |
| June 2011 | St Augustine, FL | Holiday Inn Express | Mary and Jim Thrasher |
| June 2012 | Chattanooga, TN | La Quinta Inn | Glenda and Buddy Thrasher |
| May 2013 | Athens, GA | Holiday Inn | John Paul Thrasher, Celestea Sharp, and Grady Thrasher |
| June 2014 | Reidsville, NC | Holiday Inn Express | Angie and Joe Grooms |
| June 2015 | Norcross, GA | Holiday Inn Express | David Sumner and Joe Stine |
| May 2016 | Amherst, Virginia | Sweet Briar College Conference Center | Joe & Angie Grooms, |
| May 2017 | Montgomery, AL | Staybridge Suites East | David and Alice Thrasher |
| May 2018 | Williamsburg, VA | Holiday Inn Express - Gateway | John Paul Thrasher, Susie Thrasher |
| May 2019 | Davidson, NC | Homewood Suites | Joe & Angie Grooms, Carolyn Sirman |

* First organization meeting was also attended by Robert Rainer and his mother, Vessie Thrasher Rainer, Tom and Dorothy Thrasher, Elizabeth and Asbury Baldwin and Caroline and Warren Thrasher.

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:

Reed Gold Mine

Billy Graham Library

Kings Mt. Battlefield

NASCAR Hall of Fame

Davidson College

Levine Museum of the New South

“The Pit” indoor car racing

Mint Museum Uptown

NASCAR shops

Bechtler Museum of Modern Art

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

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____

Pizza on Friday # ____ Meeting attendance # ____ Saturday Dinner # ____

Please remit Saturday buffet payment and reservations by April 24th to:

Joe Grooms
Box 1137
Davidson NC 28036