

Glimpses of Grayson



GRAYSON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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**Matthews Farm Museum
Civil War Reenactment**

BLAIR FAMILY BIBLES

In June of 2015, Andrew and Marie Harman, of Galax, contacted the GCHS seeking advice regarding the preservation of two Blair Family Bibles and an album of Blair family photographs.

Upon examining the fragile pages, we were pleased to discover that the smaller of the two bibles, published in 1817, contained the signature of John Blair (born 1772) and a record of his wife's, Charity Bourne Blair, family members.

John Blair was a prominent business leader who served in the Virginia State Legislature for the better part of 20 years. He was the son of Thomas Blair (born about 1745) who was instrumental in establishing iron works on Chestnut Creek and at Poplar Camp in Wytheville. Also of note was his partnership with William Bourne and Mathew Dickey in the Point Hope Furnace iron forge at the falls on Peach Bottom Creek just outside of what is today Independence.

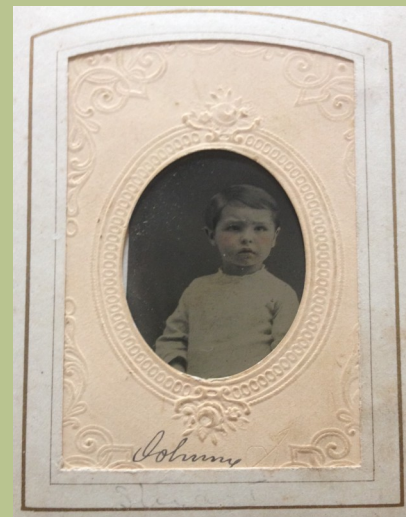


John Blair Bible

A second bible, published in 1880, contained extensive information on the family of a great grandson of Thomas Blair, John Perry Blair (born 1852) and his wife, Julia Ann Lintecum Blair.

As per Library of Virginia directives, photographs of the bibles' family history pages were forwarded to the Library for submission to their digital archives.

The Harmans also shared with the GCHS photographs from what is believed to be a



**"Johnny"
Blair Photo Album**

Blair Family album, many of which remain unidentified.

Members of the GCHS are welcome to request either hard or digital copies of these documents. The Society would be grateful for assistance in identifying individuals appearing in the Blair Family photo album.

We encourage you to contact the GCHS regarding assistance in submitting photographs of your family bible pages to the Library of Virginia digital archive database.

A WORD FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Society Members:

First, I would like to offer an apology. It has been over a year since our last newsletter. Despite repeated attempts to assemble an issue, our efforts were frustrated by the sheer volume of business we have had to deal with this past year. Perhaps that is a good thing.

The fact that the number of genealogy inquiries and office visits has grown tremendously has been enormously satisfying. But this does represent a challenge for staff and the small number of volunteers able to conduct research.

Below, you will meet our new office manager, Daved Sandefur. Now that he has become familiar with the business of the Society and the paperwork involved, we hope he will have more time to update members through Facebook and our website. We also hope to pursue new research into a variety of topics of economic and historical interest.

An example of this occurred this past

summer. A simple genealogical inquiry in search of a distant ancestor led us to the Battle of Alamance. Who is familiar with it? It is rarely mentioned in school textbooks and throughout my adult life I have only infrequently heard it mentioned. Yet, the Battle of Alamance and the Regulator Movement (both of which occurred in North Carolina) predated the Boston Tea Party by two years, and may be considered one of the opening salvos of the American Revolution. Equally important, the battle produced one of the first contingents of settlers to what was to become Grayson County. This same line of inquiry also led to research regarding the history of Quaker settlements in North Carolina and the establishment of Quaker Meetings in Grayson County (now Carroll County) in the years following the American Revolution.

Needless to say, it is a wonderful thing to connect an individual narrative (the

story of a particular ancestor) with a larger historical narrative. When out of town visitors return to Grayson County in search of a grave or family homestead, it is especially gratifying to be able to share some description of what earlier ancestors actually experienced. What did the landscape look like at the time? What was daily life like? What events impacted their lives, whether the death of an infant child, a crop failure, Indian predations, or the coming of the railroads? It is the essential role of local historical societies and museums to preserve these stories: to keep them alive.

As always, we welcome you to join in this endeavor. We thank you for your continuing support!

Sincerely,
David K. Hauslohner,
President

NEW OFFICE MANAGER



**New GCHS
Office Manager/Writer
Daved Sandefur**

The Society is happy to announce the addition of Daved Sandefur as Office Manager and Writer.

A native of Washington County, Daved brings with him a life-long interest in the history and culture of Southwest Virginia.

Daved is a 15 year Army veteran with a history of duty in both Munich, Germany and Ft Bragg, NC, and a combat tour in Iraq. He is also a former Virginia State Trooper and Private Investigator.

He began freelance writing in 1993 for publications including Common Cents Magazine, Appalachian Trailways News, The Washington County News, and others.

In addition to his administrative duties, Daved plans to undertake writing projects delving into the people and communities that have shaped our history, while increasing GCHS's presence on social media, blogs and periodical submissions. As important as the writing projects are, there will be a major effort to organize, index and eventually digitize our holdings, making them far more accessible to future generations.

Daved is a 15 year resident of Fries where he lives with his 14 year old son, and enjoys coaching youth sports, fishing the New River, and recovering relics with his metal detector.

**GCHS
BOARD OF DIRECTORS**



**Board and Membership
Attend 2015 Annual
Potluck Banquet**

- David Hauslohner - President**
- Wanda Lineberry - Vice President**
- Barbara Spears - Secretary**
- Michael Spears - Treasurer**
- Dewey Lineberry**
- Bonnie Marshall**
- Roger Marshall**
- Linda Richardson**

CONTACT THE GCHS

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Email: Graysoncountyhistoricalsociety@gmail.com

Website: www.graysonvahistsoc.com

**Hours: Wednesdays 9:00am to 3:00pm
Or by Appointment**

TRANSCRIPTION OF "CATY SAGE LETTERS"

Many from this region are familiar with the story of Caty Sage, a young girl kidnapped from the area of her Elk Creek home in 1792 and sold to the Indians only to be found many years later.

Earlier this year the Society was contacted by Hannah Sullivan regarding her desire to donate to the GCHS a transcription of letters written in reference to Caty's story.

In her message to us, Ms. Sullivan wrote, "Many years ago, my mother found 10 letters from Charles Sage to Jacob Delp, describing Charles' discovery of, reunion with, and death of his sister, Katy [Caty] Sage. The 10 letters, ranging from April 1848 through April 1853, are typewritten and appear to be mimeographed. The letters are under cover of a letter from [a Mr. W.R.] Cooper to his father, dated November 1907. In the cover letter, Co-

per describes receiving original letters from his brother Henry, who received them from Katy's niece, Sarah J. Cornutt. The cover letter explains that Cooper transcribed the original letters and made three copies: one for his father, one for his brother, and one for himself. The cover letter is on W.R. Cooper's letterhead, Supreme Commander, United Order of the Golden Cross, Office of Supreme Keeper of Records, Knoxville, Ten-

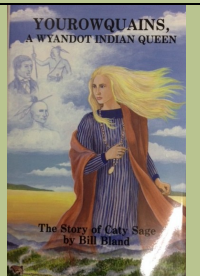
nessee."

Ms Sullivan continued, "The 10 letters are fascinating. They not only describe Charles' meeting with Caty, who at the time was living with Wyandotte Indians, but they describe the conditions, values, and cultures of the mid-1800's. The letters refer to the price of corn and cattle; diseases that were prevalent at the time, such as cholera; as well as the migration to the West known as the California Gold Rush. The letters were peppered throughout with singular devoutness and civility."

The GCHS examined these letters with great interest as they offer an insight into the commitment and emotional toll of a brother tracking down his long lost sibling.

The GCHS is indebted to Ms. Sullivan and her mother for their very extraordinary and generous gift.

"Yourowquains, A Wyandot Indian Queen", by Bill Bland details the Caty Sage story and is part of the collection of titles the GCHS offers for sale.



MATTHEWS FARM MUSEUM EDUCATION THROUGH LIVING HISTORY



Although not directly affiliated with the GCHS, the Matthews Living History Farm Museum (MLHFM) serves to complement the objectives of the GCHS in its goal to improve our understanding of circa 1900 Grayson County history.

The museum, located in Grayson County just west of Galax on White Pine Road facilitates several annual living history programs each year. Among those include both Grayson County and Galax public school visits, Heritage Days, and Civil War reenact-

ments.

Several local non-profit organizations also utilize the grounds of the museum for educational programs and exhibits. The Twin County Arts Council hosts an annual quilt show, Chestnut Creek School of the Arts conducts classes, the Blue Ridge Discovery Center facilitates environmental programs, and a local fiber guild conducts workshops at the museum.

A particular favorite is the annual Civil War Reenactment demonstrating life in a Civil War encampment, including pe-

riod clothing, living quarters, weapons demonstrations, drills, skirmishes, music, and cooking. Visitors are welcome to actively learn by strolling through the camp, viewing traditional crafts and demonstrations, and engaging in conversations with the re-enactors.

The 2016 reenactment is scheduled for August 27th and 28th.

For more information about forthcoming events at the MLHFM, please go to:

www.matthewsfarmmuseum.org



AN INTRODUCTION TO:
T. B. HASH MILL ON FOX CREEK
 WRITTEN BY: LARRY HASH

One of the corner stones of the development of the early frontier settlements was the water powered mills located on the streams of Grayson County, Virginia. In the days of a society based on the strength and durability of horses, a cheap source of power was exploited by hardy settlers who chose a homestead site by the availability of running water. Fresh water was a priority but a fast running stream was an economic boon to a rapidly expanding settlement.

At first, settlers were not able to pick a site and develop that area to its full value. The Indians were a constant threat to their very lives. More common and more deadly was disease that killed the weak and elderly. Some disease didn't care about age or fitness. Early settlers died from measles, smallpox, infections, childbirth, and many other illnesses that are controlled today by medicines we take for granted. The lives of our forefathers were a constant struggle just to stay alive and raise a family. Little time was available to develop trades beyond the basic skills needed to survive.

However, as the volatility of the area calmed, these industrious families started looking for an easier way to live and to provide shelter and basic needs for their families and neighbors. By the first part of the 1800's locals found that they had some time to spend on building a trade that would not only fill their own needs but those needs of their community at large.

As these trades started expanding in Grayson County, areas were often designated by the type of trade it supported. Many creeks and streams had the desired characteristics to support dams and mills.

One such stream was Fox Creek which runs north to south on the north side of the New River. Its mouth is located between Bridle Creek to the east and Wilson Creek to the west. In the area just north of the New River, it is a vigorous

and fast running example of Mother Nature's power.

When settlements began in the Appalachian Mountain regions, native timber was the only source of materials for homes and farm buildings. Axes were the basic tools used to transform a tree trunk into a timber used in a log home or structure. Many such structures were built by the sweat of a man's brow and the strength of his back.

Corn and grains, common crops grown by these struggling families, required the arduous task of grinding to make several necessary byproducts. Early efforts to find an easier way to facilitate the grinding process was in the form of water powered mills. First came the grist mills that ground flour into food items for the settlers and for their livestock. Many farmers living near a good running stream attempted to harness the flow of water by damming the stream and, with the use of water wheels, they could power a drive shaft geared to various types of machinery.

Thomas B. Hash was one of those hardy millers who developed a trade on the Fox Creek. He established a grist mill around the time of the Civil War about 2 miles upstream from the New River known as the Hash Mill.

By the time that Grayson County was founded in 1793, the Hash Family was already well established.



Big Fox Creek

In the early years the area was very hostile to settlers - the local Indians were trying to protect their hunting grounds and had run several of the first individuals from the river area before they could establish permanent settlements. Andrew Baker had

claimed land on the New River around 1754 but had been forced out by Indians. He later returned around 1765 with families of Cox, Osborne, and "ol" John Hash to resettle lands abandoned earlier.

Records indicate that these families



Allen C. Hash Home

migrated down the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia. "ol" John Hash's first born son, John (by his first wife) stopped off in Shenandoah County and settled there. 1785 tax records list a John Hash in Shenandoah County.

"ol" John's family that settled on the New River included his 2nd wife (probably Elizabeth Sturgill) and several of their children. They made their home at the mouth of Bridle Creek and lived there for several years before their 250 acres were surveyed in December of 1773

Most early land grants were for military service and records show local groups of militia and their members including members of the Hash family.

Soon descendants of "ol" John Hash settled all of the land north of the New River several miles up Bridle Creek to its beginning. Within two generations those lands also included most of the lands from New River up the Fox Creek.

"ol" John's son, William Hash, was granted 430 acres on Bridle Creek near Buck Mountain. William and his wife, Eleanor Osborne, bore at least 6 children in the area. One son, John Hash II, was raised on Bridle Creek and married Rebecca Anderson around 1793.

This John Hash II and Rebecca had at least 10 children, one of which was a son, Allen C. Hash. Allen was born September 13, 1803 near Flatridge, VA (not far from his grandparents' home at Buck

AN INTRODUCTION TO:
T. B. HASH MILL ON FOX CREEK CONT'D.

Mountain).

Allen C. Hash married Elizabeth Rutherford on June 1, 1826. Elizabeth was born August 16, 1807 in Grayson County. Her parents were Thomas and Elizabeth Rutherford. According to census records, Elizabeth and Allen Hash had 11 children—five sons and six daughters.



T.B. Hash Mill Site

Allen Hash, Sr. became a large land owner in the Fox Creek area and at the time of his death in 1869, he owned most of the land from the mouth of Fox Creek to above what would become the T.B. Hash Mill and east encompassing the Fox Cemetery and most of the land north of Rt. 58 for about 1 mile east of the mouth of

the Fox Creek. Records show close to 500 acres of adjoining lands.

Family members have told that Allen, Sr. was mostly a farmer and that he had lived in a log home most of his life, where he later died. He was buried directly above his home on a knoll that overlooks a large portion of the Fox Creek valley.

On March 28, 1870 Thomas B. Hash, Allen's son, purchased 115 acres of land on the Big Fox Creek from his siblings. He was listed as a single man but living with Malinda Brewer in the 1870 census. Thomas set about building a dam on Big Fox Creek to provide a constant source of water to operate a grist mill. By 1880, the census listed as married with 3 children, and his occupation as "miller."

The T.B. Hash Mill operated for several years as a grist mill. The local farmers would bring in small quantities of grains to have ground for the food and into chop for livestock. The miller would keep a portion of the grain for his services and sell meals and chop to other patrons who did not have grains to grind.

After the mill was well established, T.B. Hash added a sash mill to the grist mill and operated a multi-purpose mill on the Fox Creek. Heavy machinery was purchased to cut and form lumber being

used in homes and buildings. All of these machines were powered by a water wheel connected to belts and pulleys that varied in size to alter the speed and power delivered to perform a particular function.

T.B. Hash and his wife Malinda Brewer reared 4 children, 3 sons and 1 daughter. The three sons would work as millers for the entirety of their lives.



Fox Creek Cemetery

For more information please go to:
www.facebook.com/groups/Hashes/

Please contact the GCHS to request your complimentary PDF copy of this 33 page article.

E P H R A I M G E N T R Y H O U S E
S C H E D U L E D F O R H I S T O R I C R E N O V A T I O N

After retiring from the military, Alan and Barbara Stemen began their search for a 19th Century home to restore. The elegance of the circa 1830's Ephraim Gentry House, its multi-faceted history (including service as a post office), and the sound of the rushing waters of Peach Bottom Creek immediately caught their attention, and they purchased the house in late November, 2015.

The Stemens plan to begin this spring to restore the house to its original state with the addition of a few modern touches, and the placement of several peach trees along the creek.

The Stemens' realtor, Vince Elliott, with United Country Collins and Associates in Independence shared with the Stemens something of our regional history and referred them to the GCHS for additional guidance on the history of the Gentry family and



The Ephraim Gentry House Overlooks Peach Bottom Creek

the home itself.

According to Gibson Worsham, author of "A Survey of Historic Architecture in Grayson County, Virginia" (available for sale at the Historic 1908 Courthouse in Independence), the Ephraim Gentry House is an "unusually well-built and expensive example of the central-passage plan, built....on a hill at some distance from any arable fields and served as the Greek, Virginia, Post Office."

Mr. Worsham continued, "The Flemish bond Brick, two-story, four-bay, single-pile, central passage plan dwelling has exterior end chimneys with corbelled tops flanked by garret casements. The house has paneled door jambs and transoms; one-part molded exterior trim and two-part interior architrave trim and jack arches at each opening."

Now the somewhat daunting task of historic restoration lies ahead for the Stemens. The GCHS applauds them for what will be a significant contribution to the preservation of historic Grayson County architecture.

For more information about historic properties for sale in Grayson County, please contact our good friend and GCHS member, United Country Collins & Associates, located on Main St in Independence. Phone: 276-773-2522
www.graysonmountainrealestate.com

LIEUTENANT GEORGE REEVES (1735-1811)
OF GRAYSON COUNTY, VIRGINIA
WRITTEN BY: JANE AUSTIN BRUCKNER
DESCENDANT OF BARTHOLOMEW AND ANNE REEVES AUSTIN

In 1771, George Reeves of Virginia joined William Herbert's Company serving in Lord Dunmore's War. In 1777 he took the Oath of Allegiance to serve in the Revolutionary War from Montgomery Co, Va. By April 3, 1782, George Reeves was appointed a Lieutenant in Captain James McDaniel's Company of Montgomery Co, Va. Militia.

In Lyman Chalkley's Chronicles of the Scotch-Irish Settlement of Virginia, Vol 2, p. 142, we learn the year that George Reeves came to the area that would later become Grayson Co, Va. When John Cox became involved in a legal dispute with James Newell over title to some land in the Peach Bottom of Grayson Co, VA in early 1800's, several depositions were given. "Enoch Osborn deposes, 1809, that Captain Jno Cox settled on the Peach Bottom 44 or 45 years ago. George Collins deposes, 1809, that he settled there 41 or 42 years ago. George Reeves deposes, 1809, that he moved to the country in 1767."

From The Virginia Magazine of History and Biography, published in 1922 by the Virginia Historical Society: "Regarding the Peach Bottom land, it was originally surveyed in 1753 for Peter Jefferson, Thomas and David Meriwether and Thomas Walker." It was the Peach Bottom tract where John Cox settled there the same year. In 1767 George Collins and George Reeves settled there.

George Reeves married ca 1764 to Jane Burton, daughter of Richard Burton. From The Reeves Project

(www.thereevesproject.org) we learn that the DNA of the descendants of George Reeves of Grayson Co, Va is so close a match to the descendants of William Reeves of Johnston/Wake Co, NC, that they can be considered to be brothers.

Note: In 1746 Johnston Co, NC was created. In 1752, Orange Co, NC was formed from Johnston, Bladen, and Granville Counties, NC.

For George Reeves, then, early records have been found in Orange Co, N.C. Court Minutes 1752-61, Book I, p. 224 that in November 1760, a Deed of Sale from Henry McCulloch, Esq to George Reeves for 200 acres was proved in open Court by the oath of William Reed and was ordered to be registered.

Also in the Orange Co Court Minutes on pg 231 for February 1761 states, On motion of George Reeves is ordered that his cattle mark be recorded to wit: a crop and a nick in each ear. Many other court entries are listed at: thereevesproject.org.

In addition there are many Johnston Co, NC deeds circa 1762 to 1765 with references to Richard Burton, father of Jane Burton Reeves.

October 8, 1767 George Reeves deeded 200 acres to Thomas Chester on the Newlight Creek, Johnston Co, NC, originally part of tract that Aquilla Suggs obtained from Granville in 1757.

Later, George Reeves was on Cornelius Roberts List of Tithables in 1771, 1772, 1773 and 1774 in Fincastle Co, VA, now extinct. In 1776 Fincastle Co was abolished and divided into three counties, one being Montgomery Co,

Va.

George Reeves appears on the 1787 tax list of Montgomery Co with 100 acres. In 1789 he was living in Grassy Creek/Fox Creek area of Grayson Co near Daniel Blevins, Elisha Blevins and John Blevins, Robert Osborne and Ezekiel Young. The New River area changed state and county designations several times and by 1793, George and his son Jesse are listed in the tax lists of Wythe Co, Va [which became a county in 1790]. On April 1, 1795 Grayson Co Deed he paid 2 pounds Sterling to Robert Brooke, Gov of commonwealth of Virginia for 384 acres on west side of the New River.

George received a grant for 200 acres on the waters of the New River in Montgomery Co in May 18, 1796 and another for 100 acres on the north side of that river adjoining his own line on the west on May 30, 1796.

After the American Revolution he received numerous land grants in Montgomery and Grayson Counties of Virginia. He served as a Justice of Peace in Grayson Co, Va Court as evidence in the County Court minutes of March 1811: ' George Reeves, Esq. By an instrument of writing directed to the court resigns his commission of Justice of the Peace for this county.'

George is believed to have been a skilled Indian trader and interpreter before the Wars and it is likely that some of his descendants took Indian wives. A Mary Hollifield, in 1929 stated "The Reeves are said to come from Portugal and some are also part Indian. They had brown eyes and black hair."

Children of George and Jane Burton Reeves

[The List of Children is collaboration between two descendants: Eleanor Tolliver Waters and Jane Austin Bruckner.]

Jesse Reeves born abt 1764 in VA.. Died 20 Sept 1833, Ashe Co, NC. Married Elizabeth Charity Terrill.
 Elizabeth Reeves born abt 1765 in Orange Co, NC. Died 1845 in Ashe Co, NC Married Samuel Phipps 05 July 1783 in Wilkes Co, NC.
 William Reeves, born 1766. Married Anna Terrill.
 Mary Reeves born abt 1770. Married Joseph Doughton.
 Anne Reeves born 12 Jan 1775. Died 18 Feb 1870 at Pound, Wise Co, VA. Married 1791 Bartholomew Austin, Grayson Co VA.
 George Reeves Jr. born abt 1776. Married 1797 Jane Osborne.
 Susanna Reeves born abt 1780. Married William Tolliver.
 Lucy Reeves born abt 1785. Married David Cox, Jr.
 Prudence Reeves born abt 1786. Married Andrew Cox.
 Charity Reeves born abt 1784. Married Zachariah Osborne.
 John Reeves born 30 Dec 1785. Died 9 Aug 1863 Grayson Co, Va. Married Phoebe Osborne.

Final Resting Place: George Reeves died 15 November 1811 in Grayson County, Virginia. He is believed buried in the George Reeves Cemetery, Grayson County, VA. The Appalachian Trail Chapter of The Daughters of the American Revolution placed a bronze plaque engraved: "Revolutionary Soldier. Lieutenant George Reeves 1735-1811."

OLD PORTER FAMILY CEMETERY

A volunteer for the GCHS is enjoying the privilege of providing support for the New River Notes Website cemetery inventory update project. One particular cemetery currently being researched is the "Old Porter Family Cemetery" located on Hazelwood Road in the Community of Grant.

Having accomplished the first objective of installing a temporary electric fence to secure the area and thereby prevent further damage by cattle, the family history research commenced.

Three legible headstones and approximately 20 unmarked fieldstones were discovered in the cemetery. We have determined that this is the burial site of Sarah "Aunt Sallie" Roberts Porter (born 1800, died 1852), her daughter, Elizabeth Porter Grubb (born 1828, died 1929), and Elizabeth's husband, Conrad Grubb (born 1828, died 1902). Unfortunately, we are unable to identify the remaining unmarked headstones.

Deed research supports the theory that this land was at one time owned by Alex-

ander Porter (born 1800, died 1860) and his afore mentioned wife, Sarah Roberts Porter. Following Sarah's passing, Alexander is believed to have married Mary Polly Wright, sold his land in 1859, and moved to Granby, Missouri where he died shortly thereafter.

The GCHS also had the benefit of access to Elizabeth Porter Grubb's obituary which



Old Porter Family Cemetery Headstones
(photos courtesy of Larry Hash)

states "Her request was to be brought back to be buried beside her husband in the Old Porter Cemetery (old home place of Aunt Betty) now owned by Frank Grubb. This was written by someone who knew her, Mittie R. Young, Grant, Va."

We have found that this continuing Porter Cemetery research dovetails nicely with the research of a Frank Porter, of Ohio, who has conducted extensive research (including DNA work) indicating that his ancestor, James Porter (born 1802, died 1872) was the sibling of the subject of our current study, Alexander Porter. Additional siblings are believed to be Elizabeth Porter (born 1805, died 1886), George Porter (born 1806, died 1880), and William Porter (born 1809, died 1883). With further research we hope to help prove that the parents of this group were James Porter (1781-1830) and his wife, Susannah Keith Porter (1772-1853).

In addition to the New River Notes website (www.newriversnotes.com) there is a three volume set entitled "Those who Slept Here" for sale at the office of the Grayson County Va Heritage Foundation in Independence (www.graysonheritage.org/) which offers a comprehensive list of burials in Grayson County.

GRAHAM BROTHERS ON TOUR IN GRAYSON

Eager to learn more about their Isom and McKnight family trees, Stephen and Michael Graham contacted the GCHS for guidance prior to their recent trip to Grayson County.

Stephen wrote: "I have been working fairly diligently on my family tree for about 10 years now. We descend from several branches of the Isom family who were very early settlers in your area. John Isom (abt. 1752-1830) had two sons 1) John Isom Jr. (abt. 1786-1829, married Charity McKnight) and 2) Spencer Isom (abt. 1783-1849, married Susannah Cox), both of whom are grandparents to us. They all lived in what is today Grayson County. The son of John Isom Jr. was also named Spencer Isom (abt. 1812 - 1894, married Mary Simcox) was my gg grandfather. He emigrated to Indiana after the Civil War. Spencer was raised in Grayson County and in the 1840s moved to the Glade Creek area of what is now Alleghany County, on the Little Pine Creek."

Upon arrival, the Graham brothers utilized every resource available, including the many knowledgeable members of our local communities.

A Baywood land owner, Daniel Boyer, very graciously shared his extensive un-

derstanding of what was at one time an Isom family home place and farm. With Mr. Boyer's help (combined with access to census data via a cell phone) the Gramhams were able to garner a sense of where old home sites were in proximity to each other, the New River, and the "Mill on Ben's Creek" whereon the William McKnight farm was located as per 1815 tax records.



Graham Brothers with Daniel Boyer

The Graham brothers also visited the "Andrew McKnight Cabin" recently donated by Pearl McKnight Dixon to the Matthews Living History Farm Museum. Legend holds that Andrew's grandfather, William "Billie" McKnight, upon arriving in Grayson County first lived in a cave on the New River. In time he built a cabin where he raised his family, which some believe

was this same cabin later inherited by Andrew McKnight. As stated above, the Graham brothers are direct descendants of one of Billie's children, Charity McKnight (abt. 1798 - 1860, married John Isom).

Pearl McKnight Dixon's daughter (and GCHS member), Susie Garner, generously donated a copy of her McKnight Family tree that provided a valuable piece of the "puzzle" during the research process.

A significant highlight of the Graham brothers' visit was an extensive tour conducted by local historian, Carole Conrad, of cemeteries, old home places, and various communities near the Virginia/North Carolina State line.

Many questions remain, and we are looking forward to the Graham Brothers "reunion tour."

Many thanks to Amelia Bland Waller, former GCHS President and owner of "Granny's Cabin" (where the Graham Brothers were lodged), for referring these lovely gentlemen to us. For more about "Granny's Cabin" go to www.airbnb.com and search for "Granny's at Comers Rock."

With your generous support we have recently added several new documents to our archives. Please find a partial list below.

- Transcription of Caty Sage Letters received from Hannah Sullivan
- Purkey/Perkey Family Research by Trula Fay Purkey
- John Blair Family Bible Pages received from Andrew and Marie Harman
- Porter Family Research by Hershall Porter
- Lt George Reeves Article by Jane Austin Bruckner
- Digital Copy of William Bourne Sr. will and probate
- Grayson County, Va, Personal Property Tax Lists 1794-1798 from Library of Virginia
- Farmer Family Sketch by Michael Farmer (& link to book scheduled to publish 2016)
- T.B. Hash Mill Article by Larry Hash
- Historic Fries Photos/Collection of William Andrew Johnson received from Paula Williams
- "History of North Carolina" CD received from Clevie Wingate
- "North Carolina Wills, Pension Records, & Muster Rolls" CD from Clevie Wingate
- "Genealogy and History of the State of Virginia" CD received from Clevie Wingate
- "Confederate Civil War Genealogical and Historical Records" CD from Clevie Wingate
- Fruit Hill Quakers Narrative, meeting house info & map from Carroll Co Hist Society
- Andrew Porter (1773-1853) Descendants Research by Jim Wright
- James Scott (1776-1817) Descendants Research by Jim Wright
- Richard Wright (1738-1819) Descendants Research by Jim Wright
- "Alleghany County Heritage" and Bicentennial Articles received from Nancy Stone
- Copies of Phillips Family Civil War Letters received from Doug Vaught
- Bound Bicentennial Collection received from Dr. Sidney and Mrs. Shirley Harvey

Please let us know if you would like to learn more about these documents and/or contact fellow researchers. We will be happy to provide links or contact information as appropriate.



Dr. Sidney Harvey (center) and his wife, Shirley, presented the GCHS with a beautifully bound collection of Bicentennial Documents and Memorabilia.

Grayson County Historical Society
PO Box 529
Independence, Va 24348