

# THE PEACH TREE

*Celebrating 28 years of bringing the  
Peach/Peachey heritage into homes  
throughout the world.*

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## On the Banks of the Rappahannock

This historical novel I am writing takes place in colonial Virginia in what is called the Northern Neck. While one of its main characters is Samuel Peachey, the immigrant, and his descendants, many other significant characters have connections with the Peacheys. This includes Presidents George Washington and Thomas Jefferson. You will read about the documented affair Jefferson had with a descendant of Samuel Peachey. You will also read about the possibility of Abraham Lincoln's mother being the illegitimate child of William Peachey. You also will see how the Shropshires and Peaches of the South Carolina Branch are connected.

## Groundhog Day

Each year here in the U.S. we celebrate Groundhog Day on Feb. 2<sup>nd</sup>. At this time the groundhog peeks his head out of his hole where he has spent his winter's hibernation. He checks on the weather to see how long he has to stay in the hole before good weather.

Right now, I feel like that groundhog except it is now April 2<sup>nd</sup> on my calendar, meaning I am two months late. I feel like I have been living underground for the past five months. On October 28, 2010, I climbed into the 17<sup>th</sup> century hole of colonial America and have virtually lived there these past five months. However, while I have been in my colonial underground cave, no way have I been hibernating. Instead, I have been burrowing and rooting around three hundred years ago for any Peaches and Peacheys I could find.

The result will be found in my next book titled *On the Banks of the Rappahannock*. So far I have gone from 1699 to 1776 and am now working my way through the Revolutionary War. This is my first historical novel, and I have found it a new challenge.

I hope to have this 250-page book completed within the next few months. However, I will not be able to publish it until I find out how much interest there will be in it. As in all my other books, this will be self-published, which means I must pay for all printing costs and all the inventory of books prior to delivery.

Please let me know if you want a copy for approximately \$29.95. I need 100 orders before the book goes to press. (See last issue for more details).

## Why Early Virginia?

When I retired two years ago, I felt compelled to tackle a project I had put on the back burner for 20 years. When I wrote *The Peach/Peachey Bridges, Vol. 1*, I realized a dream come true. Thanks to each of you who purchased a copy, I was able to get this book published.

As I sought to build the bridges between the Peaches and Peacheys from England to America, I found many of them had to go through colonial Virginia. When America had its early beginnings, the Peaches were bearing fruit in Virginia. I summarized this history in the last issue and therefore will not repeat it here. But it was most extensive.

I was particularly intrigued that the branches of South Carolina, Texas, Kentucky, Kansas and Pennsylvania all had their American origins in Virginia. I felt in order to find out how they all were related and how they got where they were, it was imperative for me to turn over every stone in colonial Virginia regarding the Peaches and Peacheys.

In my historical novel, I will show how the Peacheys were connected to the Peaches and Shropshires of the Northern Neck. John Peach, one of the co-founders of the South Carolina Branch, referred to himself in his will as **John Peach alias Shropshire**. This book attempts to show why Peach might show such a relationship to Shropshire.

Samuel Peachey was one of the landed gentry of the Northern Neck with a 600-acre plantation. Living on the banks of the Rappahannock River, he and his descendants found themselves inter-

twined with the Balls, the Lees, the Washingtons, the Carters, the Tayloes, the Glascocks, the Griffins, the Walkers, the Jeffersons, and the Gilmers. These were all prominent historical families in colonial Virginia.

From these families came Mary Ball and her son, Pres. George Washington; Richard Lee and his two sons, Richard Henry and Francis Lightfoot Lee, the only brothers who signed the Declaration of Independence; and Peter Jefferson and his son, Pres. Thomas Jefferson.

Did you know that one of Samuel Peachey's descendants was the first one to discover Kentucky, naming the Cumberland Gap and the Cumberland River? Did you know that this same descendant was the guardian of Thomas Jefferson in his teenage years? These are some of the highlights of this new book.

Rev. St. John Shropshire emigrated from England to Virginia in 1694. He was pastor of Church Point Church in Westmoreland Co., VA. This book shows how the Peacheys had ties with those Shropshires. The Peaches were neighbors to the Shropshires, and as such became friends with the Peacheys. After Walter Shropshire migrated to South Carolina, John and William Peach, co-founders of the South Carolina Branch, followed him. The book will highlight all the descendants of the Virginia Peacheys, Peaches, Glascocks, Griffins, Walkers and Gilmers who served in the Revolution.

Please let me know if you want to order this book in advance of publication. It only takes one hundred orders to make this book a reality

## Indiana M'headers

**Susan Peach** was the 4<sup>th</sup> great-granddaughter of John Peach, Jr., founder of the Marblehead Branch of Peaches. She married E. N. Morey. *The Lake County Indiana Biographies* summarizes her distinguished life, quoted as follows.

"Mrs. Susann Morey was born, reared and educated at Boscawen, New Hampshire. Her home was contiguous to the home of the celebrated Daniel Webster. She attended the academy at Boscawen and was a teacher in her native state. She wedded Ephraim Noyes Morey, November 26, 1846, and four children, two sons and two daughters, were born, and three are living at present. The eldest is Thomas Morey, a resident and farmer of Mountain View, Missouri, who received a common school education, and married Miss Eliza Ann Peach, by whom he has five living children. Mary is the wife of W. H. Michael, a prosperous farmer of West Creek township, and whose personal history also appears in these pages. William H. Morey, the third living child, is principal of the Lowell high school. He received his primary training in the common schools and was a student at the normal at Terre Haute, Indiana, after which he took a course in law personally and was admitted to the bar of his native county of Lake. He graduated in the teachers' and scientific course at Valparaiso. He is well known as an educator of this county....Mrs. W. H. Morey was educated in the common schools, and she and her husband reside on the old homestead with his mother, and they are members of the Lake Prairie Presbyterian church and he has been chosen superintendent of the Sunday school at different times."

## Virginia Peach Hero

**Thomas Peach**, King George Co., VA., was a patriot from the Northern Neck. He was listed as a private in the *Pensions for U. S. Soldiers in Revolutionary War*. Nothing is known about how he died, but it's possible to be related to his service in the war. His will was written on Sept. 16, 1777, but was not proven until after his death in 1780. He left his daughter, Ann, 150 acres of land in King George Co., Virginia.

His father, **George Peach**, was born Nov. 23, 1684 in Ellastone, Staffordshire. He emigrated to Richmond Co., VA, where he purchased 90 acres and improvements from Edward Taylor on July 2, 1715. On this same date he bought 20 acres from John Brown in the same county. In his will proven on Feb. 25, 1725, he left this property to his youngest children, Thomas and Mary. On Feb. 28, 1716, George Peach moved to Westmoreland County, where he purchased 100 acres from the same Edward Taylor of Richmond County. Here his son, Thomas, was born sometime before he wrote his will on Nov. 6, 1717.

Since the Peach properties straddled Westmoreland and King George Counties, their names showed up concurrently in both county record books, leading to some confusion. For instance, Thomas is shown living in Washington Parish of Westmoreland County, but in 1752 he voted for the House of Burgess member from King George County. In order to vote, he had to be at least 21 and own either 25 acres with a house and plantation or (continued on p. 4)

100 acres plantation if there was no house. Between 1769 and 1773, he was on the rental rolls in King George County. (This was a list that identified property owners in each county.) At his death, Thomas left 150 acres in this county to his daughter, Ann, who was married to Benjamin Doggett, another soldier of the Revolution. Doggett apparently died in the war, and Ann remarried to Harry Settle on Mar. 13, 1778, in Fauquier Co., VA.

## Colorado Peaches

**Adrian Watson** has been searching her Peach ancestry and has recently contacted me about her dilemma. She says, "I'm currently living in San Francisco where I'm (belatedly) completing a doctorate in education at the University of San Francisco." She has shown me details of her ancestry, but both of us have hit a brick wall. We are calling on all our Peach genealogists for help.

Adrian's roots began with **William Peach** b. 1800 in Derby, Derbyshire, England. His grandson, also William Peach, immigrated to the USA by 1886, when he married Albertina Cooper in Manhattan, New York. They had two children and settled in Pueblo, Colorado, where he became the City Engineer. Their daughter, Catherine M. Peach, married Will D. Grisard, who became the County Treasurer of Pueblo. Of their three daughters, Catherine Z. Grisard was born 1915 in Colorado. She married a Mr. Whiting and had sons: Frank and William Peach Whiting. The immigrant of 1886, William, had sisters: Fanny (1866-1947) And Emily Peach (1871-1917). They remained in England.

## More Loose Ends

**Angela Johnson** has hit a brick wall on her ancestry. We need your help.

**Grace Luellen Peach** was born Nov. 5, 1919 in Picher, Oklahoma. Her four brothers were: Kenneth Peach – Lancaster, California; Alva Peach – Winchester, Oregon; Ralph Peach – Running Springs, California; and Henry Peach, Jr. – Roseburg, Oregon. Her two sisters were Stella Thompson – Oronogo, Missouri; and Magline Drury – Glen Allen, Virginia.

Grace L. Peach married Bill Rustin in 1934. Following his death, she married Wallace Jackson Keeling on June 17, 1950 at Bentonville, Arkansas.

Years ago, I sent out a query in my Peach Tree re: Dr. Phillip Baker, M.D. who was seeking info. about his PEACH family in Leicestershire area of England in the 1820-1850 range. A Sarah Peach married William Pryor on 12/25/1844. They immigrated to Jo Daviess Co., Illinois with 3 children in 1851.

**Barbara Tapp** of Kearney, Missouri recently wrote in response to this. She says this couple is her great grandparents. She has lots of info. about them after they arrived in America. She verified they came in 1851 but on different ships. She says her grandfather was their tenth and youngest child. She has gone to Illinois and has pictures of their headstones. She has much to share with us, and I can't wait to see these records.

This proves that queries sent out on these newsletters are like planting seeds for the harvest. Thankfully, the harvest always comes sooner or later.

## Ol' Peach House - SC

**Judy Peach West** lives in one of the old Peach homes in Kershaw, So. Carolina that is rumored to be haunted. She says, "One of my great-uncles, when coming home, put groceries on the kitchen table, which is also from that period, and swore that he saw the ghost of his great grandmother. He never stepped foot inside that house again. My father, **Joe Richard Peach**, bought the home and land and was in the process of restoring it when my mom became ill with cancer. After Mom died, Dad lost interest.... My uncle (Robert) bought the property."

She says the house is over 150 years old and was the original dwelling of the Peach family when they moved to Kershaw over 20 years ago. "In total, if I remember correctly, there was approximately 2,400 acres that belonged to this branch of the family. It was split up among the children of my grandfather, Benjamin Peach, upon his death."

## Minnesota Peaches

**O. John Taylor** of Fresno, CA, is keeping all his Minnesota Branch of Peaches informed with his new newsletter, *The Familygram*. If you would like to subscribe to it or inquire about it, write to John Taylor at 9525 N. Ft. Washington, Apt. 321E, Fresno, CA 93730 or call him at (559) 434-1850. He would be glad to hear from you.

The newsletter is for the descendants of Abbie Peach Stapel Taylor (189-1982) and her two husbands, Albert Stapel (1886-1917) & Ora Taylor (1892-1988).

## So. MD Peach in Kentucky Ministry

**Rev. Ellen Peach** has been pastoring the First Presbyterian Church of Kentucky for many years. Her parents, **Col. Robert M. and Brownley Peach**, formerly of Aberdeen, Maryland, were in a senior citizen complex in Tennessee the last time we saw them. Ellen says,

"I have followed in my grandparents' footsteps (the Reverend Preston Littlepage and Nora Nelson Peach) who, as you know, were missionaries in Malaysia for many years. I am United Methodist clergy assigned to domestic missions here in Appalachia – almost 12 years now. What a ride! And what a blessed call from my Lord. Recently, I acquired a number of Dr. John Peach's letters and have begun to comb through them carefully. He was an avid poet in the romantic style."

## Welcome Visits

Recently, **Jon and Joyce Block** from Canada visited us on their way back from Arizona. (It was really way out of their way, but they did it anyway). Jon is collaborating with me on my new book. He has family ties to the characters of the book who descend from Samuel Peachey. He is an excellent source person with everything well-documented.

**Tom and Sandy Giger** of Illinois (M'head Branch) also stopped by on their way to their NASCAR race in Bristol, TN. He has done an extensive portfolio on his branch who went to Illinois from Vermont.

## Peach DNA Project

Has anyone who reads this newsletter participated in this project? I am not endorsing it – am only reporting on its existence. If you have had any experience with this, please share it with us. Inquiring minds want to know. I quote in part as follows off its website: [www.worldfamilies.net/surnames/peach/](http://www.worldfamilies.net/surnames/peach/)

“Surname DNA testing is the newest tool available to genealogists! Surname tests allow genealogists to verify their father's father's...father's paternal ancestry. Surname DNA information can be very powerful when combined with traditional paper trails.

The following Surnames are currently included in this project: Peach, Peachee, Peacher, Peaches, Peachey, Peachy, Pech, Pecha, Pechacek, Pechal, Pechar, Pechart, Pechauer, Pechet, Pechon, Pechotta

### The Peach DNA Project was started to:

1. Help researchers from common or related families work together to find their shared heritage.
2. Identify how the participant's families are connected, both genetically and through paper trails.
3. Identify and confirm genetic Lineages of ancestral families.
4. Ultimately catalog pedigrees and genetic connections of all of the known project families.

### Participating in a Surname DNA Project provides:

- The participant's genetic DNA, which is very close (and sometimes identical) to his earliest known ancestor.”

(see website for further info.)

## For your Bookshelf

1. The Peach Genealogies, Volume 1 - \$39.95 + \$7 shipping. Latest book on the Southern Maryland Branch.
2. The Peach Genealogies, Volume 2 - \$49.95 + \$7 shipping. Latest book on the South Carolina Branch.
3. The Peach/Peachey Migrations, 1066-1990 - \$39.95 + \$7 shipping. Tracing all the Peach/Peacheys back to William de Peche I in 1066 A.D.
4. The Peach Tree Handbook, Vol. II, Southern Maryland Branch - \$29.95 + \$7 shipping. First book on this branch.
5. The Peach Tree Handbook, Vol. III, Marblehead - \$62.95 + \$7 shipping. Only a few copies left. When they are gone, this will not be reprinted.
6. The Peach Heroes - \$59.95 + \$7 shipping. This is 740 pages hard bound, fully indexed. All known descendants of the Kansas, Kentucky, Minnesota, Pennsylvania and Texas Branches are included. Also, detailed updates of the Marblehead, South Carolina and the So. Maryland branches are included.
7. The Peach/Peachey Bridges, Vol. I - \$29.95 + \$7 shipping. This book is in full color illustrations, fully indexed, and shows how the Peacheys and Peaches descend from one common ancestor.

## Website and Peach Trees

You can access our website at <http://www.thepeaches.com/genealogy/> I plan on putting each of the upcoming *Peach Trees* online so that they will be accessible to all who enter the website. If you want a hard copy delivered to you for 18 months, please send \$15.