

# THE PEACH TREE

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

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## Help is Needed

Thanks to **Tom Peach** of Spring, Texas, we now have the cover design for the new book (shown on next column). Thanks to 60 who have pre-ordered the book, we are now on our way to getting it published. I need to get 40 more to make the publication a reality. I hope there will be many more who read this newsletter that will help me reach this goal. I will guarantee you that you will not be disappointed with this novel that is historically and genealogically precise and accurate according to over 100 sources researched for the book. I need to get your response right away. Hopefully, this will be published before summer's end. For this I will be eternally grateful.



- Thomas Jefferson was challenged to a duel when he was discovered being in bed with the wife of John Walker, a descendent of the Peacheys.
- Nancy Hanks, Abraham Lincoln's mother, may have been fathered illegitimately by Col. William Peachey.
- Daniel Boone did not discover Kentucky, but rather Dr. Thomas Walker, son of a Peachey.

These are some of the interesting tidbits that are included in my first historical novel. The setting for the book is colonial Virginia between 1699 and 1783, ending with the Revolutionary War. However, it branches out to North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia and Kentucky as the characters spread their wings into new frontiers.

While the three primary families are the Peacheys, the Glascocks and the Griffins, featured also are the Shropshires and their inherent involvement with the Peaches of the South Carolina Branch. Why was the founder of this branch referred to as "**John Peach alias Shropshire**"? This book will provide a viable explanation for this age-old dilemma.

Three U. S. Presidents have ties to the historical characters in this book – George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, and Abraham Lincoln. Mary Ball, mother of the 1<sup>st</sup> president, is one of the main personalities highlighted. Thomas Jefferson and his family play a vital role in this historical novel. The main characters of this book will show their relationship to the Balls, the Lees and the Carters - all prominent planter families in the eighteen century on the Northern Neck of Virginia.

Others featured are the Walkers and the Gilmers, especially Dr. Thomas Walker. His close ties to President Thomas Jefferson helped promote the formation of the Louisiana Purchase, which doubled the size of the United States. Rev. St. John Shropshire and his descendants are highlighted with their ties to the Peach family of Virginia and South Carolina.

Many of the personalities in this book will be portrayed as they helped fight for the independence of the United States from England and formulate the new nation. I have come to know these characters like they are part of my family, and what a precious experience this has been.

The finished product will be about 260 illustrated pages of love and war in paperback. I am adding an index, unique to novels, because I want the readers to be able to reference any name and place that stirs their interest.

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. Thanks to those who have sent payment in advance to help meet these initial costs.

## Books Pre-Ordered

Thanks to the following that have placed their orders for the new book. Please let me know if you think you ordered and your name is not on the list. Each of you is an inspiration to me.

Dorothy Asmus  
Jon Block  
Elroy Christenson  
Willa Mae Davis  
Debra DeSouza  
Cherri Ethridge  
Patricia Gebura (3 copies)  
Brenda Griffin  
Miranda Griffin  
Randall Hanna  
Susan Hannah  
Bob Harris (2 copies)  
Ted Kaufman  
Amanda Mason  
Jenny McFadden  
Connie Mincy  
T. Clayton Moore  
John Muse  
Yvonne Nieuwoudt  
Hershel Parker  
Charles Parnell  
Gene Peach  
Harry Peach  
Leslie Peach of England  
Mary B. Peach  
Maxine Peach  
Ronald T. Peach  
Sam & Gloria Peach  
Terry Peach  
Tom Peach of Texas  
Robert Peach (2 copies) of Arizona  
Deb Quentin  
Barbara Ralston (4 copies)  
Cathy Reed  
Theresa River  
Naomi Roberts  
Wendy Ruggeri  
Brenda Starr & Delores Strum  
Joan Sutton  
Ann Taylor  
Shirley Thybault  
Rachel Turner  
Martha Jo (Unknown surname)  
Karl Fritz Van Kaupp (2 copies)  
Mary Vigil  
Deborah Walker  
Hamp Williams  
Scott Williams  
Cynthia Yakima  
Linda Young

**The book is \$29.95 + \$7 postage. No money needed until after book is published. Please let me know if you might want to order one. John H. Peach**

## John Peach's early days in So. Carolina

My new book portrays **John Peach alias Shropshire** in his earliest setting in Kershaw County, SC. As a founding father of the South Carolina Branch, his ties with Walter Shropshire are critical to understanding Peach's unique name he used in a legal document. In the novel, I show Col. William Peachey as he arrives in South Carolina from Virginia. Peachey is referred to as "Will" and Shropshire as "Walter". Quoting in part,

"The next morning Will awoke to the smell of biscuits and gravy and freshly-ground sausage. After breakfast, Walter invited Will to take a walk over to his neighbor. On their way, there were several slaves picking cotton, who Walter said were his. He only had fifty acres. So he didn't need but a few.

After a long walk along the crooked road, they came to another log cabin like Walter's. A young man was sitting on the porch whittling what appeared to be a walking cane. "What're you up to today, Walt?" the fellow called out when they were within yelling distance.

"I got someone with me I want you to meet." Walter yelled back as he and Will walked closer to the porch.

"Who might that be?" asked the whittler, as he spit a brown stream of tobacco juice off the side of the porch.

"John, I want you to meet Col. William Peachey. Will, this here is John Peach." The two strangers eyeballed each other for a minute or so to see if they might have something in common.

"Where'd he come from, Walt?"

"He's visiting down here from Virginia. Remember when you lived in

King George County? Will here lived not far from you in Richmond County. His Pa, Sammy Peachey, was a close friend of my Grandpa when we lived up that way. You remember me telling you that granddaddy was a minister named Rev. St. John Shropshire?"

"Yah, I recollect somethin' about that." John Peach sent another brown stream flying from the porch.

"Your cousin, George Peach, went to my granddaddy's church and so was introduced to Will's Pa. He was intrigued that Peach and Peachey sounded so similar that they might come from similar roots in England."

"What did they find out?" Peach asked as he kept on whittling.

"The Peachey's and the Peaches are believed to be from the same common ancestor," Will answered. This caused Peach to ask the two men to take their places in the two remaining rockers.

The three men chatted about how John Peach immigrated to Virginia from Staffordshire, England just prior to the Revolution. He came with his younger brother, William. They both sought out their cousin, Thomas Peach, son of George, when they arrived in Virginia. They found Thomas' property on the county line between Westmoreland and King George County. The two brothers settled for a brief time in that area until they obtained their own land in South Carolina. Will found that two years ago they came to the Camden district where they now lived. They were hard-working farmers, with their cash crop being cotton. However, they also raised their own tobacco, which they called "backy".

It wasn't long before they saw a wagon pulled by a donkey coming down the trail in front of the Peach cabin."

**This story about the Peaches and Shropshires continues in the new book, *On the Banks of the Rappahannock*.**

## Marbleheaders Illinois & Oklahoma

**Tom Giger** of St. Jacob, IL, is an 11<sup>th</sup> generation descendant of John Peach, Jr. of Marblehead, MA. He is the 4<sup>th</sup> cousin once removed of **Naomi Roberts** of Oklahoma City, OK, a 12<sup>th</sup> generation descendant of the same. In 2000, my *Peach Tree Handbook, Vol. III, Marblehead Branch*, was published. This was an attempt to identify all the known descendants of John Peach, Jr. At that time, Tom Giger and his ancestry was known, but Naomi's was not reported. Since both of these have become two of my most loyal supporters, I think it's about time to show how they are related.

It all began with William Peach of Marblehead who in 1790 left the town where his ancestors had been for 150 years for Newbury, Vermont. His Marblehead home is still standing and inhabited on the hillside of this coastal community. In 1818 his oldest son, William Peach, moved to Horse Prairie in southern Illinois. By 1822 when he died, he and his family had settled in O'Fallon, IL, just east of St. Louis.

William and Sarah (Pearce) Peach had 13 children. Among these was Samuel, b. Jun 17, 1813, in Newbury, VT, and d. Dec. 27, 1888, in Waterloo, IL. According to Tom Giger, Samuel married twice 1<sup>st</sup> to Aloysino and 2<sup>nd</sup> to Margaret. They settled in Horse Prairie near Red Bud, IL. William and Aloysino had a son, William H., who married Elizabeth Kirckner. They had a son, Samuel Peach, who married 1<sup>st</sup> to Louisa Sauter and 2<sup>nd</sup> to Margaret

Hohrein, who gave him Ethel Peach, father of Tom Giger. Samuel Peach moved to a farm on the north edge of O'Fallon, IL, dying in Belleville in 1963.

Naomi Roberts, whom many of you met at our 10<sup>th</sup> National Peach Reunion, had an ancestry that was unknown to this writer in 2000 when the book was written. Therefore, it's important to show how she fits into the Peach Marblehead Tree. She comes from the same William Peach of Marblehead who left for Newbury, VT, in 1790. Like Giger, she comes from the same William Peach who left Newbury in 1818 for southern Illinois. But that is where the similarity ends.

Naomi traces her ancestry back to William Peach, b. 1800, whereas Tom's goes back to Samuel, b. 1813, brother of Naomi's William. He had a son, Samuel Westly Peach, who was born in Oak Hill, IL, in 1840 and died in Port Townsend, Washington in 1909. He is the same ancestor of **Todd Peach**, who faithfully administrates our Peach website and yahoo group.

On p. 347 of *The P.T. Handbook, Vol. III*, Samuel Westly Peach is shown having a daughter, Minnie Electra, who married a Mr. Pharis. That was all that was known of Naomi's rich ancestry then. To update our records, Minnie married Charles Pharis, who had four children, including Pansy Peach Pharis, b. 1891 Butler, Missouri. She married Grover Cleveland Hamilton, who gave her six children, including Theodore Grover Hamilton, father of Naomi Belle Hamilton. Naomi married James Roberts, who was with her at the 10<sup>th</sup> Natl. Peach Reunion, but since has passed away. All who were at the reunion affectionately remember Naomi.



## In the Movie World



Birth: Mar. 6, 1903 El Reno, OK  
 Death: Feb. 27, 1988 California

American motion picture cinematographer of the 1920s through the 1970s. Had a long association with the Hal Roach Studios, where he was cinematographer on many Laurel & Hardy films. Married for many years to actress Pauline Curley. Father of cinematographer Kenneth Peach, Jr. (bio by: [A.J. Marik](#))

[Search Amazon for Kenneth Peach](#)

Burial:  
[Forest Lawn Memorial Park \(Hollywood Hills\)](#)  
 Los Angeles  
 Los Angeles County  
 California, USA  
 Plot: Lincoln Terrace, L-4597, G-3

Maintained by: Find A Grave  
 Originally Created by: [A.J. Marik](#)  
 Record added: Jan 09, 2002  
 Find A Grave Memorial# 6080141

## This Author's Books

Among my nine published books, seven are still in print. Please contact me if you want to know about them.

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.

## Peaches in Hollywood

My cousin, **Elaine Peach**, in Mountain View, CA, says her daughter, Amie, lives in West Hollywood, where she has been working with several variety TV shows. She is getting well-connected to the entertainment industry – and loves it! Meanwhile, her son, Chris, has been accepted in the New Mexico Institute of Mining & Technology – completing his degree in physics. Another of my California cousins, **Joey Amick**, says her son, Marshall Bruce Totten and his wife, Misty, had twins on Feb. 22, 2010.

## So.MD Update

**Mary B. Peach** of Clarksville, TN, writes these encouraging words. “Your new book certainly sounds like a lot of research and work. I always appreciate the time and effort you spend to keep our clan informed about genealogy. I’m sure this book will be interesting as well. I would like to be on the list for a copy. Updating her South Maryland Peach family:

Grandson, David Murphy Peach, married Lizzie Gail in Montana and now have a son, Paxton Boone Peach. David is a student at Montana Tech University in Butte, MT.

Granddaughter, Carly Ann Peach, has a daughter, Adelina Peach Loreto. Carly graduated from Western Washington State in Bellingham, WA last December.

It’s a small world with the Peaches. Here’s a So.MD Peach living in SC Peach territory with her granddaughter living in Marblehead Peach territory.-

## Peaches in England

Our Peach Tree Project went from its humble beginnings 28 years ago to an international passion among Peach and Peachey descendants of Guillaume Peche (a.k.a. William de Peche I). Hearing from kin from England, New Zealand, Australia and South Africa are nearly as regular as hearing from those in the U.S. and Canada.

**David L. Peach** in Romsey, Hampshire has been an enthusiastic soul on the other side of the pond. He recently ordered a Southern Maryland Peach book because his roots also go to Isle of Wight. He wants to use this book to help him make connections to these USA Peaches.

**Leslie Peach** of Grantham, Lincolnshire, was the one to whom I dedicated *The Peach/Peachey Bridges, Vol. 1*. Without his dedication to that project and his astuteness to make sure everything I wrote was culturally and genealogically correct, this book would not been a reality. This giant of a man has been willing to help me substantiate the records I have in Staffordshire. This will help immensely to build the bridges back to my South Carolina Branch.

Speaking of England, **Barbara Tapp**, whose ancestors came from England, sent me a file folder full of her genealogy. (I referred to her family in the last *Peach Tree*). Barb's ancestor, Sarah Peach, was born in 1821 in Sheffield, South Yorkshire. She married William Pryor (b. 1824 in Leicestershire) in England in 1844 and gave him ten children. They immigrated to the U.S. before 1861. Let me know if there is anyone who wants to know more.

## No. MD Peaches

A new flame is burning among those in the Northern Maryland Branch. He is **Fred Peach**. At 51 he is rather young as family genealogists go. This is great because he can keep the fire burning in Maryland for another 30 years. He has ordered *The Peach/Peachey Migrations* and will be using that to give him his English roots on his family. He just wrote saying, "John, you have kept the light going ... I will pray for guidance to help me play whatever role I am meant to play in this."

All Fred's life, he has heard of his Irish Catholic roots which came from the Kelly side of his family. However, he had been kept in the dark regarding his Peach ancestor's English Protestant history. I was able to share how Charles Francis Peach came from Rutland in England and met Elizabeth Kelly on the boat to America in 1850. It must have been love at first sight because they married soon after they got off the boat in Brooklyn, NY. There's an entire chapter on this branch in this book - dedicated to **Walter Joseph Peach** of this same family.

Fred was about 25 when we had our National Peach Reunion in his home church in Granite, Maryland. But it took him another 25 years before he got the BUG! Now that it's bitten, hopefully he will hopefully have the itch for his family heritage from now on. We have really needed someone from this branch to take the torch that **Francis X. Peach** of Baltimore carried so ardently for many years. *The Peach Heroes* book missed updating this branch because it needed a spark like Fred Peach. I can't wait to see what he stirs up in Maryland.