

THE PEACH TREE

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

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A Big Thanks

We needed 100 books to be ordered for ***On the Banks of the Rappahannock*** to be published. Thanks to all of you who helped, this book has become a reality. As always, you lift me to new heights of enthusiasm when you come through like this. No matter how passionate I am about a book when I am writing it, I keep wondering if there will be much interest in it when it is completed. What if the manuscript I have labored over night and day will ever be received by enough folks to get it published. My fear became more intense this time because I was treading into unknown waters when writing my first novel. You changed my unfounded fear into overwhelming enthusiasm. Thanks so much for your support.

On the Banks of the Rappahannock

Many of those who are my *Peach Tree* subscribers will receive this newsletter with your copy of my newest book. My hope and prayer and deep-seated expectations are that you will be thrilled with it. If you received this, and you didn't order a book, you still have time to do so. I personally guarantee you will enjoy this book as an exciting novel, but even more so as a book of true history of what led to our nation's independence.

My other nine books were all genealogical in nature and non-fiction. This book is a historical novel that uses all proper genealogical names, dates and relationships interwoven into the dialogue and situations the characters may have truly experienced.

This book is the first in a new series of books that will show the history of the early Virginians in their colonial struggles and how they migrated and influenced the south, the west and other parts of our nation. If you don't read this first book, you will miss the background for the rest of the books.

This series will show how the Peaches, Peacheys, Griffins, Shropshires, Walkers, Gilmer, Glascocks, Washingtons, Balls, Lees and McCartys had their origins from England, Ireland, Scotland and France as they sailed to the New World.

As a Peach, to best understand my roots in Virginia, I found it necessary to take an intensive look at all the other families that surrounded and influenced ours. Amazingly, glistening windows burst out new light on old and established names and relationships. You must read it to believe it!

Expanding Horizons

For the past 28 years, this newsletter has been dedicated strictly to those who descend from the Peach and Peachey ancestors. However, beginning with this issue other surnames will be included that show relationships to the descendants of Guillaume Peche (a.k.a. William de Peche I). These become necessary in order to enable our ancestors to come alive during the early history of the U.S.A. Without these supporting families, all the Peaches and Peachey's in colonial Virginia are merely names, dates and relationships. They are simply skeletons without flesh.

Therefore, we want to welcome aboard this Peach Tree project descendants of the Glascocks, the Griffins, the Walkers, the Gilmers, the Shropshires and the McCartys. Your ancestors helped build the dramatic true story of our involvement in colonial Virginia history.

These families merged together in their marriages and in their dedicated service as patriots during the Revolutionary War. *On the Banks of the Rappahannock* began in 1699 with George Glascock in the Northern Neck of Virginia. Quickly, Samuel Peachey came into the picture. He married into the McCartys and the Griffins. Susanna Peachey married Thomas Walker and gave him, among other children, Dr. Thomas Walker and Mary Peachey Walker. Mary married Dr. George Gilmer and gave him a son, who became the personal physician of Pres. Thomas Jefferson. Dr. Walker was the personal physician of Jefferson's father and became the guardian of 14-year old Thomas Jefferson when his father died. Some believe Col. William Peachey was the grandfather of Abraham Lincoln.



Dedication

I am proud to dedicate this book to four special friends who have helped make this project a reality.

T. Clayton Moore of California – for his persistence during the past thirty years to research his Virginia roots. His obsession for this history became an unshakeable reality to me.

Lola Maxine Peach of Virginia – for her aggressive dedication as she repeatedly visited libraries and historical societies throughout Virginia and communicated her results to me.

Jon Block of Ontario, Canada – for sharing his thorough research and meticulous documentation of his sources on these characters in the Northern Neck of Virginia.

Thomas William Peach of Texas – for his masterful creation of the cover design for this book and his willingness to contribute his services for the advancement of this project.

These are only a few of many whom I would like to show my heartiest appreciation for your help and support.

Thomas Jefferson's Dream that Captured the West

Five men had a dream in the 1740s to pioneer America's west from Virginia and reach across the land all the way to the Pacific Ocean. They were Col. Joshua Fry, Thomas Meriwether, Peter Jefferson, Dr. Thomas Walker, and Rev. James Maury. On July 12, 1749, their dream began to materialize when the King of England commissioned their Loyal Land Company with 800,000 acres on the western side of the Allegheny Mountains.

Dr. Thomas Walker was the personal physician of Peter Jefferson and the one who was responsible for the delivery of newborn Thomas Jefferson into this world. Walker was the son of Susanna Peachey and Col. Thomas Walker. In 1750, he led an expedition across the Alleghenies crossing the Cumberland Gap. Thus, he is credited with the discovery of Kentucky and has a state park named after him. This was all detailed in my latest book, *On the Banks of the Rappahannock*.

Peter Jefferson and Joshua Fry were surveyors and cartographers (map-makers). They were famous for creating in 1751 the Fry-Jefferson map of Virginia, the first time the entire Virginia river system was properly portrayed. It also fully displayed the Appalachian Mountains and what was to the west of them.

Jefferson and Fry were two of the men whose dream to capture the West burned into their souls. As they met together with the other three leaders of the Loyal Land Company, all they could talk about was how their dream would one day be fulfilled.

Thomas Jefferson was born April 13, 1743. All through his early childhood,

he learned about the vision of his father and his Pa's four friends. Not only did he hear about it in his home, but also when he went to church. Rev. James Maury was one of the men with the dream, and he was the pastor of the church in Fredericksville parish in Albemarle Co., Virginia. Young Thomas Jefferson also captured his father's dream from the inspiring sermons of Rev. Maury. If this wasn't enough, Rev. Maury started a school for boys, and Thomas Jefferson was one of his students. For several years, the future president of the USA and the author of the Declaration of Independence, sat at the feet of this man who inspired him to capture the West.

Thomas Jefferson carried this dream with him all the way to the President's House. He was 58 when he was elected to be the nation's leader. One of his first great accomplishments was acquiring the Louisiana Purchase from France for 15 million dollars, which doubled the size of the United States. This would enable him to finally take his father's dream all the way to the Pacific Ocean.

Jefferson appointed Capt. Meriwether Lewis to be his personal secretary. Young Lewis was the grandson of Thomas Meriwether, one of the five men who began the dream. Lewis was raised with the obsession of his grandfather's dream, and now he was faced with it daily in the presence of Jefferson, who embodied the dream. Next, Lewis was given the assignment by Jefferson to lead the Lewis & Clark Expedition and in 1803 (54 years after getting the grant) the dream of capturing the West finally became a reality.

This is the subject of my next book, which I am already writing. You must get the Rappahannock book to best enjoy the new book on Thomas Jefferson.

Prices Slashed!

When I published *The Peach Heroes*, I made the mistake of ordering many extra copies for my own inventory. To make matters worse, this book is 740 pages, which means the inventory of books I received is too large to store in my humble home.

I have come to the conclusion that I've got to part with these extra books ASAP. Therefore, I am drastically slashing the price of *The Peach Heroes* book by \$20. That means for the present time, you can get a monster of a book for only \$39.95 + \$8 shipping. I encourage you to take advantage of this now, as this price will only last until my inventory is depleted.

In this book you will find the Civil War records of all the Peaches, which side they were on, which regiments they belonged, and which battles they fought.

This is the only book that has the Texas Branch, the Kansas Branch, the Kentucky Branch, the Minnesota Branch, and the Pennsylvania Branch showing all of their known descendants

This book also updates the South Carolina Branch, providing more descendants that weren't in *The Peach Genealogies, Vol. 2*.

It also updates the Southern Maryland Branch with descendants not in *The Peach Genealogies, Vol. 1*.

The Peach Tree Handbook, Vol. III, the Marblehead Branch, also had extensive updates with hundreds of more descendants given.

Your Peach library isn't complete without this granddaddy of all my books. This would be a great time to think of a Christmas present that will last a lifetime. What about buying it as a present for one of your Peach relatives – a gift that will keep on giving?

A Great Children's Book

Joe M. Peach, nephew of Dorothy Asmus, wrote to me recently. "I am interested in ordering four *Peach/Peachey Bridges, Vol. I*. I want them for my daughter, sister, son and mother....I've got two great grandsons and will need to let them know their heritage."

Joe has the right idea because the *Bridges* book is chocked full of color illustrations all about knights and castles. This book was written to children and adults of all ages and will make perfect Christmas presents to be remembered forever.

Who wouldn't want their children and grandchildren to know about how they descended from nobility in France and England? Only nobles could possess castles and be knights in shining armor. Only nobles such as ours lived in the shadow of the kings, rubbing elbows with them and carrying out their wishes. This book shows graphically how we the Peaches and Peacheys descend from a knight under William the Conqueror, namely Guillaume Peche (a.k.a. William de Peche I).

Samuel Peachey was an immigrant ancestor to the Peacheys of colonial Virginia who are featured in my new *Rappahannock* book. He is shown in this *Peach/Peachey Bridges* book traced all the way back to the original Guillaume Peche.

I have a limited number of these books available, and it will be out of print when they are gone. You can get yours for \$29.95 + \$7 shipping. If you get two at the same time, there will be no charge for shipping after the first book.

Abe Lincoln's ties to the Peachey's

In the first chapter of my new book, I refer to Abraham Lincoln's grandfather as possibly being one of the large plantation owners in the Northern Neck. Our 16th President was quoted as saying, "My mother was a bastard, was the daughter of a nobleman so called of Virginia. My mother's mother was poor and credulous, and she was shamefully taken advantage of by the man." In an article in Dec. 1988 issue of *Northern Neck of Virginia Historical Magazine*, the claim is made that Lincoln's grandfather was possibly Col. **William Peachey** or Col. **Leroy Peachey**. Paul H. Verduin is quoted in part. (Note: Lucey Hanks was the mother of Nancy Hanks, Abe Lincoln's mother).

LUCEY HANK'S

GENTLEMEN-PLANTER NEIGHBORS

"In the search for Lincoln's missing grandfather, the logical beginning point is Griffin Murdock Fauntleroy (1759-1794), the sill-young co-employer of Lucey's father, the Hankses possible landlord, one of the two members of the gentry her father successfully sued, through an attorney, in 1785. A native of Lunenburg Parish, which formed the western half of Richmond County-the part where Landon Carter, Robert Bladen Carter, John Tayloe, and Francis Lightfoot Lee lived - he was one of twelve legitimate children of Colonel William Fauntleroy (1713-1793) of Naylor's Hole....Colonel William's eldest daughter, Griffin's half-sister, had been courted by George Washington in 1752. near his plantation....

"After marrying and moving to North Farnham Parish, Griffin Fauntleroy began serving in various public

capacities: Church-of-England parish vestryman, lieutenant in the militia, guardian of two orphans, road surveyor. He enlarged his North Farnham plantation (later called "Mars Hill") in 1782 and 1790...There is no particular reason to suspect that Griffin Murdock Fauntleroy had an extra-marital affair with his employee-and-probable tenant's daughter, Lucey Hanks. But given the concurrent behavior of his own aging father, and the natural opportunities he might have had to manipulate and take advantage of a tenant-employee's daughter, he deserves close scrutiny.

"Richard Beale (1759-1819), of course, was Joseph Hanks' other employer, and a neighbor just across Farnham Creek. He was the son of William Beale (d.1778), who was also prominent in the county. Both a brother and a sister of Richard were married to children of Landon Carter of Sabine Hall, an extremely wealthy and powerful figure in the county and one of Virginia's leading patriotic statesmen during the opening years of the Revolution. Young Richard Beale, who was about seven years older than his neighbor Lucey Hanks, rose quickly in public life. After marrying early to Alice Griffin Colston, he was already, at 23 (on June 3, 1782) sworn in as one of the "gentlemen justices" of the county court, where he served on the bench for many years. In 1783, he conducted the state-mandated census for the eastern part of Richmond County, and was appointed as a tax commissioner. By 1791 he was county sheriff, and in 1795-96 served as a member of the Virginia House of Delegates.

"Beale and his wife had just three children. Beale was a highly responsible, success-oriented member of the Richmond County gentry, and as such it seems unlikely that he would

have engaged in an extra-marital relationship. But like all of Lucey Hanks' neighbors, as much as possible needs to be uncovered concerning him. Living less than three miles south of Lucey Hanks was Colonel **William Peachey** (1729-1802) of Milden Hall, perhaps the most prominent personage in the immediate vicinity. Peachey had been associated with George Washington in both the French-and-Indian War, and the war of the American Revolution. A captain in the former war, he served during the Revolution as a colonel in the Fifth Regiment, and was involved in Washington's surprise attack on the Hessians at Trenton in December, 1776. Later he directed army intelligence communication across the Potomac River. A 1781 letter of his to Virginia governor Thomas Jefferson urged the protection of militia supplies, which he was procuring, from British pirates and their Tory accomplices. Between 1778 and 1781, Peachey served as a delegate in the Virginia General Assembly. In May of 1782 he succeeded Francis Lightfoot Lee (one of the two Stratford Hall Lee brothers who signed the Declaration of Independence), as a Northern Neck senator in the state senate, where he served a two-year term. He was also a state-appointed revenue collector of the Rappahannock River (1783), and sheriff of Richmond County (1796). He kept a large library at Milden Hall. William Peachey was a quintessential Virginia blueblood.

"It can be stated with certainty that Colonel **William Peachey** knew Joseph Hanks. When, on New Year's eve of 1763 (i.e., December 31, 1762) **William Peachey** and his brother **Leroy Peachey** signed a contract entering into a five-year business partnership in the financing of Leroy's operation of a ferry

across the Rappahannock from Leroy's home near Suggetts Point, the witnesses to the document were Billington McCarty (who possessed a large plantation nearby) and someone who simply marked the document with "x"-Joseph Hanks. One wonders what the lowly Joseph Hanks was doing in the presence of these notables on a New Year's eve. **Leroy Peachey**, who lived not far away at the plantation later called "Shandy Hall," was a colonel himself-in the county militia-and county clerk 1780-93. He owned land near Joseph Hanks succeeded him as road surveyor; and in 1779 Joseph was one of three local men appointed to "view" the route for a new road proposed by him. **Leroy Peachey** also operated an ordinary (tavern) at his ferry-house, which was located about three miles from the Hanks homestead. It would seem very unlikely that either Colonel **William Peachey** or Colonel **Leroy Peachey** could have taken the teen-age Lucey Hanks for a concubine given their active lives in the county, state and national affairs. But since their peer Colonel William Fautleroy had such an arrangement, they should not be entirely ignored from further study. Other planters living in the vicinity should also be studied in the search for the father of Lincoln's mother-individuals such as Thomas Plummer of what was later called Riverdale, and William McCarty of present-day Woodford on Farnham Creek. Unfortunately, the writer has not yet come across any personal papers-journals, account books, letters-that might shed further light. He hopes some of the readers might become partners in the search for such items. More information could also serve to clear the names of some of Lucey Hanks' neighbors from suspicion."