

# THE PEACH TREE

*Celebrating 29 years of bringing the  
Peach/Peachey heritage into homes  
throughout the world.*

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## Taking out the Telescope

I have been writing about Thomas Jefferson, believe it or not, to find out more connections to our Peach and Peachey families. I was able to find precious nuggets of our roots in England by leaving no stones unturned. I found the more I knew about the royal family, the better I could understand its connections with the Peche noble ancestry. Likewise, to discover the intricate history of colonial America gives me a clearer understanding of how the early Peach and Peachey families were related. I hope all my subscribers will join me on this exciting historical journey.

## Thomas Jefferson Roots of Religious Freedom

This is the final name for my latest biographical novel, now in the hands of the publisher. The book will be over 300 pages (larger than the last), and it will retail for a maximum of \$29.95. Please let me know if you want to order a copy. Here's a sampling of what the book is all about.

“A new church started in Charlottesville, Virginia, and Thomas Jefferson decided to go for a visit. The people assembled there called themselves the Lewis Mountain Baptist Church. Andrew Tribble was their pastor. When Tom entered their make shift of a building, he was in shock. What a stark difference from the Church of England buildings of which he was accustomed. This church didn't even look like the architecture of a church, with not even a sign in front indicating it was a place of worship. As he entered, he saw no prayer books in the rustic pews, nothing showing an order of worship and no religious symbols or stain glass windows.

What Tom saw seemed to be completely spontaneous. There was no rhyme or reason what would happen next. But he witnessed an excitement and enthusiasm in the congregation that was unique. He could tell the people were filled with exuberant joy when they sang, reminding him more of those who would sing and dance when he played for them on his fiddle.

The preacher then got up with his Bible in hand and had a fire in his voice as he railed against sin and abomination. Tom hadn't seen any emotion among the

ministry like that since his old revered school teacher, Reverend James Maury.

After their church service ended, they held their monthly business meeting. Although Tom was not a member, he decided to find out what it was all about. As a vestryman for his church, he knew the twelve members of the vestry made the decisions for his Anglican church. In this little Baptist church, every member had a vote, as well as a voice. He didn't hear any women speak because they respected the leadership of their husbands. But no restrictions were held regarding time or subject when it came to the men's deliberations.

Jefferson was so impressed with what he saw that day that he returned again and again. He arranged to meet personally with Pastor Tribble. He learned right away the minister didn't want to be called "reverend" or any titles normally associated with the clergy. After a Sunday service, he gladly welcomed Thomas Jefferson to come to his home for dinner.

Tom entered a humble home and ate a simple meal with the preacher and his family. No slaves were there to serve them. The preacher's wife did all the cooking and serving, refusing even to sit down until all were served. As soon as something else was needed at the table, up she jumped and quickly retrieved it.

After dinner and the children were dismissed, the pastor was interested to find out what Jefferson thought of the services. By this time, he knew how significant a man was sitting before him. What his guest said in response never escaped the memory of the preacher.

"Pastor Tribble, as I carefully observed your business meeting, I believe it would be the best plan of government for the American colonies."

At that point neither man knew how that little dinner meeting would possibly lead to the rights for religious liberty or for the *Declaration of Independence*. One thing was for sure. All the services Thomas Jefferson attended at that little Baptist church in Charlottesville made an indelible impression upon what he was destined to write.

Since the Baptist church only met once a month, Tom began attending Sunday meetings at the Albemarle County Courthouse. He called it "the common temple", as there was a different denomination represented each week. This introduced Jefferson to many styles and methods of worship. He saw they all believed in the same God and the same Jesus as did the Church of England. During that time, he continued to pursue his struggle against the state church concept that came from the British."

## **N. Maryland Branch**

Tom Peach from Calhoun, Georgia, found out about me and wrote: "I know you published a book a few years ago (I think it was a follow-up to your original Peach book), and I would like to purchase a copy if it is available."

Tom told me that he was the son of Edmund C. Peach, Sr. of Granite, Maryland. Therefore, I told him of his ancestry from Rutland, ENGLAND, which is found in detail in *The Peach/Peachey Migrations, 1066-1990*, which he promptly ordered. Our hats off to Tom. "I am currently retired from sales and marketing," he writes, "and have returned to my first love - teaching. I work at a local high school assisting teachers with special education kids."

## New York Peaches

Catherine Hopkins writes: "The Peach Migrations book is extremely interesting and enjoyable reading. As far as I know, am not in the direct line of Robert English Peach. Here is what I know now.

"Catherine Peach Willis was my great grandma. Her dad was Robert Peach who died in 1922 at age 84. Catherine Willis signed the death certificate. From his documents John Peach was his father and Bridget English was his mother. Matt Peach and another Michaeleen on Ancestry....we are trying to find the connection. What I see from the census Catherine had two brothers, John and George. Michaeleen on ancestry is in the George Peach line. I have ordered Catherine Peach's birth certificate from NY for two different years since there are two different dates of birth in the census records. Also, one census has a Robert, George and John and the next census has Catherine but no Robert. This suggests Robert died at a young age. My brother and I have come to the conclusion we need to go and spend a day in the NY Schwartzman Record building and find the records.

"We have a puzzle to solve. Thank you again for your project. The benefit is unending which my family is enjoying."

**Editor:** If anyone can help Catherine with her quest, please contact yours truly.

## Minnesota Branch

Pat Carlson took a giant step forward when she ordered *The Peach/Peachey Bridges, Vol. I*. She already had *The*

*Peach/Peachey Migrations* and *The Peach Heroes*. She's now trying to build the bridge between the proven English records and her branch from Minnesota. If anyone can help her with this, please let us know. John H. Peach

## Overseas Peach/Peachey's

A lady named "Ann" from Yorkshire, ENGLAND, recently found out about our Peach Tree Project and ordered *The Peach/Peachey Migrations, 1066-1990*. In her first contact with me, she wrote:

"I do hope you will not mind me writing to you, I have been researching my family name and I believe that it probably started as Peche or something similar, I think you have done a lot of work on this and would love to hear from you."

Ann has ordered the book and is pursuing her new-found ancestry. Thanks to each of you who keep this Peach Tree Project alive for those like Ann.

Michael Peachey from Sydney, AUSTRALIA wrote to me lately saying, "I am interested in your book and the Peachey genealogy and if we are or have descendants from England or America or Canada. I am an Indigenous Australian of Aboriginal descent but I remember my father saying years ago we have Non-Indigenous heritage also and he thought it was English. Is your book available in Australia it would be good to have a read. Didn't know there was so many Peachey's from so many different places as well."

Since then, Michael has ordered *The Peach/Peachey Migrations*. It's great to see his enthusiasm for his noble ancestry.

## SC Branch News

Recently, my cousin Ronald Peach of Friendsville, TN accompanied me to the Trentham Reunion in Gatlinburg, TN. (The Trenthams are identical with the Tranthams, with just a variant spelling). While there, I acquired a framed picture of the Trentham Hall in Staffordshire, England. (It looks more like a castle and was the seat of the Duke of Sutherland, visited by the Prince and Princess of Wales). Not long ago, we found the South Carolina Peaches came from Staffordshire also.

The significance of this is that the Peaches and Tranthams were intertwined in marriage shortly after their arrival from England to America. The Tranthams moved to middle Tennessee first, with the Peaches following soon thereafter. It's now a possibility they knew of each other before they left England.

Kathy Johnson of Oklahoma, my 4<sup>th</sup> cousin once removed, visited my wife and I with her husband, Larry, just last week. Although she was a major source person for *The Peach Heroes* book, she and I never had met personally before. We had a most enjoyable visit.

Joan Bryant contacted me for the first time in the past week. Her husband is part of the SC Branch who wound up in Mississippi. She writes:

"I am married to Adam Bryant. His Grandmother is Rebecca Jane Peach. Born in Mississippi 1861. We have just started looking for ancestors. Adam is 67. His parents died when he was young. He doesn't have much to go on to find any living family. Any information would be appreciated. Thanks in advance for any help you can offer."

## Sale on Books

*The Peach Heroes* that sells for \$59.95 is what I call my monster book. With 740 pages, it is the largest book I have written. For a limited time, I am offering a \$20 discount off this book simply because I overstocked it. This is only for a LIMITED TIME. 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.

My most popular book and a standard textbook for all Peach genealogy going back to 650 A.D. is *The Peach/Peachey Migrations, 1066-1990*. This book sells for \$39.95, but I have some embellished copies that I will sell for a \$10 discount. The only thing wrong with them is they have a few discolored marks on the edges of the pages. Please include \$7 for shipping.

*On the Banks of the Rappahannock* - \$29.95 + \$7 shipping. This is my first historical novel. It's a captivating story of romance and mystery in colonial Virginia. This book is the first one offered in my new Peach Lending Library.

### Act! for America

In the past year, yours truly has founded the Knoxville chapter of Act! for America. This is a national organization that stands against the institution of Sharia law in America and the infiltration of radical Muslims. For more information, go to <http://www.actforamerica.org/welcome/>. If you are involved with this fine organization in your area, please let me know. John H. Peach

## New Book Sample

Here's a page taken from my new book, *THOMAS JEFFERSON – Roots of Religious Freedom*. This illustrates his personal involvement with the Peacheys. I had the privilege of visiting present-day Castle Hill, where I saw the original house and majestic rolling hills at the base of the Southeast Mtns.

“In late summer of 1755, Peter Jefferson heard that his close neighbor and family physician, Thomas Walker, had guests visiting at his Castle Hill estate. They were the Peacheys from Richmond County on the Northern Neck. Following breakfast, Peter enticed his son away from one of his books long enough to visit their neighbors.

“Thomas, come now, our carriage is ready to roll.”

“Pa, why don't we ride our horses to the Walkers?”

“No, I want us to go in style this morning. Besides, your mother is going with us. We need to make a favorable impression on the Peacheys.”

“Pa, are the Peacheys any kin to the Walkers?”

“Yes, Susanna Peachey was Dr. Walker's mother. That is her nephew, William Peachey, and his family.”

“So that would make Jack Walker the grandson of Susanna Peachey.”

“That's right, Tom. Now let's get on our way before they leave Castle Hill.”

As the Jefferson coach arrived at the Walker's spacious great house, it reminded Tom how much he missed Tuckahoe. The Randolph mansion of his childhood was so much larger and extravagant than his home at Shadwell. Dr. Walker and Jack came out to greet the Jeffersons as they stepped down from the carriage.

“Welcome to Castle Hill, Peter. To what do we owe the honour of your visit?”

“You told me that you would have your kinsfolk visiting you, and I thought we might

come to get to know them.” Peter Jefferson responded.

“That was quite thoughtful of you, Peter. What a pleasure to see you brought your wife and son. I want all my family to meet them.” Dr. Walker greeted each one of them individually before inviting them into his home, where he introduced them to his guests.

“Come here, Peacheys. I want you to meet the Jeffersons.” After they all had stood together as in a reception line, the doctor gave the following announcement.

“I hereby present to you Peter and Jane Randolph Jefferson and their twelve-year old son, Thomas.”

“And to the Jeffersons, I introduce you to William and Million Glascock Peachey, their young children, Samuel and Winifred; and Will's three brothers, Samuel, Thomas Griffin, and LeRoy.”

“I just call them Sam, Tom, and Roy,” William smiled and gave the Jeffersons a wink of his eye.

After they politely greeted each other, Dr. Walker escorted Peter and Jane Jefferson to the parlor, along with William and Million Peachey and Walker's wife, the former Mildred Thornton Meriwether. A Negro house slave served them tea with plum pudding and sweet bread rings. The doctor started asking how Peter's health had been. That was when the Peacheys found that Peter Jefferson was not only one of Walker's friends, neighbors and colleagues, but he was also one of his regular patients.

Thomas Jefferson chose to head outside, where Sam, Tom and Roy Peachey joined him. “How are you fellows related to Doctor Walker?” Young Jefferson asked as he strolled down a winding path leading away from the house.

“He's our first cousin,” Sam replied, as he and the others followed in stride.

“Thomas, you live out here in the woods. What excitement do you have around here?” They waited a moment for the tall red-head youth to answer.



“You wouldn’t believe all the important people who come our way.” Tom stopped for a moment in his tracks and assumed a teaching posture. “When I was just a lad of six, that young man named George Washington came to Shadwell. He spent the night at our house. Lord Fairfax, who controlled all that Shenandoah area, sent Washington to survey his property. My father was one of those who led the expedition team. The other was Joshua Fry, who was both the professor of mathematics at William and Mary and the royal surveyor.”

“You mean the George Washington who is the son of Mary Ball?” Roy was stirred with emotion.

“That’s right. I didn’t know that at the time, and at six years old, I didn’t much care. However, when I got older I was aware of all the adventures of that young officer. I heard he had a letter from the governor he was to deliver to the French authorities at Fort Le Boeuf on the Ohio River. I know you fellows have a lot more questions than that. So please just let me tell you the whole story, and hopefully your questions will be answered.”

The Peachey brothers’ eyes glanced toward each other in apparent disbelief. That Jefferson fellow was quite witty for a twelve-year old. They could tell he was more mature than those they knew who were much older. They found he was an avid reader and spent a lot of time with their uncle. He said Dr. Walker’s expeditions gave him the desire to explore all the way to the Pacific. George Washington, as well as his father, stirred his aspirations of being a surveyor and an explorer. He was anxious to find out how much land was available between the Atlantic and the Pacific oceans.

“I was surprised to know that Washington would be trusted with such an awesome responsibility in only his early twenties.” Jefferson continued.

“The letter was telling the French they were on English property and to leave immediately. Well, I didn’t hear any more from Washington until the following spring.

He was ordered by Gov. Dinwiddie to go to Fort Duquesne and take it by force. Later on that year, I heard the French got the better of him, and he was forced to surrender.”

“That doesn’t sound good for us.” Sam offered.

“I’m afraid your right, Sam. I predict it won’t be long before we are at all-out war with the French. You mark my words. That day is sure to come.”

During the lengthy stroll around the grounds of Castle Hill, Thomas Jefferson asked many questions about how the Peachey and Glascocks got their start in Virginia. They told him about how their great grandfather, Samuel Peachey, came to America about 1659 from Mildenhall, Suffolk, in England. He acquired a six-hundred acre plantation on the banks of the Rappahannock River in what became known as Richmond County, Virginia. There, he built his great house he called Mildenhall, named after his place of birth. That has been the homestead for five generations of Peachey’s.....

“How is Doctor Walker related?” the young Jefferson quizzed them.

“We’ve been told his grandfather, John Walker, came from Staffordshire, England to Virginia sometime before 1650,” Sam said with practical certainty. “His son, Thomas, married Susanna, daughter of William and Phebe Peachey of Mildenhall. Their oldest daughter, Mary Peachey Walker, married Dr. George Gilmer, a noted physician in Williamsburg, where he also served as mayor.”

“Dr. Thomas Walker was one of his sons,” added Roy, “and he was trained in medicine by his brother-in-law, Dr. Gilmer, a Scottish graduate of the renowned Edinburgh University,”

“Dr. Walker then married Mildred Thornton, the widow of the wealthy Nicholas Meriwether,” said Tom Peachey, “That is how they acquired that large plantation.”

“Your Uncle Walker has certainly made a name for himself,” responded Jefferson. “I’m so glad he’s doing all he can to fulfill the dream of capturing the West.”