

# Olde Dobbs Trail

Newsletter of the OLD DOBBS COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

P. B. Box 617, Goldsboro, NC 27533

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APR-MAY-JUNE 1994

VOL 9 - NOS. 10,11, & 12

## LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Friends in Research:

I was reminded of the impact our ancestors have made on history, while watching the D-Day observances on television. As I watched those who served and heard the heartfelt comments about those who died, my heart went out to all of those being honored. I thought of how we keep alive and honor those of our ancestors with our countless hours of research. How we spend time before a small screen looking for the most minute detail which just might fill in that missing piece of the ancestral puzzle. Our ancestors may not have stormed the beaches at Normandy on D-Day but the beaches that they did storm, the streams and rivers they forged and the mountains they climbed, the log cabins they built and the children they sired, their very existence had a most profound influence on our very lives today. This Father's Day let each of us pause to remember those men (and women) at Valley Forge, Bentonville, Belleau Wood, Normandy, and all the other places around the world where freedom was at risk. Let us honor all of those who made it possible for the ones who did become Fathers so the cycle could continue.

The next meeting of Old Dobbs County Genealogical Society will be June 18, 1994, 11:30 at Western Sizzlin. Our speaker will be Donna Kelly, N.C. Division of Archives and History, N.C. Cemetery Survey Project, who will speak on the importance of these surveys.

We will also have information on the revised By laws of the Wayne County Historical Association.

Hope to see you all there.

*Elizabeth*

# FFV: The first father of Virginia, circa 1609

{ article removed for copyright restrictions }

THOMAS BEST  
b. 1602 Eng.  
m. a1634  
d. c1660  
MARY  
b. c1610  
d.

Note: My Maternal Grandmother:  
Barbara Ann Fields &  
My Maternal Grandfather:  
John Moses Newborn  
both descend from this  
Best family. B.A.F. from  
\*Henry & J.M.M.\*Benjamin.

Note: 1635 - Thomas Best - age 33 years -  
from England to Virginia (Elizabeth City  
County) James River. 1635-33=1602 (IEM).

SONS:

<p>RICHARD BEST b. c1634 d. a1640 *Cavaliers &amp; Pioneers /d. 1683 (Will) by Nell Marlon Nugent/Isabella Rye/Rey Vol.I-pgs. 47, 125/6/b. c1640 173, 271,297,329/30, /d. c1700 Vol.II: 75, 175, Vol./Children: III: 97, 9/10, for /Thomas Best III Thomas Best &amp; family./Peter Best (names) (I.E.M.) /Mary Isabella Best *Note: Thos. Best Jr in Will 24 7ber 1683 sends bro. Henry's dau. Mary to school &amp; mentions care./self, wife Mary, John Jr, /plantatation in Nansemond dau. Jane. Certificate. /Co Va. Deed, I of W Co Va, *These two items from 17th Century I of W Co Va - Boddie. pgs. 549, 580,</p>	<p>THOMAS BEST JR b. c1636 m. c1660 /d. 1683 (Will) Mary d. c1700 Children: John Best Jr Jane Best *Note: John Best Jr m. Martha Hill - no descendants. *Note: John Best 9 Feb 1666/1678 gives to brother 250 acres,importation of /Henry &amp; wife Hannah a /plantatation in Nansemond dau. Jane. Certificate. /Co Va. Deed, I of W Co Va, *These two items from 17th Century I of W Co Va - Boddie. pgs. 549, 580,</p>	<p>JOHN BEST b. c1638 m. c1660 d. c1710 Mary b. c1640 d. c1700 Children: John Best Jr Jane Best *Note: John Best Jr m. Martha Hill - no descendants. *Note: John Best 9 Feb 1666/1678 gives to brother 250 acres,importation of /Henry &amp; wife Hannah a /plantatation in Nansemond dau. Jane. Certificate. /Co Va. Deed, I of W Co Va, *These two items from 17th Century I of W Co Va - Boddie. pgs. 549, 580,</p>	<p>PETER BEST b. c1640 m. c1665 d. 1693 (Will) Anne (1); Mary (2) b. c1645 d. Children: William Best Christopher Best Peter Best Jr Thomas Best *Note: Peter Best 9 Sept / Craven Co. ' 1712 1746 1758 1743/4 1712 1746 1758 1743/4</p>	<p>HENRY BEST b. c1642 m. c1670 d. 1706/7 Inventory Appraisal Hannah b. c1645 d. c1710 Children: Mary Best Henry Best Jr m. Mary (unknown) 'To NC 1742</p>
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HENRY BEST JR m. MARY (UNKNOWN) b. a1696 VA - to NC 1742 - d. c1759/60 - Craven/Johnston/Dobbs Co's NC. 'Land Grants'  
Sons documented:  
HENRY BEST III (Rev. War) (Lt.) JOHN BEST  
Note: I found pay voucher for m. Bannah  
Henry Best the same time I Children:  
found my Benjamin's voucher Martha 'Patty' Best  
at Secretary of State's Benjamin Best  
Office in Raleigh, NC. John Best  
'John Austin Best of 'The Rebecca Best  
Hill' Augusta, Georgia, Elizabeth Best  
wrote 5 July 1929; that Absolum Best  
he was a descendant of Howel(1) Best  
Henry Best  
Henry Best III, son of Ethelred Best  
Henry Best(Jr) of Dobbs, Reddin Best  
County NC.'

WILLIAM BEST  
m. Catherine  
Children:  
John Best  
'other children  
mentioned'  
Catherine Best  
Will 9 May 1813  
Children:  
Mary Best  
Elizabeth Best  
Niece:  
Catherine Frederick  
Grandson:  
John William Best

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Niece:  
Catherine Frederick  
Grandson:  
John William Best

This Henry Best Jr built 'White House' Greene Co NC

# Royall-Best wedding, 1917

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*Let's try to save* **GRAND VICTORIAN HOUSE ONCE WAS THE CENTER OF ACTIVITY IN WARSAW**  
*this old BEST home, Ed.*

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# Church hoping to give old home new lease on life

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January 24, 1994

Mr. and Mrs. Charles B. Ellis

{address removed}

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Ellis:

I must tell you how much I have enjoyed receiving the quarterly newsletter of the Old Dobbs County Genealogical Society. As you may remember, I have traced the family of my maternal grandmother, the Brewtons/Brutons, from Georgia back to old Dobbs County. Last year I was fortunate enough to find my first piece of evidence that my North Carolina Brutons came from St. Paul Parish in Stafford County, Virginia.

Since that time I have begun collecting information on my maternal grandfather's family, the Braggs of Georgia. As fate would have it, my earliest Georgia Bragg was married with Mary Sasser, daughter of Thomas and Clarissa Sasser from North Carolina. This family apparently lived in Craven County, close to where my Brutons once lived. In the summer issue of *Olde Dobbs Trail*, you listed in the queries that you have information on the origins of John Sasser. I would welcome any information that you could provide on this man. I am also writing to Rosalyn Sasser Perdue, who listed the Sasser query, to ask for her help. I have not yet been able to determine from where the Braggs originated outside Georgia. Have you seen this name in the old Craven County records near the Sassers?

I assume that you are aware of Claudia Chitwood Weller's book, *Of One Dozen Sassers*, which she published in 1981.

{address removed}

Thank you for your assistance. I look forward to hearing from you!

Cordially,

{address removed}

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Brian: Thomas Barnes, b. ca 1645 - Planter Isle of Wight Co, VA married Dianna "Ann" BRAGG by 1666 VA. She was the daughter of James BRAGG, d. 1670 and his wife Elizabeth \_\_\_\_\_. This info fm {address removed}

By 1760 the BARNES family was in Edgecombe Co, N.C. It is not known by this Ed if any of the BRAGG family came with them. You might research through these two areas. Ed.

# On to Richmond!

## Four Centuries of Family History



12-15 October 1994 ♦ Richmond, Virginia

Sponsored by the Federation of Genealogical Societies and the Virginia Genealogical Society

More than 50 nationally known lecturers and regional experts  
More than 120 sessions geared to every skill level — novice to professional  
Excellent Richmond-area research facilities and historical sites  
Unique pre-conference Society Management Seminar  
Abundant genealogical products and supplies in the exhibit hall

To receive the registration materials in Spring 1994, contact:

On to Richmond!  
Federation of Genealogical Societies  
P.O. Box 3385  
Salt Lake City, UT 84110-3385  
Phone 801/254-2785

**A Conference for the Nation's Genealogists**

Twenty-two month old Miles had strange gray spots appear in one of his eyes. Hmmm, thought mom, what's this? Hmmm, said the pediatrician, "Better see a specialist, it's probably nothing, **BUT.....**" Needless to say, mom made an appointment immediately. Hmmm, worried mom as they waited in the reception room. Not knowing what to think, mom braced for news. "Hmmm," said the ophthalmologist, "**.....Tell me about his heritage.**"

This was the last question I expected to be asked. I had already answered the usual family medical history questions about glaucoma, high blood pressure, diabetes and cataracts. But his "heritage" Hmmm. Asking a genealogist to 'talk' about family history is like turning on the 'Eveready Rabbit'. Once we get started nothing stops a genealogist, we keep talking and talking and talking..... Just ask any relative not interested in genealogy!

"Hmmm," I thought, "Would he like to hear the story about Miles' great-great grandfather who was a 'bad' mule trader? Or perhaps the one about the Mohawk Indian from upstate New York. No, he probably wants the statistical breakdown— genes from which continents!

### **Putting the GENE back into Genealogy**

Only hours before going to the ophthalmologist, I picked up the March newsletters from the printer. Each month the printer writes something goofy on our box, this month it was GENE-ology. "Hm," I thought as I read it on the counter, "**This** is something to think about."

On the bedside table I have Myra Vanderpool Gormley's book, Family Diseases. Are You at Risk? (Genealogical Publishing Co, Baltimore MD, 1989, \$14.95). I have been trying to find the time to read it for over six months, but made little progress until now. Maybe after my expensive trip to the doctor's office I will make the time to get the chart in order.

Durham - Orange Genealogical Society,





State of North Carolina, }  
 Office of the Register of Deeds,  
 Wayne County, N.C. *George* 1878

To my Original Minister of any Religion Denomination or any Justice of the Peace of said County:  
*Edw. J. Brantley* having applied to me for a License for the marriage of *David J. Brantley* aged *30* years color *white*, the son of *Samuel H. Brantley* Polly *Esther* color *white*, the mother *Levina*, resident of *Wayne Co.* And *the daughter of William M. Brantley* a god *son* years color *white*, daughter of *William M. Brantley* and *Mary Brantley* the father *Levina* the mother *Levina* resident of *Wayne Co.*

And the written consent of *Samuel H. Brantley* the father *Levina* the mother *Levina* resident of *Wayne Co.* to the proposed marriage having been filed with me

And there being no legal impediment to such marriage known to me, you are hereby authorized, at any time within one year from the date hereof, to celebrate the proposed Marriage at any place within the said county.

You are required within two months after you shall have celebrated such marriage to return this License to me, at my office, with your signature subscribed to the certificate under this License, and with the blanks therein filled according to the facts, under penalty of forfeiting two hundred dollars to the use of *Wayne Co.* the State of Deeds.

State of North Carolina,  
 Wayne County,  
 I, *L. H. Brantley*, as *Justice of the Peace*, united in matrimony *David J. Brantley* and *Esther*, the parties licensed above, on the *16* day of *March*, 1878 at *the home of Mrs. Brantley* in *Wayne Co.* Township, in said County, according to law.

Witness my hand at *Waynesville*  
*L. H. Brantley*  
 Justice of the Peace

1. Name of person marrying. 2. Name of the State. 3. Name of the County. 4. Name of the Minister of the Gospel or Justice of the Peace. 5. Name of the place where the marriage is celebrated. 6. Name of the day and month. 7. Name of the parties. 8. Name of the witnesses. 9. Name of the Register of Deeds.

STATE OF NORTH-CAROLINA,  
 Wayne County.

TO ANY REGULAR MINISTER OF THE GOSPEL HAVING THE CARE OF SOULS, OF WHATEVER DENOMINATION, OR ANY JUSTICE OF THE PEACE FOR SAID COUNTY:

You, or any of you, are hereby Licensed and Authorized to celebrate and solemnize the Rites of Matrimony between *Edward Brantley* and *Smithy Jane Best*, and join them together as man and wife.

Witness, *Benjamin* Clerk of the County Court for said County, this *21* day of *March* A. D., 18*77*.

*Benjamin* Clerk.

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA,  
 Wayne County.

I hereby certify, that I solemnized the Rites of Matrimony between *Edward Brantley* and *Smithy Jane Best*, at *Wayne Co.* on the *24* day of *March*, A. D. 18*77*.

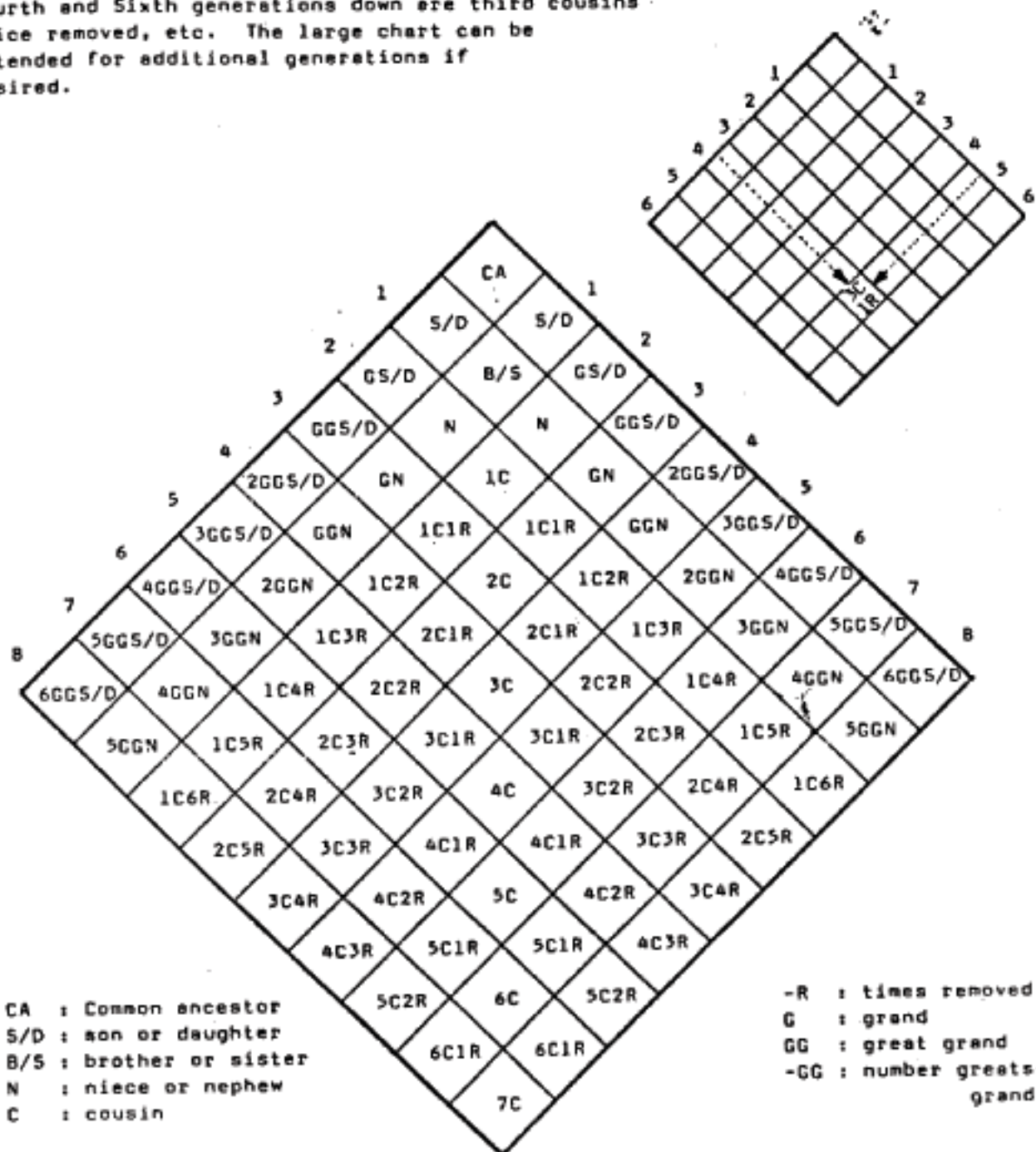
*D. H. Brantley*

Several of our members have suggested that we reprint this page for the information of the many new members who have joined our ranks since the chart appeared

### EXPLAINING THOSE RELATIONSHIPS

To determine the relationship of two persons descended from a common ancestor, count the number of generations each is removed from the common ancestor. If, for instance, each is four generations down, they are third cousins. If one is the fourth generation and the other the fifth generation, then they are third cousins once removed (or, one generation removed). The smaller chart shows an illustration of this relationship.

Fourth and Sixth generations down are third cousins twice removed, etc. The large chart can be extended for additional generations if desired.





The OLD DOBBS COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY, a major component of the Wayne County Historical Association, is pleased to inform those interested, of the availability of publications which might be of interest to historians and/or genealogist.

Books available from OLD DOBBS COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY  
P.O. Box 617  
Goldsboro, N.C. 27533-0617

- OLD DOBBS COUNTY RECORDS (530 pages).....\$50.00  
Contents: Ancestral Charts, Bible Records, Cemetery information and Inscriptions, Election Records, Military Records, Old Waynesborough Residents, Tax Records, and a Will Index of 1195 names.
- EARLY MARRIAGE RECORDS OF WAYNE & JOHNSTON COUNTIES.....\$40.00
- MARRIAGE RECORDS OF WAYNE COUNTY, VOL II, 1900-1940.....\$50.00

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Books available from: WAYNE COUNTY HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION  
P.O. Box 665  
Goldsboro, N.C. 27533-0655

- ARCHITECTURAL INVENTORY OF GOLDSBORO, N.C......\$17.50  
Contents: Photographs/descriptions of historic buildings
- WAYNE COUNTY HERITAGE BOOK.....\$40.00  
Contents: County history, more than 900 family histories.
- GRAVESTONE INSCRIPTIONS.....\$35.00  
Contents: An Inventory of most Cemeteries in Wayne County
- HISTORY OF WAYNE COUNTY-N.C......\$20.00  
Contents: A series of local history stories written for the Bicentennial of Wayne County-1979. mentions many early families: Pikes, Deans, Everett, McKinne, Fulghum, Aycock, Sasser, Grantham and many more.

Prices reflect all costs including postage and handling, as of  
1 June 1994.

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Elizabeth Gordon Ellis (Mrs. Charles B.)  
President  
Old Dobbs County Genealogical Society

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Mary Grady (Mrs. Richard)  
President  
Wayne County Historical Association

OLD DOBBS COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

Wayne County Historical Association

PURPOSE

To preserve the history of Old Dobbs County and the history and genealogy of its families.

To promote friendship and exchange information.

ADVANTAGES OF MEMBERSHIP

Quarterly issues of the newsletter "OLDE DOBBS TRAIL"

Free Queries in the newsletter for members.

Guest speakers and lecturers at meetings.

MEETINGS

Meetings: Fourth Saturday of September, December, March and June

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APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP OR RENEWAL  
(Annual Membership from 1 July to 30 June)

Date \_\_\_\_\_  
\$10.00 Single Member \_\_\_\_\_ \$15.00 Joint Members (same Address \_\_\_\_\_)

New Member \_\_\_\_\_ Renewal \_\_\_\_\_

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

CITY: \_\_\_\_\_ STATE: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

COMMENTS:

## OFFICERS

President.....Elizabeth G. Ellis  
1st Vice President.....Sadie Whitfield  
Recording Secretary.....Marguerite Whitley  
Corresponding Secretary.....Margaret McClenny  
Treasurer.....Georgia Futrell  
Chaplain.....Charles B. Ellis

## COMMITTEES.

Newsletter.....Charles B. Ellis  
Membership.....  
Program.....Sadie Whitfield  
Budget and Finance.....Georgia S. Futrell  
Publications.....Mary E. Spiron

