

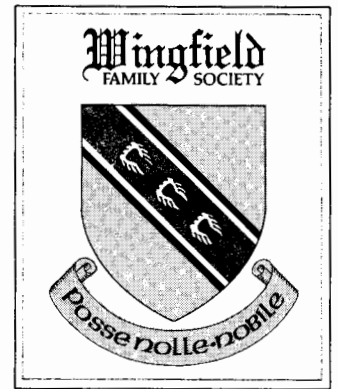
# newsletter

"Wynkefeld The Saxon held honor and fee, ere William The Norman came over the sea"

Vol. V, No. 4

... Ancient Suffolk England Rhyme

Autumn, 1991



## Its a go! WFS to publish "Some Records of a Wingfield Family"

### Our 2nd major book

Sometime before Christmas, if all goes well, the members that sent in pre-publication orders for the latest book that has under consideration by the WFS for publishing will get their copy or copies. It is being printed or will be very, very soon. Great news!

Susan and Terry Cavanagh have been working diligently since the May meeting and enough orders have been received for a definite go, and the printer now has the copy for photographing and printing. There has been a constant stream of letters and phone calls between the printer and the Cavanaghs to verify everything is just right. Susan and Terry even requested and inspected samples of the acid free paper that will be used. "Regular paper yellows and gets brittle after about 50 years," Susan tells us, "our book will last several lifetimes." We want to remind everyone that the "Muniments of the Ancient Saxon Family of Wingfield" was also printed on acid free paper, which is the policy of the WFS Publishing Committee for all major publications. It costs more, but well worth it.

The book revolves around the famous Tickencote picture with an interesting chapter about each member of the family shown in the picture. The period is two generations of a Wingfield family living in Suffolk, and Letheringham England in the middle of the 15th century.

The original painting of the Tickencote picture is still in the hands of the Wingfield family, namely John Parry-Wingfield of Empingham (near Tickencote), England. John and his charming wife Susan, are members of the WFS and it was through their cooperation that the Tickencote picture will be in full color in the book John had his valuable painting photographed in color and provided us with an enlarged print to make a plate for a color fontispiece in the book. Jocelyn Wingfield has provided better identification of each individual subject for even more interesting reading. Indeed it was John Parry-Wingfield's great-uncle who was the author and published the original book in 1925.

Wilsie Wingfield Carr purchased an origi-

**See page 26 - Publish**

### Photo Contest We have winners!

Who is the earliest born Wingfield captured on film in the early days of photography? We are happy to say we have three winners and several honorable mentions. The response was excellent and it was exciting to step back in time and actually see a true image of our Wingfield ancestors that were



**Cynthia Hudson Wingfield**

**Born 1797**

born almost 200 years ago.

A Frenchman by the name of Louis Jacques M. J. Nicéphore Niépce is considered the father of photography and the Daguerreotype was named for him. History says the first time a true photograph was made was April 1816 in Paris by Daguerre collaborating with another Frenchman by the name of Nicéphore Niépce. The world's first permanent photograph was an image of nature taken in 1816.

It was not, however until 1840 that portrait photography appeared in the United States and it required the subject to sit a full 3 minutes while the camera exposed the image. By 1845 photography studios were popping up all over the U.S. and the exposure time had shortened to one minute. It was affordable as some studios charged as little as \$2. By the time of the Civil War (1860s) photography had become a major industry. Although we do not know the dates the photos in this contest were taken we can be pretty sure none were made before 1845.

First place in our contest goes to Nancy Vaughan of Richmond, VA for a photo of Cynthia Hudson Wingfield who was born November 18, 1797 at Marl Ridge, VA. The copy of the photo was made from a fading daguerreotype and has been verified as authentic. Nancy gets a copy of the Muniments book (value \$155.).

Cynthia Hudson Wingfield's parents were Thomas Wingfield, Jr. and Rhoda Davis. Cynthia had at least two brothers and one sister. A sister married Governor Leake of Mississippi. Cynthia married Joseph Spottswood Wingfield in 1829 at Marl Ridge and had four children, Henry Wyatt Wingfield (a colonel in the Confederate Army), Sally Joiner Wingfield, Spottswood Adelon Wingfield, and Emma Jocynthia Wingfield.

**See Page 26 - Winners**

### Reno site of WFS 6th Annual meeting May 14-16, 1992

George Wingfield sometimes called the "King of Nevada" because of his influence and vast holdings, without question, made an impact on every citizen of that state for 50 years. Now you can see where it all happened at the 1992 WFS annual meeting.

Remnants of his presence is still in Reno and the WFS members attending the 6th Annual meeting in Reno will get to see many historical reminders. For example, Wingfield Park, in downtown Reno is a stones throw from his former home and is almost exactly as it was 45 years ago. The highly visible Riverside Hotel building still stands proudly awaiting renovation as well as his original Bank of Reno, now converted into a casino in the middle of town. Perhaps his greatest legacy is his contribution to the modern Nevada tourist economy, based on gambling and the availability of legalized "vices."

More on George Wingfield in the next issue, but be mindful the WFS is planning another western meeting that will excite and tantalize the members in an area meaningful to Wingfield history.

For those that want to try their luck,

**See Page 27 - Reno**

## From Page 25 - Publish

nal copy in England several years ago that is in excellent condition. Wilsie has loaned her book to the WFS and the printer is gingerly dismantling it, page by page for photographing. After the pages have all been photographed the book will be rebound and returned to Wilsie for her library. Of course the original book is not on acid free paper and Wilsie hardly lets anyone touch her book.

If you have not ordered your copy of



**Susan & Terry Cavanagh**

"Some Records of the Wingfield Family." you can still do so until December 1, 1991 at the lower price. After that it will cost more, depending on our final cost for printing and shipping. Pre-publishing price is \$29.00 per copy including postage anywhere in the U.S.

Mail your orders to: Wingfield Family Society, 301 Belleview Blvd., Belleair, FL 34616. Mark on your check, "Some Records book." Your book will be mailed as soon as it is received by the WFS from the printer.

## From Page 25 - Winners

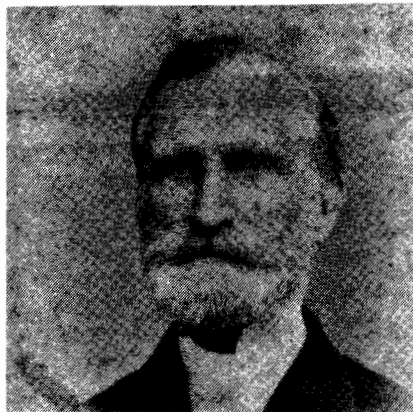
Cynthia inherited Marl Ridge from her father, who inherited it from his father, John. She raised a grandson, Henry Johnson, who would later write, "Grandmother was very small, nervous and quick in her movements. Her hair was black, inclined to wave. It never turned gray though she lived to be sixty six years old, twenty six beyond the period I am writing about, but she became very deaf and for the last sixteen years in her life she was blind." Cynthia Wingfield died in 1884.

Second Place goes to Benjamin G. Koonce of Raleigh, NC. Ben sent the actual original photo of Rev. John Henry Wingfield who was born on June 10, 1798 at Hanover County, VA. This was Ben's great (4 times) uncle, giving him the prize of a 2 year membership in the WFS (value \$50.).

It is interesting to note the studio's name and address is printed on the back of this photo, "Walter's Photograph Studio, No 21 E. Main Street, Opposite Market Square,

Norfolk, VA." Rev. John Henry Wingfield's parents were William and Eliza (Davis) Wingfield of Hanover County. Ben Koonce received the photograph through his maternal grandmother, Mary Wood McMullan, who was a great-great niece of Rev. John Henry Wingfield. The Reverend Wingfield became rector of Holy Trinity Church in Portsmouth, VA in 1821 after serving briefly in Halifax County. At that time the rectorship had been vacant since 1808 and Rev. Wingfield is credited with reviving the church. The Portsmouth Star (May 24, 1902) says, "In the troublous times following the Revolution there was little growth and when the Rev. John H. Wingfield took charge of the post in 1821 there were but eight or ten communicants. His faithful ministry, however, of over fifty years left its indelible impression on the church..." He is mentioned in Jocelyn Wingfield's "Echoes Down the Ages" as our Virginia cousin (Father of the Bishop of California) who was forced to sweep the streets of Portsmouth, Virginia, by the Yankees "for raising his head during the prayer for President Lincoln."

The high regard the parishioners had for Rev. Wingfield is evident today in the church. There are lovely stained glass windows me-

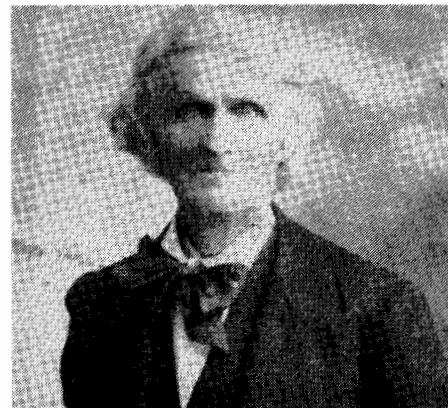


**Rev. John Henry Wingfield  
Born 1798**

morializing him behind the altar. Another window near the entrance is dedicated to his first wife, Elizabeth Swepson Wingfield (1804-1858). Ben also enclosed another photo (copy) taken at an earlier time of Rev. John Henry Wingfield as a younger man.

Third place goes to Betty Gamache with a photo of Joseph Fox Wingfield born in 1800 or 1801, in Albemarle County, Virginia. Betty wins a years membership in the WFS (value \$25.). Joseph Fox Wingfield was the son of Edward and Mary Susan (Hazelrig) Wingfield. Information about him has been handed down by Betty's great aunt Lucy Lelia Wingfield (Joseph Fox's granddaughter) to her daughter, Juditha Walker (also a WFS member) who shared this information with Betty. "Joseph Fox Wingfield had a very fair

complexion with blonde hair and blue eyes," according to Judith's mother who often remarked that he was actually considered not handsome, but pretty. Judith remarked, "I can't agree with this impression of him but I guess their opinions are based on whatever was popular at the time. He was very stern and extremely adamant, in absolute command at all times and would wield his authority when necessary to keep control. Feminine in appearance but masculine in manner and disposition."



**Joseph Fox Wingfield  
Born 1800/01**

Joseph Fox Wingfield was called "Big Joe" as he was 6'6" which was extremely tall for that day.

Other early Wingfields photos were received from: Mary Calder, Virginia Beach, VA; Ed Coussens, Des Plaines, IL; Gail Miller, Richmond, VA; Robert Meyer, Springfield, VA; Edwin Wingfield, Urbana, OH; Zella Morrow, Salem, OR.

Our thanks to all.

## Memorial Service for wife of inventor of Tennis Died 1934

A memorial service for Walter Wingfield's wife, Alice Lydia nee Cleveland was held on 3rd July at Kensal Green Cemetery, London attended by more than a dozen members of the Major Wingfield Club, an offshoot of the U. S. Lawn Tennis Association. Jocelyn Wingfield of London a Major Wingfield Club member, also represented the family and Wingfield Family Society.

After the loss of her mother, and three sons - all aged under 22 (drowned, died shooting accident) Alice entered a home in 1900 and died there in 1934. The Major Wingfield Club, in accordance with Walter's will, added Alice's name on his gravestone, her's having been vandalized.

See related story on Walter Wingfield the inventor of tennis and the Major Wingfield club elsewhere in this newsletter.

**From Page 25 - Reno**

casino gambling is, of course, legal in Nevada and no one will have any trouble finding a place to wager a few dollars. Stark realization of that fact hits one upon deplaning at the airport in Reno. Some casinos, believe it or not, still have 5 cent slot machines for those



**Reno**

**See what George left behind**

that want to limit their risk.

After seeing what's left from George Wingfield's dynamic presence in Reno, we

**newsletter**

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Dee Epps - Membership  
Linnie Mills - Wingfield Store  
Lee Preston - Genealogy  
Jocelyn Wingfield - Historian  
Vance Wingfield - Computer

**Elected:**

Maria Butler            Michael Walker  
Gerald Dutton        Bud Wingfield  
Dee Epps                Jocelyn Wingfield  
Ken Wingfield

For our members  
Single Issue Cost \$4.00

plan a picturesque drive to nearby Virginia City, to a 19th century western mining town for lunch and exploring.

Reno is known as the "Biggest Little City in the World." Most of the action is downtown, but this is only 10 minutes from the airport. Downtown parking is a problem and expensive. Though smaller than Las Vegas, it exudes the same glamour and excitement. There are shows, entertainment and inexpensive meals. Some hotels have lobbies that are luxurious casinos so large one needs a guide to find the registration desk.

For our meetings we have selected a hotel near the airport, the Airport Plaza Hotel. It is ideal for our group. First it is convenient for members arriving by air. Complimentary shuttle service is available to and from the hotel. Second it does not have the crowds and confusion of a massive casino hotel and third it is only ten minutes from downtown and all the action. The hotel provides free scheduled vans to the middle of Reno so everyone can still get the flavor of the action without the trouble of driving or the expense of a cab. The hotel is truly a gem with very nice rooms, an excellent restaurant and even a few slot machines, but no casino. It is small enough that we will be the only group meeting at the time. Perfect for the social aspect and fellowship of the Wingfields.

The price is extremely reasonable, \$62 per room per night, twin, \$56 single. Registration and hotel reservation forms will be sent about 3 months in advance.

For now, *mark down the dates:* May 14-16, 1992. Board members will be asked to arrive in time for a board of directors meeting on May 13 at 1 pm.

We urge all to come a day or two early to take advantage of the many things that will be going on in Reno and the area. It promises to be great fun and a fantastic meeting!

**Lawn Tennis Invented by Major Walter Copton Wingfield**

Major Walter Copton Wingfield (b. 1833) retired early from the British Army as a cavalry officer and still a young man. The English country gentlemen were becoming more and more sports oriented - the type that believed in keeping "fit" might go in for rowing, cricket or Rugby. Croquet was obviously a woman's game.

For centuries kings, monks, even Shakespeare played a form of handball in courtyards or monastery cloisters, with a primitive form of rackets appearing in the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries.

By 1874 court tennis was sparsely played without a net and with no standardization of rules. Truly it was not nearly as popular as ale guzzling, and the reputation for the game was

bad. Badminton had been introduced and received fairly wide acceptance.

This was the picture that confronted the energetic retired Major Wingfield in February of 1874. He was familiar with rackets and felt certain some of the earlier Wingfields had played primitive court tennis. He saw the need for an outdoor game, that perhaps even women could play. He proceeded to put together the required paraphernalia, court layout and rules for playing.

He succeeded in obtaining a patent for the game he called "Lawn Tennis" as it was originally to be played on lawns of the more affluent Englishmen. His invention consisted of an eight page pamphlet giving the rules of his game, some hints on play, and a diagram of the court. On the cover was the legend "Sphairistike or Lawn Tennis." The pamphlet itself was called "The Major's Game of Lawn Tennis, dedicated to the party assembled in Nantclwyd, Wales in December 1873."

It seems Wingfield had visited friends at a Christmas party in the Welsh town and discussed his idea with them.

Looking back, lawn tennis had a couple of narrow escapes for which we are lucky. First it might have been called Sphairistike, which fortunately did not catch on, or it might have been shortened to "Sticky." Equally bad would have been to name the game after the town in Wales where the idea was generated, "Nanclwyd." Can anyone imagine a dashing young man bouncing through an elegant English house proclaiming, "Nanclwyd anyone?" Or even worse, "how about a game of "Sticky?"

**See Page 32 - Inventor**

**The Major Wingfield Club Thumbnail history**

**By: George Alexander**  
**Author of "Wingfield Edwardian Gentleman."**

The Major Wingfield Club was formed by Stanley Malless, then U. S. Tennis Association president in 1974. This was the centennial of the game invented by Major Copton Wingfield in 1874. The club was organized to keep the older tennis officials active and thus retain their wise council. It so honors those who have reached sixty and have given long and useful service to the Association. Among the clubs' aims are the enhancements of the Major's name and the acquisition of his artifacts.

The club arranged for plaques to be placed at two Wingfield London houses; 112 Belgrave Rd. and 33 St. Georges Square and a bronze table at the National Tennis Center in New York City. In 1980 The Major

**See Page 31- Club**

## WFS sisters honored in who's who Among America's Teachers

Two Colorado Wingfield sisters, Gail Wingfield Mansfield and Jolene May Wingfield, were recognized for excellence and dedication in education by being selected for the inaugural edition of "Who's Who Among America's Teachers." This publication honors the best teachers in America who were



**Gail Wingfield Mansfield**

Students were asked to nominate teachers who "made a difference in their lives" by helping to shape their values, by inspiring interest in a particular subject, and challenging them to strive for excellence.

Gail Wingfield Mansfield and Jolene May Wingfield both members of the WFS are daughters of George and Ethel Wingfield and direct descendants of Captain Joseph Wingfield and Sarah Wingfield. Gail has taught art and language arts for East Yuma



**Jolene May Wingfield**

selected by former students who themselves were honored as among the best high school and college students in America today.

County School District RJ-2 for 18 years, and Jolene has taught fourth grade for West Yuma County School District since 1977.

## Places named "Wingfield"

So many places all over the world carry the name "Wingfield" we plan to tell you about them as they come to our attention. It is suspected that most were named for a person (Wingfield) and it is our intention to find the story behind the location. To learn about the location is only the first part of the story. Why, is the other part, and for this we call upon our membership to solve. Following we have listed two "Wingfield" named places, one in Mobile, Alabama and the other in Bedford, New York.

### At the corner of Wingfield and Wingfield in Mobile

Somewhere in Mobile, Alabama off Spring Hill Road (one of the better known roads), nestled in a cul-de-sac of about eighteen homes is an area called "Wingfield." It is identified by streets known as Wingfield Circle, Wingfield Court and Wingfield Drive. The elegant area was obviously named after someone called, "Wingfield."

Jo Wasson, WFS member from Birmingham, AL, correspondent for the News-

letter took some pictures of the interesting Wingfield street signs on a recent trip to Mobile. Unfortunately, while the street names could be read, there is not enough contrast for printing the photographs. Jo has no knowledge of any Wingfield from that part of the state.

### Wingfield Estate in Bedford, New York

Advertised in the September issue of Town and Country is an elegant home called "Wingfield" in Bedford, Westchester County, New York. A gracious, 3 story stucco Georgian-style estate sitting on 27 acres. Asking price is \$3,500,000.

With the help of WFS member, Frank Reinauer III of New York, we were able to learn it's exact location and a phone call to the Realtor only revealed it was owned by a Mr. Preston, head of the World Bank. They had no information on the history or why it carries the name, "Wingfield."

Does anyone know who and why these places were named Wingfield? Help us solve the mystery. Write to Editor, WFS.

## Accolades for Ex-Pres., Wilsie Carr & thanks to Bob

The meeting in Fredericksburg, VA began the start of a new regime for the Wingfield Family Society. Wilsie Wingfield Carr received words of sincere thanks and gifts of appreciation presented by the newly installed president, Robert Wingfield on Friday night, May 17, 1991.

After the gavel was turned over to Bob Wingfield, symbolizing his acceptance of the presidency, Wilsie Carr returned to her seat, only to be surprised when the new president called her forward. "On behalf of the officers, directors and many others, we wish to present you (Wilsie) a gift of our appreciation for your role in organizing and leading the Wingfield Family Society for the 4 years since its inception in 1987." She was then presented a silver tray inscribed, "Wilsie Wingfield Carr, Organizer and First President, 1988-1991, Wingfield Family Society. After an expression of thanks, Wilsie again returned to her seat only to be called up again this time with her husband, Bob Carr. The couple was



**Wilsie and Bob Carr**

presented a joint award in recognition of their team work in organizing and leading the society. This award is one of a kind, designed by Ken Wingfield of Phoenix, AZ.

The elegant heavy glass 1/2 inch thick, 9 inches by 7 inches with the Wingfield shield embossed on the reverse side deep in the light green colored glass and a metal plate engraved that began, "With honor and heartfelt thanks . . ."

It was a delightful pleasure and an enjoyable experience to work with the fine members of the WFS. We thank you so very much and are proud to be a member.

Wilsie and Bob Carr

## WFS MEMBER PROFILE:

### Lois Wingfield Wickham



**Lois Wickham**

Marl Ridge is a well known landmark property near Ashland, VA., the Wingfields having occupied it continuously from the time it was built around 1700.

Henry Brown Wingfield, his wife, Eunice and son William Lynn age 7 moved from Richmond in about 1920 and purchased the Marl Ridge estate from other family members when his older brother died. William Lynn, of course is Dr. Bill Wingfield that did so much early research on the Wingfield family and was more than helpful in getting the Wingfield Family Society organized in 1987. He was chairman emeritus of the WFS and passed away in 1989.

Lois Brown Wingfield was Dr. Bill's sister and was born at Marl Ridge. Lois, the subject of this newsletter profile, has lived all her life at Marl Ridge or on the adjoining "Hickory Hill" land. The property called Marl Ridge is so intertwined with Lois's background it may appear this is a brief history of Marl Ridge in addition to a personal profile. In a way this may be true.

Her father worked for the Richmond, Fredericksburg and Potomac Railroad and would routinely involved Lois in the assignments for the farm hands before he left for work. In this way she learned the various chores that had to be done on the farm early in life.

She was only 17 and still attending private school in Ashland, Va. when her father died. Her brother Bill was practicing medicine in Richmond. Her mother was a city girl with no interest in farming so it was Lois' love for the property that compelled her to take over supervising Marl Ridge. There were

120 acres, 50 under cultivation, the rest in timber. A family living on the property did the physical work, but now under Lois' direction. With her mother's help, Lois ran the farm during World War II. She received a special farmer award for feeding the troops.

Her mother developed a bad heart and died after suffering several years as a semi-invalid.

After the war, Lois met Williams Carter Wickham when his father, a retiring Navy captain returned and moved back onto nearby property called Hickory Hill.

When Lois and Bill Wickham married it was only a 3 mile move from Marl Ridge to Hickory Hill into the elegant estate with Captain Wickham. Bill Wickham was in the office furniture business in Washington but left this position to help run the three thousand acre Hanover plantation. Five generations of Wickhams had lived there since 1820. Members of the Lee family frequented Hickory Hill during the Civil War. In 1863 when the fighting became worse at Arlington, Mrs. Robert E. Lee and the two Lee daughters came to stay with the Wickhams.

Her brother, Bill Wingfield could not move into Marl Ridge until his two sons were enrolled in college, so Marl Ridge was temporarily rented to other than a Wingfield. Lois, living at Hickory Hill did club, church work and furthered her interest in flowers, art, sewing, and raising cocker spaniels. Next to gardening, art was her favorite hobby, doing sketching and painting. Lois continued gardening at both houses. In the summer Lois and husband Billy, cut ten acres of grass, four in the garden and six around the house at Hickory Hill.

Bill Wickham died in 1982. Lois moved out of the large Hickory Hill house into a smaller one, on fifteen acres of Marl Ridge property that was now hers. She still lives there only a quarter mile from Marl Ridge. Her brother, Dr. Bill and his wife Charlotte lived there at the time.

In 1969 Lois was one of the founding members of Hanover County Historical Society. Prior to the Civil War, all official records from Hanover County were sent to Richmond for safekeeping. Unfortunately when Richmond was burned, all the Hanover records burned, too. The historical society tried, somewhat successfully, to flush, out of the Hanover attics of any remaining records and artifacts and place them in the society's archives. The historical society has 5 display cases of historical items. One might see a pin

cushion belonging to Dolly Madison, cannon balls or letters from famous patriots including Robert E. Lee.

Fascinated by stories told by the family and neighbors, Lois has drawn on these chronicles to educate and entertain the local school children. She conducts tours of the old court house complex with a brief history of the area. This includes the "old Jail" where they used to let those that imbibed to excess, sober up in an iron cage. Her tour presentation has been printed and is used for teaching local history for 3rd graders.

She was one of the three authors of a book published by the Hanover County Historical Society, "Old Homes of Hanover County." She is proud to note that some of her drawings are in the book. It is in its 4th printing and about 5,000 copies have been sold. It seems appropriate that Lois author this type of book, in view of her love for historic homes and Hanover County, Virginia.

"Mrs. Wickham becomes mayor" for Hanover, touts a local newspaper article reporting how the Hanover county people handled a letter from Hannover, Germany addressed to "Burgomater" over to Lois. Of course she was not mayor, but knowing of Lois's historical interest in Hanover, and since there was no mayor, the letter and all since, have been turned over to Lois Wickham for handling.

Lois is a founding member of the Wingfield Family Society, and was active with the first meeting in Ashland, VA in 1987. She arranged the tours to Marl Ridge and other historical sites in the Hanover area for the attending members. She has been on both WFS trips to England, works with the committee on Jamestown to correct the malignment of facts about Edward-Maria Wingfield, the first president of Jamestown.

Marl Ridge is now occupied by Lynn Wingfield, Lois's nephew and son of Dr. Bill. It remains in the family, the 8th generation.



**Marl Ridge**

## Wingfield home near Charlottesville, VA dates from 1842

Time prevented the members attending the 5th Annual meeting in Virginia to visit "Woodlands," an old home north of Charlottesville that was built by Richard Wingfield in 1842/43 and remaining in the same family for 149 years. Today Woodlands is owned and occupied by John Richard "J.



**Woodlands  
In Charlottesville, VA**

R." Wingfield. The 19th century builder, Richard Woods Wingfield, is the great uncle of J. R. Wingfield and his sister WFS member Betsy Wingfield Hughes.

J. R. Wingfield has copies of the two original contracts for the carpentry, masonry and finish work on the house. These contracts are both dated July 23, 1842 agreeing to a building size of 52 feet x 22 feet and two stories high. One contract calls for \$1400. to be paid in the following manner; \$300 in cash at the time of signing, \$300 ("or more") at the time the building is covered, \$400 when the building is finished, and the remaining \$400 to be paid out of the proceeds from Wingfield's 1843 crop of wheat, when sold.

The second contract, for the brick work and plastering, is \$1,100, to be paid, "One thousand dollars in cash as soon as the brick work shall be finished, the balance being one hundred dollars to be paid in cash as soon as the plastering is done. All except the plastering shall be finished by the last day of October next (1842). The plastering is to be finished in the month of April next (1843)." The total cost for Woodlands was \$2500.

There are matching bricks outside that indicate at one time there was an outside kitchen. The bricks matched that of the house. A frame section was added in 1895. The house over the years has had 3 front porches, and the present one has 4 white two story columns. Today the house has 16 rooms.

According to J. R. Wingfield, the land was acquired over a period of time, starting in 1820 and at one time totaled about 1500 acres. Woodlands today sits on 339 acres.

Woodlands is registered as a Historic Landmark, with the U.S. and Virginia.

## Revolutionary War prison on Charlottesville property

While interviewing J.R. Wingfield about his Woodlands home, a fascinating story evolved about an historic occurrence on his property that is so interesting that it is being included here. The facts relayed are from J.R. Wingfield's memory and the historical anecdotes have been handed down from generation to generation. Much of this report is collaborated in John Hammond Moore's book, "Albemarle" from which several references are made.

Albemarle was little touched by the Revolutionary War. Except for one minor skirmish, about the only war evidence seen by the residents at the time was the thousands of prisoners shipped and incarcerated there. Many were German mercenaries, or Hessians.

Part of the land that held the prison camp would later become Wingfield property. On this property it is thought to have been a guard house for enemy prisoners. It is assumed to have been adjacent to the prison compound where thousands waited out the war. The Hessians and perhaps some British held in the guard house apparently were charged with more serious crimes than being the war enemy.

Leather and metal shackles were found in the ruins of this guard house. The shackles are the basis for assuming it was a guard house and not a prisoner barracks. No one today can substantiate that the shackles existed, but the tale has been persisted and is believed to be true. The foundation ruins are still there, about a half mile from the house (Woodlands) where there are also two Revolutionary War cemeteries; one with about 17 graves and the other 30.

According to the book "Albemarle," some 4000 English and German prisoners were taken at Saratoga in 1777. First quartered in Massachusetts, but with food scarce, a year later they marched 628 miles from their camp arriving Albemarle in the dead of winter, January, 1779. Barracks were not ready and the officers complained about the food. The men set out to construct living quarters and within a few months they were living comfortably, and by summer, surrounded by hundreds of gardens.

Enemy officers were not quartered with their men, but permitted to live within 50 miles of the camp. British commander, Major General William Phillips established himself in Blenheim and Baron Von Riedesel and his family set up housekeeping at Colle. A handful of the officers were on duty at all times. The troops were guarded by 600 volunteers from nearby counties, young men apprehensive of being drafted.

By late spring of 1779 the compound

took on the appearance of a small town which suddenly ranked as a major concentration of population in Virginia. Of the thousands quartered in Albemarle there were surprisingly few deaths. In one three month period only 3 died. This may confirm J.R.'s indication the cemetery was quite small considering the numbers held. Few prisoners experienced hardships and most were very healthy. They understandably were content, preferring life in Albemarle to campaign duty.

After the war, the newly formed United States did not know what to do with the Hessians. The British didn't want them nor did the Germans, so they were just released. Most fled westward across the mountains into the surrounding counties of the Shenandoah Valley. There they took wives, raised families, and became American citizens. Presumably some of the British prisoners also melted into our society.

Ironically when building the Skyline Drive in the 1930s, according to J. R. Wingfield, some of the descendants of the Hessians prisoners of war came back to the Charlottesville area. A number worked for J. R.'s father, living on the very land their ancestors had been confined as prisoners of war. J. R. recalls three of the family names: Sprouse, Thacker and Gibson. J. R. also says descendant families of the Germans found artifacts and remnants of the Hessian war camp on the Wingfield property.

Unfortunately, we have not found anyone that has seen these shackles, so we take J. R. Wingfield's word for it, but the evidence points to their existence. If any WFS member can find either written history or pictures of these shackles, the editor of this newsletter would like to know about it.

The state recently planned a road through J.R.'s Woodlands property bisecting the area where there could be more Revolutionary War artifacts. J. R., through a legal injunction got this stopped, and at least temporarily there is no threat.

### MUNIMENTS OF THE ANCIENT SAXON FAMILY OF WINGFIELD

REPUBLISHED 1987

**\$150**

PLUS \$5 SHIPPING  
(anywhere in U.S.)

SEND CHECK TO:  
WINGFIELD FAMILY SOCIETY  
301 BELLEVIEW BLVD.,  
BELLEAIR, FL 34616

Wingfield Club coordinated refurbishing of Major Walter Wingfield's monument for his grave, which also holds the bodies of his wife and two of their three sons. The New Yorker magazine carried a report of a ceremony held at the site.

This year the club found among newly acquired Wingfield papers, a request that the Major wished the name of his wife, Alice Lydia nee Cleveland, be engraved on the monument. This now has been done by the club.

A few years ago I was contacted by the agent for a U. S. Army officer in Germany. He offered the Majors' framed patent of lawn tennis, for a price was \$100,000. I explained that the such a price was totally unacceptable. My Royal Patent Office historian advised a top price of \$500. I knew the framed patent had been stolen from a Somerset estate along with other Wingfield artifacts. I turned this matter over to more affluent members of the club who got the price down, but not to a satisfactory point and we are now at an impasse. With our appetite so whetted, the club sent me to the Somerset estate to negotiate title to the patent to improve our position. While doing this, the squire found in his strong room a metal box that held the Major's Royal Body Guard uniform, his sword and medals. These we have acquired and hope to sometime buy the life size portrait by Ellis Roberts of the Major in uniform. It was at this time I was given several family papers, among them were the papers that state Major Wingfield's wish for the inclusion of his wife's name on his monument. I have sorted these interesting papers including those of the Major's grandmother now donated to the National Library of Wales, where they join the other letters of "the ladies of Llangollen." Some were sent to the Somerset Records Office in Taunton. Those of particular tennis interest are retained by the tennis museum.

The Major Wingfield Club meets twice a year, at the USTA (United States Tennis Association) annual meeting and during the U. S. Open. The membership is by invitation and is limited to fifty. The writer was the first president and Mr. Stanley Malless is currently president.

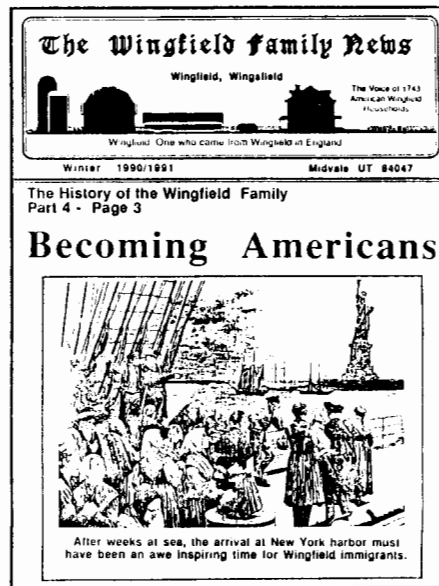
WFS member Linnie Mills discovered the following quotation by Grace Davidson in the Forward of "The Annals of our Kin."

"It is pleasant to know that thee has come of good ancestry, but after all if thee does not live up to the notch thyself, it will do thee very little good."

## Wanna buy a list, or family history?

Escalating interest in genealogy, has created a cottage industry in selling family information to the public. You probably have received direct mail solicitations for a comprehensive list, with addresses of all Wingfields in the United States. Perhaps by subscribing before a deadline, or on a one time offer, you can be the recipient of a genealogical book on the Wingfields.

Solicitations we have seen are not what they appear to be. The advertisements are misleading, for what one finally gets. The fine print seems to absolve the promoter from an outright scam. You probably will be disappointed and feel cheated at what comes in the mail. Forewarned is forearmed.



Cover - Wingfield Family News Looks impressive

This dissertation was prompted by a particular situation. At least one of our members received a solicitation for subscribing to "The Wingfield Family News." It is an 8 1/2" X 11" at least 12 page publication (several that are some blank), but all personalized to the Wingfield family.

On the cover it says, "The voice of 1743 American Wingfield Households." Inside is a name list of 4,254 other family names each of which you would presume gets a similar "Family Newsletter" should they subscribe. The publication we have seen is cheaply done, generic in every way, but personalized with the Wingfield name throughout. For example the cover headline says, "Becoming Americans," followed by, "After weeks at sea, the arrival at New York harbor must have been an awe inspiring time for Wingfield immigrants." Still reading on the cover one is intrigued with the statement, "The history of

the Wingfield Family Part 4 - Page 3." One quickly turns to page 3 expecting to learn something exciting and new about the Wingfield family. A gem of exciting information spews forth on the second paragraph, "Following the American revolution in 1776, the pace of immigration quickened but still there was little government regulation. From 1776 right up to the Civil War, nearly 100 years later, all any self respecting Wingfield had to do to become an American was show up on our shores." It goes on to tell about the Homestead Act of 1862 and other general facts. Further on it says, "Most Wingfield immigrants came out of English ports of disembarkation, although many were originally from other parts of Europe." Didn't know that, did you? Throughout were general articles and references to early history in America, all of which would apply to any other family equally well.

For those not familiar with an interesting computer function; if for example the word "good" appears throughout an article in the computer memory. A simple action will allow the operator to tell the computer to replace the word "good" with "bad" and apply a single keystroke. It scans through the entire article and changes every word, "good" to "bad." In seconds! The same could be true of family names. With pre-written general genealogical stories, the name "Johnson" might be replaced by "Wingfield" throughout the entire publication, in seconds thus personalizing the article.

Also published by the "Wingfield Family News" is a companion list of 1743 names and addresses of Wingfields, nationwide. This is indeed a list that includes names and addresses, but a close review finds some stale and many have no Wingfield English lineage at all.

Another solicitation frequently received is for a book to be published under a particular family name. It implies it is a family history, when in fact it is only a list gathered from phone books and city directories. Orders are for subscriptions with a deadline so they know exactly how many to print. You will indeed get a book as advertised, but containing just the name list and a cover page. It is easy for the promoters to zero in on "Prospects" by using the same list they are selling. Sorry no refunds.

Your best source of historical information on the Wingfield family is through the Wingfield Family Society and your library. And we are working to provide the best genealogical records accumulated from many rootstocks, principally our own genealogist members. That is not to say, we close any door on other sources, where we can learn more.

Just beware of what "Family" entrepreneurs are really selling!

# Early origin of the Wingfields

By Tony Wingfield

"Wynkefeld the Saxon held honor and fee, ere William the Norman came over the sea." "Wingfield is a manor with a half-ruinated castle in Suffolk which gave name and seat to a large family in these parts famous for their knighthood and ancient nobility."

With those two quotations - one an old Suffolk rhyme and the other an extract from the Register of the Garter - my grandfather, the 7th Viscount Powerscourt, began his "Wingfield Memorials" published privately in 1894.

He admitted that there was no absolute proof of our Saxon origin but added two stories in circumstantial evidence. One is that, "When King Harold visited that part of Suffolk he stayed with the Nobel Thane of Wingfield and on his departure mounted his horse from a certain stone to which the local people pointed subsequently and called it Harold's stone." That place later became the village of Harleston that lies about four miles from the village called Wingfield.

The second story comes from a manuscript in the British museum which states, "Wingfield was sometime the estate of Richard de Brews, but more anciently belonged to a family who took their name from it an who were in great reputation there for many ages."

It is, of course, not till after the Norman Conquest that history became more accurately recorded, so one must rely on imagination to picture the arrival of my Saxon ancestors paddling their long-boats up the River Waveney, perhaps sometime between the sixth and eighth centuries, to establish their mud and waddle strongholds on the flat and fertile land of East Anglia.

Fortunately most of the counties of Nor-

folk and Suffolk have escaped the ravages of industrial development, and their land has only been altered during the following years by the demands of new agricultural techniques. Furthermore, their social development has been that of villages and market-towns emerging out of the Norman Manorial system as opposed to the mines, factories and 'City Centers' of other counties. Thus the early record of the Wingfield family was bound up with manorial status and affairs of the church before becoming that of warriors.

My grandfather's production of the family tree is exceptionally complex owing to the high fertility of some of his early ancestors, and it becomes difficult to correlate the generations of those of several branches that developed. However, by the time of his own generation (1834-1904) three lines had emerged and are represented by that of Powerscourt in Ireland - the senior line - and those of Tickencote (Rutland) and Onslow (Shropshire) in England. Other lines have spread over a wider field such as the recently formed Wingfield Family Society of the USA, and others in South Africa, Zimbabwe and Canada.

To begin at the beginning, as far as is possible at the root of the tree is Robert de Campo Venti. This "Robert of the field of the wind" was apparently alive in 1087 and may have been the Saxon Thane who bid farewell to Harold at Harleston when that Saxon King was on his way to fight the Normans in the Battle of Hastings.

There are also many deeds and grants after the Norman Conquest that have reference to the Wingfield family during the reign of Kings Stephen, Henry II, John and Henry III. In Those days the Norman "de" prefaced the name but later this addition was discarded.

Three generations after Robert his great-grandson Thomas Wingfield, described as Lord of Wingfield, had a son, John, who was Knighted and had the Manor of Dennington,

ten miles south of Wingfield, added to that of Wingfield.

Sir John married Anne, daughter of Sir John Peche, and produced four sons. Three of these were knighted and became soldiers, while the fourth, Giles, entered the church and became parson of Earsham and was given the lordship of Stradbroke, thus adding a third manor to the family.

The third son, Sir Roger, was made guardian of the lands of the Knights Templar who were imprisoned awaiting charges against them. Neither Sir Roger nor Giles had any offspring.

The second son, Sir Richard, became lord of Denington at his father's death; while the eldest son, Sir John, retained the manor of Wingfield. Sir Richard served as a soldier on the Continent with the unfortunate and unsoldierlike King Edward II in about 1315. He died in that year leaving one son, Sir William, who became Lord of Letheringham thus adding a fourth manor to the family. Sir William only produced one son, also named William, who died without progeny and ended that line.

Finally, the eldest of Sir John's and Anne's four sons - another Sir John - married Elizabeth Honeycott and produced two sons the elder of which, yet another Sir John, married Eleanor, daughter of Sir Gilbert Glenwyle, Earl of Suffolk. This union only produced one child - a daughter named Katherine, who was to marry Sir Michael de la Pole to whom she was to bring the Wingfield stronghold on which Edward III gave permission to build a Castle.

The family line now had to be transferred to Sir John's younger brother, Sir Thomas, who became Lord of Letheringham and it was from him that the three main lines descended of which that of Powerscourt was the senior.

Before tracing the Letheringham line further the story of the most distinguished soldier of my early ancestors must be given in more detail. "

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## From Page 27 - Inventor

Major Wingfield's pamphlet gave only 6 rules. The most important provided for a 15 point scoring, that a point could only be scored by the server. It provided dividing the court with a net on an hourglass shaped court.

Some argued that Wingfield had invented nothing, that his game was merely a variation and consolidation of the older racket games. Wingfield countered with specific differences. He further maintained that his "Sphairistike" was an adaptation of an ancient Greek game on which he had done considerable research. As for the name "Sphairistike" it was the ancient command for "Play Ball," responded the Major. Doubt-

ers cannot deny, Major Walter Wingfield did get a patent and is therefore entitled to be called the "father of tennis."

Wingfield was selling more than just new rules and diagrams. He made equipment for a "new and improved portable court for playing an ancient game." To distinguish tennis from badminton, he would advertise the game as "wingless tennis" to differentiate from the winged shuttlecock. Purchasers would get the pamphlet, a painted wooden box 35 inches by 12 by 6 containing poles, pegs, netting, wing nets, four tennis rackets, a bag of balls, a mallet for pounding the stakes and a brush for marking out the court. The price was five guineas. He maintained with his kit, a perfect court could be put up in five

minutes on any croquet grounds. He fully understood the value of endorsements. One of his early brochures had a list of satisfied customers, including the Prince of Wales, descending through dukes and earls, ending with mere lords and ladies.

Within a year after issuing his first rules, he revised them, but maintained the scoring, the wing nets, but changed court arrangement and provided serving from either side of the net.

Lawn Tennis became a club game as well as one for private estates. In 1877 the All England Croquet and Lawn Tennis Club held the first All England Tournament for the championship of the country, the first "Wimbledon."