

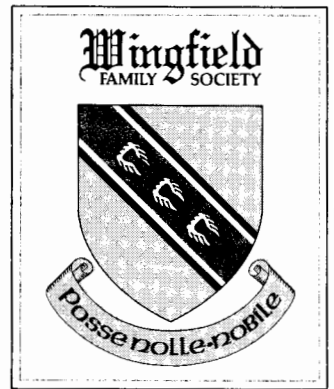
newsletter

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

Vol. V, No. 3

... Ancient Suffolk England Rhyme

Summer, 1991



Gavel turned over to new president at Fredericksburg meeting in May, 1991

Election: Went as nominated

New WFS officers were elected as nominated as one of the first orders of business at the annual meeting on May 18, 1991. They were elected as follows for a 3 year term:

Robert Wingfield, President
Dale Ruf, Vice President
Betty Gamache, Secretary
Lynn Wingfield, Treasurer

Congratulations, we wish you all well!

New President becomes Lord of the Manor Special Ceremony

Immediately after installation as the second president of the Wingfield Family Society, Robert W. Wingfield, was afforded a second honor, by being made Lord of the Manor of Wingfield.

In a special ceremony, the title was transferred from Wilsie Carr, Lady of the Manor to Bob Wingfield for him to hold for the three years he is president. Bob becomes the 41st recorded Lord of the Manor of Wingfield, the first being Robert de Wingfield from before 1100 A.D. The title left the Wingfield family in 1362 when it went to Michael de la Pole, husband of Katherine Wingfield, Suffolk, England.

The Court Bellman, Jocelyn Wingfield, carrying a Bible on a pillow, called from the doorway, "Oyez! Oyez! Oyez," summoning the Court to order. The procession of stewards filed to the head table, preparing for the ceremony to appoint the new Lord of the Manor of Wingfield. Once the title was transferred, the new Lord of the Manor was presented a large elegant banner signifying, "Lord of the Manor of Wingfield" for him to display at all official Wingfield Family functions indicating the Lord of the Manor is present.

Appointed Court officers are: Dale Ruf, Steward; Herschel C. Wingfield, Reeve; Linnie Mills, Hayward; Jocelyn Wingfield, Bellman;

See Page 20- Lord

A message from our new President



Robert W. Wingfield Lord of the Manor of Wingfield

Now that the super trip to England and Ireland has come to an end and we have all gotten home safe and are re-living the adventure both in the United Kingdom and in Virginia, it is time we plan ahead for the future events of the Wingfield Family Society.

To all of those that made the reunion, it is my sincere hope that each of you found the meeting informative and entertaining. For you that missed this reunion, you missed an opportunity to meet more of your cousins and to get to know them better. And it was great fun!

See Page 18 - President

Wilsie Carr's last act as president is recognition awards to special people

"So many people helped in so many ways," said retiring president Wilsie Carr on the evening of May 17 before the installation of the new officers. She took each of the years she was in office and recognized an individual that contributed significantly during that year. It was hard to pick one out of so many. She said, "there are many more that deserve thanks and recognition and I run the risk of offending others not singled out." "But," she continued, "few could question the outstanding contributions made by the individuals I am recognizing tonight."

None of the recipients knew these awards were to be made and each appeared genuinely surprised when their name was

called. They each received a clock. The awards were given to the following for their contribution for the years shown:

1987 - **Jocelyn Wingfield**. One has to only think back to when the WFS started to know why Jocelyn was chosen for the first award. The fact he flew in from England to help start the Wingfield Family Society was the incentive to bring curious "Wingfields" to our organizational meeting in Ashland, VA. His spellbinding speech at that meeting certainly motivated massive membership signups. His enthusiasm and interest remain contagious to this day.

1988 - **Susan and Terry Cavanagh**, for their work in re-publishing the "Muniments" book. This was a giant undertaking, especially for such a young fledgling society. The success of this venture

See Page 18 - Awards

Jamestown: Move over John Smith Let's balance the facts

By: Bob Carr

It is late December 1607 at a location near the new colony of Jamestown in Virginia. Capt. John Smith, who has been a captive of the Pamaunkey Indians for six tortuous weeks, is forced into a kneeling position, face down, hands tied behind his back, head on a large rock. This is to be the bloody end to his captivity. The Indians are gathered to see the execution of a white man, intruder on their land. As the execution was about to begin, Powhatan, Chief of the Pamaunkeys, with a serious frown raises his arm signaling approval for Nantaquaus, his massive son, to crush John Smith's head open. Slowly Nantaquaus lifts his heavy stone ax....

Before the ax could fall, 12-year old Pocahontas, daughter of Powhatan, throws herself over the condemned John Smith's head. "Oh father, please do not kill him," the princess pleads. Pocahontas is Powhatan's favorite daughter, and her appeal causes the chief to open his hand signaling a pause in the execution. "Father, he has done no harm, please let him return to his friends, he will not

See Page 18 - Jamestown

From Page 17- President

As your new president, I am open to your ideas and suggestions. Please write or phone me at any time.

You can do something for me, however: Help make the membership grow by sending Dee Wingfield Epps, our new membership chairman the names of prospective members. When she receives these names she will send them promotional material and then you can follow up with your personal contact. Let us give it a try.

As you may remember, I have previously stated that our most pressing need of the society is to get more members. Yes, members are the very lifeblood of our existence. With about 400 (we count addresses, not individuals), we are painfully short of the numbers we should have. There are many Wingfields out there not being given the opportunity to participate in the Wingfield Family Society.

It is nice that our society has, like no other organization I know, a valuable English title which will always be ours to have and be assigned to each president during his or her term in office. This honor is for each of you to strive for and should become more of an incentive for all who would run for this office.

I am honored that you have chosen me to carry the Wingfield banner for the next three years, and I pledge my entire energies to this success, but humbly seek your help.

Bob Wingfield

By-laws change makes seven new directors

The Board of Directors and the membership of the Wingfield Family Society at the meeting in Fredericksburg, VA proposed and passed that key chairmen be directors of the society as long as they hold that chairmanship. The rationale was that these individuals have a closer knowledge of the workings of the society and that this insight should be utilized.

They will have full voting rights and attend all WFS Board meetings.

There will still be the eight elected directors, plus the four officers that will have 3 year staggered terms.

Those named as directors by virtue of their chairmanships were:

Vance Wingfield - Computer
Susan Cavanagh - Publishing
Bob Carr - Newsletter
Dee Epps - Membership
Linnie Mills - Wingfield Store
Lee Preston - Genealogy
Jocelyn Wingfield - Historian

From Page 17- Jamestown

hurt us." Compassion ruled the day and John Smith is permitted to return to Jamestown.

Did it happen this way? Or did it happen at all is the question? Although the event is accepted as authentic by most people, some historians see overwhelming evidence the incident was a fantasy invented by John Smith, years after the fact, and after Pocahontas had died. This article will point out numerous discrepancies from accepted history.

This episode, probably more than any other historical adventure in early Virginia crystallized one man, John Smith into immortality. A perception emerged that Smith was the savior of the fragile and struggling Virginia Colony and that it was Smith's bold, single-handed leadership that saved the colony. In a 1620 publication Smith states, "with some thirty-seven men and boys, the remainder of the hundred and five, against the fury of the savages, I began that plantation now in Virginia...." What arrogance, what conceit, what distortion of the truth!

The WFS Jamestown Committee sees the generally accepted early history (John Smith himself wrote) as selfishly and incorrectly giving himself (Smith) the title as sole hero of Jamestown. This deception must be exposed. "We do not believe this glory is deserved, any more than is Wingfield being branded a failure," says Maria Butler, WFS Jamestown Committee Chairman.

Edward-Maria Wingfield was an unwitting victim, and with Smith's help had his reputation maligned, unjustly and the disgrace thrust upon him should be lifted, post humously. While Wingfield was not in charge at Jamestown long enough (four months) to be judged as savior or for that matter a hero, surely his role deserves to be put into perspective to remove the stigma of shame of nearly 400 years. Simply, the ledger of history should be balanced.

John Smith and Wingfield were adversaries and their first confrontation was on the 5-month voyage to the New World. Smith reportedly plotted mutiny and Wingfield, among others accused him of the crime. Smith was sentenced to death and imprisoned shipboard awaiting execution. The settlers landed in Virginia on May 12 at a place that would become Jamestown. Smith's sentence was never carried out and he was released nine days later.

Captain Edward-Maria Wingfield, age 57 was the only investor that went with the 105 settlers to Virginia in 1606. He was named president upon arrival and was removed as president and from the council after only four months, just days after the death of fellow-

See Page 24 - Jamestown

From Page 17 - Awards

catapulted the Wingfield Family Society into the big leagues.

1989 - **Vance Wingfield** for so ably setting up the Wingfield Family Society genealogy computer program. Not only did he alone establish it, but handled virtually all the entries single handedly. Today it has over 16,000 names with accompanying data and growing daily.

1990 - **Linnie Mills** for her devotion and determination in establishing and operating the Wingfield Store. **Gerry and Betty Dutton** jointly accepted at Linnie's insistence. There is no question the Wingfield store has contributed to the success of the Wingfield Family Society and gives our members unique and interesting speciality items.

1991 - **Lee Preston** specifically for his recognition of the need for complete Wingfield census records for every state and every year. He took it upon himself to get this moving and now has a good percentage of Wingfield censuses in his files and available to members. Wilsie also called attention to Lee's hard work in helping others do research on their families. He has been our informal Genealogist since inception of the Society. He was named as official genealogist and society director at the board meeting in Fredericksburg.

Special - **Ken Wingfield** for his unrecognized assistance in many ways the general membership sees but does not give



Ken Wingfield receiving his award from retiring President

credit. These involve designs and assisting with products for the Wingfield Store. He designed the Wingfield Family Society newsletter and creates pedigree charts that are so professional displayed therein. It is because of Ken that the Wingfield Family Society does so many things in a quality way. As Wilsie Carr stated, "we are a class act, and Ken has helped us get there."

Now available - 1991 Video tour to England & Ireland

A video of the England/Ireland tour will be available in a few weeks, but we must know **now** how many to order. Lord Robert is now in the process of editing the cassettes he took on the recent tour and to be copied on VHS, for U. S. use only. Would you please order your video tapes by July 30th, so we in turn can have the exact number of cassettes made for those that want copies.

The cost for the tapes, which covers, reproduction, packaging and postage is only \$25. Please make your check payable to the Wingfield Family Society and send with your name and address to:

Robert W. Wingfield
1743 Fieldwood Drive
Northbrook, IL 60062

If anyone knows the source for changing to European format, let Bob Wingfield know.

newsletter

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OFFICERS

Robert W. Wingfield . . . President
Dale Ruf Vice Pres
Betty Wingfield Gamache. . . . Sec.
Lynn Wingfield Treas

DIRECTORS

Appointed:

Bob Carr - Newsletter
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

WFS Membership: Dee Epps new chairman

Bob Wingfield, president of the WFS has appointed Dee Epps to be the new Chairman for membership. Dee will be in charge of developing new members, keeping track of all membership files and renewals.

The membership committee will have several members strategically located in various sections of the country and England ready to work on recruitment and renewals. Dee is getting set to take over this project ver soon. In his acceptance speech, Bob Wingfield reiterated that membership is the life blood of the society. "To be a viable, effective organization, we must have more quality members."

WFS plans ceremony for gift kneeler: John Smith Church, London

St. Sepulchre's Church in London contains the grave of John Smith of Jamestown notoriety and a John Smith window donated by Bradford Smith. There are also a set of about 40 "deep blue" kneelers in the church commemorating many of the settlers of the colony by individual name. These have been gifts from Americans since 1968. The kneelers each have a coat of arms on the top and the settlers names on the side. They are 14 inches by 10 inches by 2 inches in size. Of course, there is a kneeler for John Smith and Bartholomew Gosnold, plus thirty eighty others but none for Edward-Maria Wingfield

It may seem out of character for the WFS to become involved in a church where John Smith is buried, especially when we are trying to correct the history as it relates to Edward-Maria Wingfield's adversary, John Smith. The absence of a kneeler for the first president might further the misunderstanding of the role he played.

The board of directors at its last meeting approved the purchase of a "kneeler" in honor of Edward-Maria Wingfield so he would be represented and recognized by all that visit the church. Jocelyn Wingfield of London is coordinating the effort and will see that the kneeler is properly installed. He would like to have a special ceremony when this is done so WFS and Edward-Maria Wingfield will get appropriate press coverage. Because it involves Jamestown in the United States, we believe an American WFS member should do the presentation. Any WFS member from the USA that will be in London after August 1, please notify Jocelyn Wingfield and he will make the necessary arrangements. Jocelyn's address is 18 Chiddingstone St., London SW6 3TG, England.

OBITUARY

Inez Wingfield

Founding member of the Wingfield Family Society, Inez Wingfield died at the age of 77 on March 21, 1991 after being hospitalized for broken hip. Inez was the widow of H. Vincent Wingfield who was the brother of WFS members Louis Wingfield (Mayer, AZ), Gale Wingfield (deceased), Mildred Rolle (deceased) and Elva McKenzie (Sun Lakes, AZ). She is survived by two sons, and six grandchildren.

Inez and Vince were both educators for many years in Arizona. After they retired, they built a retirement home in Colorado, but when Vince died, Inez moved to Sun Lakes, AZ a retirement community near Chandler, AZ.

She was born in Globe, Arizona in 1913, graduated from the University of Arizona and received a Masters Degree from Northern Arizona University.

Who is this couple?



This WFS couple were married on June 26, 1949, 42 years ago. If you have not figured it out, refer to this months WFS Profile.

Geni Ology Queries



If your ancestor is Thomas Wingfield (b. ca. 1730, m. Ann Davis) of Walnut Shade, Hanover, Virginia, please share information if you can connect any of his sons to my great grandfather William T. Wingfield (b. 10 Sep 1818, m. Jane Eliza Ribble). Much evidence indicates that Thomas' son Lewis is the father of William T. Wingfield, my great grandfather. Any information on Thomas' heirs may be helpful.

Contact: Dorothy Wingfield Smith, 624 Green Valley Drive, Virginia Beach, VA 23462 or call (collect) (804) 467-5775.

Wingfields in history

By: Jocelyn Wingfield

The Preston Hall Shropshire Wingfield Ghost

Peregrina Wingfield, 1675 (?)

Preston Hall at Preston Brockhurst, Shropshire, a dozen or so miles north of both the city of Shrewsbury and of Onslow, is the magnificent house, which (ca.1640-1780, 250 acres), belonged to the ancestors of Major Walter C. Wingfield, the inventor of lawn tennis and of today's head of the Shropshire Wingfield Branch, Charles Wingfield of Onslow. Today slightly altered, beautifully cared for, Preston Hall belongs to Derek Owen, Ph.D., and is known as The Old Manor. (Not so long ago Dr Owen a chemist and a managing director of a most successful company, was to record there the lowest official, recorded temperature ever recorded in England; but I digress).

Samuel Wingfield Esquire of White Hall, Shrewsbury (pronounced Shrozebry) son of Thomas Wingfield, Mayor of Shrewsbury in 1640 in the Civil War, purchased Preston Estate from the royalist, Sir Vincent Corbet, who had to sell it to pay Parliament a fine of £1588 - 13s - 4d plus £80 a year for his ransom. Samuel built Preston Hall.

Dying in 1672, Samuel Wingfield left Preston Hall to his son and heir, Thomas Wingfield Esquire (1644-1728), who was Sheriff of Shropshire in 1692 (the year that the senior Wingfield line, apparently, all perished in the Port Royal, Jamaica earthquake, but that is another story). Thomas in turn willed Preston Hall to his son and heir, Samuel Wingfield (1680-1713), who died without issue, leaving it to Borlase Wingfield (1683-1738), a freeman of Shrewsbury in 1721. His son, Rowland Wingfield, who inherited "Preston Brockhurst," as the manorhouse was then called - lived there until 1778, when he purchased Onslow, the present seat of the Shropshire Wingfields.

Down the ages there have apparently been various sightings of a certain Wingfield ghost at Preston Brockhurst's manorhouse. About 1960 Miss P. M. E. (Bessie) Sandford, who died about ten years ago, wrote to Maxine Wingfield of Onslow about the Old Manor at Preston Brockhurst, the former seat of the Shropshire Wingfields, as follows:

Shropshire Ladies' Country Club
School Court
Shrewsbury
Dear Maxine:

Mary Corrie (nee Lloyd Butler, who was to die in 1966 -JRW) wrote:

"A little lady ghost, Miss Wingfield, haunts the house - her portrait hangs at Burton and I know the Lamberts would love to show it to you - it is above the door in one of the sitting rooms."

A few years ago Dr. Derek Owen, the present owner of the old Wingfield house, thought he saw a Wingfield ghost on the second floor, standing outside the bathroom, but decided later that what he had actually seen had been the "newell" on the bottom bannister of the stairs, which in the twilight looked uncommonly like a human head.

But who was the Wingfield ghost? I cannot prove which Wingfield girl the Preston ghost was or is, but, in those copious records of the Shropshire Wingfields, only one young lady fits the bill. In 1675, apparently, Peregrina Wingfield, one of the sisters of Thomas Wingfield "of Preston Brockhurst," then aged around eighteen, was engaged to be married, when her fiance, a kinsman of theirs named William Tews, Clerk of the Cheque, was killed in a duel in the garden there at the house. On the 11th October the poor distraught Peregrina Wingfield proceeded to hang herself inside the house. Half her estate, as her dowry, had already been made over to her fiance. Whether the fatal duel and the suicide occurred on the same day, I have been unable to determine, but I hope to see the picture of this Wingfield ghost soon to see whether it is endorsed with the name of the poor, unfortunate Peregrina.

Second major book to be republished by WFS Pre-publication prices

"Some Records of the Wingfield Family" will be republished by the Wingfield Family Society if enough members order copies at pre-publication prices.

It was announced at the annual meeting in Fredericksburg and about 50 orders were placed with Susan Cavanagh at the Wingfield Store. "We only need 50 more to give a go ahead to the printer," said Susan.

The book, "Some Records. . ." will be a hardback edition, 5 1/2 x 8 1/2 inches, 263 pages, bound in the same red cloth with gold crest as the Muniment book. It will be better than the original as it will be printed on acid free paper and the famous Tickencote picture will be in full color. It revolves around early members shown in two old pedigree oil paintings; the Tickencote picture - seen as a color fontispiece - and the Broughton Picture. These depict the Wingfields living in Letheringham,

Suffolk, in the middle of the 15th century. There is an interesting chapter for each of the members of the family seen in the picture, affording an unusually complete and connected account of two successive generations of a family.

Pre-publication price is \$25. plus \$4 shipping. Order through following address: (Your money will be returned if we fail to get 100 orders)

Wingfield Family Society, 301 Beilievew Blvd., Belleair, FL 34616.

Indicate on check, "Some Records Book."

From Page 17 - Lord

Lois Wickham, Remembrancer: Vance Wingfield, Steward Emeritus; Dennis Murphy, Hangman; Betty Gamache, Leader/Homage; Bud Wingfield, Beadle; Troyce Tullier, Woodward; and Dee Epps, Forester.

The title was purchased in 1989 with donations and was initially held by Vance Wingfield, but later transferred as property of the Wingfield Family Society with the assignment to the presidents during their term. The by-laws of the WFS have been changed to provide for the transfer of the title to each new president.

The Saga of Bus No. 1 Charlottesville, VA

A great day of sightseeing was planned in Charlottesville for the WFS members attending the fifth annual meeting in Virginia. Two buses were chartered to take in points of local interest including some of the first Wingfield homes in Albemarle County. Different itineraries were devised so each bus would avoid the confusion of too many people at any one place at a time.

An early visit to Monticello and lunch at Michie's Tavern proved interesting but uneventful for both groups. After lunch the buses parted for their individual routes to visit old Wingfield homes. The first stop for Bus No. 1 was to see "Old Edgewood," an 1850 house build by Robert Ledbetter Wingfield. The weather was overcast and threatening rain. To get to Edgewood required the bus drive up a long, very long, narrow driveway. Some members had qualms when the driver attempted to turn around.

As Maria Butler, from Richmond later reported on the maneuver, "one swing to the left and one back up put us perfectly perpendicular to the driveway. Wheels spun, gears ground to a high hum, and there was a burning smell that removed all doubt that we were in trouble." Maria, continued, "One glance at the crinkled silver belly of our giant transport sitting on the low crown of the driveway assured us all that we were hope-

See Page 22 - Saga

WFS MEMBER PROFILE:

Charline & Lee Preston



Charline & Lee Preston

How could a boy born in a small town of Georgia, meet and marry a girl from Missouri in Oregon and then wind up in California? Fate guides destinies in strange ways as it did with our joint profile couple, Charline and Lee Preston.

Lee Preston, unquestionably one of our most exacting WFS genealogist members has lived his life the same way: practical, precise and punctilious.

Born in 1927 in Chickamauga, Georgia, near the Tennessee and Alabama borders, Lee was the first of two children of Warren Calvin and Mae (Camp) Watkins. His Georgia birth certificate shows him as Warren Watkins, Jr. The Watkins family moved frequently, and two of the houses they lived in were log cabins, one on Lookout Mountain, GA and the other at Pisgah, AL. Lee was called "LeBron" by his family and friends, but it was not his given name. He had almost a migrant childhood moving at least 9 times before he was 9 year old.

His mother was killed in an automobile accident in 1936, after which Lee lived with an assortment of caretaker families. Then in 1941 he finally found a home when he went to live with his mother's sister, Pearl (Camp) Preston and her husband in Oregon, who had two children of their own. Taking him in as one of the family prompted Lee to legally change his name to LeBron Camp Preston.

Upon graduation from high school at 16 years of age, he enlisted in the navy and was sent to Portland, Oregon. Here he was assigned to work with intelligence codes and de-coders. During this 3 year enlistment he never served outside the country, nor for that matter, outside Oregon. Discharged in 1946 he enrolled in the University of Oregon in Eugene. Lee majored in liberal arts and political science, graduating in 3 years. He also specialized in languages, Russian, French,

Spanish and Portuguese.

Charline Harmon was born in Kansas City, Missouri, in 1928, the only daughter of Guy and Ethelyn (Oots) Harmon. Her father was employed by the Missouri Pacific Railroad.

Those who know Charline, with all her vim and vigor, would never guess that when she was born she was not expected to live. Due to severe birth injuries and paralysis, she suffered a broken shoulder which resulted in limited use of her left shoulder and arm, and had to wear a shoulder brace for the first few years of her life.

In 1941 the family moved to Klamath Falls, Oregon, because her father was transferred there. Charline attended Klamath Falls High School and upon graduation enrolled in the University of Oregon in 1945. It was here that fate's deft hand nudged Charline Harmon and Lee Preston into the first stages of merging as man and wife.

Charline and Lee met on a blind date at an Exchange Dance in October, 1946. They found they got along well but didn't really start dating until April, 1948. The couple graduated together on one Sunday and married the next on June 26, 1949, in Eugene, Oregon.

Lee received a Naval Reserve Commission after graduating and remained in the reserve for 10 years, retiring as a Lt(jg).

They lived in Vancouver, British Columbia for a year while Lee was doing graduate study. Charline worked in a library.

The Preston couple moved to Washington, D.C., in 1952. Lee had expectations of working for the U.S. Government in the State Department, FBI, CIA, or as President - whichever came up first - but with a small daughter by that time he quickly dropped those illusions and accepted a job with the American Association of Railroads after a short stint as an accountant with an air conditioning company. For two years Lee worked directly for the Vice President of Public Relations for the Association, Robert S. Henry, who was the author of "Story of the Confederacy." A promotion then moved him to the Railroad's Tariff Research Group in Washington. Charline became a Junior High School teacher in nearby Maryland.

In 1956, Lee was hired by the Western Pacific Railroad and transferred to Pittsburgh, Pa., where he worked one day, moved to Chicago for just a week then receiving a much desired transfer to San Francisco. In San Francisco, Lee was in the sales office for the Vice President-Traffic. In 1960 he became a traffic representative in the San Francisco Bay area calling on freight customers. One of his first jobs was arranging shipment of a dinosaur skeleton from San Francisco to Pittsburgh, Pa.

Charline resumed her teaching career

at Redwood City and later in Pleasant Hill, California, in Junior High Schools. She retired after 31 years in 1988. Lee retired in 1985 after 33 years in the railroad industry. They have remained in their home in Walnut Creek, CA where they have lived since 1962.

The Prestons have two children, a daughter, Janis and a son, Steven. Both are married and live in Southern California. Janis has 2 sons, Scott and Todd. Steven is a vice president of a small chemical engineering company.

Charline is the WFS member with the Wingfield bloodline connecting back to progenitor John and Mary Hudson Wingfield, through two of their sons, Charles and Rachel Joyner Wingfield, and John and Susannah (?) Wingfield, through Charline's grandmother on her mother's side, Elizabeth Wingfield.

Lee's first interest in family history was around 1952, but neither Charline nor Lee had any strong curiosity for genealogy until her mother, Ethelyn Oots Harmon (a WFS member who will be 90 when she attends the Reno reunion) gave up an unsuccessful search for her Wingfield heritage after trying for 30 years. In 1980 she turned the project over to Lee.

Not one to shun a challenge, Lee learned the skills of genealogy as he began seeking and confirming specific ancestors in all lines of his and Charline's family. It took Lee about two years to prove Charles Wingfield and Rachel Joyner were indeed Ethelyn and Charline's ancestors.

The most notable (non-Wingfield) relatives he discovered for Charline is on the Witcher line, where she is about a fifth cousin to Lady Astor, who was the first woman to be elected to England's Parliament, and who was actually a Witcher descendant, born in Virginia. Also, Lady Astor's sister was the famous "Gibson Girl" of fashion fame.

Among the most famous of Wingfield descendants that Lee has verified are Queen Elizabeth II of England and President George Bush. Bush is a descendant of the Tickencote Wingfields. And, of course, Sarah Ferguson, who married Prince Andrew, is a Powerscourt Wingfield descendant. Charline and Lee were lucky enough to be in London during their wedding and watched the complete wedding procession through London.

Charline belongs to many organizations, most hereditary oriented are: regent of her chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution, historian of her chapter of the Daughters of 1812, past secretary of her chapter of the Daughters of the Confederacy, flag chairman of the Daughters of American Colonists, Colonial Dames of the 17th Century and Magna Charta Dames.

This spring, she was a delegate to both

See Page 23 - Profile

From Page 20 - Saga

lessly stranded." Bets were being taken as to how long it would take to get unstuck

WFS member Caroline Wright of Goochland, VA, had independently joined the tour at Monticello and followed the bus in her blue pick-up. Seeing the situation she darted away only to return shortly with a jack. A good idea but the jack raised the bus hardly an inch. A ten man effort to push it free failed. This prompted the driver to call for a wrecker, using the bus phone.

It started to rain. The group took refuge underneath the house, on the porch and a few even sought shelter in the unlocked cars which were in the yard. Lee Preston remarked, "There were four large dogs, which took up at least one-third of the porch area restricting the number of Wingfields to about 25. They all welcomed the Wingfields warmly, as any watch dog should!" Only Richard Quarles, holder of 2 Ph.ds remained under a tree. Dick will probably never live down the teasing about knowing when to come in from the rain.

Time passed, no wrecker. Later it was learned, it could not find the driveway.

Betty Gamache, hovering on the porch with 24 others plus 4 dogs, noticed the door was unlocked and suggested someone go inside and dial 911. John Wingfield from Perry, GA made a call to the "Quick" Bus Company, the name on the bus, only adding confusion since the "Quick" company had sub-chartered the bus and became alarmed to learn one of their vehicles was hung up off some highway, a reaction that caused a few WFS members to think the driver had stolen the bus.

The driver did not take kindly to suggestions for solving the problem. In fact he



Bus No. 1 - Hung up

would have preferred to see 43 Wingfields vanish, never to appear again.

The wrecker finally arrived at the same instant the phone inside the house rang. "Don't answer it," John cautioned Maria Butler, who never able to ever let a phone ring, picked it up. "Mom?" came a small voice. "No, I'm not your mother," Maria replied. "'Is Mom there?'" returned the small

voice. "No. your mother is not here, but I'm here with a bunch of other people and we're on your front porch. We broke down on the road and came up here to get out of the storm." "Oh," said the voice. Maria continued, "We're nice people, and it looks like we'll be leaving now. A wrecker just got here. Call back and I'm sure your Mom will be here then."

The rain slowed and within a couple of minutes the bus was free, and the wet, frustrated Wingfields boarded, not for the continuation of the tour, it was too late for that, but to get back to the hotel in Fredericksburg, where they were already tardy for a reception and banquet.

"Lee Preston from Walnut Creek, CA, noticed the name "Quick" painted on the side, dryly and appropriately stated, "It was anything but quick!"

Last call for Photo Contest

Response is excellent. We are getting good photographs, some quite old. We urge you to get your photos in right away...You could still win!

August 15 is the final date in which you can send your old photographs of a Wingfield. The key is not how old the photograph is, but the oldest individual Wingfield or spouse. The rules:

1. Must be a photograph in good enough condition to screen for printing in the newsletter. No drawings.
2. Can be a Wingfield, wife or husband.
3. Entries must be received by August 15, 1991. Individuals must be identified, his/her age must be verifiable.
4. In case of duplicate dates (probably same person), the earliest entry will be counted.

All photos will be carefully handled and returned after screening. Screening does not harm the photograph in any way. Please enclose self addressed envelope to:

Photo Contest

Wingfield Family Society
301 Belleview Blvd.,
Belleair, FL 34616

PRIZES:

- 1st: Copy of "Muniments of the Ancient Saxon Family of Wingfield" (value \$155.) sent anywhere in the U. S.
- 2nd: 2 year membership (value \$50.00)
- 3rd: 1 year membership (value \$25.00)

A Report: England-Ireland tour

The Wingfield England and Ireland tour of 1991 gave participating members an insight into a new level of historical - genealogical significance. Whereas the 1988 tour concentrated on places from whence the Wingfields came, this tour stressed getting to

know our distant cousins better in their own environment. Opal Wingfield of Ault, Colorado said she thought the tour was better all around than the first in 1988; Charline Preston from Walnut Creek, California also compared the two saying she particularly liked the "people" aspect. The group had charter luxury motorcoaches throughout the

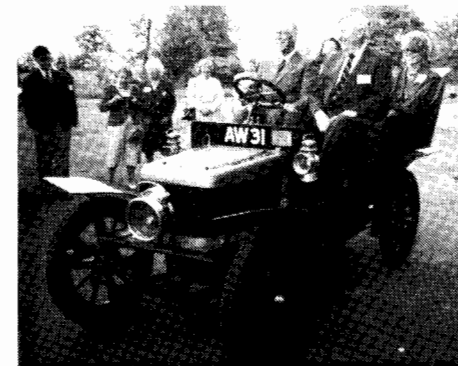


Simon Wingfield- Digby of Sherborne Castle greets WFS president Bob Wingfield

tour. The hotels ranged from an medieval (13th century) Inn to deluxe, modern accommodations in Dublin. Some of the highlights of the tour are summarized:

It was exciting to meet the Lord of the Manor of Sherborne, WFS member, Simon Wingfield-Digby who personally met the group at Sherborne Castle, one of the first stops on the tour. He opened the castle just for our group and had special guides to show the many pieces of family art and relaying history of his branch of the Wingfields.

At the appointed hour and day, our motorcoach arrived at the home of Charles and Maxine Wingfield in Onslow. This lovely estate has over 2000 acres, many of which are splendid gardens. The group was met by Charles at the estate entrance in his 1913 automobile. After an appropriate greeting, Charles cranked (yes cranked) up the car and gave several a ride and estate tour. Many strolled through the gardens before having



A ride in Charles' 1913 auto

drinks and dinner in the elegant home. Charles Wingfield is related to Walter Wingfield, the

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inventor of tennis.

Another treat was in store for the members on their visit to Empingham and the residence of John and Sue Parry-Wingfield. Their newly renovated delightful home was the perfect place for lunch. But not before everyone was given free rein of the house and they explored the many interesting rooms and especially two that had John's many, many Wingfield artifacts laid out for inspection. One especially interesting item not reported before is the Lee family Bible with entries dating back to the 1300s. The Lees are ancestors of Robert E. Lee and one of the Lees married a Wingfield. There will be more on this as details develop. After the elegant lunch, we revisited the site of Tickencote Manor.

An unplanned stop was made at East Harling to visit the church that had a stained glass window showing Sir Robert Wingfield, M.P. kneeling dating from 1480. Excitement pitched when one of the group discovered additional carvings of the Wingfield shield under two of the six seats in the Miserere stalls. Apparently no one had recognized the significance of this before but it is a further indication of Wingfield involvement in the area.

Dr Blatchley, an expert on Wingfield history from nearby Ipswich, met the group at Leatheringham Church and gave an in depth review of Wingfield activity. A outside visit was made to Leatheringham Manor, former home of the Wingfields.

After an early morning flight to Dublin, the members visited Powerscourt Townhouse in downtown Dublin. This former city home of the Viscounts Powerscourt (Wingfields) is now a shopping arcade containing boutiques, restaurants, shops and stores. It is an attraction in itself. The manager of the facility gave the group a walkthrough tour verbally describing the former splendor and elegance of the enormous home. A tour of Dublin Castle revealed a Wingfield banner proudly on permanent display. That evening the coach drove to nearby Monkstown and the home of Philip and Suzie Wingfield. All tour members were treated to cocktails and another charming visit into the home of one of our cousins.

The final day was filled with anticipation as this was reserved for Powerscourt. First a stop in Enniskerry, a village just outside Powerscourt. Cannon Stokes (incidentally has Wingfield blood himself) gave a detailed description of the Wingfield involvement and showed many visual symbols and plaques in honor of the Wingfields. Some members had coffee at the Powerscourt Arms Hotel that had the Wingfield coat of arms on the outside

above the hotel sign. Inside someone noticed the wings on the Wingfield shield were upside down. After a visit to the waterfall in Powerscourt, the coach drove to one of the buildings of Powerscourt Manor that was not destroyed by fire, where a delightful lunch was



Bob Wingfield plants tree

catered just for our group. The group met Sarah Slazenger, daughter of the present owner and a delight. Before the tour of the gardens there was a tree planing ceremony with President Bob Wingfield, and Lord of the Manor of Wingfield officiating. The tree will be part of the gardens and a plaque will show the event referenced to the Wingfield Family Society visit on May 28, 1991.

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the state and national conventions of the Daughters of the American Revolution.

For over 10 years Charline was social studies chairman for her school. She is an avid sports fan and coached co-ed ball teams and a few boys' ball teams at her school.

In connection with her teaching career, Charline and Lee made several study tour trips to Europe, as well as trips to Canada, Mexico and Hawaii. Altogether, Charline has made over 10 trips to England and loves just about everything connected with that country. In 1977, Charline and Lee had the pleasure of meeting and being served Guinness Stout at the Lord Mayor of Dublin's home.

Lee Preston's research discovered discrepancies in accepted records at the headquarters of the Founders and Patriots of America and the Daughters of American Revolution, uncovered when Charline and her mother submitted applications. He was instrumental in getting these corrected. Separating genealogy assumption and myth, from

proven fact is an ongoing activity for Lee Preston. He is currently working with Dick Quarles, in an attempt to get an article published correcting records for Hanover County, Virginia.

Lee is a member of: Orinda, CA, Lodge #521, Free and Accepted Masons, Scottish Rite, Oakland, CA, Aahmes Shrine, Livermore, CA, past president of the Southern Alameda County Transportation Club, Union City, CA, past president and Bay Area Governor of Toastmasters Int'l, Tau Kappa Epsilon college fraternity at the Univ. of Oregon, which is also the fraternity of President Ronald Reagan. (Charline and Lee have had the pleasure of personally meeting and talking to President and Mrs. Reagan.)

Lee has or has had many hobbies besides genealogy. Currently he spends a lot of time vegetable gardening (drip irrigation system), has been a beekeeper, raised South American Auracauna "Easter Egg" chickens, (which lay green, blue, and pink eggs), and has bred and raised parakeets. He says keeping track of parakeet bloodlines is just like keeping track of the Wingfields.

Each year the board of directors of the Wingfield Family Society asks Lee to be the society's genealogist. Each year he gracefully declines, but is always remains ready to give anyone, member or not, advice and help, sometimes spending hours and much of his own time and money looking for those invisible relatives and seeking a clue that just may fill the missing gap.

Lee spends untold hours in libraries searching out census records looking for names and details to complete the Wingfield Census Library, a project for which he received recognition at the last WFS meeting.

Lee's restless energy is now directed toward another WFS project. This is to set up a Wingfield Genealogical Information Exchange program where all types of Wingfield documents and references will be listed in the WFS Newsletter for all to see.

Lee's desire to help the Wingfield Family Society, even though it is not his own line, is based on appreciation for the great contributions that Wingfields over the years have made to society, both in England and the New World - doing it for Charline and their children and grandchildren. It is their blood line and he wants them to have full benefit of Wingfield historical accomplishments.

He also enthusiastically supports WFS because it embodies what Lee feels the world needs more than anything else - family ties that bring diverse family lines together for friendly, productive and fun get-togethers, whether or not they actually carry Wingfield blood. It is, Lee says, a beautiful example of what Tickencote Wingfield-descendant George Bush refers to as one of the "Thousand Points of Light."

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council member Bartholomew Gosnold by the remaining three men on the council, Smith, Ratcliff and Martin. Ratcliff was elected president.

Four months is too short a time to test the leadership of a president, especially during one of the most devastating and disastrous periods of the fledgling Jamestown Colony. Wingfield would later write, "there were never Englishmen left in a forreigne cuntrye in such miserie as wee were in this new discovered Virginia." The colony was assailed with pestilence and famine. Three and four settlers would die in one night, with 60 perishing out of the 104 by the end of September, 1607 (including Gosnold). Smith was unpopular and disliked by virtually all the men, who considered him overbearing and egotistical. A few were not quite so harsh saying he was braggart and robber of the reputation of others. Early Jamestown history is maligned inasmuch as John Smith wrote the first and accepted history, exaggerating his role throughout his tenure. Naively the American public has wholeheartedly taken him at his own evaluation.

Bartholomew Gosnold was a strong force behind the Jamestown expedition and played a significant part in organizing the expedition and recruiting potential settlers, including Capt Edward Maria Wingfield.

He was a friend and neighbor of the Wingfields and probably indirectly got Edward Maria Wingfield appointed the colony's first president. Like Wingfield, Gosnold was on the council and together they were able to exert a strong hand and obtained reasonable discipline among the men. But conditions were so bad, food scarce, sickness and hard discipline caused morale to plummet. Unfortunately Gosnold died 4 months after arrival into Jamestown.

Wingfield foresaw his deposal when Gosnold was gravely ill. The two men (Gosnold and Wingfield) were opposed by others on the council, and with Gosnold dead, now Smith, Ratcliff and Martin were in control.

When Capt. Newport sailed back to England on April 10, 1607, he left little of the excess food supplies he brought for the settlers as the crew had eaten them. Wingfield was blamed for what he could not prevent and was made a scapegoat by the other members of the council. Serious and frivolous charges were brought against him in the midst of terrible misfortunes which assailed the colonist. Misappropriation of supplies, unfair rationing, being a Catholic, and a spy for Spain were some of the charges against Wingfield. Wingfield's downfall was obviously sweet revenge for Smith.

Wingfield returned to England in May 1608 and wrote a rebuttal to his removal called, "Discourse on Virginia". He probably provided this to His Majesty's Council on Virginia. But Wingfield's "Discourse" did not surface until 1848 when a draft of the document was found. By this time, Smith's history had been written and was accepted by the world. The discovery of Wingfield's Discourse so many years later hardly made a ripple in the history community. Wingfield was already disgraced and has remained so to this day.

In January 1608 under Archer's leadership, Smith, returning from captivity (after the alleged Pocahontas rescue event), was sentenced to be hanged for carelessly placing two of the men in jeopardy and allowing them to be killed by the Indians.

As if on cue, Newport's ship arrived from England, Smith's sentence overturned and he was saved.

Did the Pocahontas incident happen at all? Unfortunately it can never be proven one way or the other because there were no witnesses to dispute the story, but the facts cast extreme doubt. It was about 1859 that scholars began to question the Pocahontas tale as reported by Smith.

Smith was captured by the Indians on or about December 16, 1607. He details his day by day movements, activities and locations. All in all he was gone 16 days arriving back in Jamestown about January 2.

Smith's early writings give no hint of his dramatic rescue from execution by Pocahontas. His later historical reports exaggerate his time in captivity as being between three, six and seven weeks, depending on which report one reads. But there seems little doubt as to the elapsed time: about 16 days if we accept Smith's own daily diary.

Now we skip nine years and are in England. It is 1616. Pocahontas, now converted to Christianity, known as Rebecca, is married to John Rolfe of Jamestown fame visiting in London. At this point in time, Smith's rescue is still a secret that has not yet been revealed to the world.

Smith writes a letter to Queen Ann. (Not to the King, but to the Queen.) Some historians doubt the letter was ever sent, but if so certainly after Pocahontas died (1617), more likely not until 1624. Hence there was no way to collaborate the alleged rescue event. This letter is extremely important since this is the first time Smith reported his life being saved by Princess Pocahontas. It is also peculiar since it was now nine years after it happened, a long time to keep such an important and historic event concealed. Excerpts from Smith's letter to Queen Ann:

"I received from this great savage exceeding great courtesies, especially from some Nantaquaas, the most manliest, comelist,

boldest spirit, I ever saw in a Savage and his sister Pocahontas, the Kings most dear and well behaved daughter, being but a child of twelve or thirteen years (Pocahontas was 10 years old in 1608) of age whose compassionate pitiful, of my desperate state, gave me much cause to respect her: I being the first Christian this proud king and his grim attendants ever saw, and thus enthralled in their barbarous power....after some six weeks (more likely 16 days,) fattening amongst those Savage Courtiers, at the minute of execution, she (Pocahontas) hazard the beating out of her own brains and mine. And not only that, but so prevailed with her father, that I was safely conducted to Jamestown where...."

Some might say Smith did not realize the significant effect this incident would have on history and especially the level of heroics he would gain because of it. His history of Virginia had already been written and the rescue, if indeed it happened at all, ignored. This was not John Smith's style..

More likely Smith read about the 1528 incident in Spanish Florida that was published in 1609 about Juan Ortiz being captured by the Indians. After being tortured, and in pain, Ortiz's suffering touched the heart of the daughter of the chief. She pleaded with her father for Ortiz's life. "Though one Christian might do no good," she said, "certainly he could do no harm." Reluctantly the chief yielded to his daughter's pleas and gave orders for Ortiz to be freed.

Sound familiar? Could this incident have triggered Smith's active imagination to plagiarize and rewrite his earlier history to fit his escape?

Free Sample Coupon for those at meeting

Each member registering in advance for the 5th annual WFS meeting in Fredericksburg found a "Free Sample Coupon" good for a package of Eskimo Pies in their meeting registration packet.

For those that did not get the significance of this gesture, please be advised that this was arranged by Betty Gamache who in her spare time works for Reynolds. Betty felt everyone should have a welcome gift on arrival to the area. Someone had suggested Confederate money, but Betty said lets give them something they can use.

We thank you, Betty for your generosity. Does that mean we will have a free poker chip in the packet at Reno in 1992? Stay tuned, who knows.

See you in Reno, Nevada
May 14-17, 1992