



Eskridge Family News

202 Hidalgo Dr
Hampton, VA 23669-1656

May 2023

LETTER FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Dear Cousins and friends,

The Eskridge Family Association officers are making plans for our annual gathering of the membership. This will provide an opportunity to meet new and returning families and exchange stories of this great and expansive family tree. We hope you will make plans to join those attending the Annual Meeting September 30, 2023. We are planning a tour of the Shirley Plantation, which is located in Charles City County. The county is a quiet rural area in the east-central portion of the Commonwealth of Virginia. In 1634 the colonial General Assembly met at Jamestown and divided the Colony into eight shires. Charles City was named for England's then King's son, Charles. Charles later became King Charles I. Settlement in the county began about 1613. Several plantation estates were established in this early period and are available to be visited today. As we welcome you to Virginia, there are many sites of interest nearby such as Jamestown, Williamsburg or Yorktown.

Come and join our group of descendants and family. Tell us about your discoveries and learn new information also.

Hope to see you in Williamsburg. We'll have a grand time !!

Sincerely,

Carolyn

Carolyn Knight President

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- The 2023 Annual Meeting will be held the weekend of September 29–Oct 1 in historic Williamsburg VA
- If you have not paid your membership dues, please send the \$15 payment to:
NEW
Martha Bostick
2537 Holly Oak Ln
Gastonia, NC 28056
- Children, grandchildren, births, marriages, divorces, deaths—we would love to have your latest information to include in the Historical Archives.

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Remember to keep your information up-to-date. Please send changes or corrections of personal information of family lineage to:

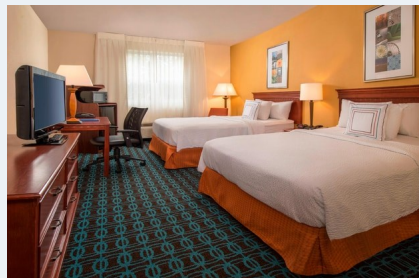
Carolyn Knight
202 Hidalgo Dr
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757-243-8162

FROM YOUR TREASURER

Dear Cousins: We would like to introduce you to your new Treasurer — Martha Bostick. Martha lives in Gastonia NC and has agreed to serve as our treasurer. We would also like to thank Coz Ann Campbell for serving as treasurer for the last couple years.

Please note that the revised membership form includes our e mail, web address and social media accounts. We need the ability to communicate with you electronically so thank you for making sure you fill out your e mail address. EFA will never share your information.

Your membership expiration date is on the address label for this newsletter. If no date is shown, we would be grateful if you would start paying your family dues in 2023. At the moment, we are still examining ways to pay online that match non-profit organizations. QUESTIONS: Contact Martha Bostick martha_b@bellsouth.net 704-824-1685 (leave a message)



IT'S REUNION TIME !!! – SAVE THE DATE

Our reunion will be at The Fairfield by Marriott in beautiful and historic Williamsburg VA this year September 29, 30 & October 1. We have used this hotel before and find it very nice and convenient for our purposes.. Make your reservations by calling the hotel directly 757-645-3600. Rooms are \$139 per night as long as reservations are made by August 30th for a king or 2 queens — price includes tax and continental breakfast.

THIS IS A MARVELOUS EXPERIENCE!! COME JOIN US AND GET TO KNOW YOUR ESKRIDGE COUSINS BETTER!

Address is: 1402 Richmond Rd Williamsburg VA 23185.

REUNION MEETING 2023 TO BE HELD AT HISTORIC SHIRLEY 501 Shirley Plantation Road Charles City, VA 23030



SHIRLEY
EST. 1613

We return to Historic Shirley (Plantation) for our business meeting, luncheon and afternoon activities this year. This is one of the most beautiful plantation homes in Virginia. A little about Shirley:

“Shirley stands as a testament to Colonial life and the early American history of the indigenous, settlers, indentured, and enslaved. Shirley is Virginia’s first plantation, founded in 1613 after a Royal grant carved the plantation out of the Virginia frontier. Shirley is also the oldest family-owned business in North America, dating to 1638 . . . Construction of the manor house began ca 1723 and was completed in 1738 and remains largely in its original state.”

Come join us as we get a glimpse of Colonial life at the time of Colonel George Eskridge

More details to come in the next newsletter

DID YOU KNOW?

The portraits of Colonel George Eskridge and Rebecca Bonum once hung at Mount Vernon. General Peter C Rust loaned the portraits to The Mount Vernon Ladies’ Association to display at Mount Vernon — and so they did until General Rust’s death in 1913.

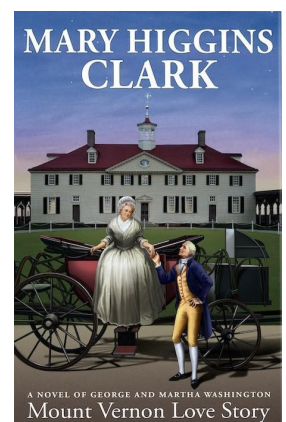
By his will: . I give and bequeath to the Virginia Historical Society, Richmond Virginia, the portraits of my ancestors, George Eskridge and wife, now in the mansion of Mount Vernon, Fairfax County, Virginia, I having loaned them to the ladies’ Mount Vernon Association, the same to be returned to me on demand; I having written permission from Mrs. Townsend, Lady Regent of the Association to take them back whenever so desired by me.

Mount Vernon is NOT taxpayer supported — it is NOT a national or state park or a part of the National Trust for Historic Preservation. From the minute the estate passed out of the hands of the Washington family, it has been supported by the efforts of individuals like you and I.

Mary Higgins Clark published a book in 1969 about George and Martha Washington — originally called Aspire to the Heavens. — it launched her career. The Mount Vernon Ladies’ Association asked to republish the book as Mount Vernon Love Story. They use it to help raise funds for Mount Vernon

You can own your hard back copy of the love story for a donation of \$29 to mountvernon.org/LoveStory

If you haven’t visited Mount Vernon in a while, we recommend it — especially the interactive presentation in the Visitor’s Center — enjoy the snow!!!



Family News — more births, deaths, marriages and a listing of donations will be in the Fall newsletter.

IN MEMORIUM

Claude L Price Jr — born 1 December 1938 Fredericksburg VA; died 25 October 2022. He was not an Eskridge but was the long time friend and fiancé of Betty Brown. She reports that “he was a man of humble means & extraordinary talent. Whatever he did — his carpentry or farm work was the best and he expected the same of his employees.”

William Henry 9 Eskridge III (Rich 3 Sam 2) — was born 20 December 1950 Charlotte, NC; died 3 February 2023 Reston VA

Some families are devoted to a life of service in the military, but few moreso than this group of cousins!

Martha Lucille “Lula” 7 Castleberry (Eliz A 6 Sar 5 Rich 4 Rich 3 Sam 2 Geo 1) was born 7 February 1870 Dawsonville, Dawson Co GA; died 23 April 1931 Miami Dade, FL. Buried Westview Cemetery, Atlanta, Fulton Co GA.

She married Col John Charles Woodward 24 December 1891 Dawson Co GA. He was born 26 July 1866 Butts Co GA; died 27 August 1939 College Park, Fulton Co GA. He served as VP & Commandant Gordon Institute at Barnesville GA; then as president Georgia Military College, Milledge GA from 1892 until 1896; then as Superintendent of Schools in Newnan GA 1897-1900 when he founded Georgia Military Academy at College Park GA.

They had 7 children — of those:

***Rear Admiral Douglas Castleberry 8 Woodward — 1894-1973. He served in both WW I and WW II — he was the father of:**

Lt Col John Charles 9 Woodward II — 1924-2000

Capt. Douglas Castleberry 9 Woodward Jr — 1925-1966

Patricia Elizabeth 9 Woodward — 1922 — 2009 whose husband was Col. Wolfred K White

***Major Crusselle Dewey 8 Woodward — 1897-1959**

Trustee Georgia Military Academy, USMC WW I & WW II

***Ruth Gladys 8 Woodward — 1901-1990. She married Brig. Gen Claude Monroe McQuarrie — West Point, WW II and Korea**

Their son: Brig. Gen. Claude Monroe “Jock” 9 McQuarrie Jr

***Marjorie Lucille 8 Woodward — 1910-1952. She married Clifton Tumlin “Bud” Harris who served as football coach at Georgia Military Academy**

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE COUSINS!!

FROM THE ARCHIVES

MARY BALL WASHINGTON MONUMENT & THE ESKRIDGE OAK

On Thursday 29 April 1937, members of the Eskridge, Ball, Steptoe and Washington families from many locations, dedicated an oak tree and tablet to the memory of Col George Eskridge of Sandy Point on the grounds of the Mary Washington monument in Fredericksburg VA.

As reported to you in April 2019, the Eskridge Oak and the Monument were in trouble. Years of erosion and neglect endanger the oak and the nearby meditation rock. The City of Fredericksburg was proposing a project to protect the tree.

The Eskridge Family Association began collecting some money for the project, but after visiting the spot as a part of our 2019 reunion & seeing the lack of a specific physical plan and a lack of commitment on the part of the city to carry out the plan, we questioned their resolve.

Combine that with the fact that a member of our association was seriously hurt in a tumble down the hill behind the monument and tree, we stopped trying to collect money and decided to just hold on to what we had until we saw some positive movement.

THEN GLORY BE!!!

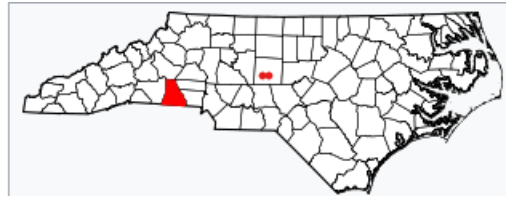
19 January 2023 — the City of Fredericksburg transfers the land to the Washington Heritage Museums. Hooray!!

"WHM owns and operates four historic properties in the city—all associated in some way with Mary Washington, the mother of George. The Mary Washington House was her Fredericksburg residence from 1772 until her death in 1789. The Rising Sun Tavern was built by her younger son, Charles; the Hugh Mercer Apothecary Shop was operated by her doctor; and the St. James' House was built by her lawyer, James Mercer. " And now the Mary Ball Washington Monument and Caretaker House fall under their umbrella.

This non-profit organization has a local board of directors and raises money nation-wide to protect and improve all the properties. These people do this as a business — their executive director — Anne R Darron in a meeting with your editor assures me that they are going to move forward with major plans for the renovation and preservation of the Eskridge Oak area. They hope to announce a major fund raising effort in a couple months. Stay tuned!

Visit their website & check them out: washingtonheritagemuseums.org

Meanwhile, we are accepting donations for the project — send to our treasurer

FROM THE ARCHIVES

[Wiki pedia](#)

THE ESKRIDGE FAMILY IN CLEVELAND COUNTY NC

In 1800, Richard 4 Eskridge and his brother, George 4 Eskridge, were living in Person Co NC while their father Richard 3 continued to live in nearby Caswell Co NC. These 3 men were the only Eskridge heads of families living in NC in 1800. George 4 Eskridge remained in Person Co until at least 1814, whereas Richard 4 moved away ca 1801. The 1810 census for Rutherford Co NC reported that Richard 4 was then living there. Rutherford Co is in southern NC, just west of Charlotte.

Richard 4 and Betsy, his wife, and their children were accompanied from Caswell/Person Co by Betsy's parents - the Reynolds- and her unmarried siblings. Both families settled in that part of Rutherford Co that later formed Cleveland Co. (1841)

Richard made his first land purchase on 25 October 1806. (Rutherford Co NC Deed Bk 27-28, page 21, deed recorded 4 February 1813).

By 1830, Richard 4 Eskridge had acquired 4 slaves. That was the year before he died. He and Betsy are buried in the now neglected Richard Eskridge Cemetery, which is located between their home stead and Beaver Dam Creek Baptist Church, some 6 miles from Shelby NC. The cemetery contains 40 graves.

Richard 4 and Elizabeth had 9 children — ALL 9 of them had children of their own. Five of the nine stayed in the Cleveland/Rutherford County area of NC their entire lives. Their descendants represent one of the largest geographical concentrations of Eskridge family in the country. As we have done genealogical research in the area, it is fairly common for us to run into double cousins — cousins marrying cousins — even if they are separated by generations.

THANK YOU CLEVELAND COUNTY NC FOR OUR ROOTS!!

CHARLES LESTER 7 ESKRIDGE (A Webb 6 J Green 5 Rich 4 Rich 3 Sam 2 Geo1) was born 17 March 1884 Shelby NC. He died there 7 June 1931. Buried Sunset Cemetery, Shelby, Cleveland Co NC

CHARLES LESTER 7 ESKRIDGE was one of those Cleveland Co NC descendants of Richard 4. He had a natural inclination toward mechanics, coupled with a gnawing desire to make Shelby an up and coming town. He was one of the first to introduce modern conveniences to Shelby and took a leading role in promoting the Shelby airport. He owned the first automobile and one of the first radios in town.

After high school (1899), he took over managership of the Shelby Telephone Co (1900), building the first long distance telephone line at Shelby; then establishing Indian River Telephone Co in FL (1903). After completing the course at Philadelphia (PA) School of Horology (1907), he opened a jewelry store (1907), a millinery shop (1908), and an auto bus transportation co (1910). Some years later, he hit his stride when he became a Ford and Lincoln car dealer, a job he held for 20 years.

He served as director, Shelby 1st National Bank and Shelby Building and Loan Assn, Shelby Chamber of Commerce and Kiwanis Club, and was president, Cleveland Springs Golf Club. He was active in local Democratic party politics and in the philanthropic work of his church, First Baptist. He was fond of hunting, fishing, golf and visiting distant places. He is perhaps best remembered for his efforts to direct young men into the way of civic betterment.

Charles Lester 7 Eskridge married, at Belwood NC 28 January 1908 Lela Ethel Porter of Blacksburg SC (7 June 1883 -- 6 December 1973), daughter of Martha Henrietta Hoyle and Robert Erwin Porter. Mr Porter was an influential Blacksburg planter and teacher. Both are buried at Sunset Cem, Shelby NC.



Shelby's first automobile was owned by Charles L. Eskridge. Here Mr. Eskridge, with Miss Mabel Joseph, later Mrs. Tom Lattimore, are shown around 1902 before the old Cleveland County Courthouse.

2023 EFA REUNION

MAKE YOUR PLANS TO ATTEND THE 2023 REUNION

SEPTEMBER 29, 30, & OCTOBER 1

FAIRFIELD BY MARRIOTT

1402 RICHMOND ROAD

WILLIAMSBURG, VA 23185

757-645-3600

SPECIAL RATE OF \$139 UNTIL 8/30/2023

Your Living History...

Eskridge Family

Association

Carolyn Knight

202 Hidalgo Dr

Hampton, VA 23669-1656

E Mail: crknight@cox.net



