



# Esbridge Family News

152 Pine Creek Drive  
Hampton, VA 23669-1244

April 2018

## LETTER FROM OUR PRESIDENT

### SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- The 2018 Annual Meeting will be held the weekend of October 5-7 in beautiful Richmond VA
- If you have not paid your membership dues, please send the \$15 payment to:  
  
Ann Campbell  
2311 Dolfield Dr  
Richmond VA 23235
- Children, grandchildren, births, marriages, divorces, deaths—we would love to have your latest information to include in the Historical Archives.

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Dear Cousins and friends,

Spring flowers are beginning to pop out. Hopefully warmer weather can't be too far behind!

The Esbridge Family Association officers are making plans for another opportunity to gather and meet new and returning members and exchange stories of this great and now expansive family tree. We hope you will make plans to join those attending the Annual Meeting on October 6<sup>th</sup>, 2018. It has been rewarding hearing from people interested in their connection to Colonel George. The Reunion is always a great time to share and to hear more about what has been learned this past year.

At the Museum of History and Culture, we will not only be able to tour the museum, but will have the privilege of seeing the portraits of George Esbridge and his wife Rebecca. It is nice to be able to have that visual image of the person you have read about.

We are pleased to announce that our books are now available for purchase by flash drive (\$15) or DVD (\$10). Address orders to our treasurer Ann Campbell.

I look forward to meeting you in October. Meanwhile, I would be glad to hear about your discoveries and new information also.

Sincerely,

*Carolyn*  
Carolyn Knight  
President

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

Carolyn Knight  
152 Pine Creek Drive  
Hampton, VA 23669-1244  
E-mail: [crknight@cox.net](mailto:crknight@cox.net)

## FROM YOUR TREASURER

The address label on your newsletter includes a date such as 12/31/2016 This is the date your dues have been paid through. Dues are paid for an entire calendar year from January to December. If your label does not have a date included then dues have not been received in recent years. Associations receiving the newsletter will have an "A" on their address label.

If you have any questions about your dues contact our new EFA Treasurer: Ann Campbell Eskridge Family Association 2311 Dolfield Dr Richmond VA 23235  
Email: annsearchn4fam@gmail.com Phone: 804-272-6543

### TREASURER'S REPORT 2017

The complete Treasurer's Report for 2017 has been approved by your officers under our bylaws. This is an abbreviated version:

Beginning Balance	\$15,209.07	Available Funds:	
Income	\$4,680.50	General Fund	\$12,812.34
Expenses	\$3,176.87	Research	\$2,414.94
Ending Balance	\$16,712.70	Website	\$235.42
		Scholarship	\$50.00
		ES Eskridge Sr Fund	\$1,200.00

A complete report is available to members from the President or the Treasurer on request.

### MINUTES OF THE 2017 REUNION

Minutes of the meeting have been posted to the EFA website

## IT'S REUNION TIME !!! – SAVE THE DATE

**Our reunion will be in Richmond VA this year October 5, 6 & 7. Our hotel will be Comfort Suites at Virginia Commons, Glen Allen VA They are offering us special rates thru September 14th Make your reservations by calling 804-262-2000 and mention EFA or Eskridge Family Association to get the special rates.**

**THINK ABOUT VOLUNTEERING TO SERVE AS AN OFFICER ! We want the association to continue to thrive and grow. So fresh blood is needed!**

**TALK TO COZ. CAROLYN**

Richard C 9 Ford Jr — 22 April 2017 spouse of Glenna Jean, father of Karen & Patty— Burd 3

Jean 9 Eskridge Phillips — 1 March 2013, spouse of Albert Phillips — Geo 3 Geo 2 Albert Phillips — 21 July 2017 — spouse of Jean.

Carl W Burkhardt — 14 June 2007 — spouse of Martha 9 D Burkhardt — Burd 3

Wanda 9 Eskridge Woollard — 14 January 2018 — spouse of Wilbur L Woollard and sister of Jean 9 Eskridge Phillips

NEW MEMBERS

- Dr Wade T 11 Jordan — Rich 3
- John Stanley 10 Eskridge & Family — Geo 3 Geo 2
- William V 11 West III — John 3
- David E 11 West — John 3

OFFICIAL TRAVEL CONSULTANT

EFA HAS APPOINTED A NEW PERSON TO WORK WITH YOU ON YOUR TRAVEL ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE REUNION

MEET MICHELLE KEELEY WITH MANN TRAVELS IN CHARLOTTE NC



704-542-4242  
EXT 288

BIRTHS

- Carter Douglas 11 Cutbirth — born 1 March 2017 to Virginia & Aaron Cutbirth; ggrdson to Donna 8 Dudley
- Ethan Jose 11 Reyes — born 30 June 2017 to Amanda & Dion Reyes; ggrdson to Donna 8 Dudley

Hale Coble Edwards	\$10 website, \$10 research, \$10 hon Virginia Hale Eskridge	<b>D O N A T I O N S</b>
M/M Joseph M Eskridge II	\$50 English research	
Robert George	\$70	
M/M Donald Johnson	\$15 website	
Lee Payne	\$35 US research; hon Virginia Harding Chilton	
Betty Thompson	\$25 hon Mary Louise Eskridge Taylor	
Carolyn Walker	\$25 research	
M/M Tony Zeiss	\$10 general fund, \$10 research, \$10 website	
M/M John K Springer	\$10 website	
M/M James E Roberson	\$35 English research	
Earl Stanford Eskridge	\$70	
Martha D Burkhardt	\$5	
Mrs Fran Markowski	\$50 Westmoreland County High School Scholarship	
John Stanley Eskridge	\$10	
Lucy Headley	\$100 website	

**REMEMBER DONATIONS TO EFA ARE TAX DEDUCTIBLE!**

## TOM HORN

21 NOVEMBER 1860 — 20 NOVEMBER 1903

SCOUT, COWBOY, SOLDIER, RANGE DETECTIVE,  
PINKERTON AGENT, HIRED GUNMAN

HOW DOES HE FIT INTO ESKRIDGE HISTORY??



On a recent afternoon I happened to catch an episode of Death Valley Days on GRIT Tv — “The Perilous Refuge” — 1959. The episode had to do with how Tom Horn had saved some mail order brides from being kidnapped from their stagecoach ride by some Mormons looking for wives. I thought “Tom Horn had something to do with John Cathcart Coble who married our co-founder Elise Virginia 7 Towson. I thought you might enjoy knowing “the rest of the story”.

On 9 March 1904, Elise married John Cathcart Coble (4 June 1858 Carlisle PA—2 December 1914), a son of Hettie Cathcart and John Eberly Coble. While a student at Lafayette College PA, John Cathcart Coble was nominated a cadet to the US Naval Academy, Annapolis MD.

On the way to the Academy, he suddenly changed his mind and decided that he wanted to be a cattleman. He wired his mother from Omaha NE to send him \$10,000 and she complied. With the money, he joined Harry Windsor in the business of buying and raising cattle. They moved on to the Powder River Country of Wyoming in 1881. In time, Mr Coble became a renowned cattleman, founder of the Frontier Land and Cattle Co of WY, with ranches and feeding sites in several different locations in WY, CA and NY. In 1886, the company sold out, but Mr

Coble continued in the business with a 4000 acre feeding ranch at Herman NE and herds at Iron Mountain WY.

John Cathcart Coble was a man of broad interests. In the film "Tom Horn", starring Steve McQueen, "Tom Horn" is depicted by Mr. Coble as a ranch hand. He was also a great friend of the Indians. His daughter, Catharine Latimer Rust & Coble, described those halcyon years as follows:

"When my father first came Out West and started ranching, all the Indians seemed to like and trust him. Sitting Bull gave him a tomtom . . . Chief Washakie also would come to the ranch to visit with him. On our ranch in Nevada, there was a whole Indian settlement, and their young braves were cowboys for us and we had the prettiest Indian girl for a nurse. They wove carriers for our dolls so we could carry them on our backs like they did their papooses. When the chief died, they burned down their teepees, to drive out the evil spirits and moved away. I remember meeting Red Fox and Black Hawk. Red Fox was a noted Indian educator and Black Hawk was his aide. They were both graduates of Carlisle which was an Indian college there in Pennsylvania - the only one at that time."

In real life, in 1901, he hired Tom Horn to be a "cattle detective" to help stop cattle rustling.

Coble belonged to the Wyoming Stock Men's Association and they wanted to stop cattle rustling. One of the Association's members, Jim Miller and a sheep rancher Kels Nickell had ongoing disputes. Willie Nickell — the 14 year old son of Kels was found murdered near the homestead gate. Tom Horn was accused of the murder and put on trial.

Coble paid John W Lacey \$100,000 for Tom Horn's defense. Horn was found guilty and hanged. It was never proven that Horn had committed the murder and Coble took Tom Horn's death to heart. After Horn was hanged, Coble's wealth dwindled. In December 1914, he killed himself in the ladies room in the lobby of a hotel in Elko NV

## FROM THE ARCHIVES

**Captain Burdette 3 Eskridge (Sam 2 Geo 1) was born in Westmoreland Co Virginia, ca 1740/1741; killed in the Clouds Creek Massacre, Edgefield District SC, 17 November 1781. Appears to have been buried at the Butler Cemetery, Leesville, Lexington Co SC**

### CLOUD'S CREEK MASSACRE — HOW DID IT HAPPEN.?

Burditt and Nance Eskridge, with Samuel, their eldest son and 3 slaves – George, Bet and Jeney – joined a wagon train carrying migrants bound for resettlement in the area around Edgefield SC. A List of Tythables for Pittsylvania County VA for 1770 gives the names of Burdett Eskridge and Nance's uncle, Dr Enoch Grigsby, and close associates showing that they were living on Smith River in Pittsylvania County VA. They made this much needed half-way stop along the tedious 500 mile trek south. As Jack C Grantham, Dallas TX, and a descendant of Burditt, tells it:

“It was the usual practice in migrations, for wagon trains to halt for long periods of time. The comfort and health of the people were not the only things to be considered. The oxen, mules and horses needed a sustained period of grazing and recuperation. It was not unusual for migrants to spend months in permitting this to happen and to let nature remedy the damage and fatigue of the journey. The wise practice was to ‘sit out’ the entire winter and to do so for an extended period which permitted a cycle of crops and fodder to be harvested. This train had children, Samuel 4 Eskridge {Burditt's eldest son} being only one of them, and there was a need for milk cows to accompany the move down the trail. these slow-moving animals demanded an unhurried pace on the trail, and a long time in rest and grazing.”

It is not known exactly when the party reached South Carolina, but Burditt 3 and Ann “Nance” finally settled in the lush bottomlands of Richland Creek, 96<sup>th</sup> District, Collins County SC. At that time, the county was in ferment – about to break forth in civil war.. In South Carolina, the Revolution developed into a bitter civil war between the Whigs (Patriots) and Tories (Loyalists). Capt. Eskridge and his in-laws, the Grigsbys, along with the Butlers, Smiths and Bells settled in the bottomlands and were engaged on the side of the Whigs or Patriots.

## Let's set the scene . . .

South Carolina was a bitter battlefield — neighbor against neighbor, sometimes family against family. Men switched sides, often times because promises of pay or booty were not kept. Charleston was a major British stronghold for much of the war. Governor Rutledge spent most of the war in exile because it was not safe for him in South Carolina. Most of the fighting was between South Carolinians. But then:

On 19 October 1781, General Cornwallis surrendered at Yorktown. — end of story? no, no, no

On 14 October 1781, the British evacuated Wilmington NC — their last stronghold in NC

**William "Bloody Bill" Cunningham** (1756 –1787) was an American loyalist infamous for perpetrating a series of bloody massacres in South Carolina's backcountry in the fall of 1781 as commander of a Tory militia regiment. Though his family were loyal to the British crown, Cunningham initially enlisted in the Continental Army as part of the State of South Carolina's 3rd regiment in 1775. His tenure in the rebel army was an unhappy one and Cunningham changed sides to fight for the British in 1778. He earned the nickname "Bloody Bill" for the violent, ruthless nature of his raids on rebels and patriot civilians. By late 1781, "Bloody Bill" and his band of marauders were bent on revenge, robbing and looting. Nothing noble about their cause or actions.

On 17 November 1781, a small group of Patriot Militia, led by Capt. James Butler, Sr. and Capt. Sterling Turner, about thirty (30) in number, were overwhelmed and slaughtered by a force of 300 Loyalist militia led by Major William "Bloody Bill" Cunningham. Only two Patriot militiamen managed to escape. Among the Patriots was Captain Burdette Eskridge.

The Patriots returned fire from inside the log home and sent out a messenger to ask for terms of surrender. Major Cunningham refused any terms that would include James Butler, Jr. (in the party of Patriots with his father), and Capt. Butler offered his own life in exchange for his son's. Then his son fired out of the house and killed a Loyalist, ending all discussions, and ending up with the son dead. The Patriots now only hoped for mercy, but "Bloody Bill" was again to live up to his name. He put his own sword to Capt. Butler, Capt. Turner and all but two men

## 2018 EFA REUNION

MAKE YOUR PLANS TO ATTEND THE 2018 REUNION

OCTOBER 5, 6 and 7

COMFORT SUITES AT VIRGINIA CENTER COMMONS

10601 TELEGRAPH RD.

GLEN ALLEN, VA 23059

804-262-2000



### *Eskridge Family Association*

Carolyn Knight  
152 Pine Creek Dr  
Hampton, VA 23669-1244

E Mail: [crknight@cox.net](mailto:crknight@cox.net)

***Your Living History...***