

Eskridge Family News

202 Hidalgo Dr
Hampton, VA 23669-1656

April 2026

LETTER FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Dear EFA Cousins and friends,

Change is underway at EFA — and while it may take some getting used to it, we hope it will make us more flexible and efficient. We are trying to go digital with most everything being handled online. Go to our website: eskridgefamilyassociation.com to check out the changes.

We are happy to say we are going ahead with plans to gather at Stratford Hall Plantation for our annual Association Reunion. We welcome you to Virginia and hope you will take advantage of the opportunities to mingle with other Eskridge descendants and their families. Coz Ann Campbell has been busy making arrangements for us. Westmoreland County VA is at the very heart of our roots in the U.S.

Our Guest House is a beautiful and private location and we will have it all to ourselves. There is a beautiful and spacious great room and a large deck, if the weather will cooperate. We will gather there for our Friday evening get together. While we will be providing nibble foods, desserts, soft drinks and wine, we would encourage you to provide for yourself as far as dinner is concerned. There are no food/restaurant facilities on or near the plantation grounds.

Friday will be our time to share our genealogy books and family stories.

Saturday morning, our annual meeting will take place at 10:00 am at beautiful Yeocomico Church — sit where Col George worshipped. A box lunch will be served.

Saturday afternoon you can join us on a tour of Burnt Field House Cemetery, tour Stratford, visit Yeocomico Church and Sandy Point or other points of interest. We will have dinner Saturday night at a local restaurant if you are interested

Sunday will be at your leisure.

We look forward to a time of gathering, sharing our families' stories, adding to the rich history we have built to this time. The genealogical research done by many of you and others has helped the collection of information grow. Many of our members have contacted us with details of their extended families. It is valuable information to the whole story and also brings out more facts that may be of interest to other members.

Hope to see you at Stratford. We'll have a grand time !!

Sincerely,

Carolyn

Carolyn Knight

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
Hampton, VA 23669-1656
E-mail: crknight@cox.net
or enter them in the Member Profiles tab on the website

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- The 2026 Annual Meeting will be held the weekend of October 2, 3 and 4 in historic Westmoreland VA
- If you have not paid your membership dues, please send the \$20 payment to:
NEW
Joe Comer
Eskridge Family Association
PO Box 817
Fairhope, AL 36533
- Children, grandchildren, births, marriages, divorces, deaths—we would love to have your latest information to include in the Historical Archives.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

President's Letter	1
Treasurer's Report	2
Association News	3
From History & Archives	3
Reunion & History	4
From History & Archives	5 & 6
History & News	7

FROM YOUR ASSOCIATION

Just before the reunion last October, our treasurer — Martha Bostick — let us know that she wanted to/needed to resign as treasurer. We sincerely thank Martha for stepping in and taking the job for a while.

Throughout the weekend — we discussed the state of the association. We discussed the ever rising costs associated with printing and mailing 2 newsletters per year. We discussed how we have been doing business pretty much the same way for years. Cousins talked about how other organizations they belong to do things. The consensus of those present was that we needed to change.

Coz Joe Comer from Alabama agreed to become treasurer with the added job as membership chairman. Coz Dale West of Virginia — our web master — agreed to help get things moving. These two cousins have set up a path to move EFA to the digital age as quickly as possible.

Your board of directors voted to immediately move to one digital and 1 printed newsletter for a year or so — but to move to digital entirely long term. This is the first digital newsletter — it is posted to the web site

We are setting it up so you can do almost everything on line — pay your dues, register for the reunion, ask questions. post items of interest.

From Your Treasurer / Membership Chair

As many of you know Eskridge Family Association has gone digital the first of this year. And many thanks to the 38 members on our email list that renewed and the 27 new members that have registered. This, along with the previously paid members, brings our total membership to date of 87 paid members!

For those receiving this by email and have not renewed their membership, please go to the link below using your email and complete your profile information:

<https://eskridgefamilyassociation.com/member-sign-in/>

Please share this with others and direct them to the Registration page at:

<https://eskridgefamilyassociation.com/membership-registration-form>

Contact your Treasure / Membership Chair:

<https://eskridgefamilyassociation.com/contact-us>

Welcome New or Returning Members

Karen R Baluk	Melissa Joan Eskridge		
Kathryn Besancon	Charles Gerald Frank		
Horatio Anthony Eskridge Bigelow	Lucy Newton Massey Headley		
Judi Booker	Craig Ira Lind		
Hildreth Lee Segan Bottom	Ann Schulz		
Brenda Misle Downing	Leila E. Shepherd		
Carl Bryan Eskridge	Mimi Eskridge Bigelow Steadman		
Grace Elizabeth Eskridge	Janet Sumner		
Meredith Grady Eskridge	Wynelle Wagnon		
Paul Coleman Eskridge	Claude Morris Warren IV		
Lynn Mathis Eskridge	Kathryn Geneva Whitt		
Donn Eskridge	Richard Thorne Wickenkamp		

Remember Those Gone Ahead

Please let us know of others not listed here and a little about our cousin.
membership@eskridgefamilyassociation.com

Roberta (Bobbi) Prentice	Died 2025
Virginia Hale Eskridge Coble	d 18 April 2018
Mary Katherine Taylor McDaniel	d 9 December 2025
Joy Hoyle	d 22 November 2024
James W Kelsic	unknown
Barbara Eskridge 9 Lind	d 23 February 2025

Donations

Names for our donation categories have changed a little. You can see it on the website at: <https://eskridgefamilyassociation.com/donate-now/>

Research

Support our genealogy research through professional genealogist DNA and local or foreign visits where records might lead to where George Eskridge came from.

Education

Support our efforts to educate through our website and meetings in basic genealogy, restoration and artifact techniques, Northern Neck history and how that connects to modern times.

Where Needed

For Research, Education or Operations as decided by the Board.

Eskridge Family Association is a 501C (7) non-profit organization.

2025 Donors not already recognized Thank you!

	Research	Education	Most Needed
Martha Bostick			\$30
Julia W Springer			\$50
Carolyn E Warren			\$80
Ingrid E Rockstrom			\$10
Beth Foley Zeiss			\$100
Martha Bostick			\$30
Carolyn Eskridge Warren			\$80
K Renee Davis			\$25
Carolyn Medlock Knight		\$20	\$50
Martha Adams Kolling	\$10		

SO YOU ARE THINKING ABOUT ATTENDING THE 2026 EFA REUNION AT STRATFORD . . .

Reunions on the Northern Neck of Virginia are special — and Coz Ann Campbell is doubling down to make it one of the best. Rooms at Stratford are likely to sell out — so make your plans and reservations early!!

HOW DO I DO THAT??

- 1.) Rooms are handled by Stratford, so you have to make your reservations directly with them. You can call them 804-493-1967 or by email — reservations@stratfordhall.org
- 2.) You need to be a member of EFA to come — so go to the eskridgefamilyassociation.com website — and sign up to be a member of EFA — EVEN IF you have been a member for YEARS! We are changing the system.
- 3.) Once you have become a member — click on the Family Reunion tab and sign up for the reunion and let us know if you would like to join us for dinner (everyone pays their own tab).

HOPE TO SEE YOU IN OCTOBER!!

Questions — membership@eskridgefamilyassociation.com

CELEBRATING 250 YEARS — WHAT WAS HAPPENING IN THE SPRING OF 1776?

As the year began, things looked bleak for the Americans. events in Williamsburg Virginia set the tone for the rest of the nation. Norfolk VA was in smoldering ruins after being bombarded by British forces. British forces controlled Boston and George Washington lacked the troops to force them out And the American Congress had not yet broken with Britain, making it unclear whether we wanted to reconcile or declare independence.

Along comes Thomas Paine. With his pamphlet *Common Sense*, he mobilized support for independence by arguing forcefully that it was the only path forward. In March, Washington and his forces were finally able to capture Boston and force the British out. The British moved to New York and the focus of the war shifted in that direction. Meanwhile, Virginians shifted their focus to the messy work of politics and government. On May 15th 1776, the Fifth Virginia Convention voted to instruct Virginias delegates to the Continental Congress to propose Independence. which Viginia Delegate Richard Henry Lee did on June 7th. The Congress formed a committee and the committee chose Thomas Jefferson to write the Declaration

Meanwhile, in Williamsburg, the Fifth Virginia Convention wrote a Declaration of Rights and a new Virginia Constitution and chose Patrick Henry as their first governor

Back in Philadelphia, the Continental Congress adapted the Declaration of Independence that reflected many of the thoughts and values that were found in the Virginia documents

FROM THE ARCHIVES

As part of our celebration of the 250th Anniversary of the American Revolution, we are looking at Eskridges and close kin that made it happen. And we are meeting at Stratford Hall — home of the Lee family and where, we suspect, Col George Eskridge was a visitor



Stratford Hall was built in the 1730s by Thomas Lee (1690-1750). At the time of his death, he was acting Governor of Virginia — because the Royal Governor was in England.

Today, the house is furnished with many quality 18th Century American and English decorations.

Thomas Lee purchased the property — known at the time as the Cliffs — in 1717. He renamed it Stratford after his grandfathers home in London. Thomas was a powerful tobacco planter and land speculator who owned more than 16,000 acres in Virginia and Maryland. Labor on the plantation was provided by enslaved people, indentured servants and transported convicts.

Thomas and his wife Hannah had 6 sons and 2 daughters:

— the eldest Philip Ludwell Lee (1727-1775) inherited the plantation. He married ELIZABETH STEPTOE

— sons Richard Henry Lee & Francis Lightfoot Lee were the only brothers to sign THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE. Richard Henry married ANNE 3 AYLETT

— Thomas Ludwell Lee helped write Virginias Resolves of Independence and was a very early judge on the Virginia Supreme Court. He also married MARY 3 AYLETT (Annes sister)

— William Lee and Arthur Lee were both diplomats

— Hannah Lee (Corbin) was an early proponent of womens rights

— Alice Lee married Dr. William Shippen of Philadelphia who served as the Director of the Continental Army Hospitals and was the Chief Physician.

After the death of Philip Ludwell Lee, the plantation passed to his daughter Matilda who married her 2nd cousin — the Revolutionary War Hero — Richard Henry *Lighthorse Harry* Lee III. When Matilda died in 1790, she left lifetime rights to the plantation to her husband. In 1797. *Lighthorse Harry* married Ann Hill Carter of Shirley Plantation. Their son Robert E Lee was born at Stratford in 1807



SEAL FROM ESKRIDGE WINE BOTTLE FOUND AT STRATFORD HALL

(Stratford — cont.)

Major General *Light Horse Harry Lee* was a great soldier and also served as Governor and a Congressman from Virginia. But he was an AWFUL businessman!! He was jailed twice for failing to pay his debts. He got involved with Aaron Burrs misadventure to set up an empire in Louisiana. During a political controversy in Virginia just prior to the War of 1812, he was stabbed and left for dead. Broke, disfigured and crippled, he was sent to Barbados by President Monroe. He fell ill on the ship and was put ashore on Cumberland Island GA and died there 25 March 1818. He was originally buried there on Cumberland Island, but by an act of the General Assembly of Virginia, his body was moved to Lexington VA on 28 May 1913.

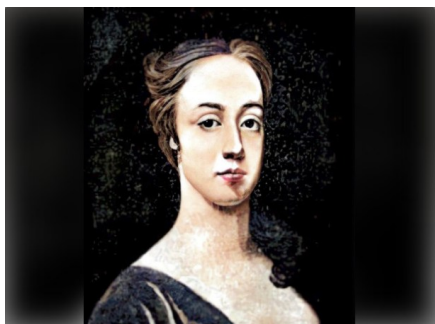
The plantation this passed to their son Major Henry *Black Horse Harry Lee IV* (Robert E Lees half brother). *Black Horse Harry* married a drug addict and he had a child with his wives teenage sister. He went on to embezzle his in-laws money!! Roberts other brother, Carter, used up what little cash their father left behind. Forced from the family home, Robert went to live with his mothers family at Shirley until he went to West Point.

The plantation passed out of the Lee family in 1822 and fell into severe disrepair. It was bought in 1929 by the Robert E Lee Memorial Association. Refurbishing took years. Today there are 1900 acres.

THE ESKRIDGE CONNECTION

Besides the fact that Col George and Thomas Lee had to be friends, there is a more direct connection between the Eskridge and Lee families.

1.) Richard Henry Lee (born 20 January 1732 Stratford Hall VA; died 19 June 1794 *Chantilly, VA*) He married 3 December 1757, Anne 3 Aylett (Eliz 2 Geo 1). She was born ca 1736; died 12 December 1768. He was one of 2 Lee brothers that signed the Declaration of Independence. After Annes death, he married Anne Gaskins Packard. He is buried at Burnt House Field Cemetery and she has a memorial plaque there, so may also be buried there. They had 5 children.



Anne 3 Aylett fag # 15441569



Richard Henry Lee fag# 1168

2.) Thomas Ludwell Lee (born 13 December 1730; died 13 April 1778) He married Annes sister Mary 3 Aylett (Eliz 2 Geo 1). He helped write the Virginia Resolves. She was born ca 1737; died April 1778; Belleview, Stratford Co VA. They had 7 children.



Judge Thomas Ludwell Lee
fag # 179691067

THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION — 250 YEARS

GEORGE WASHINGTON — LEADERSHIP PROCEEDS THROUGH LISTENING

George Washington believed in servant leadership. Long before this term became popular, Washington was the epitome of the term because he followed a 4 step doctrine of *listening, learning, helping and then leading*. This approach played a central role in shaping his own leadership philosophy.

Washington's leadership began with listening. He listened not only to his soldiers but also to the citizenry and his fellow associates. He believed in hearing before responding. A powerful example of his listening is seen during the harsh winter at Valley Forge. Rather than sitting in warm quarters, Washington walked among his soldiers, listening to their grievances and sharing in their suffering first-hand. (J T. Flexner, *Washington: The Indispensable Man*, 1974).

For Washington, it was a doctrine that endures because it is more a strategy of theories, beliefs and ideas based on their practical application, success and real-world consequences. It is what works or is verified by experience. It all comes from his ability to listen to others.

Washington's approach was a blueprint — one that should be valuable to our leaders and communities today. We owe him so much for exemplifying such ideals and setting an example for a fledging nation to follow. AND it should be an example that should be followed today and through the centuries to come.

Lansdowne portrait from
The National Gallery



HAPPY 100TH BIRTHDAY!!!

Emma Ruth 9 (Miller) Vaughn — (Emma 1 8 Elijah N 7 Oliver N 6 Ham 5 Rich 4 Rich 3 Sam 2 Geo 1) was born 31 July 1926, near Newport, Jack Co TX

CLASSIC & WITTY TOMBSTONES:

"I told you I was sick." (William H. Hahn Jr., NJ)

"Here lies Lester Moore, Four slugs from a .44, No Les, No more." (Tombstone, AZ)

"Here lies an atheist. All dressed up and no place to go." (Maryland)

"Here lies John Yeast, Pardon me for not rising." (New Mexico)

2026 EFA REUNION

MAKE YOUR PLANS TO ATTEND THE 2026 REUNION

OCTOBER 2.3 & 4

STRATFORD HALL

483 GREAT HOUSE ROAD

STRATFORD, VA 22558

804-493-1967 or reservations@stratfordhall.org

SPECIAL RATE OF \$149 + tax UNTIL 9/30/2026

rooms are limited

Your Living History...

***Eskridge Family
Association***
Carolyn Knight
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