



The Virginia Genealogical Society

NEWSLETTER

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MAY-JUN. 1986

Genealogists are inclined to believe they study families, but they don't really, at least not many of them do. What your average genealogist does is study a family or, at most, a few families, and this can sometimes get your average genealogist in trouble. For example, what one knows about three 19th century families--that they had lots of children, farmed exclusively for a living, and never moved around much--is not certain to be typical and, in consequence, may be deceptive, particularly if one forms the idea that all 19th century families can be expected to conform to such a small sample.

Other students of the family, sociologists especially, do regularly study large samples from the past. The statistics they compile are used in an attempt to comprehend the present more fully, that is to see if certain trends from the past are still in effect, and then, by looking ahead, to make predictions. Genealogists can profit from this work, for by an accurate understanding of what was happening in and to most families, the genealogist is in a better position to anticipate the happenings within particular groups of his or her interest.

Abstracted below are some of the statistical trends derived from recent studies of American families, past and present, published in the Richmond Times-Dispatch, 13 May 1984, and republished here with the kind permission of the Managing Editor, Marvin Garrette.

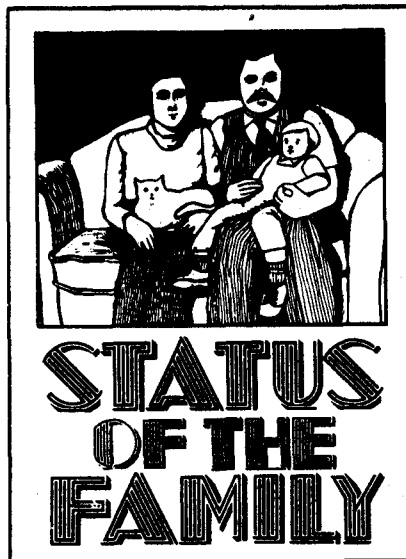
By Cindy Creasy
Times-Dispatch staff writer

No longer can we hold on to the hallowed image of the typical family in which the husband goes to work and the wife stays home to care for the children. That description fits only about 19 percent of the U.S. population, according to a conservative estimate by American Demographics magazine. Liberal projections of that situation range all the way down to 7 percent.

In fact, much of what we think we know about the American family is part of a sociological myth.

The high divorce rate causes us to look back with nostalgia at the solid marriages that lasted a lifetime. But Dr. Donna McCurley, assistant professor of sociology at the University of Richmond, pointed out that the average marriage in the early 1800s lasted only 12 years, before one of the partners died.

A smaller percentage of children today live in single-parent homes than in the past, when death, rather than divorce, broke up families.



Researchers John Modell and Tamar K. Hareven found evidence to rebut our fond memory of extended families with generations under one roof. Very few three-generation households or households shared by married siblings emerged in their analysis of 19th century households. Instead, many families took in lodgers rather than their own married children.

Theodore Caplow, a sociologist at the University of Virginia, gives another example: The leisure explosion. "Everything from flycasting to ice hockey that can be measured has shown enormous increase in the past couple of years and we're looking for the reasons," he said.

Surely one of the most obvious is that people have a larger portion of their incomes to spend on leisure activities: Wrong. In 1920, people had the same proportion of income to spend electively as we do today.

"Even though we are professionally sensitive to this, we keep falling into the same trap," Caplow said. "The temptation to invent the past when we don't understand it very well is a strong one."

Among the many observers of the American family, Caplow is optimistic about its strength as an institution.

"The family system is not something I feel very anxious about," he said. "It's going to survive all of us and in pretty good shape. It has a way of absorbing changes."

"These past 50 years have changed much less than the previous 50," he said. "Modernization, and the country as a whole, has been slowing down. We live in a remarkably stable society."

Caplow says the "myth of the declining family" is perpetuated by a couple of factors.

- Thousands of people make their living by helping families in crisis — scholars, psychologists, social workers and government employees.

- The scare tactics make average families feel good. "When they read that the family is in trouble," he said, "they can congratulate themselves on their exceptional good luck."

Caplow and his fellow optimists point to some of the factors working in the favor of families: longer life expectancy, higher income, more leisure time, brighter prospects for education.

A gloomier picture is painted by Victor R. Fuchs in "How We Live: An Economic Perspective on Americans From Birth to Death." Fuchs is an economics professor at Stanford University and a research associate at the National Bureau of Economic Research.

He emphasizes how personal choices affect broad national trends and how changes outside the home — economic, technological or demographic — can have significant implications for the family. In his view of social trends, it is sometimes difficult

to distinguish cause from consequence.

He finds evidence for "the fading family" in these developments:

- The birth rate has been below replacement level for a decade.

- Almost one-fourth of children live in one-parent or no-parent households.

- Two of five marriages end in divorce.

- Most of the elderly depend on government rather than family support.

Of the psychic state of the family, others point to these alarming reports of violence: One million children are abused by their parents every year and teen-age suicides have tripled since the 1950s.

The family is no longer an economic unit, Fuchs said, depending on its members for physical and psychological sustenance.

Dr. McCurley disagrees with Caplow about the extent of the technological changes the nation has experienced. They may be responsible for much of the confusion families are feeling. "Very few people sit around

and contemplate what effect the development of Silicon Valley will have on their children," she said.

Just as the movement from an agrarian to an industrialized society caused personal, family and group conflict, this latest shift "won't be nice and neat either," she said. "We expect change in our social institutions and values."

Audrey B. Chapman, a family therapist at Howard University Counseling Center, said, "I don't think the family has adapted very well to social change. They have been shaken up, uprooted, thrust into a tailspin they were not at all prepared to deal with. We didn't start addressing it until we started feeling it."

Dr. Ann Creighton-Zollar, assistant professor of sociology and Afro-American studies at Virginia Commonwealth University, sees plenty of pitfalls for the family. But she sees fundamental strengths as well. "I think those kinship ties are still there and they're still functioning. Even with single mothers. Somehow or other, they do what we say is hard for them to do. I don't know what the price is that they pay. Without these planned supports, somehow or other they do it."



ANNOUNCEMENTS

*The Editor of the Magazine of Virginia Genealogy regrets that approximately 1% of our members have received defective copies of the last two issues. The problem as explained by the printer made little sense to the Editor, but he is assured that sincere efforts are being made to rectify the matter. We have sent replacement copies to all who have notified us, and Carter Printing has made financial adjustments. One member in Albuquerque, NM, was so unfortunate as to receive copies with blank pages for both November and February. Another member, likewise from Albuquerque, received a February issue with blank pages; her replacement copy had no blank pages, just the same pages skipped! Our profoundest apologies go to these two members and to all who were inconvenienced. We are grateful for their understanding, their good humor, and their kind remarks about the value of the magazine to them.

*Information on the Peacock Family Association of the South is available to interested persons who may write in care of 295 Milledge Heights, Athens GA 30606.

*The VGS 1986 Fall Conference has been set for the 10th & 11th of October in Richmond. The annual banquet will take place on Friday evening, Oct. 10, at the Country Club of VA, on the banks of historic James River where the view, surroundings, and meals have a long and justly-deserved reputation for excellence. Saturday the 11th will be devoted to an all day conference to be held at the Imperial 400 Motor Inn, 5215 W. Broad St., Richmond, VA 23230. A block of rooms has been set aside for the Society at very attractive rates, \$33 single, \$37 double, both including complimentary breakfast. Write directly to the Motor Inn for rooms, being sure to mention that you are a VGS Conference attendee. Or you may call Imperial Reservation System, 1-800-368-4400 (if in VA, 1-800-572-2200). Put us on your calendar now! Full particulars, including registration materials, names of speakers, and conference topics will be provided at a later date.

*Since the appearance of the last Newsletter, the Society has received review copies of several recent publications which will be of interest to our readers. These will be acknowledged and discussed in our next issue.

*Colonial Patent Fund.

Through the generosity of the most recent contributors listed below, the total collected for the fund presently stands at \$4,805.00. The Editor of the Magazine of Virginia Genealogy, its Publication Committee, and the officers of the Society are grateful for your support of our effort to continue the publication of these singularly important records, the colonial VA land patents.

As our readers are now aware, Patent Book 15 was completed in three installments, ending in Vol. 24/2, May 1986, in the Magazine of Virginia Genealogy. Patent Book 16, an unusually short book, will appear complete in Vol. 24/3, Aug. 1986, and Patent Book 17 will run serially beginning with Vol. 24/4, Nov. 1986. Besides these patents now in print, donations have provided the necessary assistance to further work on later books: transcriptions are now complete of Books 18, 19, 20, & 21. In other words, work is complete or well in progress on seven books beyond the fourteen which Mrs. Nugent published under the title, Cavaliers and Pioneers.

The Publications Committee earnestly hopes that those members who have not yet contributed will soon see their way clear to do so. As long as we are able to continue this project, funds will be needed not only to pay transcribers and a typist but also to underwrite the additional pages in the magazine in which they appear. Members are reminded that the Virginia Genealogical Society is a non-profit organization and that your donations are tax deductible.

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paid. CA res. add \$1.48 tax. Address the compiler at 2727 Velvet Way, Walnut Creek, CA 94956.

*Marius R. & Nellie M. Barham announce a new book of Crump family records of New Kent Co., VA, commencing with the progenitor in the early 1600s, due in June 1986. Approximately 200 pages, index, \$45 plus \$2.50 postage. Write compilers at 1000 Westover Ave., #6, Norfolk, VA 23507.

*Since the Editor of the Newsletter did not receive his own copy of the last issue, Vol. XII, No. 2, Mar.-Apr. 1986, there may be others to whom the postal service failed to make a delivery. If any who did not receive this issue will advise the Secretary of the Society, a replacement will be sent.



QUEST

NOTICE TO SUBSCRIBERS. Inquiries concerning ancestors submitted to QUEST should ask explicit questions about specific individuals. Include enough information to identify the ancestors--for example, a date (year only, please!) and a place (county or town, as a rule) --but do not include information superfluous to the question. QUEST space is limited, and the column cannot accommodate mini-genealogies. Members submitting concise entries are more likely to have them printed as originally worded; verbose, rambling entries must be edited. James Morris Bagby, Query Editor.

WINDOM/WINDHAM. John Windom received a grant of 150a in Isle of Wight Co. (later Southampton), N. side of Nottoway, June 1731, & sold this land in 1750 when he moved with wife Elizabeth to NC. Is he the same John Windom who appears in the Surry Court Minutes in 1715? What is his relationship to Edward Windom who appears in the Surry Tithables 1697-1703? Any additional data on these two appreciated. Edgar MacDonald, 1401 Floyd Ave., #101, Richmond, VA 23220.

WILLIAMS * MULLINS * TAYLOR * CONOLLY. Who were parents & siblings of Philip Williams, b. c1730, VA; purchased land in Louisa Co. in 1752 from Thomas Underwood; m. c1750 Frances Taylor, b. c1730? The couple lived in Goochland Co. where Philip d. 1792. Seek information on John Mullins, d. Goochland Co., VA, 1783; m. Elizabeth Conolly, dau. of Bryant Conolly; & had children: John, Henry, Conily, Ann, Anthony, Daniel, Jesse, Frances Ennis, Elizabeth Williams, David, Mary Clements, & William. Berylyn Carey Bazzoon, 1414 Natchez Dr., Texas City, TX 77591.

*George Mason University proudly announces the establishment of the Middle Atlantic Genealogical and Historical Institute, the first session of which will be held July 27-August 1, 1986, on the University's main campus in Fairfax, VA. Located just 16 miles west of Washington, DC, George Mason provides the ideal setting for genealogical study. The new Institute will feature three levels of training, from the beginning researcher to the more sophisticated needs of the experienced genealogist, as well as field trips to research centers in the nation's capital, including the Library of Congress, the National Archives, and the DAR Library. Instruction is provided by prominent names in the field of genealogy, including Mary McCampbell Bell, Robert Y. Clay, J. Frederick Dorman, Marcia J. Eisenberg, Dr. Ronald Graham, Robert Hodge, Margaret Hofmann, Sandra Lawson, William E. Lind, Marie V. Melchiori, Mary K. Meyer, Milton Rubincam, Capt. Earl Smith, Harriet Stryker-Rodda, F. Edward Wright, & Willis Wynne. The cost for this session of the Institute is \$345 per person which includes tuition, room & board, materials, concluding banquet & reception, field trip transportation, & continuing education unit certificate. For those not wishing to reside on campus, the fee is \$220 per person for the week. For further information and registration materials, contact George Mason University, Division of Continuing Education, 4400 University Dr., Fairfax, VA 22030, or call the Office of Community Services at 1-703-323-2198.

*VGS member J. E. Riccio announces publication of abstracts of Revolutionary War pensions for the surname Thompson & variations. Over 250 records are included, with additional personal information on some soldiers. Softbound, 136 pages, indexed, \$22.50 post-

HESSER * WARNER. Want to locate the residence(s) of Peter Conrad Hesser, b. Loudoun Co., VA, son of Andrew Hesser (d. 1807, Loudoun Co.) & his wife Hannah Warner (d. Loudoun Co.), grandson of Johann Conrad/Peter Conrad/Conrad Hesser (d. 1789, Loudoun Co.) & his wife Anna. His dau. b. OH 1815 m. Jacob Fleming, son of John Fleming. Wilma Fleming Haynes, 9424 Fuerte Dr., LaMesa, CA 92041.

THOMPSON. Seek descendants of Samuel Thompson, Jr., b. Surry Co., VA, 1720s. After death of father c1753, moved with mother Sarah Edwards Thompson & sisters to the part of Granville Co., NC, that became Bute in 1764 & Warren in 1779. Was captain in Bute Co. Militia. Mother's will made in Warren Co. 1781 names son Sameul & daughters Sarah Williams, Mary Bell, Anne Myrick. Samuel sold land in Warren Co. 1783. Mrs. Edith M. Hummer, Rt. 2, Box 198, Prairie Point, MS 39353.

WRIGHT * BOATWRIGHT. Seek parents & siblings of George A. Wright, m. Mildred (Milly) Boatwright c1797. She was the dau. of Daniel & Jane (Bridgewater) Boatwright. Victoria K. Kuentz, 10523 Burr Oak Dr., San Antonio, TX 78230.

CLOPTON * JARRETT * FORSYTH * HARRIS * JOHNSTON. Who were fathers of Virginians Richard Clopton, Nathaniel Jarrett, Thomas Forsyth, Harrison Harris, & Noel Johnston, all of Granville or Franklin cos., NC, in 1780? Grace Norvell, 108 Richards Ave., #10, Winchester, VA 22601.

MINOR * RAWLINS. Need ancestry of Jeremiah Rawlins of Caroline Co., VA, whose dau. Nancy m. Archibald Minor as reported in Richmond Argus, July 1, 1807, p. 3. The Rev. Richard Broadus performed the marriage. Felix Earle Luck, 8 St. John's Ave., PO Box 506, Mt. Tabor, NJ 07878.

WYANT/WIANT. Who were parents of Sophia Wyant, b. VA 1808, m. John Dent Gill, 1835, Champaign Co., OH; moved to IN, 1868; d. 1891; buried Kosciusko, IN. Wish to correspond with any Wyants. Maxine Pittenger, 115 N. Miami St., Warsaw, IN 46580.

TUCKER. Seek data on Littlebury (or Littleberry) Tucker, Hanover Co., VA, listed in 1790 Census. One son, Thomas Tucker, acquired land in Bedford Co., early 1790s. What were names of his wife & children? Where are they buried? James H. Tucker, Sr., 4508 Chantilly La., Winston-Salem, NC 27106.

ALLEN * TAYLOR. Seek info on Allen and Taylor families of Pr. George Co., VA. Col. James Allen, b. 1720, Pr. George Co. (tradition), d. 1781, Halifax Co., NC. He may have m. dau. of Roger Taylor, of Pr. George Co., & had sons: James, John, Taylor, William; and dau. Mary. Allen H. Norris, 2405 Countryside Dr., Colesville, MD 20904.

MATHEW. Who were brothers of Jonathan Matthew believed b. 1752/53, Bucks Co., PA, son of Benjamin & Sarah Matthew(?); believed moved to Fauquier Co., VA c1775; m. Huldah; served Continental Army 1777; baptised Broad Run Baptist Church, Fauquier Co., 1779; moved to Hampshire Co., VA, 1783, to Monongalia Co., VA, 1803; d. 1805? Huldah Matthew d. 1831. What was Huldah's maiden name? Nelson E. Matthews, 75 Carriage La., Bridgeport, WV 26330.

ISAACS/ISICK * CARROL * HART * WORTHINGTON * CARNEY * GLERIN * WOLFE * FAULKNER * McCracken * McDowell * CARNEY. Anthony Isaacs/Isick d. 1833, Hunt Creek, Buckingham Co., VA, wife Elizabeth. Bible records name children: Richardson b. 1812, Richmond, m. Susan Carrol, 1840, Botetourt Co.; Elizabeth Ann b. 1812/14, m. Frederick Hart, 1837, Buckingham Co.; Mary b. 1815, Richmond, had son George Washington b. 1838; William b. 1819, Richmond; Sarah b. 1820/1, Hunt Cr., Buckingham Co., m. Edward Glerin, 1837, by Rev. Poindexter P. Smith; George b. 1823, Hunt Cr., Buckingham Co. Need origins of parents, additional dates, & Carrol family information. Henry Wolfe had dau. Annis who m. Asa Faulkner, 1827, McMinnville, TN. Son Jacob m. Adaline Faulkner, 1854, McMinnville. Annis supposedly b. Scott Co., VA, & of Scotch descent. Need any information on Henry Wolfe. Samuel Worthington b. 1746, VA, d. 1821, Oak Ridge, TN. Was his father Robert (Bobby Dunblaen) Worthington & his mother Ann McCracken or McDowell? Wife Elizabeth Carney b. 1754/6, Isle of Wight Co., VA, d. 1830 or 1850 in TN. Was her father Thomas Carney & her mother Mary Carroll? Need any information on parents other than in TN Cousins & Notable Southern Families. Linda Grantham Stengele, 904 Ski Hill Rd., Fox River Grove, IL 60021.

HARRISON * BEVERIDGE. Seek maiden name & parentage of Ann, who m. Shadrack Harrison (son of Richard Harrison & wife Elizabeth) of Pr. George Co., VA, 1790s. Their children: Thomas Wright, Shadrack, Alexander, & Elizabeth, plus others whose names are unknown. Who were parents of Frances Beveridge of Campbell Co., VA, m. Thomas Wright Harrison (see above) 1823, d. Pr. George Co., 1841. Mrs. John I. Tehie, 46 Locust Dr., Summit, NJ 07901.

MALES/MALE/MAILE. Need info on John Males & his family; b. 1744; enlisted in Revolutionary War at Hagerstown, MD; d. 1830, Monroe Co., VA. What was maiden name of his wife Patience? Will exchange info on the Male, Maile family. Lawson Male, 2432 21st St., NE, Canton, OH 44705.

FLEMING * WAHL/WALLE/Nalle(?) who were parents of John Fleming, b. VA 1755; m. Mary Wahl/Walle/Nalle(?); had 10 [sic] children b. Appomattox & Hampshire cos., VA, 1803-1824: Mary, Jane, Jacob, Ann, Robert C., Eva Barbara, George H., James, Rebecca, Ann, & Elizabeth. The family moved to OH c1825. Mary, wife of John, may have d. in VA before the move to OH. Wilma Fleming Haynes, 9424 Fuerte Dr., LaMesa, CA 92041.

MILLNER. Seek wife of William Millner, Bedford Co., VA, mother of his one dau. & eight sons. Think her maiden name was Lee. What was d. date of Thomas Millner who died in Leakesville, NC. Most of his family was from Pittsylvania Co., VA. I. W. Millner, 1 Normill Landing, Newport News, VA 23602.

MINIATURE SEEKS DESCENDANTS. Several years ago at a public auction in Richmond, the undersigned acquired a handsome oval miniature in an ivory frame 4½ x 5½". The subject is a woman, perhaps 40 years of age, & according to the costume, the period is c1850. Across the back someone has written: "Mary Lea Wright! Unless I'm a Dutchman, this is one of our pictures stolen from Norfolk." Interested parties may get additional details from Richard Slatten, 1401 Floyd Ave., Richmond, VA 23220.

BENEFACTOR: PLEASE IDENTIFY YOURSELF. The Editor was recently sent a photocopy of an interesting item taken from the Spotsylvania Co. Minute Book, 1774-1782. The sender did not identify him or herself, and there was no return address on the envelope, which was postmarked Salt Lake City, 3 March 1986. We should very much like to hear from the person supplying this material.



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