

WINCHESTER • WRANGLER

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Family Newsletter of the Descendants of Willoughby and Mary Wallace Winchester

Issue #01-2

A Visit to St. Brides Church, Fleet Street, London

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My family and I were fortunate enough to visit London this summer (in the middle of their unheard of heat wave!), and we included in our itinerary a trip to the church of my 6th great grandfather.

We know for a fact that the Winchesters originated in England. Our only verified place link is a Willobye Winchester, son of Daniell and Hanah Winchester, was either born or baptized (probably baptized) on 15 OCT 1696 at St. Brides Church in London. This Willobye is the grandfather of our Willoughby (and Mary). He died in 1768 in Craven County, South Carolina.

St. Bride's Church is located on Fleet Street in the heart of London proper. It's very easy to spot, as the steeple towers over the downtown London skyline. We first passed it while riding on the top of a double-decker bus.

St. Brides is the eighth church on this site, and Christians have been worshipping on the site for the last 1500 years. The Romans originally built a church for the Celtic Christian community. Saxon and Norman churches followed.

The church was lost in the Great Fire of London in 1666 and rebuilt by Sir Christopher Wren, the builder of St. Paul's Cathedral. He designed the unique steeple which became the inspiration for the traditional bride's tiered wedding cake of today.

On December 29, 1940, during World War II, St. Bride's burned down - only the steeple and outer

Mission Statement

To document and preserve an accurate and complete family history of the descendants of Willoughby and Mary Wallace Winchester for future generations.

Willoughby & Mary
Direct Descendant Count

5,471

February 2001: 5,308



Call of the Big Eastatoe

After several weeks of searching the Internet, I have been unable to find a copy of The Call of the Big Eastatoe by Lilly Winchester Smith, that doesn't cost a small fortune. If you know where I can purchase a reasonably-priced copy, or if you have one that I could borrow, please contact me.

Are You Online?

Do you have an e-mail address? If so, drop me a note at roots@winchesters.net. I would like to try e-mailing the next issue of this newsletter, if I have enough family online to make it worthwhile. Of course, those of you without an e-mail address would still receive the newsletter by "snail mail".

walls remaining - in the great fire bomb raid on London. After the War, the church was rebuilt substantially to Wren's design. As a result of the bomb, Roman Crypts were discovered to have existed underneath the church. If you visit, you can go into the basement of the church and see the pavement on which the Romans walked in 180 AD.

We walked all through the first floor sanctuary and the basement where the crypts were (it's now a Sunday School room), and all around the perimeter of the church. Even though the building itself is not the original, to be on the spot of such family history was truly special.



On The Ancestor Trail

► James A. WINCHESTER

James A. WINCHESTER was born 11 MAY 1836 in Haywood Co, North Carolina, son of Daniel Monterville WINCHESTER and Sarah "Phoebe" IRWIN. He is one of ten children: Jonas, Daniel Carey, Mary Ann "Polly", (James A.), Sarah "Malinda", Josiah S., Nancy A., William R., Laban, and Isaac Benjamin. James married Rachel RINEHARD on 22 JUL 1858 in Haywood Co, North Carolina. Records are unclear as to their children. The 1860 Census shows a one-year old son, Laban. Although, family claims there were two daughters, Lil and Elsie, but they have not shown up on Census records in the area.

James was a carpenter. During his service in the Civil War he was shot through the hips and was sent to Grahamville, South Carolina, where he died of the measles on 07 DEC 1861.

It is not probable that Rachel gave birth to three children during their short 3-1/2 year marriage, although not impossible if two were twins. Nor are there any records after this point for any of the three children. Could the girls be from a previous marriage of either James or Rachel?

► Margaret Jane GRAVELY

Margaret Jane GRAVELY was born 1 JUL 1864 in Pickens Co, South Carolina, daughter of Richard GRAVELY and Sarah LADD. She is believed to be their only child. She married William Silas EVATT on 11 DEC 1892. Margaret died 12 JAN 1934 and is buried in the Griffin Baptist Church Cemetery in Pickens County. Did Margaret and William have children? What are the birth and death dates of William?



John Lewis GRAVELY (1863-1937), Nancy Jane CONNELLY GRAVELY (1868-1956), and granddaughter Lillie GRAVELY PAYNE BLACKWELL (d:1967), date unknown.

John is the son of John Hensley GRAVELY and Hester Ann WINCHESTER. John and Nancy lived in the Transylvania Co, North Carolina area. They had six children. Lillie is the daughter of Luther GRAVELY and Josephine CASSELL. She first married Tommie PAYNE and then Eddie BLACKWELL. She had three children.

Mindy Bradshaw's Grandfather Found!

In July, Mindy Bradshaw came upon the winchesters.net website and contacted me about finding her grandfather, J.B. Cross. I take caution with these types of inquiries, as you never know what people's motives are. I try and vaguely point them in the right direction without invading someone's privacy. I sent her, via e-mail, to a distant relative of J.B.'s, Linda Saunders, and they connected online. Linda stated, "Mindy's words of, 'this is important to me' caught my attention."

Linda states in an e-mail to me, "J.B. was born in 1925 so a 17 year old granddaughter was a stretch and the name Bradshaw didn't mean anything to me. But I emailed Mindy back and gave her J.B.'s sister's name, Sharon Cosgrove, in Sterling, OK. She doesn't have email. I didn't think much more about it, but Sharon called me just out of the blue to ask about my mother. And during the conversation, I mentioned an email from Mindy Bradshaw. Sharon knew the Bradshaw name. J.B.'s first wife took the two boys [their sons James and Steven] and remarried a man named Bradshaw. Sharon knew the boys had taken the Bradshaw name. Sharon was excited because at the Cross reunion, J.B.'s wife had mentioned that J.B. would really like to know what happened to the two boys."

Linda connected Sharon to Mindy and contact between granddaughter and grandfather was made! J.B. talked to Mindy and his 51 year old son who he had not had contact with in 43 years. Linda stated, "The whole family is so excited about this reunion of family members. J.B. now has six 'new' grandchildren and three great grandchildren that he knew nothing about. J.B. was saddened to learn the younger son had been killed in a car wreck."

At the Cross Reunion in Lawton, Oklahoma in June, ninety-five descendants attended. Linda stated, "Next reunion there will be a host of new attendees thanks to your Winchester Web site. It's a great site. Thanks for keeping it open."

You're welcome.

Donations accepted No doubt about it, this project costs money. I plan to publish the book no later than 2006, hopefully sooner. There are expenses for postage, paper, printing, genealogy memberships, and the Internet website. I estimate the cost to finish this project will be around \$5,000. Wyoming Winchester reunions raised some funds, but I need your help! Don't let Winnie's (and my) years of hard work go to waste. Your contribution of even just \$10 will go a long way towards bringing this family dream to reality. Thank you.