

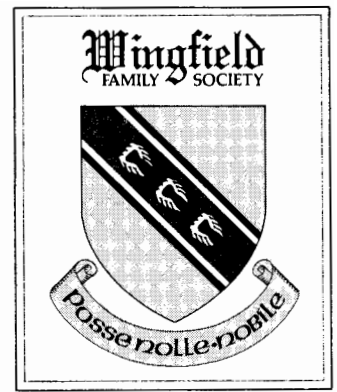
# newsletter

"Wynkefeld The Saxon held honor and fee, ere William The Norman came over the sea"

... Ancient Suffolk England Rhyme

Vol. V, No. 1

Winter, 1991



## Early Virginia is theme

### 1991 meeting

So much interesting historical information is now available with more coming to light almost daily about the early Virginia Wingfields. It seems appropriate that we review and update our history from the early 1700s to the beginning of the 19th century as opportunities drew the adventurous to the expanding frontier from the relative comfort of coastal communities. It will emphasize how prominently Virginia figured in this early Wingfield chronology. The theme for the 1991 meeting in Fredericksburg will focus on this period, particularly the time our ancestors' immediate descendants moved away from the points of original emigration.

To set the stage in advance of the WFS Fredericksburg meeting, this and the (next) spring issue will especially concentrate on references to early Wingfields, which line, who and where they moved. It is indeed a fascinating story.

### Facts about our annual meetings

**This year May 17-19  
Fredericksburg, VA**

The year was 1987, it was the organizational meeting of the Wingfield Family Society in Ashland, VA. Jocelyn Wingfield flew in from England and was our featured speaker. A total of 146 attended, the largest turnout, exceeding the attendance of each of our subsequent meetings. All that joined at this meeting became Founding Members of the WFS. The 1988 meeting in Richmond saw attendance drop to 103. Then in 1989 we ambled off to Scottsdale, Arizona with 113 showing up and the pace picked up in 1990 with 128 attending in Atlanta.

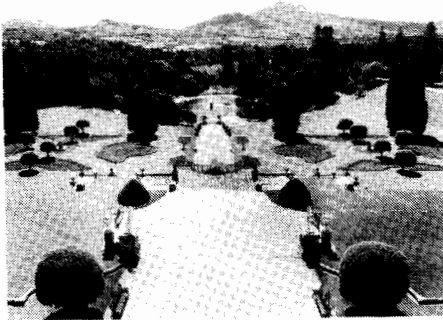
Wilsie Carr, our president, predicts attendance in Fredericksburg will equal or exceed that first meeting. "The social aspect is a strong magnet that pulls the family members together and over the past few years many WFS members have become fast friends," remarked Dale Ruf the 1991 co-chairwoman for the meeting.

Virginia is Wingfield country. Most of the immigrant Wingfields arrived into Virginia

**Facts  
Cont'd on Page 7**

### Powerscourt to rise from ashes

The Slazenger family that owns the 1400 acre Powerscourt estate in Ireland have waited a long time to rebuild the house that was nearly totally destroyed in 1974. A year ago, the WFS Newsletter reported plans to turn the estate into a international class luxury hotel and leisure complex. This is an update on the status.



Powerscourt Gardens

**Powerscourt  
Cont'd on Page 8**

### Top Secret "Operation Wingfield" By: Jocelyn Wingfield

"Most Modern Airport in the Union of South Africa's Transformation of Wingfield," read the headlines of the British newspaper, The Star. In 1945, a month before D-Day, telling about one the biggest, most quickly constructed, secret projects of World War II. Hopefully some of our South African cousins can complete the missing parts of this family story.

**Wingfield Airport  
Transformed for £4 Million**

Wingfield Airport (alias Wingfield Field, perhaps?) was built at Cape Town, as South Africa's main Airport in 1931 on about 500 acres, it was located to the east of the city, adjoining Cape Town to Belleville and the main road and bounded on the other three

**Top Secret  
Cont'd on Page 7**

### Wingfield tours consolidate into one

It was necessary to consolidate the two Wingfield Tours set up this past fall into one. In spite of the tremendous interest shown at the Atlanta meeting in 1990, the bookings did not materialize as expected. Also there was difficulty in getting convenient airspace on one segment of the trip for such a large party which would have slighted one group.

All tour members have been notified. There are still a few spaces left on the one tour at the time of this writing. We are limiting it to 40 persons.

One very definite plus to having just one tour is all participants will have Jocelyn Wingfield as the Wingfield Family historian/guide for the entire tour. With two tours one group would have had a lesser qualified guide. This had bothered us with two tours, but on balance we knew we could do a credible job and would give more members an opportunity to see the significant sites of the family in England and Ireland.

The one combined tour will feature the best of each. Formerly we tried to have some key differences in each and yet some of the important sites, such as Wingfield Castle, on both. The combined tour will offer the best of both and we feel the tour will now equal the one that was so successful in 1988.

Please do not assume the tour is sold out without checking first. Contact:

Robert E. Carr  
Tour Coordinator  
Wingfield Family Society  
301 Belleview Blvd.,  
Belleair, FL 34616

### Time to Renew Your membership

If there is a dues renewal notice, with a return envelope with this issue of your newsletter, this means our records show your membership ended December 31, 1990. Please send in your renewal check as soon as possible as this will keep your newsletter coming without interruption and save us time and money required to send a final bill. For those that have already paid, thanks.

One year renewal is \$25, five years, \$100.

## OBITUARY Cecil G. Wingfield

Many of the serious genealogists of the Wingfield Family Society either knew, had talked to Cecil Wingfield or engaged in correspondence. This was especially true of the Arkansas Wingfield line, claiming as ancestors William Wingfield-Mary Messer (ca. 1755) and before Michael Walker pushed the progenitor of this line back to another William Wingfield (d.1677).

Cecil spent years and untold thousands of dollars attempting to find his English immigrant ancestor. Fortunately he did learn of Michael's discovery, but sadly was unable to verify the English hookup.

Rumors surfaced at the Atlanta WFS meeting that Cecil had died, but we could not verify it. Several letters were mailed to both Cecil and his wife Ruth, but there was no response. The letters were not returned. Phone calls revealed the line had been disconnected. Finally through diligent detective work of WFS members Hershel Wingfield, Jr. (San Francisco) and Lee Preston (Walnut Shade, CA), we sorrowfully verified Cecil had died. Hershel sent us a copy of the obituary from the Hayward, California Daily Review, dated February 14, 1990 and this was the confirmation. About the same time Lee Preston made contact with Cecil's brother, Daymon Wingfield who also told of Cecil's demise.

Cecil G. Wingfield died on Monday, February 12, 1990 at Kaiser Hospital in Hayward of emphysema. He was 85.

Born in Emerson, Arkansas, and lived in Oakland for about 40 years before moving to Fremont, CA about 15 years ago. Until he retired in 1965, Cecil was a pipefitter at Shell and Standard Oil Refineries. He was a veteran of the U. S. Navy, joining when he was only 15 years old. He did not marry until he was 54 and there were no children.

Cecil was an avid reader and wrote frequent letters to the newspaper editor. He graduated from high school in Arkansas at age 15.

He is survived by his wife, Ruth, who has moved to Oakland, CA., two sisters and two brothers. Funeral service was held on February 13, and he is buried at Chapel of Chimes Cemetery in Fremont, CA.



## Photographs valuable heirlooms

When the camera was developed over 150 years ago, a real breakthrough occurred that allowed mankind years later to see true images of people, places and things from the past. Photographs took over from the artist so we can look back in time to "see what things looked like." While chemistry and technology of photography has improved a thousandfold, no one has found the way to make a photograph created from a negative really permanent. From the day you pick up your photographs from the processor they are starting to fade and deteriorate. This fact you must understand as the fundamental reason for the need to preserve and extend the life of your personal photos, perhaps for a hundred years or more. Three enemies of permanence are, poor processing, careless display and storage, and infection by damaging substances.

This article will show members of the WFS some of the dos and don'ts to keep these valuable photo heirlooms around for your children and grandchildren. Chemical and time deterioration can be slowed, but only with precautions that you can make.

Don't toss your photographs (or at least the ones you really want to save) into a box or drawer, or even mount them in an album expecting them to remain fresh and clear whenever you pull them out to show friends and relatives. Shoe boxes are for shoes. Most cardboard boxes in general use today have a high acid content that will eventually effect your photographs. Beware of wooden boxes as the lumber may have been seasoned with substances that can damage your photos. Archival supply houses and some art stores have boxes that are chemically inert. Also avoid stacking pictures under weight, even slight pressure can cause harm.

Never touch the face of a photograph with your fingers. Skin oils are easily transferred to a print that will over time damage the picture. Professionals use gloves while handling photographs. Paper clips? Never, repeat never clip something onto a photo unless you want an ugly rust stain. What about scotch tape, another no. Not only are there injurious chemicals in adhesive tape, but in time it hardens, becomes brittle and adheres to the emulsion. Rubber cement, glue and other adhesives are no, nos too.

Writing on the back of pictures those essential details about the picture with ball point or other ink is guaranteed to bleed through to the face and not only ruin that picture, but the others it touches, as well. Do not stick gummed labels on the face or back of photographs. If you do write on the back of the picture do it lightly in pencil. How do you reference your photographs? Either by mounting as will be explained later, or placing (at least your valuable, irreplaceable prints) in chemically free plastic sleeves or acid free envelopes on which you can place

a label. (It is essential to record all details about each photograph.) Photos can be seen through the plastic or carefully removed for showing. Purchase at archival supply sources. If your identification information is on a separate sheet and it is in ink or typed, this, of course should not touch the face of any photograph.

Negatives should be handled much like prints. Save them in plastic sleeves or if they are returned in a plastic box, this is excellent for storing. Sadly negatives do not last forever either.

Light is also an enemy to processed photographs. As you may have noticed over the years your photographs fade, faster when displayed in the light, even just from the light inside the house. Outside in the daylight will shorten a photograph's life to days and in direct sunlight even faster. Store your photographs in a cool, dark and fairly dry environment for the slowest deterioration. If you want photographs displayed on your mantle, dresser or hung on the wall, have copies made, but keep the original safe and protected. Photographs mounted directly under glass, will not only deteriorate from the light, the emulsion of the photograph will bond to the glass and ruin your picture. Do not have your photographs laminated in plastic (unless they are copies).

If you want to mount your photographs in an album, as most people do, do so on pages that are of acid free archival quality board, stiff enough that the picture will not bend and crack. It is often called 100% rag content or museum board. It should be white and archival quality, and white throughout, not gray color beneath the top ply. There are chemically neutral photo corners available.

Look over your old photographs and if the irreplaceable ones are fading, cracked or otherwise deteriorated and yet there is image, consider having them professional copied. Once gone, it is forever.

Today's photographs, fifty years from now, will be valuable to your descendants. A hundred years from now, invaluable. Old photographs in reasonable condition are priceless. You cannot wait to start the precautions to slow deterioration.

### MUNIMENTS OF THE ANCIENT SAXON FAMILY OF WINGFIELD

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## Old Wingfield Cemetery Near Charlottesville, VA

About 8 miles south of Charlottesville, VA is the old Wingfield "Pleasant Dale" property and adjacent "Wingfield Cemetery." This cemetery is on a portion of the former large land holdings of Col. Thomas Fox Wingfield, Sr. (1808-1888). It is believed to have been the original property of John Wingfield (arrived Albemarle 1765). He and his wife Robina Lankford are believed to be buried there, though no tombstone exists today.

This 1/2 acre plot has always been called the, "Wingfield Cemetery." All Wingfields interned here are descendants of John (b. Hanover, VA 1743) and Robina, but the first for which we have positive proof of burial is their son, Edward Wingfield (1766-1806) and his family. Edward's headstone was still intact in 1990.

Willis Truman Gibson acquired the property in 1908 from Judge John Richard Wingfield who held the mortgage and foreclosed. Ashbury "Coke" Wingfield was the last Wingfield to live in Pleasant Dale and was occupying the property when it was sold. It is said he hated Judge JRW for putting him out. "Coke" was a civil war veteran, wounded in the Battle of Seven Pines near Richmond. He died in 1926, never married. Along with the sale to Gibson, the deed book stipulates the cemetery be "reserved for the benefit of the descendants of the late Thomas F. Wingfield

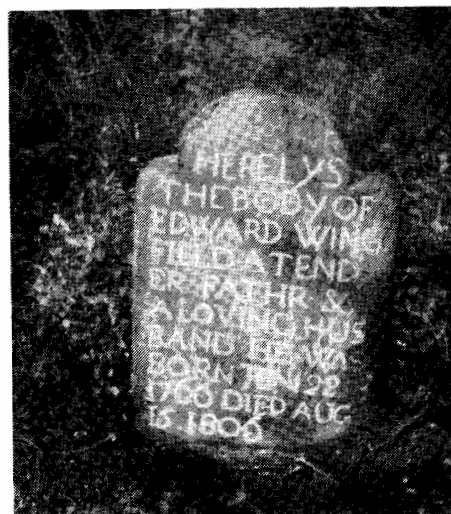
as set out in said deed." This deed, dated 1889, conveyed 190 3/4 acres, excluding 1/2 acre that is to be forever a cemetery.

The old Wingfield home near the cemetery was pointed out in 1971 to Margaret Shelton, the great granddaughter of Thomas Fox Wingfield, Sr who also saw the remains of a chimney and other bits of native stone. It was identified as the, "Polly Wingfield" house. Polly was Matthew Wingfield's Sister, Mary Steadman Wingfield Hudson. Her brother, Matthew Wingfield, (son of Edward and Nancy Wingfield) owned the farm and left it to his daughter, Susan the wife of Thomas Fox Wingfield.

Over the years parts of the property was sold to a succession of non related persons. At one time the Richardsons built a home near the cemetery, which some say on the foundation of a former Wingfield house.

When Margaret Shelton inspected the cemetery almost 20 years ago it was only in fair condition as there was no upkeep with cattle grazing the property. Weeds and dead trees lay across many of the graves. Most of the markers were gone. The rock wall surrounding was in shambles. Some of the dead trees, thought to be black cherry are entwined with grape vines larger than an adult person's arm. The owner of farm sawed discs of the large tree limbs and sections of overgrown vines for Margaret Shelton as souvenirs.

The tombstones observed by Margaret Shelton were as follows: One with initials, "W. S. W. thought to be William Sims Wingfield, a young boy as evidenced by a death notice appearing in the "Jeffersonian Republican," Dec. 28, 1861. The notice is as follows, ". . . at the residence of his father, 7 miles from Charlottesville on Tuesday. . ." He was 13 and the son of Edward C. "Ned" Wingfield.



**Oldest tombstone in Wingfield Cemetery is that of Edward Wingfield who was born in 1766. About a year ago it was still there. That's 225 years!**

A large stone with footstone engraved of marble with the inscription . . . "Here Lys The body of Edward Wingfield a tender father & loving husband. He was born ten 22, 1766, Died August 15, 1806." Note: Edward was the son of John and Robina Lankford Wingfield and husband of Nancy Hazelrig.

Another "In Memory of Sophia Western Wingfield, daughter of Edward and Nancy, died April 14, 1804." A large stone for Sophia is beside that of her father, Edward. She died first and her father was buried beside her.

A long narrow slate-like stone lying flat on the ground, appears to have hand carved lettering, "Here lies the body of Joseph F. Wingfield born March 15, 1782, Died October 7, 1786." (Ed note: He was the son of Edward) The footmarker was standing and is a similar stone with carved lettering, "Here lies the end of all ?? JFW, 1786." Note: This was a four year old boy the son of John Wingfield and Robina Lankford.

A medium sized marble stone standing, "In memory of Sarah A. Bailey, born May 26, 1847, Died July 16, 1848." Also a small foot stone with, "S. A. B." Note: An infant of Amanda Thomas Wingfield and Rice Bailey. Amanda was the daughter of Edward Wingfield and Nancy Hazelrig.

A medium size stone, marble — standing, "In Memory of Amanda T. Bailey, Born Nov. 18, 1801, Died May 30th, 1849." A small foot stone lay near this headstone, engraved "A. Y. B." Note: Daughter of Edward Wingfield and Nancy Hazelrig.

A medium sized standing stone, "Sacred to the Memory of Mary Jane Bailey, Born May 11, 1834, Died Dec. 31, 1837."

Margaret Shelton reported counting at least 10 unmarked graves amongst the brush with native slate-stone. But there were others with very large flat head stones, so deep in the ground that they could not be shaken. There were no readable inscriptions. Then she counted more sunken graves without even a native field stone. The loss of identification is certainly due to the hazards of time, and neglect.

Betty Wingfield Gamache has visited the cemetery every year since 1986 and each year the condition has worsened. Tombstones are turned over and still being stepped on, broken and chipped by the free roaming cattle. Most of the stone wall around the cemetery is gone. ". . .the place looks like the casualty of a war bomb," laments Betty. Then she commented, "As I looked at and touched my great great great grandfather's head and footstone, (almost 200 years old) for the first time I felt he was a real person, not just a name and date on my records. All my ancestors there seemed real to me as I tried to picture them standing at different times on this very spot. I thought about the revelation of knowing how fortunate I was to know where they are buried."

## WFS MEMBER PROFILE

### William Temple Stevens



**William Temple Stevens**

William T. Stevens, known as Bill, was born in Charlottesville, VA on March 3, 1913. His mother was Fannie Howell Wingfield, daughter of Robert Ledbeter Wingfield and Ann Augusta Wingfield. The Virginia progenitor of his line is John Wingfield, Sr., (b. 1743, m. Robina Lankford). This John Wingfield came first to Louisa County from Hanover, Co and later about 1766 to Albemarle County. John was one of the first Wingfields to move to Albemarle, Co.

Bill's father Charles B. Stevens, was born in Bombay, India. The Stevens family came to the United States in 1875. He owned and operated a Haberdashery store in Charlottesville. Bill's Wife, Anne Laterneau was the daughter of a French Canadian from Quebec and her mother was German born.

In 1933, Bill spent a year in a C.C.C. (Civilian Conservation Corps) unit on the west slope of the Blue Ridge. In 1934 he "graduated" to a pig farm (as a hired hand at \$25 a month) in Lake County, Florida. Part of his job was to work the other end of a cross-cut saw felling and harvesting pine trees amidst the swamp and rattlesnakes. Truly rugged schooling! Room and board was in the owner's home, which did not have plumbing, but a private bedroom with netting over the bed as protection from mosquitos. The net didn't work and in a couple of months Bill developed malaria. His early education covered the mountains of Virginia to the malaria swamps of Florida.

Anne and Bill eloped in 1936 to Rockville, MD and were married by a Baptist minister. They have 3 children, a son, William T. Stevens III and two daughters, Jodie and Jane, all living in Charlottesville. Bill and Anne have one grandson, Michael, age 13.

Raised in Virginia, Bill describes himself as a "native country real estate man." Having never attended college, he received his first

real estate license in 1935. The country was in the depths of the great depression when he started in business with his brother, Donald, the same year he got his license.

Donald, a half brother, was 20 years older than Bill and bowed out of the real estate business about 1937, leaving the land business open to Bill.

Under Bill's leadership in 1938 business grew until Stevens & Company and another firm in the area were the largest advertisers for years not only in Charlottesville, but statewide and nationwide in Virginia's real estate industry. In spite of the volume, Bill always focused on matching the right person with the right property rather than on the "buck."

Throughout the years, Bill has handled some of the most noteworthy properties in the area that includes Bellair owned by one of the earliest Wingfields in Albemarle County: Charles Wingfield, Jr. He also sold Montebello, Poplar Forest, Edgewood, Greenway (President Tyler's birthplace), Jefferson's Pantop's, Edgemont, Barboursville, and Blandfield.

Now in his 55th year of business, Bill built a reputation of bringing together beautiful, historic properties with buyers who recognize the unique quality of land and building in the area.

Bill's resume of civic and professional involvement in the area over the past 50 years includes: member and past president of local Realtor board, member and past director of Virginia Association of Realtors, past chairman of the Agri-business Committee of the Charlottesville-Albemarle Chamber of Commerce, faculty member, Real Estate Fundamentals at the Realtor Institute (1956), past member University of Virginia Realtors Educational Committee, past chairman of Albemarle County Planning Commission, member of the Virginia Company of the Association for the Preservation of Virginia Antiquities, Chairman of Region X Mental Health and Retardation Services Board, qualified in 1959-69 as Eminent Domain Appraiser for Charlottesville, for the Commonwealth of Virginia and for the Bureau of Public Roads, U. S. Department of Commerce.

Jerome Cerny, an architect from Illinois, said that Bill is such a part of Albemarle County's history and some of the houses in the area that "to go along with him is like being shown the properties by the first landowner, even though in some instances it is well into the second century since they were build."

In 1962, Bill Stevens authored "Virginia House Tour, a 370 page pictorial and narrative tour of homes near the mountains and foothills of Virginia, including properties that have never been on the market; from SW Bedford County to SE Goochland County's "Tuckahoe."

Recognized in the area for his integrity, he has earned the respect of those in the real

estate business. Frank Kessler (today he is the leading developer in Charlottesville area) says, "Bill is a great Realtor, but superseding this is the fact that he is a true gentleman." Kessler says Bill's leadership is recognized not only locally, but across the country, evidenced by his being selected to the Estates Club of America. "To my knowledge, he and Stevens & Company are the only one in our community to receive this recognition, and I believe there is only one other company in the state that is a member of that elite group.

Bill sold Stevens & Company about two and a half years ago to a group including Frank Kessler. He remained with the business as the principle Broker, and is still active. The organization, still bearing Stevens and Company name, has grown to two and a half times its size at the time of the sale. His philosophy once stated, "The home and its refinements are to Virginia what soul and personality are to the body. Virginia is an abode, a way of life and a state of mind."

For over a half century, Bill has rubbed elbows with famous and powerful people. Naming a few they were Edward Stettinius former Secretary of State and president of U.S. Steel; Franklin D. Roosevelt, Jr while in law school at the University of Virginia (was Bill's tenant); Marshall Field (also a tenant while attending law school, U. VA); Anthony Bliss (Brother-in-law of Marshall Field) for years president of Metropolitan Opera; Dr. Norman Vincent Peale; Oskar J. W. Hansen, internationally famed sculptor and son of the last King Oskar of Norway-Sweden; Art Garfunkel, composer-singer; William Hammerstein, son of Oscar. Corporate giants include, William Gage Brady, Jr., President of National City Bank, New York; Charels G. Taylor, Jr., President of Metropolitan Life; Nicholas R. duPont of Delaware; Richard Reynolds, president of Reynold's Metals of Richmond.

In 1950 he was an invited guest at a exclusive party that included Bing Crosby. Bing was recuperating from an operation performed by Bill's cousin, G. Arnold Stevens of California. The hostess was Liz Whitney Persons at her "Llangollen" estate at Upperville, VA. Other guests were vice president Alben Barkley, Senator Harry Byrd, Jr., Secretary of War Gordon Grey and others of the social elite. It was a Sunday luncheon party.

As one drives into the elegant entrance to Boar's Head Inn at Charlottesville, Bill Stevens office is on the left, exuding the elegance and quality you would expect.

At the conclusion of the interview for this profile, Bill remarked that Richard Quarles' profile (Winter, 1990 issue) was of particular interest to him. Richard's wife Virginia Dinwiddie, was a childhood neighbor with adjoining backyards.





## Geni Ology Queries



WFS members are invited to submit queries asking for assistance in solving genealogy problems. We know many members have an overwhelming interest in genealogy, and most are probably stuck at one place or another in their search. Perhaps someone else has found the facts you need. Send your queries to: "Geni Ology" our mythical genealogical assistant created by Ken Wingfield of Phoenix, AZ.

### Queries

Kathleen Wingfield Wilsey is searching for ancestors beyond her grandfather and asks assistance from any member that may have information.

Her grandfather was Drury Lacy Wingfield, born in Tennessee in 1817 and married to Alabama \_\_\_\_\_, in Alabama. No that is not a misprint, the state of Alabama is thought to have been formed about the same time Alabama was born. They had six children, all born in Carroll County, Mississippi. Does anyone have information on Drury Lacy Wingfield and ancestors?

If so communicate with Kathleen Wilsey, P. O. Box 1912, Marysville, CA 95901.

### Kate Wilsey a Great, Great, Grandmother

Congratulations to Kathleen Wilsey of Marysville, CA who has become a great, great grandmother on October 26, 1990 in Yuba City, CA. It's a bouncing boy named Adam Peterson and a potential WFS member in perhaps twenty years.

Kathleen is a founding member of the WFS.

### Wingfield Coat of Arms available, full color

Being a proud member of the Wingfield family means a framed copy of the Wingfield Coat of Arms is probably displayed in your den or other visible spot in your home or office.

We have found many members are not aware that our Wingfield Store stocks elegant, full color Coats of Arms in black, gold, silver and red. The exact replica (11" X 14") is ready for framing. To have an artist do this or have one copied is very expensive. Yet you may get a copy by sending only \$20 US to:

Wingfield Family Store

Attn: Lennie Mills

7 Lakeside Drive

Corpus Christi, TX 78413

Along with the Coat of arms, on a separate sheet is the history of coats of arms in England.

## Bud and Opal 50 years

WFS members, Bud and Opal Wingfield celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary in September with a 3,500 mile trip to the Northwest (U. S.) and Canada. From their Colorado home they drove through Wyoming and Montana, to Canada retracing part of their honeymoon trip of 1940. Visits were made to Glacier National Park, Calgary, then the beautiful Canadian Rockies (Banff and Lake Louise) before driving through British Columbia and Vancouver. They report the fall leaves were simply gorgeous.



**Bud & Opal Wingfield at  
Lake Louise, Canada**

They turned south making stops in Oregon and Utah at many historic and scenic sites along the way.

A bit of nostalgia appeared when Bud noted the differences in prices over the past 50 years. On their honeymoon, gasoline was 23 cents a gallon, now \$1.58 (\$2.10 in Canada), the \$2.50 T-bone steak is \$12.95 today and the motel that cost \$9.50 then is now a motor inn that extracts \$70. a night. The gravel and narrow paved roads are now ribbons of wide concrete of the Interstate Highway system and cars are everywhere.

On behalf of the entire membership we also congratulate Bud and Opal on being blessed with their first great grandchild, Jonathan Kohl Wingfield.

Bud and Opal were Member Profiled in the Winter, 1989 issue of the WFS Newsletter.

### Tips for family Researchers

The WFS has many hobby genealogists some of which are virtually professionals and others are just starting to search out their ancestors. Knowing that, from time to time, we will print informational articles that may be of help to our members.

Use your imagination. When researching a name, consider not only the ways it could

have sounded to a long-ago clerk, but also the ways it could have been misinterpreted from poor, unfamiliar or faded handwriting. Would you look for Coggeshall under Coxall, Stone under Stowe, or yes, believe it or not, Elsworth under Yls Waert? The name Wingfield is spelled many different ways, from Winfield, Wigfield, Winkfeld, plus every variation one can think of. Most believe these different spellings are the same strain and are all Wingfields. Because there is an unfamiliar spelling does not mean it won't fit on your pedigree chart.

Remember, relationships did not always mean the same in the past as they do today. For example, cousin could mean nephew, cousin or sometimes other relationships; brother or sister could mean one's blood brother or sister, but it could also mean in-law, another member of the church, or even a close friend; Jr. or Sr. don't have to be father and son. They may be related in some way, or just two people of the same name living in a community, designated as Jr. or Sr. to differentiate between them.

Record your sources. For example, don't write down only the name of the book and author of your material. Also note the library where you found the book and the call number. Several years from now you may be glad you did.

If you encounter double dating (not the boy and girl kind), don't let it throw you. In 1752 England and the Colonies switched to the Gregorian calendar and the first day of the new year, which had been March 25, then became January 1st. Therefore, prior to 1752, March was the first month, April the second, etc. A date written 26/10/1746 is not 26 October 1746, it is 26 December, 1746. Likewise on rare occasions you may find a month written as "9ber" and this is not September, but November. Most dates occurring between January 1st in the old style (O.S) to 1752 are written thus: 1745/46 indicating it was 1745 in the old style (O.S.) calendar and 1746 in the new style (N.S.). Got it?

Make copies of your important records. When you prepare your family group sheets make at least one photocopy. Also make copies of any irreplaceable old letters, Bible records, newspaper articles and other records, and give one set to a relative or put it in some secure location away from the originals. Then in case of unexpected loss, at least some of your records will be saved.

Identify persons and places in your photographs. Who among us doesn't have a box of photos that bear no identification or date. You may know the identity of the person in the photo, but will your grandchildren? Dates are important, too.

Express your appreciation to those that help. It only takes a moment to say "thank you" to those who helped further your research. Send a self addressed, stamped envelope, and always reimburse postage and copying expense to those that answer your queries.

## WFS Tour highlights English past

Sir John Wyngfield of Suffolk, High Steward and Chief Counselor to the Black Prince, died in 1389. His brass is mounted on the wall of the Church of Leatheringham a few miles from his home in Wingfield. The brass is 5 ft 2 inches is one of the largest and best preserved medieval brasses in England. There are so many remnants of Wingfield history scheduled on the 1991 England/Ireland Tour. Forty WFS members will take part in this tour, that begins at the conclusion of the annual meeting in Fredericksburg May 17-19, 1991. Most will board British Airways non-stop flight for London from nearby Dulles Airport on Sunday, May 19.

This is the second WFS tour to England and this time it has been expanded to include Ireland. The tour has been crafted to focus on the myriad of Wingfield historical, relevant sites. Members attempting to do it on their own could never assemble the necessary array of English WFS members and experts on England to show off the meaningful artifacts and locations, much less know about some of them. Literally hundreds of letters and FAX messages zipped across the Atlantic tying down these extraordinary arrangements.

Some of the other distinctive tour highlights are: Shoreborne Castle owned by WFS member Simon Wingfield-Digby (includes lunch), dinner at the home of Charles and Maxine Wingfield in Onslow, (descendants of Major Walter Clopton Wingfield, the inventor of tennis); lunch with WFS members John and Sue Parry-Wingfield near picturesque Tickencote and view the magnificent site of Tickencote Manor owned for centuries by the Wingfields. John has some very old Wingfield items including the famous and priceless Tickencote picture he plans to show the group. Of course no Wingfield tour is complete without a visit to Wingfield Castle (now a private home) in the village of Wingfield (we've been invited inside!); Wingfield Church loaded with remnants of the Wingfields. Then on to Orford and a castle occupied by Sir Henry Wingfield during the rein of Henry II. An overnight near famous Runnymede, the site of the signing of the Magna Charta. After a short flight to Ireland primarily to see Powerscourt and it's world famous gardens a few miles from Dublin, near Errinsbury. These magnificent gardens are world famous and date from the time of Queen Elizabeth I. A special catered lunch for the Wingfield tour will be served in the part of the manor not destroyed by fire. The group will have a look at what was once the old Wingfield townhouse in downtown Dublin, now a series of shops. They'll meet Tony Wingfield (grandson of the 7th Viscount Powerscourt, who wrote the Muniment book and the great great

grandfather of current Duchess of York, affectionately known as "Fergie") and Philip and Suzie Wingfield who have invited the entire group to their home in nearby Monkstown for cocktails.

Those going are guaranteed to learn more about the prominence of the Wingfields and experience a new, warm pride and respect for the family.

Our own Jocelyn Wingfield will narrate the Wingfield history as our private motor-coach finds its way back in history. Combining the two tours into one severely limits the number that can go (maximum 40), so if you want to go, make arrangements as soon as possible. At the time of writing, we had 9 spaces left.

## Powerscourt manager visits Florida

Knowing a group of Wingfields will be visiting Powerscourt in May, 1991, Robert Travers, Tourism Manager, flew to Florida in mid-November to discuss the arrangements with Bob And Wilsie Carr, coordinators for the Wingfield Tour.

Mr. Travers is excited about the group visiting the world famous gardens and is working with Tony Wingfield in Ireland to see that they get special and preferred handling. He is arranging lunch to be catered in one of the rooms that was not destroyed by the fire of 1974.



**Robert Travers, Tourism Manger for Powerscourt looks over the England/Ireland tour brochure with WFS President Carr.**

The group will also stop in Enniskerry, a quaint village developed for housing the workers of Powerscourt. Mr. Travers hopes to personally meet the group there and show them the points of interest before they drive to the gardens.

The event is so special they will have a representative of the society plant a tree in Powerscourt Gardens that will forever be identified with the Wingfield Family Society and their visit to Powerscourt.

## Membership Drive needs your help

As we begin a new year, it is the time to get qualified new members to join the Wingfield Family Society.

We do not get prospects names from phone books, city directories or other commercial lists. Virtually all of our members are persons recommended by another member. Mostly they come from relatives, but sometimes from other individuals that members have met and found them to be Wingfields or have Wingfield blood. As we become better known and get inquires, usually about genealogy, we recognize this as a good source and invite them to join.

But the best way to find and get new members for the Wingfield Family Society is by invitation from current members of prospects they know.

Enclosed with this newsletter is a Membership Application that we urge you to use to extend an invitation to a person of Wingfield heritage that you know is eligible to become a member. The brochure gives all the reasons, but the best reason will be a personal endorsement of you.

Currently we have about 280 households, which calculates out to better than 500 members. We know out there in the U.S. alone there are thousands that are eligible.

If each member just got one additional member. . . .

We need your help.

## A Wingfield Castle that moves . . . or did

Sometime during the Victorian era (1837-1901) a paddle wheel steamer named "Wingfield Castle" was built in England. She later plied as a ferry across the River Humber between New Holland and Kingston-upon-Hull, former home town of the De La Poles of Suffolk. The floating "Wingfield Castle," almost as big as a 19th century frigate has just been restored at Harlepool, Cleveland at the mouth of the Tees. WFS member Dr. Robert Wingfield of Melton Mowbray believes that the boat is now a floating restaurant. More on this later, hopefully with pictures.

## Correction Autumn 1990 issue

The article headlined, "Lady Campbell, author part time Florida resident," page 5, paragraph 6 should read, "In 1943 she (Lady Campbell) married an American, William C. Moore from New Rochelle, NY."

Mr. Arthur B. Purvis, erroneously shown in the article as the American Lady Campbell married, was Chairman of the British Purchasing Commission in New York during the war and was a Canadian citizen. He is one of the people described in detail in "Resident Alien," Lady Campbell's book.

Sorry, Lady Campbell.

## Top Secret From Page 1

sides by Goodwood, Montague Gardens and Fractreton.

Sometime in the early days of the '39-45 war, the Cape Town City Council made over Wingfield Airport, formerly known as Cape Town Airport to the Defence Department. (South Africa was a British Colony from 1910 to 1961, when it left the Commonwealth). On August 17, 1942, Wingfield Airport was ceded to the Admiralty, the Fleet Air Arm taking possession.

In September 1942, the Defence Department began the secret operation, OPERATION WINGFIELD (or whatever the actual code name was), when it purchased for instance over 700 acres of Montague Gardens on the fringes of Cape Town, at a cost of over £13,000. an area for which they continued to pay Messrs. Graafs' Trust Ltd., a monthly rent of £39-11s-10d. But who owned the original area and why was it called Wingfield?

Under the headlines shown above, the Star of May 6, 1944 read:

"A great and modernly equipped air station built by the Royal Naval Fleet Air Arm at a cost of nearly £4 million in buildings and equipment has grown on Wingfield, the former municipal airport."

Historically notable about Royal Naval Airstation Wingfield — H.M.S. Malagas on the naval books — and the immense engineering enterprise it represents, is the fact that it was built in a hurry at a time when it seemed likely that the seas off Southern Africa would become one of the main war zones. Thousands of men were employed night and day on a ground draining, building and installation programme which now far exceeds even the most ambitious plans ever entertained by Cape Town's municipal authorities for the Civil airstation which was to become the impressive terminal of the African continental flying system. They did their job in one year.

Wingfield today is not only a huge base in which South African Air Force personnel receive training of the most advanced forms of Coastal Command work, but it provides an operational base and servicing, assembling and reconstruction station at which all the needs of the flying service of both the Royal Navy and coastal bomber and reconnaissance squadrons can be met.

### Vast Work

When the Japanese threat to South Africa became grim after the fall of Singapore, the Royal Navy started a job of work at Wingfield, of which South Africans, who were most in peril, had little inkling except that a prodigious amount of work was being done behind the "security" of barbed wire.

With the center of gravity of the war shifting to the European continent and Pacific zone, Cape Town today has one of the

finest and most modern naval air stations in the world. In 15,000 enclosed acres of the station there is everything which the Fleet Air Arm needs, not only for their operational effectiveness, but also for the comfortable housing and recreation of their personnel.

There are more than 18 miles of tarmac road enclosed in the 8-mile barbed-wire per meter of the place. There are football and hockey fields, tennis and squash courts, a swimming bath and cinema for the 800 specialists and W.R.E.N.S. (Women's Royal Naval Service) stationed there.

South Africans, who are receiving instruction in torpedo bombing and everything that is latest in naval air methods, are living in the closest harmony with the men from the farthest corners of the free world."

In July-August 1919 the United Defence Force took over 680 hutments, hangers and stores in the camp next to Wingfield Aerodrome. These buildings had been put up by the town council pre-war and by the Royal Navy during the war. Parliamentary and married airways staff continued to live at Wingfield for some time . . . That year (Cape Times December 10) the Admiralty (of the UK) transferred their interest in Wingfield Air Station to the Union Department of Defence. South African Airways continued to use Wingfield until the

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### Facts From Page 1

in Colonial times settling in Prince George and Hanover Counties then fanning out throughout other sections of the state as the frontier pushed west in the virgin United States. But the concentration of Wingfields even today is still heaviest in Virginia.

One cannot tell by a name if a person today has Wingfield heritage. So many Wingfield daughters and their daughters produced offspring with other names, but nevertheless they are still descendants of Wingfield. Could it be that many Virginians do not even know of their Wingfield progenitors?

Hopefully we can get news out to the general public about the Wingfield Family Society general meeting in Fredericksburg, and encourage new family acquaintances and expand our membership.

Our co-chairwomen, Dale Ruf and Betty Gamache, from Rockville, MD and Richmond, VA respectively have great plans for arranging interesting sessions and activities in keeping with the past high standards of our prior meetings. Dale will work with the hotel in Fredericksburg regarding facilities and general meetings while Betty will handle the full day tour to Charlottesville on Saturday, May 18.

The Fredericksburg Sheraton is perfectly located, an equal distance of 50 miles to either Washington or Richmond airports.

new national air terminal was completed near Belleview, and Wingfield became a purely military station.

On October 1st, 1945, "Wingfield Airport" was handed over to the South African Navy, who renamed it "Naval Store Depot Wingfield." On June 1, 1956 it became "S.A.S. Wingfield." It is still in use today.

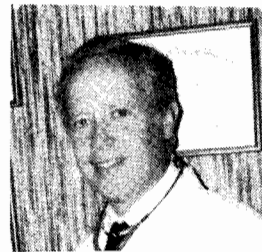
As is known from the Wingfield Family Society Computer Genealogy program, we had or have South African cousins on the Powerscourt, Wingfield-Stratford and Tickencote Lines, some of the Powerscourt ones having just emigrated to England. Most of them lived or live in the Transvaal, Natal and Zululand — indeed at the time of the Boer War, Alfred Lancelot Wingfield-Stratford had a house at Mid-Ilovo in Natal called Letheringham. Can our South African cousins complete the OPERATION WINGFIELD story by answering the following questions: why was Wingfield Aerodrome or Airport so Called? In 1928 after World War I Richard Mervyn Wingfield (1894-1951), uncle of my 4th cousin, Patrick Noel Wingfield of Marandellas, Zambabwe (Powerscourt line), married Lynette, daughter of Major S. Cowper, CMG, of Wynberg, some 5 miles south of what became Wingfield Airport. Did Major Cowper or Richard name a piece of land, Wingfield?

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There is frequent limousine service from either airport to Fredericksburg, allowing convenient air arrivals and departures. By February, the registration forms will have been mailed to all members. If you've never attended an annual meeting before, make this your first and you will never be sorry!

We ask that you mark your calendar now so that when the application for registration comes in you will have set those dates aside.

### WFS Member supports Florida Hospital



**Dr. David  
Wingfield**

WFS member C. David Wingfield, Doctor of Internal Medicine, practicing at Largo Florida's Suncoast Hospital announced a partnership gift of \$250,000 to help complete renovations and expansion of the hospital.

Dr. David Wingfield is partner in Suncoast Internal Medicine, announced the gift to the hospital that has had a massive expansion program and a campaign to raise funds, mostly from the medical community.

## WFS Census Library off to a start

Have you ever squinted into a microfilm projector trying to find information about one of your ancestors? Then maybe, just maybe deciphering the handwriting of some 18th century semi-illiterate census taker. Haven't you wished there was somewhere you could go and find the information already compiled nice, neat and complete?

We're off to a good start developing a library of census records on the name Wingfield in the United States that will do just that!

Lee Preston has spent months risking a severe case of myopia looking for Wingfields in the early census and tax records in many, many of our states. Now he is willing to make these records available to WFS members, hopefully in exchange for them sharing their information with the WFS.

Those interested in examining census records to research their Wingfield line should make note of the following records Lee has compiled so far:

The first official nationwide census of the United States was done in 1790. Some states did a computation of people from registration lists and tax rolls. These are not true census. The listings shown for Virginia counties before 1790 were from tax rolls. They do however, reveal important information.

1782-1785:

Virginia; Albemarle, (1785) Amherst (1783 & 85), Botetourt (1784), Brunswick (1782), Buckingham (1782), Frederick (1783), Goochland (1782), Hanover (1782), Mecklenburg (1782), Powhatan (1783) and Sussex (1782) Counties.

1787:

Virginia; Albemarle, Amherst, Brunswick, Frederick, Hanover, Goochland, Greenville, Mecklenburg, Powhatan, Richmond and Sussex Counties.

All the above pre-1790 records show no ages as they are from tax records.

1790:

New York; Orange and Ulster Counties.  
North Carolina; Anson, Hyde, Iredell, and Wayne Counties.  
Vermont; Addison County.

1800:

Kentucky; (Tax Records, not census), Henry, Nelson, Warren and Washington Counties.

1810:

Virginia; Albemarle, Amherst, Brunswick, Buckingham, Franklin, Frederick, Hanover, and Sussex Counties.

1820:

Virginia; Albemarle, Amherst, Bedford, Franklin, Hanover, Mecklenburg and Nelson Counties.

1830:

Mississippi; Amite County  
Ohio; Clark, Columbia, and Highland Counties.  
Virginia; Franklin and Hanover Counties.

1840:

Iowa; Scott County,  
Maryland; Frederick County.  
Texas; (Tax Records, only), Nacogdoches County.  
Virginia; Albemarle, Amherst, Bedford, Buckingham, Franklin, Hanover and Henrico Counties.

1850:

Iowa; Scott and Van Buren Counties.  
Kentucky; Edmondson County.  
Louisiana; Claiborne County.  
Missouri; Dade, Johnson, Montgomery, and Perry Counties.  
Ohio; Portage, Union and Warren Counties.  
Oregon; Clackamas County.  
Texas; Rusk and Tarrant Counties.  
Virginia; Albemarle, Alexander, Frederick, Franklin, Giles, Hanover, Henrico, Henry and Kanawaha Counties.

1860:

Arkansas; Hempstead, and Sebastian Counties.  
Iowa; Black Hawk, Dubuque, Mahaska, Scott and Van Buren Counties.  
Mississippi; Arrapahoe (now Colorado), and Davis Counties.  
Kentucky; Edmonson County.  
Missouri; Montgomery and Saline Counties.  
Oregon; Clackamas County.  
Texas; Colorado, Houston, La Vaca and Rusk Counties.

Virginia; Hanover and Henrico Counties.

1870:

Arkansas; Benton and Sebastian Counties.  
Missouri; Saline County.  
Oregon; Grant, Jackson, and Josephine Counties.  
Virginia; Hanover County.

1880:

Arizona; Yavapai County.  
Missouri; Saline County.  
Nevada; Eureka County.  
Oregon; Clackamas and Grant Counties.

1900:

Missouri; Saline County.  
Nevada; Humboldt County.  
Oregon; Harney County.

We are all grateful to Lee for doing this tedious work involved in organizing the censuses and now making it available to our WFS members. All the records shown here have at least one Wingfield listed (sometimes different spellings).

If you need census information on any state and county shown here contact:

Lee Preston  
1630 Bodega Ct.,  
Walnut Creek, CA 94596

Include a self addressed, stamped envelope and to cover copying costs, enclose a minimum of \$1 or 25 cents per copy. Make checks payable to Wingfield Family Society. If you can supply a census record Lee does not have he will waive the copy fee as an incentive to get members to send in new information. Even if you do not need any information, but have different records, please send your census

information to help complete Lee Preston's Library of Censuses. For compiling census information you should have appropriate forms (each census is different). Lee will send you sample copies if you will help compile information for his library.

As this develops we hope to put all States census records in a computer database for easy storage and retrieval.

### Powerscourt From Page 1

Plans are still in place and the cost of this will exceed £30,000,00 according to the Dublin Irish Times. Various approvals are necessary and after start of construction it will take about 3 years to complete the first phase.

About 200 houses are planned, each costing over £200,000 and discreetly hidden so as not to interfere with the beauty of the gardens. Some will be in the Enniskerry area, others will be developed near the existing farm buildings. Profits from the housing development will go toward restoring the 18th century Powerscourt House. It will cost £5 million to rebuild it as near as possible to the original building and open it as a 100 bedroom luxury hotel. They also plan to provide other leisure and sporting facilities at a later date. The 47 acres of gardens will be enhanced.

Dr Slazenger said they would continue to encourage visitors to the estate. About 100,000 visitors saw Powerscourt in 1989. The estate is profitable because of the tourists, making little on the farming side.

The Slazenger family bought the estate in 1961 and were preparing to open the house to the public when it was almost completely damaged by fire in November, 1974. The east wing was saved, but the fire destroyed priceless paintings, furniture and ornaments collected by the Wingfield family over many generations.



**WFS President Wilsie Carr inspects Powerscourt Crystal at duty free shop in Grand Cayman Islands. She recently sailed to the Caribbean on a short vacation.**