



## BANKS FAMILY ASSOCIATION

*Volume VII*

**NEWSLETTER**

*Number 1*

April 10, 2006

**2006 REUNION PLANNED FOR SEPTEMBER 22 & 23 IN HERNANDO, MISS. PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDAR. MORE INFORMATION TO COME FROM GEORGE P. BANKS, PRESIDENT OF BANKS FAMILY ASSOCIATION AS SOON AS PLANS ARE FINALIZED.**

From the pen of George P. Banks, President:

Dear Cousins, When I tell friends about the Banks Family Association and about the family reunions we have, I almost always get the same reaction. They are amazed that we know so much about our family, and always express how lucky we are to have such a family. For this great heritage, I know we are all thankful!

For those of you who were unable to attend our June 2005 Biennial Reunion in Elbert County, Ga., you were missed, and you missed a great time.

On Friday we were introduced to social life in Elberton at a party hosted by Latimer and Linda Heard at the restored home of Latimer's grandparents – Mr. and Mrs. Martin Heard. As a bonus, a Blue Grass Band entertained us. Our host Latimer is a member of this group. We want to thank Latimer and Linda for inviting us, and we wish to tell them how much we enjoyed it.



CALLING THE ROLL of families for the JUNE 2005 reunion were John Sheftall, vice-president for Historical Research and Annette Jackson, Executive Secretary. A total of more than 50 people from eight of our United States answered roll call. The families with the most descendants present were from the Ralph Jr. and Elizabeth Maxwell Banks line.



After the party we convened at the First United Methodist Church where we had a catered dinner prepared by Ann Plummer and her helpers. They have served us well for several years. We had good attendance. After recognizing everyone present, we discussed several subjects that are important to the Banks Family:

1. We were brought up to date by Ed Jackson on what we need

to do to get an historical marker for Coldwater Plantation. I think this is something that everyone wants.

2. We discussed, with much participation, about how to get younger members of the family involved in the Banks Family Association. Hopefully, some of these suggestions can be incorporated in future meetings.

3. We voted to raise the yearly dues from \$7.50 per year to \$10, (beginning in 2006).

4. All officers agreed to serve until 2007.

5. We also discussed the possibility of having a "Little Reunion" in 2006, but no plans have been finalized. We will keep everyone posted when plans are made.

6. After the business meeting we had a delicious meal prepared by the ladies of Coldwater Methodist Church. Clyde and Jean Adams are to be commended for helping to organize this delicious home cooked meal, complete with a table filled with tasty desserts.

After the meal, we had a chance to relax and visit the open house at Coldwater Plantation, home of Ralph and Rachel Banks that was built in the late 1700s. For this invitation, we want to thank owner Anne Banks, who was unable to attend, and her son Ross Banks who served as host.

I want to thank everyone who helped make this reunion and hope that all is well with family members. Regards, George P. Banks, 106 Shannon Drive, Spartanburg, S.C. 29301-3814, email: <gandnbanks@charter.net.

EDITOR'S NOTE: (Guests were invited to tour the Coldwater house and outbuildings and to walk out to the graves of Thomas Banks, father of Ralph Banks, and Nathaniel and Caroline Frances Hughes Banks, Thomas Banks' grandson and granddaughter-in-law. Nathaniel had bought the property after Ralph died and Rachel moved to Alabama with her children. Nathaniel and Caroline died the same year. They had three children.

During the June 2005 reunion, several guests took a walk out to the graves of slaves who are buried on the property. Others sat in the back porch swing or rocking chairs and enjoyed the refreshing breeze that seems to be a bonus for the historic home. Ross Banks displayed some of the furniture, lamps and boxes he crafts from wood, grown on the plantation, in his workshop nearby.)

Other officers for 2005-2007 are: Vice-president for reunion preparation – Peggy Gallis (706)

349-6990: Vice-president for Historical Research and Genealogy – John Sheftall (e-mail: [thecedars@knology.net](mailto:thecedars@knology.net)); Executive Secretary – Annette Jackson (e-mail: [annettejackson@charter.net](mailto:annettejackson@charter.net)); Treasurer- Tom Wilkinson (e-mail: [hansachs@thelink.net](mailto:hansachs@thelink.net)) Assistant Treasurer – Laura Lynn Wilkinson High, 590 Fawn Run, Alpharetta, Ga. 30005; Webmaster – H. Banks Edwards Jr. e-mail: ([hbedwardsjr@att.net](mailto:hbedwardsjr@att.net)) Web page – ([www.bfa-home.htm](http://www.bfa-home.htm)); Past President and newsletter editor: Thomas Dixon, e-mail ([gingerthomas@alltel.net](mailto:gingerthomas@alltel.net)) or P.O. Box 152, Lavonia, Ga. 30553 or 1-706-356-8758.

PLEASE NOTE: THERE IS NO COMPLETE LIST OF E-MAILS FOR ASSOCIATION MEMBERS. IF YOU WANT TO HEAR FROM ANY OF THESE FAMILY OFFICERS BY E-MAIL, YOU MUST FIRST E-MAIL THEM. THANK YOU.

#### SUGGESTIONS FROM DAN AND BARBARA ADAIR

Tom, I wanted to write this all down before I forget!

Thanks, Barbara.

1. Have one person from each line act as the point of contact for that group. So there would be a representative from each of the 12 children of Ralph and Rachel, one from the Thomas line, etc. Mailings or any communication would go to these people first, then, they could contact the people in their line. They would be responsible for seeing that their people get the information in a timely manner. They would also be the spokesperson for the people in their line.
2. The information comes from the officers of the Banks Family Association.
3. Using this line of communication, we could plan a REALLY BIG reunion for 2007. Before plans are made for activities, etc., the framework for getting the information out to everyone needs to be set up and running. Then it's not hard to do the rest of the planning. Dates, schedule of events, accommodations, activities and contest, etc. could be handled in this way. Then our other line of communication would be our website. You would have to decide how to designate the contact person for each line. Also you would have to decide whether or not you would want them to pay for postage for mailings – if all mailings went to them first.
4. We used this system when planning a very large reunion and it worked great. Each contact person knew that they were responsible for their people and they were great in spreading the enthusiasm

and talking to each person. They also gathered suggestions and passed them along to us – since we were making the planning decisions. Also, this sets up a framework for communication for future reunions and also other matters of business or other activities we might need to communicate to association members.

Everything just runs smoother!

Danny and I have been brainstorming on the way back to Denver on the airplane so I wanted to get our thoughts down right away and get them to you. We had such a wonderful time with everyone and we are concerned with the future success of our family association, as you are. We know that you have much to consider and these are only suggestions. Maybe you can use these ideas to get your discussions started! Thank you again for all you do for our dear Banks Family. We appreciate your efforts. We will stay in contact. Sending our love, Dan and Barbara Adair, 11858 West 75<sup>th</sup> Way, Arvada, Co. 8005-3281; email address: [barbs9258@msn.com](mailto:barbs9258@msn.com)

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** We really appreciate these suggestions from Dan and Barbara of the Lemuel Banks line, who attended the Elbert County reunion for the first time. (Barbara Christie Adair's parents were J.M. and Ruth Banks Christie, who is descended from King Lemuel and Hazel Davis Banks, whose ancestors were William Love and Lucy Hartsville Banks, whose parents were George Thomas and Sallie Love Banks, who was the daughter of Lemuel and Louisa Banks, son and daughter-in-law of Ralph and Rachel Banks of Coldwater Plantation.)

If other family members have suggestions or if there are volunteers who want to be the contact person for their line, please write George Banks, President, Banks Family Association, 106 Shannon Drive, Spartanburg, S.C. 29301-3814; email<[gandnbanks@charter.net](mailto:gandnbanks@charter.net).

#### LETTER FROM WENDY B. MOFFATT:

What A long newsletter! Of course, I'm not familiar with many of the names mentioned but it's still fun to read. There was a question posed that I've thought about. How do we get the younger members our family interested in their history? I'm not sure I have an answer for that but one thing that really helped me was that my mother was very interested in carrying on her father's tradition of pride in the family history. Are the younger people seeing that in their parents? Has that level of importance been passed on to younger generations? Margaret did all she could for us, we were certainly aware of it.

Maybe the issue is that the history is not so personal that it is in front of us. Life is so electronic and fast-paced now. What about communication via email? If young people these days have to sit down and read that lengthy newsletter, chances are they won't do it. What about taking some digital pictures of the plantation and emailing them to association members? Getting images in front of people these days is so important. If we think about how young people spend their days. They have an image everywhere they go, on the phones, on TV, on games – everywhere!

This may not be the gentle southern way but where I live, it would be more effective. I have many first and second cousins who've never been to Coldwater Plantation but are curious. One of them asked me what else they could do (like a tourist) while on a trip to Elbert County. She specifically asked about how far away Savannah is. Things might be better attended if there are featured options mentioned in the newsletter as well.

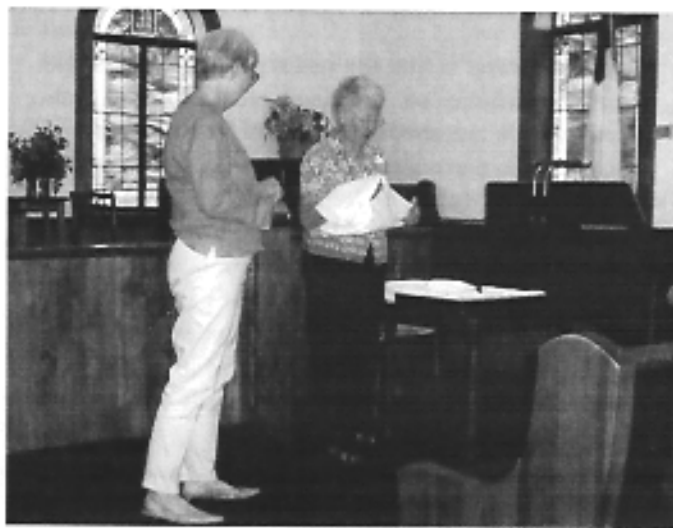
(Editor's Note: Tom Wilkinson answered Wendy's letter and suggested that a visit to the Granite Museum in Elberton would be a good option. Also, the Georgia Guidestones are located near Coldwater Plantation.

Hartwell Lake, Russell Lake and Thurmond Lake (Clark's Hill) along the Savannah River offer opportunities for boating, fishing, swimming, water skiing, hiking, bird watching, camping and picnicking. There are at least four state parks in this area: Tugaloo State Park near Lavonia, Ga.; Victoria Bryant State Park near Royston-Franklin Springs, Hart State Park near Hartwell; and Bobby Brown State Park near Elberton, Ga. Information on any of these lakes, parks and activities, as well as dates for special events, is available at Georgia Welcome Centers and/or by contacting the Georgia Department of Industry, Trade and Tourism in Atlanta. Have fun!!)

**LETTER FROM JEAN AND CLYDE ADAMS,** our hosts at Coldwater Methodist Church:

Dear Ginger and Thomas, We were delighted to hear from you, as well as to know you all felt the reunion was a success. Also, thank you for the pictures.

We are in the Historical Society here, and so many have expressed a desire to see the Banks Home in hands that will preserve it.



Jean Adams took the time to show two handmade cloths to those gathered for the Banks Family business meeting on Saturday morning at Coldwater United Methodist Church in June 2005.)

This cloth was made by Sara Gaines BAILEY probably around 1815 or 1817. Sara was the daughter of William (Billy) and Millie Banks Gaines. Mr. Gaines helped to build the first church at Coldwater.

While just a little girl, Sara grew the flax on Coldwater Creek. She then wove the cloth (we call the cloth "linen"). She made two cloths for Communion service in Coldwater Church.

In 1872, Sara married Hezekiah Bailey, and they became members of Ruckersville Methodist Church. The cloths were kept in the Bailey family until sometime in 1968 when a granddaughter of Sara's, Mrs. Julia Bailey Moss, presented them to Coldwater Church.

In all probability, these cloths were used in the First Coldwater Church and on the table that Rev. Jimmy Riley made. Coldwater Church treasures these cloths and the table that Rev. Riley made. From "Coldwater Community in Elbert County, Ga.": an old Communion table made by Rev. James Riley, who lived one mile north of Coldwater Church. When he finished the table, he put it on his shoulders and brought it to the church." The table is put together with wooden pegs.

## DEATHS

**COLUMBUS, GA.** – William Love Sheftall, Jr., 83, died at his home in Columbus on Saturday, June 4, 2005. Funeral services were held at the graveside in Riverside Cemetery, Macon, on Monday June 6, 2005 with the Rev. Gordon K. Reed of Christ Church, Presbyterian, Augusta, Ga. officiating. Mr. Sheftall was born in Macon on April 6, 1922, and grew up there as well as in Dublin, Ga. and Miami, Fla. He was the only child of Anna LaFae Ferguson and William Lowe Sheftall, both of whom died during his teenage years. After graduating from Lanier High School in Macon, he volunteered for

service in the Army Air Corps. As a fighter pilot stationed in Italy for 17 months during World War II, he flew 74 missions and was awarded among other honors, the Silver Star and the Purple Heart. He was honorably discharged in 1946 with the rank of first lieutenant. After returning home, he entered Vanderbilt University and Vanderbilt University School of Law where he received his J.D. degree in 1950. He married the former Josephine Banks McKay, a Columbus native, in Macon on April 3, 1951, and the Sheftalls made their home first in Panama City, Florida, and then for almost forty years, in Macon. Mr. Sheftall was active in the business community, retiring in 1992 as vice-president of Murphey, Taylor and Ellis as manager of its insurance department. The Sheftalls moved to Columbus in 1996 and have since made their home near their son John and his family in the former guest cottage of The Cedars, Mrs. Sheftall's ancestral home.

Mr. Sheftall's paternal ancestors participated in the founding of Georgia in 1733, and he held membership in the Society of the Cincinnati in the State of Georgia as the representative of Col. Mordecai Sheftall, Deputy Commissary General for Issues in Georgia during the American Revolution. His other memberships included the Georgia Historical Society, the Georgia Trust for Historic Preservation, Historic Macon Foundation, Historic Columbus Foundation, the Macon Civic Club, the Georgia Association of Independent Insurance Agents (of which he was past president), Alpha Tau Omega Fraternity, and First Presbyterian Church in Macon (of which he was a former Sunday School teacher, deacon, ruling elder and clerk of the session) In addition to his wife of 54 years, he is survived by a son, William Lowe Sheftall, III, and his wife, Carol Harden Sheftall, of Thomasville, Ga.; a son, John McKay Sheftall and his wife, Lucy Tresp Sheftall of Columbus; four grandchildren, William Lowe Sheftall, IV; Lucy Banks Sheftall, John McKay Sheftall Jr. and Andrew Tresp Sheftall; and a step-granddaughter, Mary Beth Dyke of Atlanta, Ga.

## RAYMOND ALFRED BANKS

(This obit ran in *The Atlanta Journal-Constitution*. We are not sure if or how this man is connected to the Banks of Elbert. If anyone can supply information, please let us know. Thomas Dixon e-mail: [gingerthomas@alltel.net](mailto:gingerthomas@alltel.net))  
**ATLANTA** - (Ret. Lt. Col.) Raymond Alfred Banks, 90, of Rancho Palos Verdes, Ca., passed on May 3, 2005 at the Torrence Memorial Hospital, Terrence, Ca. Ray was born on Jan. 18, 1915 in Portland, Oregon and grew up in Snowqualmie Falls, Washington. He enlisted in the U.S. Army after graduating from the University of Washington and he served during WWII and the Korean War at the rank of Army Engineer, retiring in 1962 after receiving a Masters of Arts degree from the University

of Pittsburgh. He enjoyed several careers after Army retirement including Construction Management in Washington, D.C., as a Resident Inspector on Marta System in Atlanta and Construction Cost Estimating in Atlanta, before retiring in 1985. He served as the President of the Retired Officers Association in Atlanta and San Diego, Ca. He wrote and published a book, "Mill Town" when was 80 years of age. Ray was preceded in death by his wife of 45 years, Connie Banks, who died in 1986. His three children and their spouses, Jerry and Suseen Banks, Suzy and Jerry Compton and Juanita Easton; seven grandsons and their spouses, Sean and Emily Banks, Steven and Tonya Banks, Ray Compton, Thomas Easton, William Banks and Patrick Compton, and two great-grandchildren, Caroline Banks and Wyatt Banks. Memorial services were held on June 24, 2005 at the Hillandale Memorial Gardens, Lithonia, Ga.

#### GEORGE BANKS LEONARD

George Banks Leonard, 86, passed away on Monday, Oct 4, 2004. Mr. Leonard was retired Sector Manager of F.A.A., a 40-year member of various Kiwanis Clubs and a Legion of Honor member. He was also a member of the I.E.E.E.

Survivors include his wife, Pearl S. Leonard; daughter, Linda (Steve) Adams; son, George K. Leonard; stepdaughter, Teresa (Ron) Hess; four grandchildren; 1 step-grandson, 2 step great-grandchildren and 9 nieces and nephews. Graveside services were held on Friday, Oct 8 at Restlawn Memorial Park with Dr. Thomas Walker officiating.

In lieu of flowers, the family would like memorials to Community Hospital of N.E. Florida on Sunbeam Road. Arrangements by Corey-Kerlin Funeral Home, 940 Cesery Blvd., Jacksonville, Fla.

#### ROY DELANO MCFARLIN

CARNESVILLE, Ga. - Roy Delano McFarlin, 69, of the Red Hill Community died Wednesday April 28, 2004, at Peachtree Christian Hospice in Duluth.

Born in Anderson County, he was a watch repairman and auto mechanic. He was a veteran of the U.S. Air Force and a member of the Hunter's Creek Baptist Church.

Surviving are his wife, Mildred Hill McFarlin; sons, Del McFarlin of Greenville, S.C. and Jody McFarlin of Simpsonville; brother, L.C. McFarlin of Toccoa; sisters, Rachel Whitley and Zelpha Canady, both of Carnesville, and Betty Thomas of Toccoa, and one grandson.

He was the son of the late John Avant and Grace Taylor McFarlin. He was preceded in death by a daughter, Barbara Elaine McFarlin, a son, John Mark McFarlin, and a brother, Wendell McFarlin.

Services were held on Friday on Wednesday, April 30, 2005, at Ginn Memorial Chapel. The Rev. Tommy Childress conducted the service. Burial was in New Bethel Baptist Church Cemetery, Carnesville, Ga.

#### BESSIE RUTH BANKS AYERS

Carnesville, Ga. Bessie Ruth Banks Ayers, 80, of 12 McFarlin Bridge Road, died Saturday, Feb. 25, 2006 at her home. A native and lifelong resident of Franklin County, she was born May 5, 1924, the youngest child of the late William Jackson Banks and Maude Elizabeth Means Banks. She was born at the Banks home place at 411 Banks Academy Road, Carnesville and graduated from Carnesville High School. She was retired from Coats & Clark in Toccoa and was a member of Mount Zion United Methodist Church. Survivors include her husband Darwin Ayers of the home and a sister Edith Banks of Homer in Banks County. She was preceded in death by seven siblings - Ruby Mae Banks, Luther Marion Banks, Rachel G. Banks, John Patterson Banks, Fred Coleman Banks, Charlie Dance Banks and Williams Morris Banks.

Services were held at 11 a.m. on Tuesday, Feb. 29, at Mount Zion United Methodist Church near Carnesville by the Rev. Bill Ratcliff and Ryan Seawright. Burial followed in the church cemetery.

#### MARION H. BANKS

Toccoa, Ga. - Marion Henry Banks, 78, of 248 Poplar St., died Thursday, Feb. 9, 2006, at Stephens County Hospital. He was the son of the late John Thomas and Mandy Cornelia Payne Banks. He was born Dec. 23, 1927 in Carnesville but lived most of his life in Stephens County. He was retired from Toccoa Casket Company after 30 years of service and was a member at New Bethel Baptist Church. He is survived by his wife Lois Pruitt Banks and a son, Randall Banks, both of the home; and three sisters, Jeanette Andrews, Gladys LeCroy and Martha Murray, all of Toccoa. He was preceded in death by his brother Lem Banks, and by a sister Juanita Payne, both of Toccoa. Funeral services were held at the Hillcrest Chapel of Acree-Davis Funeral Home with the Revs. Dr. Tommy Childress and Eddie Hyde officiating. Interment was in Stephens Memorial Gardens.

#### RUSSELL MARION BANKS

Vincent, Ala. - Russell Marion Banks, 78, died Tuesday, Jan. 10, 2006. His funeral and burial was at Saint Francis Xavier Catholic Church on Jan. 14. He is survived by his wife Margaret Ann Panos of the home.

## HONORS AND AWARDS:

George B. Ready of Hernando, Miss. e-mailed on July 02, 2005: Thomas, Just got back from Ft. Worth and the American Paint Horse Association Show. Banks got a small case of the nerves, as could be expected from a 14-year old at such a huge show. He did not win a world championship as we had hoped but he did make it to the finals and then made it into the Top Ten which is extremely successful. Only the best go to the world show and the Western Pleasure class had 75 entries. So placing ninth is very good if you realize it is 9<sup>th</sup> in the world and makes you one of the ten best youth riders in the world. He was also elected Treasurer of the American Junior Paint Horse Association, the national organization for youth paint horse members. Hope the reunion went well. George



The Rev. Rebecca Dixon, formerly of Wilmington, N.C., received the Sandra Wells Peterson Advocacy Award at a meeting of the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services meeting held in the fall of 2005. The award is named for a woman who devoted her life to addressing homeless issues before passing away in the year 2000.

For 16 years, Rev. Dixon has worked to help the homeless in southeastern North Carolina. She served as Administrative Director for Good Shepherd Ministries of Wilmington for five years. For the past 11 years, she has worked with Volunteers of America of the Carolinas as Director of Transitional Housing for the Willow Pond Program, a housing program for women who have been abused, and their dependent children. She also helped to organize Tri-County Interagency Council. The council is composed of more than 80 agencies in New Hanover, Brunswick and Pender counties who furnish housing for homeless persons in southeastern North Carolina. This group has been responsible for bringing more than \$6 million in grant money into this area of the state.

She transferred in December 2005 to Greenville, S.C. where she works as Director of Supportive Housing Services and Agency Chaplain for Volunteers of

America of the Carolinas. Her parents are Thomas and Ginger Dixon of Lavonia, Ga.

## REUNIONS

The Thomas Marion Banks branch of the Banks Family met on the second Sunday in October 2005 at the Line Woman's Club building near Lavonia, Georgia for their 70<sup>th</sup> reunion. In addition to the fellowship and delicious food, President Donna Dodd and her husband, Tommy, put pictures taken by Thomas Dixon at past reunions into a slide show, accompanied by old time hymns.

Also, Bob King and Thomas Dixon took a group of kinfolk on a tour of points of interest to family members. On Saturday, a group met at family cemeteries on New Hope Road in Stephens County and on Damascus Road in Banks County. They raked leaves and picked up debris, then rewarded themselves with a barbecue lunch.

This year's meeting is scheduled for Oct. 7 and 8.

## BOOKS WRITTEN BY RELATIVES

\*Charles W. Banks of Charlotte, N.C., a past President of the Thomas Marion Banks branch, has written a book about a Naval Admiral named Zach Tanner and the USS Wingate in the Sea of Japan in the 1940s and 1950s. The book's title is "Steel Warrior" and copies are available from Publish America, P.O. Box, Frederick, MD 21705. Copies are \$18.95, plus 5 percent MD tax and \$3.00 shipping and handling.

\*Joe Banks, son of Dr. Bob and Susan King of Bradenton, Florida has written a book on Ralph Twitchel, one of the founders of the Sarasota School of Architecture. Joe is currently restoring a 1940s historically significant home on Siesta Key in Sarasota. For more information on this book, contact Bob King at [bsk4630@verizon.net](mailto:bsk4630@verizon.net).

\*May Frances Bailey Dixon has written a book on some of the interesting people, events and places that touched their lives during the 30 plus years she and her husband Rev. Rodolph Dixon spent as Baptist missionaries in Peru. She hopes to have it published soon. For more information, contact e-mail: [jrmbdxn@aol.com](mailto:jrmbdxn@aol.com).

\*"WHAT IS DESIGN?" An overview of design in context from Prehistory to 2000 A.D. was written by Anne J. Banks, owner of Coldwater Plantation in Elbert County. As a general background for students of design, it includes all aspects of the design process including architecture, industrial and graphic design, the decorative arts and how they all relate to the fine arts. It

is an informative and exciting journey through the ages of living with the things we have created. Anne is an artist and educator who received her B.A. from Wellesley College and M.E.A. from The George Washington University. She exhibits her work in the Washington, D.C. area as well as nationally and abroad. She is professor emeritus at Northern Virginia Community College where she was instrumental in developing a course in the history of design. Orders available at [www.Xlibris.com/bookstore](http://www.Xlibris.com/bookstore) or call 888-795-4274, ext 876.

(We would like to know about other books written by members of the Banks Family Association. Our e-mail address is: [gingerthomas@alltel.net](mailto:gingerthomas@alltel.net).)

**E-MAIL FROM ANNE BANKS:** In response to your question about the societies Bill (former president of Banks Family Association) and I visited in England... We got all our information from the Society of Genealogists in London and in Dorchester which is the county seat for Corfe Castle (ruins) as well as Kingston-Lacy mansion where those papers are located. However, you have to be a member to get into those records. Jim Banks and others interested might also check out the British Historical Society. Bill and Tom B. had been members for years before we went over.

#### LETTER FROM CATHY AND MILT REDD

(Milt and Cathy have built a house on the grounds of the Presbyterian Retirement Center in Easley, S.C. Cathy is also a survivor of breast cancer in 2005. She descends from the Ralph Jr. and Elizabeth Maxwell Banks line.)

When Milt was asked for ideas for this note, he said, "Say we survived 2005!" And so we did, thanks to superb doctors, great nurses, wonderful supportive family and good, good friends. Health wise, we are OK.

We moved into our long awaited cottage June 2<sup>nd</sup>. We are now "at home" to all of you. The fall found us working very hard in our hard red dirt yard. Milt is great with a pick and ace and I can shovel and tote buckets pretty well. We have blueberry bushes in, a fig bush, a 5 ft. oak tree and an 8 inch seedling too, as well as many bulbs plus some pansies that already give us blossoms for inside. Our spring should be lovely.

We look forward to 2006 with new friends and activities here. We eat lunch every day in the "big" dining room and have what I call our "cocktail" time: 12-1:30 p.m. eating and talking. We hope there is a Banks trip in '06.

#### WARNING ABOUT E-MAIL SCAM

Elaine Banks Honea of Carnesville, Ga., writes that a person answering her advertisement in the *Atlanta Journal-Constitution* for puppies for sale tried to

convince her to accept a certified check from them for more than the puppies were worth. Then she was to forward the puppies to a third party who would send the puppies overseas to them. She explained that they did not send puppies anywhere as it was too stressful for the dogs. From what she learned, it was a scam in which by the time you found out the certified check was no good, you would have already sent the puppies to the third party. She goes on to say that she is thankful to belong to such a wonderful heritage as the Banks Family has provided. (Elaine descends from the Ralph Jr. and Elizabeth Maxwell Banks line)

#### DNA UPDATE FROM RAY BANKS:

(FYI: Some time ago, Ray Banks of Las Vegas, Nev. became interested, and set out to see if all of the Banks families in the United States are descended from William Banks of Mantapike, Virginia.)

April 1, 2006

A few minutes ago, I sent the following to the first Banks of Elbert participant in the DNA project.

We finally have the DNA results from a descendant of the only fully documented line from William Bankes of King and Queen Co. Actually the lab only provided me 25 of 37 markers tonight, but it is enough to be sure of conclusions. I am not certain the participant wants to be identified precisely. But this will not necessary in the context of the results. I will just say he is an important faculty member at an institution of higher learning in the West.

The results show that your Banks of Elbert family and the fully documented family (Culpepper Co, Va. To West Virginia) descended from William Bankes. Both have the same genetic profile. Previously your claim to be a descendant of William Bankes of K & Q was based primarily on the use of the name Ralph in late generations, but now the DNA results fully validate this descent.

There were two compilations that claimed their Bankses were also descendants of William of K & Q. These were the book "Grandpap's Family" by Frances Story and a compilation by Reginald Smith. The former claimed her James Banks of early Virginia was Williams's son. Her family moved through North Carolina to Georgia. The second author claimed that the Banks families of Bedford Co., VA in the late 1700s were William's descendants. In both cases we now have fully confirmed DNA profiles from both those families and there is no match to your family. Both of those other families genetically belong to the native Celtic peoples of Britain, and your family descends from a Saxon or Viking invader of Britain based on the DNA profiles.

In addition to these compilations, there are other unpublished compilations that similarly list William Bankes as their ancestor, and those are invalid, also.

I have previously also reported that there is no genetic connection between your family and mine (Adam Bankes of 1600s Stafford Co., VA) despite the fact most of your family seem to be following ours around for about 100 years. Adam was too old to be a son of William, but they have some similar traditions in addition to the common residences.

The new results are now posted to the Banks results page.

<http://www.members.cox.net/morebanks/BanksCharts>.  
The B and C Banks Charts must be capitalized.

Your family grouping is 17<sup>th</sup> down the page with a mauve (purple) background identifying it. The description begins "William Bankes of c. Virginia," I will add the additional markers when available. Below the charts is a description of each grouping. Yours now has a link to the pedigree of the new participant who I am designating as "W".

We now have nearly all – if not all – the major Banks families of the U.S. identified as to their DNA profile. The project now focuses more on Britain. It will not really take a large number of samples, but I have to have good pedigrees and try to avoid testing persons from the same locale. Some progress is being made. We have a sample from Co. Westmorland family in the lab. And I am in discussions with a Nottingham family.

My review of the info in the 1881 census indicates it is unlikely any Banks living in Keswick today is from the original families there. There was a large exodus in the 1700s. But I think we can work around these problems. Englishmen do not seem eager to participate, and I may have to work primarily through Americans descended from more recent emigrants who have concrete pedigrees into England. *Ray*  
[raybanks@cox.net](mailto:raybanks@cox.net).

**If you have not paid family dues of \$10.00 for 2005-2006, Tom Wilkinson would be glad to hear from you at 501 North Randolph Avenue, Eufaula, AL 36027. His phone number is (334) 687-4682 or e-mail: [tomannwilk@earthlink.net](mailto:tomannwilk@earthlink.net).**



Virginia Thomas poses with the corsage presented to her at the Friday evening supper at Elberton First United Methodist Church.



Banks cousins visit on back porch of Coldwater Plantation House.



We were pleased to have members of the younger generation to attend the reunion.