

Brantley Association of America

Annual Newsletter

Reflection 2019

Revised May 6th, 2020

A late Happy new year, Association members. I started this letter back in February. I am sure you will understand why it is very late. We went early and stored up on things we might need if things developed and they did. We are closed up at all restaurants and places of gathering and on Thursday we will go to a lock down. Our three children in the medical field have basically quarantined us, already. Steve, our Pharm Dr at Atlanta's NW hospital is very concerned about the matter. He is working at the hospital on 10 hour shifts and fears he may get the virus and bring it home to the family. He says the numbers are going to soar.

A few exciting things happened in 2019 including *the obvious discovery of the homeland in England of our common ancestor Edward Brantley, * more detailed location of Edward in Isle of Wight County, VA, *the donation images to the Association of many, perhaps most, of the Isle of Wight early courthouse collection, and *the progress on the indexing program. These discussed in this newsletter.

Changes in the Ambassador Program

We discussed the partial curtailment of the Ambassador program and internet activities of the Association in our 2018 newsletter. We are answering a lot of newcomers who have just discovered us and we have made several very happy, providing abstracts from my book on their family. While the enhancement of the Association's **website** is imminent, I see no changes in the present operation policy, but if new findings of great value are discovered you will be notified.

Isle of Wight County, Virginia Records; Now on-line

Update: I reported last year in our newsletter that I had learned a flood of additional file/books/documents of IoW County have recently gone on line. Surely this means that the others will follow. These same image pages are now in my files. I have found they make up, seemingly, 90% of the available base records of early Isle of Wight County and are, in some cases, twice the clarity: More to follow.

The Brantley Book

As stated last year, I have sold out of the books; The Brantley Family; Preachers, Planters, and Pioneers of the South. No reprint, I said, is planned, but I am rethinking that. One of the hang-ups with the reprint, besides the cost, is the problem of re-paging and re-indexing the book. Now that problem has been rectified by Steve Osborn, modifying the indexing program, and my purchase of a new, more powerful computer (see below). I am now, entertaining the idea of a re-print this year and could decide

to re-print at any time. While it may not be the best time to bring it up, one thing I would like to know is how many books might could go to our members and/or their families. Surely few, but if you believe you would want a copy of the revised and updated revision, let me know. If I get as few as 25 books presently committed for, I will likely proceed. I already have 4 copies on request. The book, although with more pages, would be lighter. One of the issues with the first edition was the weight. I can see now where frequent and on-going use of the 71b book, can be hard on its binding. I used heavy paper with good intentions (quality), but I did not see the down side of such heavy paper. While it will still have quality paper, it will not be as thick, therefore lowering the weight and reducing the stress of the binding. The book may cost more, but I will try to hold it to less than \$75. If you decide you might want a copy of the revised book, let me know by putting the number in the subject box in an e-mail. This way I can quickly review at a glance, copies I see requested.

Further, I need editing in places. I keep finding errors as I read my own work. I see errors like: double words: in in, or the misspellings as, there/their, typo's like, "at" instead of intended "as", dates like, 1978 in instead of intended 1878. If anyone wants to take on a few pages, or have discovered errors in your own line, let me know. This would be a good time to do so. Also, if you see where exhibits should have been included on an ancestor, let me know too. While I can't submit an exhibit for everything I say, I have seen a few important ones I missed. The older the ancestor, the more value the exhibit. Usually. I would like to refine the book where I can, if I do up-date and reprint.

Super Hotrod Computer

Son-in-law, Steve Osborn, and I went to Micro Center, a mega seller of computer hardware in late January and he help me chose the right hardware for a new computer to maximize efficiency. Knowing by now, my specific objective, he built it custom to my needs. The screen is 34 inches wide and I can load a number of windows for view at one time. It has an 8 core high speed processor. Presently pending is both OCR and voice activation software. Because of my arthritis, I cannot hold my head upward to see, especially the upper part of the screen for long periods of time, so I mounted the monitor to a short coffee table with the monitor tilted away from me at the top. It was a remarkable move. I do have to make some keyboard and setting changes, but it is much better that the old station.

The WEB Site

REPEAT: The Web site is badly in need of updating. That is planned for this year. The book, for example, is still shown for sale. Other comments about the IoW and SoH projects are totally obsolete. Plans are to load many of my research files of some 50 years, which were entered into word processing files, going back to 1988. Many of these files have lost their exact source, but will still give guidance and certainly lead the researcher to the likely whereabouts of the original documents.

Surely, we will correct that soon and surely in year 2020.

DNA FINDINGS

Little participation this year, but we have learned that there are perhaps thousands of persons named Anderson who actually carry the Edward Brantley Y-DNA. This goes back to the early 1700s around the Meherrin River, in present day Southampton County, Virginia, from whence my and most American Brantleys ancestors came. There are countless persons throughout the country, that descended from the adopted Anderson family, who obviously descend from our Edward Brantley of 1638, likely through his grandson, Edward Brantley who died there in 1736. If you have an Anderson friend with roots in IoW, tell him to do at least, the smallest DNA test to see if he is your cousin.



Isle of Wight Images

A supporter of the Association and the Southampton Project is Forest King of Gilbert, Arizona. Recently he donated remarkable images of the Isle of Wight County records to the Association. As mentioned, these records are now on-line at FamilySearch, but the quality of these donated images are far superior to those. There are issues that I will have to deal with. The images are hard for me to arrange in order. I cannot find what book the page sets belong to in some cases and there are thousands. I am assured that with enough study, I can master it and get them in proper order and arrangement. Getting these arranged and on the Website for indexing purposes is being planned. (See indexing program progress.)

Indexing Program

As discussed in our previous newsletter, Steve has been working on an advanced indexing program. We are now at the point that with a few modifications, we can have it available on line. If we get both options, *one will be where, now, the indexer will be given access to the Association's copy of the Book/Manuscript he is indexing. The indexer will have the image/page presented in order with an accompanying template for entry. It is much like the one used at FamilySearch, but with provisions for speedier entries. The *second option will be to present to researchers who want to index genealogical or historical records a different program. With this program they could select records of their choice, on-line for example, customize the program for their own desired specific fields, and index them sending to us for processing into a published index. Another idea, is to provide the program as a gift to researchers from the Association. Consider reviewing our newsletter of last year to grasp the importance of indexing genealogy records and the features of rapid entry with our program.

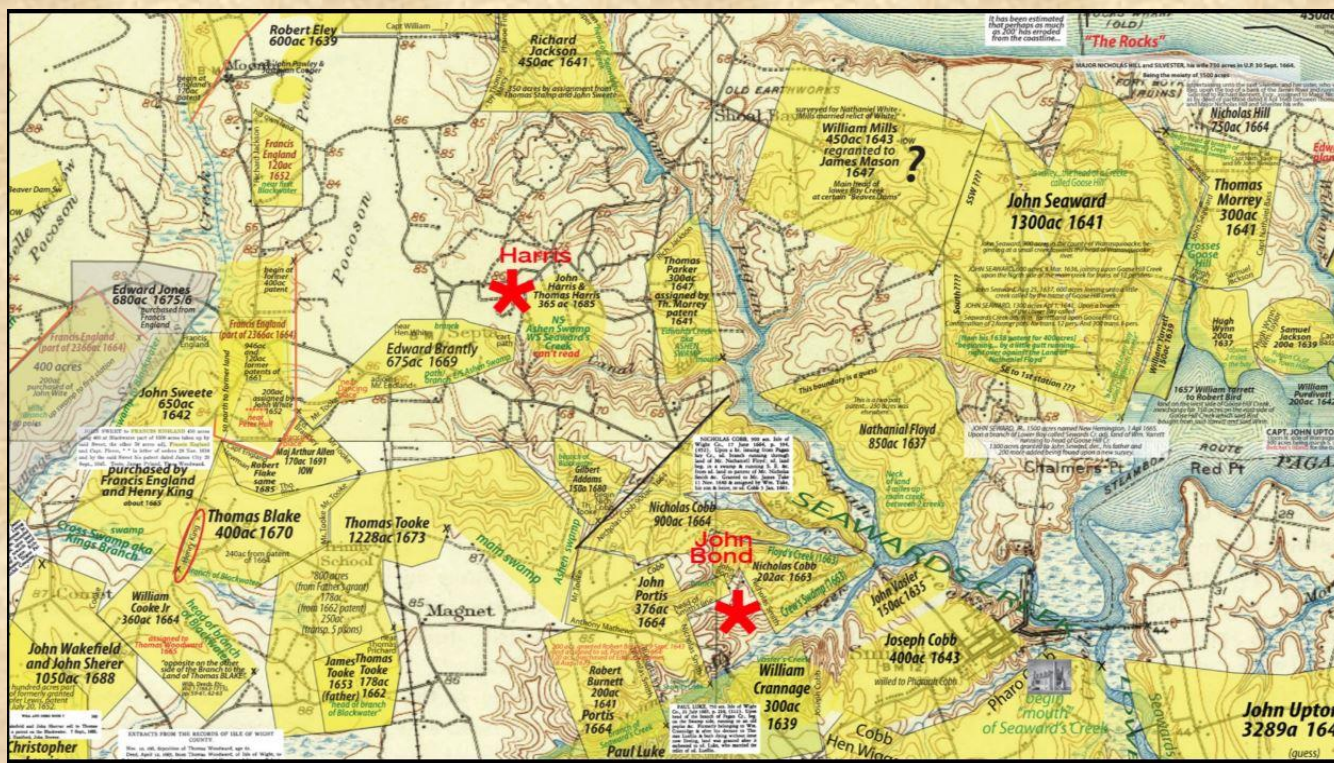
Another note: Dr. Steve Osborn has donated many hours to our indexing project as the other projects we have. Remember, the Southampton Project was dependent on his instructions, website arrangement, and development of a packaged to number, paginate, and make ready for website display. To have hired another professional to do what he has done would have been extremely costly and prohibitive for us-. Now, with the indexing program and all the needed modifications required as we went along, it, too,

has been time consuming and a tedious process. It has been much easier for me to converse with him on a routine basis about issues which developed as we proceeded, since he is my son-in-law, and I am sure he has tolerated my necessary changes, more than anyone else. Many issues I should have seen in advanced, but failed to see them or convey them properly.

I have provided only a token of funds for his most valuable labor. He has received little recognition from those that benefited so much from his efforts. I wish to change that and encourage those who may want to show gratitude for his service, send him a note of appreciation. His email is: nanackle@gmail.com.

The Lands of Edward in Virginia

Marc Anderson, a descendent of our Edward Brantley (d 1736) has become the leading expert in America on the land of early pioneers of Isle of Wight county, VA., including Edward Brantley of 1638. We have asked him to join us exchanging information with us which could benefit both of us in genealogical and geographical information. Below are two of the official maps he has prepared for the descendants of Edward and his neighbors. We look forward for more findings as our alliance progresses.



<https://andersonnc.wordpress.com/2016/12/04/edward-brantley-patent-iow-1667-and-1669>

Edward Brantly The Lands from Whence He Came

We have never claimed to know from what part of England our grandfather Edward Brantly, immigrant to Virginia, came from. While we didn't think so, we have said often, that he could have even possibly come from Wales. Several have proposed London as his home place. Since it was a capital city and many Brantleys, even Edward Brantley/ly's, were found in records there over the 16th through the early 18th century, some loose assumptions were made. Edward is near common there as John here, perhaps sponsored by the King Edwards. We noted some time ago a claim that Edward came from the same area of England as did John Seward, the man given credit for the transportation of Edward to America in 1638. The researcher, Mr. Michael Stanhope, called the area where he said Edward and others who mingled with him, came from, "The Seward Triangle", a name he gave it, representing the triangle section of the country where Seward resided, and others later of Isle of Wight county, Virginia. It sounded promising, but no reference to documents was presented. So, since I had little appreciable access to British records and I had no contact with Mr. Stanhope, I just put it on the back burner. After a lengthy study he presented recently, however, I feel, there is a preponderance of evidence that Edward did, in fact, come from the area of Bristol, England. Bristol was granted a county charter in 1313 by King Edward III. That is; the city of Bristol, then came, too, to be also the county of Bristol: A lot of Edwards here. Perhaps a more particular place is Evesham, England, 57 miles north of Bristol and even Somerset, 37 miles south of Bristol, could be the home place of Edward. The claim is brought about by the extensive trade of the same families there as those associated with Edward in Isle of Wight County. They include, but are not limited to, families of; Harris, Seward, Hobbs, Counsel, Davis, England and Goodrich. Although Edward Brantley's family is not identified, there are, in fact, Brantleys in this area of England and Mr. Stanhope maintains that he has discovered several kinsmen who went also to Isle of Wight County, Virginia. Further, he reports he has found the marriage in England of Edward to his wife Mary, prior to coming to America. While a tie of the families of the area is certainly collaborated by recorded abstracts, we need to request the many documents and pay for these and his time to retrieve them, since they are what led to his several claims. I will be in contact with him is the next week or so, if I can get contact information.

For now,

Ken Brantley

