Our year is coming to an end and we see so many changes. The leaves are falling to the ground where I live and the weather is growing cooler. I’ve begun to notice a crispness to the air which is strange for this area of the south. Been told by the weather people we may even see some snow this winter. Now won’t that be a treat! Some of the older (!) ones may not think so, but this old person particularly enjoys a bit of snow once in a while. I’m sure those of you who lives in the snowy areas may not agree with me. That’s why I enjoy the south so much!

With all the other changes in our United States of America that has gone on since our last newsletter I have to share some thoughts with you. This has made me realize how much we should rely on our families. Thankfully, we didn’t loose any of our family to the horrible tragedy in Washington DC and New York City. I haven’t heard of any of our extended family having anyone who is missing, either. If you have anyone who is missing or hurt, please contact me so we can report it here in the Lawrence, ETC.

I’d like to start a new column, beginning in the next newsletter, but I will need your help. If you have a family member who is serving in the armed forces, either active or in the reserves, please contact me (address or phone number is listed on the side bar) and let me know the following information: their name, branch of service, address, etc. … any information you want to include. I’m sure, especially if they are on active duty, they would appreciate letters from home.

This is a time when we have to stay close to each other. I never thought I would be experiencing anything as tragic as this war against terrorism. Yet, I’m so proud of our President and the stance he has taken. And I hope you will take the same stand. Let’s remember to pray for our country, it’s leaders and each other as we move forward day by day. God bless the USA.
REUNIONS

The descendants of Bertha Peele Gann held reunion on the Illinois River north of Tahlequah, OK July 20 and 21. We camped out and had a family potluck dinner on Friday. Most of the persons attending are direct descendants of Bertha. This year was our 25th.

From Patricia Pepperick: awarick@bellsouth.net

The Peel Reunion, October, 2001, was held on Saturday, October 6th at Dunnellon, FL. It was at the home of Carrie Williams, 6805 West Riverbend Road, Dunnellon FL 34433. They are descendents of Mills Peel.

(Mills Peel, Dempsey Pelle, Robert, William, Robert III, Robert II, Robert I, Lawrence)

Proud grandparents AW and Patricia Peel Arick interrupted a trip to the North GA mountains to return home for a few days to witness the baptism of their granddaughter, Megan Arick, being Baptized at their home Church. She accepted Christ as her Savior while at youth camp this summer.

Tommy and Diane Peel Walls are also proud to see two of their grandchildren accept Christ this summer: Sidney Alexander Walls, son of Tommy, Jr., and Pamela Webb Walls and Samantha Renee Knight, daughter of Rhett and Robin Walls Knight both accepted Christ as their personal savior during the summer. It is a joy to see your grandchildren turn their lives over to the Lord and follow in His steps!

Brandon Shaine Walls, son of Tommy and Pamela Walls recently wrote a paper on school violence. He won at the school level and his paper has been sent to the state level for judging. Brandon is the grandson of Tommy M. and Diane Peel Walls.

Happy Birthday to our Senior Citizens!

Mrs. Annie E. Peele  March 26,  age 99
Maurine Jones  March 29,  age 96
G'daughter of Elizabeth PEELLE Pidgeon, descended from Reuben Peelle
Helen Jones  July 15,  age 93
Fifth generation descendant of James Peel & Nancy of Virginia.
Ruby James Peele Duggins  Nov 25  age 93
Daughter of Willis Peele and Annie Brown

Mailing Addresses For Our Senior Citizens

Helen Jones  (Mother of Viola Ogle)
752 South Anderson Road
Choctaw
OK  73020.

Maurine Jones  (Mother of Alice Plane)
5050 Lincoln Avenue, Apt. 24
Evansville, IN  47715

Mrs. Annie E. Peele  (Mother of Horace Pelee)
1105 Ohio Road
Hamlet, NC  28345

(I need Ms. Ruby’s address)

If you know any senior citizen (male or female) who is 90 years or older, please drop me a note, give me a call or send me an email and let me know their name, date of birth and age. I’d love to have their address to add them to the list above, too. Also, their name will automatically be added to the newsletter list, at no charge. Thanks! Diane
Our Mother

From *The Ongoing Life’s Collection of Poetry*
by C. Taylor White

The back of the house is so beautiful this time of year,
But never will it be as when you were here to see it.
   I know you’ll remember it well -
With all the dark green ivy shaded from the sun
   By leaves upon leaves upon branches,
All that grass protected from invasion by anyone, anything.

   You have lived such a full life
   And there is more, I’m sure,
For I’ve always believed something exists
   Afterward, forward, and beyond.

We who came into this being - our being - through you,
   Are thankful for what we have of you -
Your loving, your songs, your life, your caring.

   We are made of strength and pride
   (know you never liked that word),
Strong will yet grace, class and dignity,
Without great material wealth, but with a knowledge of life.

I keep thinking back to all the times we shared and
   I share them with you now in my thoughts.
The times you were pleased, the times you corrected,
   The times we laughed, the times we cried.

   It’s all part of us as we go on from day to day.
   You’re all part of us.
   I’m proud to be your son.
We’re grateful for your having us as your children,
   To love you and miss you always.

*The day after my mother’s passing.  June 1981*

C Taylor White is the pseudonym for Doug PEELE. His father was Charles Taylor White PEELLE, but he was known as CW by many - not CTW. The “T” seemed to have been dropped off his initials for some reason. His father was born in Rock Stream, New York, in March, 1921, and passed away 20 years ago in November. His Grand parents were James Francis Peelle (J.F., Sr.) and Mary (May) Sproule – from New York State. Many of his ancestors were from the Finger Lakes region, Near Watkins Glen and Seneca Lake.
QUERIES

The first posted are from the **Peele Family Association**

Horace

hpeele@txdirect.net

I am the grandson of **Charles Andrew Peel**, a person of whom I know little. He was born around 1895 and is said to have come from Kentucky. He married **Ethel Clubb** around 1915. They had a son **Edward Vernon** in 1917.

Charles died in 1919, a victim of the Spanish flu epidemic. He lived in the Robert Lee area of west Texas. Ethel Clubb Peel remarried and her second husband was **Peter Blystone**, who adopted Edward. Ethel died in 1935 and is buried at Fort Sam Houston where her second husband was stationed at the time of her death. I am the son of **Edward Peel Blystone**.

I stumbled across your impressive Web site and wondered if you might have any insights as to how I might find more information about Charles Andrew Peel. Thank you.

Robert Blystone

rblyston@trinity.edu

San Antonio, Texas

Through the **PEELE Family Association** and Horace Peele

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Do YOU have a question about an ancestor that you don’t have the answer to? Send it to me at

walls2381@aikenelectric.net

OR call me at

803-652-7206

OR drop me a note at my home address at

2381 Williston Road, Aiken South Carolina 29803.

I’ll make sure it gets put in the newsletter. Make sure you put an address and contact information, so it can be put with the QUERY. It will go on this page! You may just tear that brickwall down!
Thanksgiving in the 17th Century

When you think of Thanksgiving in 1600’s you think of Pilgrims, Indians, black and white clothes, tall hats, black shoes with silver buckles, pumpkins, turkeys, corn, and all that stuff, right? Actually, the Pilgrims and the Indians probably did share a few meals together, though not too many. The North American Indians had celebrated the harvest, or “celebrated thanksgiving” long before people from Europe set foot on American soil. This was their way of thanking the gods for the gift the soil had given them.

How did Lawrence and his descendants celebrate the thanksgiving of his days? Much like the pilgrims probably did? Did they wear the somber clothes that is mentioned in so many modern day books? No, this is probably a legend, brought about by modern fairy tales.

In many wills, even the clothes that people had is listed, and many times it is mentioned the color of their clothes. It seems that they wore much the same type that was worn during that time period in England. The wore simple but colorful clothes. The well to do men did own a black suit and hat for Sundays and sometimes a pair of black shoes though neither probably had silver buckles on them. Men wore gray, brown or blue linen shirts and woolen or leather pants. They wore knit stockings that came up to their hips; when it was chilly, they wore sleeveless leather jackets. Instead of coats, they wore cloaks that left their arms free. And most of their clothes were bright colors.

Women and girls clothes were even brighter. Dresses might be red, purple, bright blue or green. Their full skirts reached to their ankles and the tops were a different color. In cold weather, their jackets were usually red. And for outdoors they usually had a hooded cloak.

Boys under six usually wore a “coat”, a dress type garment. This was the only special garment for a child. Usually they were dressed to look like a small adult.

As for the Indians, we know there were many. When Lawrence first arrived in the new world, he had to fight many. He was among the settlers in Elizabeth Cittie, VA whose life was spared for the first few years. In early VA the Indians didn’t live in Teepees or wigwams but in long lodges with curved roofs. The Indians had been living in North America long before the white man had arrived. Many spoke English. The other languages spoken was Algonquin and Iroquois. It was the Wampanoag Indians that Lawrence probably met when he first arrived in VA in early 1622. And, when he first arrived, they were probably friendly. The Wampanoags treated all with respect. Not to do so was considered greedy. That didn’t mean that they were friendly. Just respectful. The Indians helped the whites to survive by showing them how to plant crops that would live. The diseases the whites brought with them attacked the Indians immune system. And the whites thanked God when the Indians started dying of a smallpox plague, praised God for destroying "chiefly young men and children, the very seeds of increase, thus clearing the forests to make way for a better growth", i.e., the Pilgrims.”

The food that was probably served during the feasts of thanksgiving or harvests celebrations were fish, venison, wild turkey, duck and geese. “Water fowl” and “game” are mentioned in diaries that were kept during that time period as are fish, clams, oysters and lobsters. These aren’t the delicacies we that know today, though. They had to eat them up to three times a day then! Lack of fresh fruits and vegetables were evident during that time period by the scurvy and other diseases that were prevalent during that time period. Corn, pumpkin, squash, berries and other “fruits of their labors” were enjoyed according to Edward Winslow when he wrote “Our harvest being gotten in, our governor sent four men on fowling, that we might rejoice together after we had gathered the fruit of our labors.” The four men who were sent hunting returned with enough wild turkey, geese and duck to last almost a week according to the town’s ledger!

Food was enjoyed at tables outside most of the time and the atmosphere was much like we enjoy at large company picnics. This was because of the lice and fleas that lived indoors and the mosquitoes that lived outdoors. I imagined that the people preferred the lesser of the two evils, so they stayed outdoors more. As they ate the white women stood behind the men as they ate then ate when they finished, which was their custom. The Indian women ate with their men on blankets on the ground, which was their custom.
The harvest celebration lasted up to a week and was an occasion for celebration and recreation and was usually always celebrated around harvest time. As time went on, it became known as Thanksgiving until it evolved into what we now know as Thanksgiving. May we all know a truly happy Thanksgiving and enjoy this time of Thanksgiving as we think on all we have to be thankful for this year.

Letters from the Past  ELISHA WOODARD PEEL

PEELE LETTERS
(contributed by Horace Peele and Henry Powell)

From the files of Hugh B. Johnston

Good Hope, Ala.  March 15th 1882

My Dear Relatives,

I received a letter yesterday and hasten to reply to you. I will give you a brief Sketch of E. W. Peel. I was Borned Feb. 20, 1812, left Edgecombe (NC) on the 26th of same month, and got to Troup County, Ga., 26th March [1832, being] four weeks on the road. I married Martha W. Evans in Dec. 1835 and came to Alabama on Christmas Fourty-four & have been living here ever since. I have Raised Eight Children, three Boys & five girls, all dead but three. One son living Elisha Pitman Peel, was named after Dr. Pitman of LaGrange, Ga. He is thirty-one years old. Martha N. Ellis [was] borned August 1848; our youngest Susan Jane Wall [was] borned October 10th 1856. She has four children, all small, and rented her place and is here in the House with us, so you know we have Music.

I Raised Ten or Twelve Negroes. Half of them could do good work when the war Came on. I ran six plows at that time. I just could begin to keep out of the hardest work. I considered they were worth Ten thousand Dollars. They were Penny’s Children and Grand Children Mostly. Though I can say that I don’t want them back, I think all things work together for the best, though we get badly out of heart sometimes. I was put to it raising them all up, and I am still put up to it yet. I have four Hundred Acres of Pine Land. Three hundred have been cut down and mostly worn out, some cleared up the second time, and I am most worn out, too. I let out on shares. I only run One plow. I have some stock. I don’t need much. I could not take care of it. I have just enough to live tolerably Comfortable on.

Beware how you stand security, because that is the very Reason of my leaving that Country. My Father signed a blank note. It [was] Carried to Tarboro and filled out for three times the Amt. that he was told that it would be, so it broke him up, and we never could make a rise there.

In turning the paper I got it out of place. Cousin William, I often think of you whenever I see Susie’s youngest child smile. He has a little dimple in Each Cheek like you had the last time I saw you. Had I the money to spare, I would come and see you all. I can rise of a Morning and make my fires and feed the stock & Cut wood and I am tired and go to Mill and the towns around. I cannot hold out to follow the plow. Susie’s husband died and left her with three Children and one borned after he died makes four, 2 Boys & 2 girls. They soon will be Large Enough to help us to work. They are a heap of trouble to us at the present. We all plant too much cotton and too little corn, though our Land is more Adapted to the growth of Cotton than it is to corn.
I live 26 Miles from Montgomery, 13 from Wetumpka, [and] 10 from Tallassee on the Tallapoosa River where [there] are 2 Large Cotton Factories using up Twenty bales of Cotton every day and Water Power Enough to Run two or three more; the greatest falls I Ever saw.

My wife sends her best love & Respects to you all, [and] says she would like to see you all. Brother John W. & W. Josey Peel are Living six miles East of LaGrange, Ga. They are two Old Bachelors, never have married nor ever will I do not think, nor ever have joined any Church nor I think ever will. I was to see them two Years ago. They are almost Infidels. They are Making a very good living.

I want you to write to me if you belong to any Church. I myself belong to the Old side Methodist Church. I take the Christian Advocate from Nashville, Tennessee, where I Read of Many [of] my Old Schoolmates’ Deaths. I think people should be Attached to some Church.

We have a great many steam Mills & gins in our country and Plenty of good Water for Mills & to drink. I put up a gin House in 58 and Ran it several Years until I got so that I did not have stock Enough to Run it nor hands, and if I had, they gin so Cheap that I could not follow it. A great many go to Texas and then come back; don’t like [it]. My youngest sister is in Texas, but I do not know what County she is in. Henry Benson moved to Arkansas Twenty years ago. He was in very bad health the Last I heard of him. I send you my best love & wishes, and if we never see Each other in this world, I hope we will meet where parting is no More.

Yours until Death,

E. W. Peel

My hand begins to tire. Write soon & fail not. Direct to Good Hope, Elmore County, Ala.

P. S. I have not written correctly or gramatically, having never studied grammar. Esq’ Bardin said I must have know his Father. Certainly I knew Esqr. Arthur Bardin & the Turners & Dickinsons, Simms, Rountrees, Edmundsons, and all those old people living in that Country at that time. Is Wright Edmundson Living or Dead? Has Aunt Judah Daniel’s son Levi been back to that Country lately? Tell me if James Bass & Wife are alive, And James Jordan & Tempy are alive. I will mail these two letters today at the same time. I had written to Uncle Jesse & Aunt Zilpha Pitman, then received yours, which caused me to have two to write, so I will end the Epistle.

To Wm H. Woodard [Thomas] & M. J. Woodard [Thomas], Wilson, N. C.

Descendants of Elisha Woodard Peel

Generation No. 1

1. Elisha Woodard8 Peel (John Jossey7, Robert6 Peelle, Robert5, Robert4, Robert3, Robert2, Lawrence1) was born February 20, 1812 in Stantonburg, Edgecombe Co. (Now Wilson), NC, and died December 27, 1900 in Near Eclectric, Elmore Co., AL. He married Martha Warren Evans December 17, 1835 in Troup Co., GA, daughter of Britton Warren Evans. She was born May 10, 1816 in Troup Co., GA, and died July 21, 1888 in Elmore Co., AL.

Children of Elisha Peel and Martha Evans are:

2  i.  Britton Jackson "Bud"9 Peel, born January 25, 1837 in Troup Co., GA; died September 25, 1862 in the Civil War, Buried in Atlanta, GA.

3  ii.  John Henry Peel, born December 24, 1839 in Troup Co., GA; died September 17, 1862 in Died in the Civil War, Co. F 13th AL Volunteers.
iii. Mary Elizabeth Peel, born September 15, 1842 in Troup Co., GA (No Children); died July 27, 1864 in Coosa Co., AL. She married (1) Francis Green Welch February 07, 1861; born Abt. 1842; died February 04, 1863. She married (2) Isaac P. Eason May 31, 1864; born Abt. 1842.

iv. Sarah C. Peel, born December 21, 1845 in Coosa Co., AL; died January 10, 1858 in Coosa Co., AL.

v. Martha Newsome "Mattie" Peel, born August 24, 1848 in Elmore Co., AL; died August 24, 1910 in Goodhope Cemetery, Eclectic, Elmore Co., AL. She married William Green Ellis October 13, 1864; born November 26, 1829 in GA; died January 26, 1894 in Goodhope Cemetery, Eclectic, Elmore Co., AL.

vi. Elisha Pittman Peel, born March 04, 1851 in Near Eclectic, Elmore Co., AL; died January 15, 1925 in Good Hope Cemetery, Near Eclectic, Elmore Co., AL. He married Mary Elizabeth Rutherford December 05, 1878 in Near Goodhope, Elmore Co., AL; born February 15, 1861 in Candler, Near Asheville, Buncombe Co., NC; died May 06, 1938 in Greenwood Cemetery, Montgomery, AL.

vii. Amanda Ellen Cornelia Peel, born February 02, 1854 in Elmore Co., AL; died March 02, 1872. She married John Hugh Wall December 08, 1870; born 1847; died October 15, 1879 in Troup Co., GA.

viii. Susan Jane Peel, born October 10, 1856 in Elmore Co., AL; died November 10, 1934 in Troup Co., GA. She married John Hugh Wall November 19, 1872; born 1847; died October 15, 1879 in Troup Co., GA.

Orville B. Peelle (1873-1959), Inventor. Orville, the son of James Monroe Peelle (1840-1908) and Mary Elmira Bowen (1844-1876), was born in Randolph County, IN. He was the last of six children, and his mother died only two years after he was born. His oldest sister Minnie raised him.

Have you ever tightened a two-piece Mason jar lid after pressure cooking some food item? Or if you are a little younger, do you remember seeing your parents or grandparents can food the old fashioned way, by pressure-cooking?

If so, then you owe this man a little thanks for his worldly efforts.

Orville B. Peelle invented the Kerr Jar lid for the common Mason Jar, and he built the machines to make the lids.

Courtesy of Ruth Ann Holder

He sold the patents on both to the Kerr Company around 1933. With the money gained from his unique idea, he helped many of his cousins and nephews obtain a higher education. Orville married Ernestine "Birdie" Selts in 1903. They did not have any children.

Ruthanne Holder, who contributed this picture, stated that her mother Christina received her BS in Nursing from Ball State with the help of Orville. This wonderful and well loved family member had a hard life, as revealed in a letter written on the 7th of Nov 1997 by Ruthanne's Mother, Christina Fae (Middleton) Shenberger.
Ruthanne stated in her own letter in November 1997: “Today, I received a letter from my 86 year old Mother. She writes in “Doctor Notes” fashion. When a nurse makes notes in charting about a patient, it is short and to the point. My Mother still writes like that so you will understand.” The letter from her Mother:

Christina’s Letter

Orville Peelle lost his Mother when he was just two years old. Orville had Polio which made one leg shorter than the other. Orville lost his sight in one eye. I'm not sure how he lost his eye. He wore a glass eye. Minnie Peelle Middleton was only 13 years old when she had to raise Orville. Minnie was his oldest sister.

Orville married his first wife but she died. They lived in Chicago where Orville worked for KERR ECONOMY JAR COMPANY. Orville invented a machine to make lids for Mason Jars. This was useful and still used for canning. Orville second wife Goulda Horn. They lived very happily after his retirement on his farm near Upland, Indiana. No children from either marriage.

Orville was very nice looking - black hair, big brown eyes, med. height. Loved to visit his oldest sister Minnie. Orville always brought Minnie a big box of Mrs. Stevens Candies, as I remember as a little girl. I remember getting in the drawer where my mother kept it. My sister Ruth was not tall enough to reach it.

Orville hired a man to trace Peelle family back to England. The man said Peelle family came from Prime Minister; Sir Robert Peelle - whose grandfather invented Calico Material. The Grandfather had cotton mills. Sir Robert died from fall from horse in 1844 while still Prime Minister.

This is all I can remember about Orville personal life.

CHRISTMAS FROM THE PAST

Source: Legends lies and Cherised Myths of American History by Richard Shenkman C 1988

Christmas was barely observed in the new United States of America until the eighteenth century. People didn’t buy gifts until after the civil war. It wasn’t until after then that retailers began experimenting with special Christmas sales. By 1870, December had become the merchants single largest selling month of the year.

However, in the 17th century, Christmas was ridley regarded as an unappealing “popish import.” In 1659 a law was passed in Massassachusets against celebrating the holiday punishing anyone who was found “observing [it] by astinence from labor, feasting, or any other way.”. The law was 25 years later, but the prejudice against Christmas remained strong. Judge Samuel Seawell was happy to report in his diary in 1685 that he didn’t see anyone celebrating the holiday. (Daniel J. Boorstin, The Americans: The Democratic Exp. 1973)

As Horace and his family moved from Virginia into the Carolina’s there was little time to celebrate Christmas. Though there was a feast at harvest time during the 1600’s, the pagan holiday of Christmas wasn’t shared by his family during this time. For the many who came to the new world, Christmas was a time of worshiping Christ’s birthday, a solemn event, not a time for rowdy fun. The time of celebrating with gifts and what we know it as today didn’t start until the mid 1800’s.
I need any family news you’d like to share with others, including births, graduations, prayer requests, reunions, special birthdays or anniversaries, etc. Also, don’t forget to let me know if you have someone in your family who is over 90 years of age! We want to honor our special seniors! They will receive a free subscription to Lawrence, Etc. Send me their name and address and their birthday. Please make sure I receive all family news BEFORE DECEMBER 15TH.

Do you have an article, poem or story you’d like to share with family members? How about a family history article? Please feel free to send it to me and I’ll be glad to publish it.

COMING NEXT ISSUE

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♦

♦

♦

♦

Tommy M. and Diane Peel Walls
Across

2. What did the Peelle Company manufacture?
5. Initials for 'and others'
7. Initials for 'died unmarried'
9. Pen name for Raymond Scott Gann
12. In the Peelle Company history what was issued in 1909 that was of great importance?
13. George Peele was called upon to manage the performance of two Latin plays by William Gager for the entertainment of which Polish prince?
14. Melinda Joy Mercer graduated from the University of Northern Colorado with what degree in Chemistry and Biochemistry?
16. The early Peelle ancestors were followers of which Quaker leader?
18. What relation was Sarah Duke to John Peele?

Down

1. Initials for 'book or volume'
3. Initials for widow or widower.
4. Initials for namely.
6. Initials for died in the year of his/her age.
7. Initials for died in the lifetime of his mother.
8. Initials for late.
10. Initials for he/she died.
11. Name of a play that was written anonymously in 1594 but was generally recognized as George Peele's work 'The Battle of ________'.
12. Broadgates Hall Christ Hospital was another name of which college that George Peele attended?
15. Initials for grandson
17. Initials for present month