

Lawrence, Etc.

The official newsletter of "The First Peelle Family In America"



ISSN # 1534-4460
Volume 3 Issue 4

October - December 2003

A Colonial Christmas

This article is derived from an article at <http://www.history.org/Almanack/life/xmas/customs.cfm>

by Emma L. Powers.

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Christmas in colonial Virginia was very different from our twentieth-century celebration. Customs from the 1700's don't take long to recount: church, dinner, dancing, some evergreens, visiting--and more and better of these very same for those who could afford more. Attend church, stick some holly on the windowpanes, fix a great dinner, go to one party, visit or be visited.

Our present Christmas customs are taken from a wide array of inspirations, nearly as various and numerous as the immigrants who settled this vast country. Most of the ways Americans celebrate the midwinter holiday came about in the nineteenth century, but we're extraordinarily attached to our traditions and feel sure that they must be very old and extremely significant. What follows is a capsule history of some of our most loved Christmas customs.

Christmas, a children's holiday? No eighteenth-century sources highlight the importance of children at Christmastime--or of Christmas to children in particular. For instance, Philip Vickers Fithian's December 18, 1773, diary entry about exciting holiday events mentions: "*the Balls, the Fox-hunts, the fine entertainments. . .*" None was meant for kids, and the youngsters were cordially not invited to attend. Sally Cary Fairfax was old enough to keep a journal and old enough to attend a ball at Christmas 1771, so she was not one of the "*tiny tots with their eyes all aglow.*" The emphasis on Christmas as a magical time for children came about in the nineteenth century. We must thank the Dutch and Germans in particular for centering Christmas in the home and within the family circle.

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Family Updates

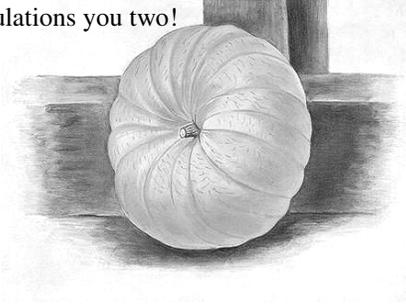


PRAY FOR

Please pray for **Geraldine M. Peel**

(Diane's mom). This year has brought on a host of medical problems for her. As the cold weather sets in, she has more difficulty in breathing. She is already on oxygen to help with this. She also has problems with arthritis.

Horace Peele has been having a few medical problems lately. He has to see a cardiologist in the near future. Keep him in your prayers. Also, he and his wife moved into their new home this year. Congratulations you two!



Ethel Seaman June 20, 1913 – November 19, 2003

Jason Rusbult shared the news that **Ethel (Peele) Seaman** passed away November 19, 2003 in Bothell Washington. She was the last remaining child of **George and Effie (Liles) Peele**. Her funeral was November 21, 2003 in Seattle. She had been suffering from complications of Osteoporosis. She had quite a few fractures in her vertebrae, loss of appetite and will to live. Her last days were spent sleeping in a morphine-induced slumber. According to Donny, her son, she was content. Please keep the family in your prayers.

from the Editor

I need any family news you'd like to share with others, including births, the passing of loved ones, 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 JANUARY 15TH, 2004**. I know I have been running late with the newsletter the last 2 issues, but, Lord willing, this won't happen next year.

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.

Tommy M. and Diane Peel Walls

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.

You may just knock that brick wall down!

A Salute to Our Senior Citizens

(These are the ones we know about who are over 90. If you have a relative who is 90 or older please contact me with the information so we can add their name here.)



Maurine Jones **March 29, 1905** **age 98**

Gdaughter of **Elizabeth Peele Pidgeon**,
Descended from **Reuben Peele** (*Mother of Alice Plane*)

Helen Jones **July 15, 1907** **age 96**
Fifth generation descendant of **James Peel & Nancy** of Virginia (*Mother of Viola Ogle*)

Ruby James Peele Duggins **Nov 25** **age 94**
Daughter of Willis Peele and Annie Brown

Margaret Peele Mitchell **May 11, 1910** **age 93**
Horace's Aunt

NEW

Ruth Dosh Lorene Gann Stephens **August 10, 1912** **91**
(Daughter of Edward Isom & Bertha Elma Peele Gann – aunt of Charlie Gann)

Mailing Addresses For Our Senior Citizens

Helen Jones

752 South Anderson Road
Choctaw, OK 73020

Maurine Jones

5050 Lincoln Avenue, Apt. 24
Evansville, IN 47715

Ms. Ruby Duggins

Elm Towers, Apt 207
701 South Elm Street
High Point, NC 27370
336-889-3739



Margaret Peele Mitchell

2200 Elm Ave, Scotia Village
Laurinburg, NC 28352

Lorene Stephens

310 ½ S Independence
Sapulpa, OK 74066

Please include these loved ones on your Christmas Card List.

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.

If you have an update about any of the above, let me know. Thanks! *Diane*

The Soldier

It is the soldier, not the reporter, who has given us freedom of the press.

It is the soldier, not the poet, who has given us freedom of speech.

It is the soldier, not the campus organizer, who has given us the freedom to demonstrate.

It is the soldier, who salutes the flag, who serves beneath the flag, and whose coffin is draped by the flag, who allows the protestor to burn the flag.

Author Unknown

The liberties of our country, the freedom of our civil constitution, are worth defending at all hazards; and it is our duty to defend them against all attacks: We have received them as a fair inheritance from our worthy ancestors. They purchased them for us with toil and danger and expense of treasure and blood, and transmitted them to us with care and diligence.

—Samuel Adams



The below is from the records of **Hugh Johnston**, contributed by **Henry Powell**. *Jeremiah Peelle was the great-great-great grandson of Lawrence Peelle. Jeremiah's father also married Elizabeth Edgerton. Robert Peelle and his two wives had a total of 14 children, including Jeremiah.*

Jeremiah Peelle, son of **Robert Peelle** and wife **Charity Dickinson**, was born on June 9, 1756, in Northampton County, North Carolina, and died on November 22, 1779. On January 20, 1776, he married **Elizabeth Daughtry** at Rich Square Monthly Meeting in Northampton County. She died on January 17, 1782. On May 20, 1775, the Quaker Records indicate that he was enrolled in a Militia Company commanded by **Colonel Allen Jones**.

Children of **Jeremiah** and **Elizabeth (Daughtry) Peelle**:

Charity Peele was born on September 20, 1776. On October 21, 1795, she married **Carlos Judkins** at New Garden Monthly Meeting House. He was a son of **Nicholas Judkins** of Northampton County. On March 30, 1811, this family received a Certificate of Removal from New Garden Monthly Meeting to Still Water Monthly Meeting in Ohio.

Joel Peele was born on October 21, 1778.

Revolutionary War Military Land Grants



Josiah Perry –

Territory of U.S.

5 Aug 1795.

I, James ***Peel***, heir of ***Daniel Peel***, dec'd of Martin Co., NC, sold unto **Josiah Perry** of Bertie Co., NC, a tract of land containing 640 acres in Davidson Co., Tenn. on a large creek running into the Tennessee River on the north side adjoining Capt. Mill's corner, this 4 Sept 1791.

Test: **Thomas Jones, John Perry and James Jones.**

July term 1795.

(TN Register of Deeds, Vol C, Page 427.)

James Peele - Territory of U.S.

6 Aug 1795.

State of North Carolina, No. 116, by an Act for the relief of the Officers and Soldiers of the Continental Line, in consideration of the bravery and zeal of ***Daniel Peele***, a private in the said line granted unto **James Peele**, heir of ***Daniel Peele***, a tract of land containing 640 acres in Davidson County on a large creek running into the Tennessee River on the north side adjoining Capt. Mill's corner.

Surveyed for **James Peele** on 11 March 1785 by **William Murry**, D.S. in consequence of a military warrant No. 1346.

Located 9 Nov. 1795.

Dated 7 March 1786

(TN Register of Deeds, Vol C, Page 429.)

WEB SITE TO CHECK OUT:

<http://www.wiimemorial.com/>

The memory of America's World War II generation will be preserved within the physical memorial and through the World War II Registry of Remembrances, an individual listing of Americans who contributed to the war effort. Any U.S. citizen who helped win the war, whether a veteran or someone on the home front, is eligible for the Registry. Names in the Registry will be forever linked to the memorial's bronze and granite representations of their sacrifice and achievement.



Model showing the location of the National WWII Memorial between the Lincoln Memorial and the Washington Monument

The Registry combines four distinct databases that can be searched for names of those whose service and sacrifice helped win the Second World War. The Registry includes the names of Americans who are:

- ❖ Buried in American Battle Monuments Commission (ABMC) overseas military cemeteries.
- ❖ Memorialized on ABMC Tablets of the Missing.
- ❖ Listed on official War and Navy Department Killed in Service rosters now held by the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA).
- ❖ Honored by public enrollment in the Registry of Remembrances.

When doing a search for PEEL's listed, there were 54 with the surname of **Peel or Peele** and one with the name of **Peelle**.

Gift giving. Williamsburg shopkeepers of the 1700's placed ads noting items appropriate as holiday gifts, but New Year's was as likely a time as December 25 for bestowing gifts. Cash tips, little books, and sweets in small quantities were given by masters or parents to dependents, whether slaves, servants, apprentices, or children. It seems to have worked in only one direction: children and others did not give gifts to their superiors. Gift-giving traditions from several European countries also worked in this one-way fashion; for example, St. Nicholas filled children's wooden shoes with fruit and candy in both old and New Amsterdam. (Eventually, of course, "*stockings hung by the chimney with care*" replaced wooden shoes.) The exchange of gifts among equals and from children or other dependents to those who have more influence, like "*bosses*" or parents, is attributed to good old American influences. Both twentieth-century prosperity and diligent marketing has made it the norm in the last fifty years or so.

Santa Claus too is an American invention, although a combination of American, Dutch, and English traditions: Saint Nicholas and Father Christmas are those that Santa was "related" to. While many countries and ethnic groups have a Christmastime gift bringer, the "*right jolly old elf*" dressed in red and fur and driving his sleigh and reindeer sprang from the pen and imagination of New Yorker Clement Clark Moore. In his 1823 poem "*A Visit from Saint Nicholas*," Moore created the new look for the Christmas gift-giver. Cartoonist Thomas Nast completed the vision with his 1860s drawings that still define how we see Santa.

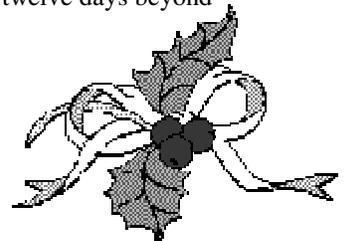
No early sources tell us how, or even if, colonists decorated their homes for the holidays, so we must rely on eighteenth-century English prints. Of the precious few--only half a dozen--that show interior Christmas decorations, a large cluster of mistletoe is always the major feature. Otherwise, plain sprigs of holly or bay fill vases and other containers of all sorts or stand flat against windowpanes.

Christmas trees. If we had to choose the one outstanding symbol of Christmas, of course it must be the gaily-decorated evergreen tree with a star at the very top. German in origin, "*Tannenbaum*" gained acceptance in England and the United States very slowly. The first written reference to a Christmas tree dates from the seventeenth century when a candle-lighted tree astonished residents of Strasbourg. I have found nothing recorded in the eighteenth century about holiday trees in Europe or North America. By the nineteenth century a few of the "*German toys*" appeared in London. But these foreign oddities were not yet accepted. When a print of Queen Victoria and Prince Albert's very domestic circle around a decorated tree at Windsor Castle appeared in the **Illustrated London News** in 1848, the custom truly caught on.

At about the same time, Charles Minnegerode, a German professor at the College of William and Mary, trimmed a small evergreen to delight the children at the St. George Tucker House. Martha Vandergrift, aged 95, recalled the grand occasion, and her story appeared in the **Richmond News Leader** on December 25, 1928.

The twelve days of Christmas lasted until January 6, also called *Twelfth Day or Epiphany*. Colonial Virginians thought Twelfth Night a good occasion for balls, parties, and weddings. There seems to have been no special notice of New Year's Eve in colonial days. Most music historians agree that the song "*The Twelve Days of Christmas*" with all its confusing rigmarole of *lords a-leaping* and *swans a-swimming* was meant to teach children their numbers and had no strong holiday connection.

In the late 1990s the Christmas season seems to begin right after Halloween and comes to a screeching halt by Christmas dinner (or with the first tears or first worn-out battery, whichever comes first). We emphasize the build-up, the preparation, and the anticipation. Celebrants in the eighteenth century saw Christmas Day itself as only the first day of festivities. Probably because customs then were fewer and preparations simpler, those in the 1700's looked to the twelve days beyond December 25 as a way to extend and more fully savor the most joyful season of the year.



Georgia Civil War Soldier Index



Soldiers with the surname of *Peel, Peal, Peell*

<i>GSI #</i>	<i>LAST NAME</i>	<i>FIRST NAME</i>	<i>COMPANY</i>	<i>UNIT SERVED</i>	<i>ENROLL RANK</i>	<i>DISCHARGE RANK</i>
149223	Peel	E.	D	54th Inf. Reg't.	Private	Private
149224	Peel	Henry W.	D	54th Inf. Reg't.	Private	Private
149225	Peel	J. T.	F	66th Inf. Reg't.	Private	Private
149226	Peel	James L.	A	22nd Inf. Reg't.	Private	Private
149227	Peel	James M.	A	22nd Inf. Reg't.	Private	Private
149228	Peel	John	B	26th Batt'n, GA Inf.	Private	Private
149229	Peel	John J.	C	28th Batt'n, GA Siege Artillery	Private	Private
149230	Peel	John J.	F	46th Inf. Reg't.	Private	Private
149231	Peel	John J.	F	46th Inf. Reg't.	Private	Private
149232	Peel	John T.	A	22nd Inf. Reg't.	Private	Private
149233	Peel	John T.	F	66th Inf. Reg't.	Private	Private
149234	Peel	Mathew	E	8th Reg't. GA Cav.	Private	Private
149235	Peel	Mathew	E	62nd Reg't, GA Cav.	Private	Private
149236	Peel	Thomas	F	54th Inf. Reg't.	Private	Private
149237	Peel	William	L	62nd Reg't, GA Cav.	Private	Private
149238	Peel	William M.	A	22nd Inf. Reg't.	Private	Private
149239	Peel	William R.	C	20th Inf. Reg't.	Sergeant	Sergeant
149251	Peell	M.	E	62nd Reg't, GA Cav.	Private	Private
148703	Peal	A. P.	D	27th Batt'n, GA Inf.	Private	Private
148704	Peal	J. J.	C	28th Batt'n, GA Siege Artillery	Private	Private
148705	Peal	J. S.	A	22nd Inf. Reg't.	Private	Private
148706	Peal	J. T.	A	22nd Inf. Reg't.	Private	Private
148707	Peal	J. T.	F	66th Inf. Reg't.	Private	Private
148708	Peal	James	A	22nd Inf. Reg't.	Private	Private
148709	Peal	John	B	26th Batt'n, GA Inf.	Private	Private
148710	Peal	Levi F.	D	27th Batt'n, GA Inf.	Private	Private

Other State Civil War Service Records

The American Civil War



Soldiers with the surname of *Peelle*

NAME	Company and Unit	Rank	Allegiance
Peelle, Alex	Co. A, Unit 4 Battalion NC Junior Reserved;	Private	Confederate
Peelle, David	Co. F, 18 NC Infantry	Private	Confederate
Peelle, Dempsey	Co. C, 43 NC Infantry	Private	Confederate
Peelle, Fletcher	Co. D, 33 NC Infantry	Corporal	Confederate
Peelle, Joseph J.	Co. C, 3 Battalion NC L Artillery	Private	Confederate
Peelle, Josiah	Co. D, 47 Ohio Infantry	Private	Union
Peelle, R. H.	Co. K, 33 NC Infantry	Private	Confederate
Peelle, S.H.	Co. C, 6 NC Infantry	Private	Confederate
Peelle, Stanton G.	Co. K, 57 Indiana Infantry	2 Lieutenant	Union
Peelle, Stanton J.	Co. G, 8 Indiana Infantry	Sergeant	Union
Peelle, Thomas	Co. F, 21 SC Infantry	Private	Confederate
Peelle, Thomas H.	Co. C, 11 Bethel Regiment NC Infantry	Private	Confederate
Peelle, William E.	Co. C, 3 Battalion NC L Artillery	Private	Confederate

New Garden Friends Cemetery Tombstone & Death Records of The Old Section

*Compiled by Charles W. (Bill Cummings, Jr. and Mrs. Pattie S. Newlin
Greensboro, NC April 1978*

Albert Peele (*Peelle*) b. 2-26-1838, d. 1-20-1918

Margaret Cox Peele, 1st wife of Albert Peele (*Peelle*) b. 1842, d. 1879

Mary A. Stanley Peele, 2nd wife of Albert Peele (*Peelle*) b. 10-1-1839, d. 4-28-1916

Elijah Peele b. 1-17-1821, d. 8-30-1910

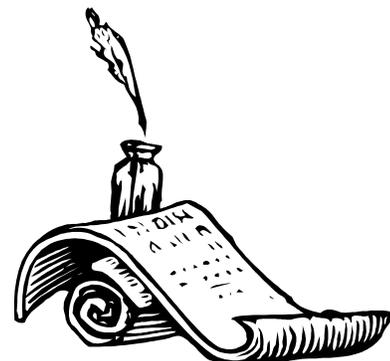
Sarah Jessup Peele, wife of Elijah Peele & dau. of Jesse & M. Jessup b.1-6-1828, d. 5-2-1909

Elwood Cox Peele b. 10-21-1905, d. 11-8-1960

Irma M(endenhall) Peele b. 1878, d. 1956

Joseph H. Peele, Minister b. 1870, d. 1949

William H. Peele b. 1863, d. 1884





Tax Lists as a Source of Reference

Tax lists are the ledgers kept by a county or city tax assessor of all the people who owe taxes within that county or city. The two main types of tax lists are those for real property (land, real estate), and personal property.

The contents of these lists vary according to time and place, and the individual assessor's method, so it is hard to generalize about what information you would find for any particular locality at any particular time.

The property tax lists generally contain the names of the owners of all property within the county or town or city (including people who own land there but live elsewhere). They do not usually give any more data on the person, although sometimes it will be noted if a woman was a widow, or if the land was being held in trust for a minor. Then there will be a legal description of the property, and/or the total acreage. There might also be a breakdown of improved and unimproved acreage. Then will come the assessed value of the property. And finally, some notation on whether the tax was actually paid, or challenged.

Personal property tax lists are a bit more interesting, since it gives you a chance to snoop through people's belongings. They are also useful to help determine if and when a person lived in a county, between censuses. Since both renters and property owners are listed in the personal property tax lists, there are more names than in the real property tax lists. Another interesting thing about real property tax and personal property tax lists is that you can compare an individual's wealth to others' in the community.

From a personal property tax ledger for an Arkansas county in the 1890s you find that the various possessions that were to be taxed were spelled out in column headings: horses, neat cattle, mules and asses, sheep, hogs, pleasure carriages, gold and silver watches, pianos, goods and merchandise [e.g.,

inventory of a solely-owned business], materials and manufactured articles [a catch-all for all other household possessions], moneys and credits [e.g., bank accounts, cash], and moneys invested [e.g., stocks, bonds].

Another column was to be checked if the person qualified for the poll tax (a tax of eligible voters).

Now, where do you get these tax lists? The largest number of them can be gotten on microfilm via your local Mormon Family History Center. They would be found in their locality catalog under "[Name of state] - [County] -Tax", or "[Name of state] - [County] - [City] - Tax". Also, some people have transcribed these tax lists, and have published them as books. In California and Arkansas, for instance, there are programs to publish the tax lists for 1890 from every county, as a substitute for the 1890 U.S. census that burned. But unless you live near a genealogy library, you're not likely to come across these books, which are usually self-published, or published by county genealogy societies.

Genealogy journals devoted to individual states or counties will publish tax lists in their pages.

Many tax assessor's offices still hold on to their old tax lists going back to the early years of this century, and you must either visit the office yourself, or have someone (hopefully a kind genealogy volunteer) look for you. It's hard to say whether you can convince any of the clerks in the assessor's office to look at the records for you and make photocopies.

Below is a list of information from the *1786 Wayne County, NC Tax List*. It includes those with the surname of Peel/Peele/Peelle as well as those who were related to the Peele's.

1786 Wayne County Tax List

Original at Archives
Treas & Compts Papers
Box 8 - Tax Lists
State of North Carolina}
Wayne County }



List of the taxable property with the names of the persons owning the same in the said County for the year 1786 in alphabetical order. This list is broken up into several districts, the names of which are not included.

Persons, Acres Land, Free poll, Black poll, Stud Horses, Carriage Wheels

Cox, Josiah, 500, 1	Outland, Cornilius, 461, 1
Cox, Mary, 672	Outland, Thomas, 580, 2, 3
Cox, Micajah, 660, 1, 1	
Cox, Theoby, 200	Parker, Arthur, 100, 1
	Parker, Elisha, -, 1
Dickinson, Daniel, 600, 1, 5	Parker, Isaac, 100, 1
Dickinson, David,	Parker, Micajah, 860, 2, 2
Dickinson, Henry, -, 1, 1	Parker, Samuel, -, 1
Dickinson, Isaac, 860, 1, 4	
Dickinson, Joel, 350, 2, 7	Peele, Jesse, 390, 1
	Peele, Pascon, 418, 1
Edgerton, James, 450, 1	Peelle, Ruebin, 250, 1
Edgerton, Joseph, 220, 2	Peelle, Willis, -, 1
Edgerton, Thomas, 496, -, -, 1	

Northampton County, NC Court Records September 3, 1821

...the following Grand Jury were called and charged to serve as jurors at the next county court...to witness.....John Nelson, Edwin Drake, James Wilson, James Oliver, Benjamin Stephens, Exum Smith, Exum Odom, Peter Reems, Newelle Grant, James Benford, James Daniel, John Hyler, Jonathan Gay, **James Peel**, Joshua Benford, Willie Key, George Jordan, Charles Hosea, Michael Vinson, Jesse Dardon, Hugh Benford, **Joel Peel**, Exum Holloman, John Landerferu....John Futrell (son of Ephraim), Jesse Sykes, Nasworthy Rutner, Sterling Davis, James Exum, Joseph Johnson, Benjamin Boon, William Richardson, William Madry, Dempsey Taylor and John Powell....
(p. 25)

HE WAS HIS OWN GRANDFATHER

Of all the genealogical curiosities, the one set forth below is probably the oddest--a singular piece of reasoning to prove that a man may be his own grandfather!

Here it is: There was a widow (Anne) and her daughter (Jane) and a man (George) and his son (Henry). This widow married the son, and the daughter married the father. The widow was therefore mother (in law) to her husband's father and grandmother to her own husband. By this husband she had a son (David), to whom she was of course great-grandmother. Now, the son of a great-grandmother must be grandfather or granduncle to the person to whom his mother was or is great-grandmother, but in this instance, Anne was great-grandmother to him (David), therefore David could not be other than his own grandfather.—

St.Louis Republican. Thursday, April 13, 1893



REMINDER:

It's hard to believe that a year is up. With the New Year comes the time to renew your membership dues so you can continue to receive *The Lawrence, Etc.* Please send in your next year's subscription fee of only \$5.00 as soon as you can. This covers the cost of printing and mailing the newsletter. Though printing costs have gone up, we will continue to only ask you to pay \$5.00.

If you get a chance before the New Year, please mail your check to:

**DIANE P. WALLS 2381 WILLISTON ROAD
AIKEN SC 29803**

Make your check payable to *The Lawrence Etc.*, or Diane Walls.

Your check will be credited to your account and a receipt will sent to you with the next issue of the newsletter.

If you have paid for two years, I have that information and you do not need to send any thing else.

Thanks so much,
Diane, Tommy and Horace



Contact by Mail

Tommy & Diane P. Walls, Publishers

2381 Williston Road

Aiken, SC 29831

Or

The Peele Family Association

12806 Chateau Forest

San Antonio, TX 78230

Online:

Email: walls2381@aikenelectric.net

Or Horace@peelee.info

Peele Web Page

[Http://www.peelee.info/index1.htm](http://www.peelee.info/index1.htm)

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The Lawrence, Etc., The Official Newsletter of “the First Peele Family in America” is published four times a year for descendants of **Lawrence Peele**, who arrived in America as a young immigrant in early 1620's. The purpose of the newsletter is to keep readers updated on family news, to publish genealogical findings, to promote the Peele Family Association, and to remember our mutual past.

Editor: Diane Walls

Contributing Writers: Horace Peele, Charlie Gann, Jason Rusbult, Scott Raymond Gann, Henry Powell, C. Taylor White (Doug Peele), Marvin Peele

Your suggestions, articles, photographs, artwork and other submissions are **always** welcome. Deadline for each edition is always 2 weeks before the edition is due out. Dates of publication are January, April, July, and October of each year.

Subscription cost is \$5.00 per year, which only covers the cost of postage and copy costs and is due at the beginning of the year.

