



***Those who don't remember their ancestors don't deserve to be remembered!***

## ***From The Editor***

Trish and I had a great time in Washington, DC, the end of June with two of our grandchildren, Waylon Peele (21) and Kayla Blucher (18). We went to the Udvar Hazy Air and Space Museum as well as the Spy Museum, then on the streets to various points of interest such as Georgetown, the Capital, White House, etc. We worked them out walking etc., but they also got us tired!!

We tried to go to church with the President at St John's Episcopal at the early 7:45 service but he cancelled at the last minute. We have done that twice before. We also hit some of the better restaurants such as the Old Ebbitt Grill and The Carlyle. Several years ago we took two other grandkids Casey Peele and Rachael Hensley to DC on a sightseeing trip. Such trips create memories.

I heard from Diane Peel Walls, the previous editor of *Lawrence, Etc.*, her husband is not doing well, please read her note on page 3.

This publication highlights information that Marvin and I have found relative to the treatment of slaves that were owned by our Peelle family. It is interesting to read and to learn how the older family, as Quakers, really tried to take care of their owned-slaves and to gain their freedom while others kept their slaves right up until the civil war..

Enjoy!

P.S. Send me your articles, family news, stories, etc.!!!

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### ***Help Wanted!!!***

***Send your articles to Horace via email at [horace@peelee.info](mailto:horace@peelee.info) or to the San Antonio address on the back page.***

# A Salute to Our Senior Citizens



If you know any family senior citizen 85 years young or older, please send their name, picture, and date of birth, age, address, and information on their ancestors or how they are related to the Peele family. Their name will be added to the newsletter list for free copies of *Lawrence, Etc.* Also please send any updates that you have on our Seniors.



**Carrie Mae Peel Williams**  
**October 16, 1915, age 92**

*(Sister of Patricia Peel Arick, Daughter of John Franklin Peel and Lillian Belle Nelson, descended from Mills Peelle, son of Dempsey Peelle.)*

**Carrie Mae Peel Williams**  
6805 West Riverbend Road  
Dunnellon, FL 34433



**Hazel Peele McIntosh**  
**December 22, 1917, age 90**

*(Daughter of Willis and Annie Brown Peele, Aunt Hazel of Cousin Willis Peele.)*

**Hazel Peele died on May 1, 2008,  
Please see the enclosed obituary and  
email from her granddaughter. May  
God Bless the family.**



**Happy Brithday**  
**to**  
**Robert B. Peelle**  
**May 26, 1919, age 89**

*(Son of Henry Edmund Peelle and Inez Emma Beatty,  
Father of R. B. Peele, Jr.)*

**Robert B. Peelle, Sr.**  
Rydal Park 329H 1515 Fairway  
Rydal, PA 19046

***Have you sent a card to our seniors lately?  
Do you have someone to add to this page?  
We need to add a few seniors!!***



## A Note from Diane Peel Walls

Diane Peel Walls published *Lawrence, Etc.* for us from its inception until the end of 2006. I received this note from her last month. Please pray for the continued recovery of her husband Tommy Wells.

Tommy had a heart catherization done Monday morning, June 9, at the VA. We were hoping they would go in and unplug the clogged arteries and vessels he had and plug them with stents and he'd be fine to go home within a day or two. The second option

would be there would be arteries too large for stents and they'd have to schedule him for bypass surgery.

Unfortunately, or maybe for the best, he didn't get either option. We were told there were many vessels clogged, most too small for stents or they were too close to the heart to be able to repair. He has been having frequent spells of angina that he has to treat with nitroglycerine, almost on a daily basis. During the next three weeks he has to take it easy and stay in out of the heat. His diet is restricted (not too happy about that!). Right now they are increasing two of his medications that he takes, hoping this will help. He will return to his doctor in three weeks; the doctor hopes to be able to see some improvement by then. The doctor is hoping the medication will help the angina some. However it won't stop it, and he told Tommy this is something he will continue to have ... there is nothing they can do about it. For now there is nothing they can do about the blockages that are in his heart, unfortunately. When we meet with the doctor in three weeks, we will know then what options Tommy will have.

Please keep him in your prayers. It has been quite a blow for him to hear that there wasn't anything they could do for him, at least at this time. He is in quite a bit of pain most of the time. And he is so tired, too. But he keeps his spirits up and says this is what God's will is and all is well.

Thanks!  
Diane



## *More on the Peelle Company!*

Patty Cressman, descendant of the Peelle's was visiting an old antique store in Kokomo, Indiana. It is a red brick building that was very, very old and Patty came across this freight elevator that was built back in the late 1907's and was still operating today for use. Patty's Grandfather was Robert Peelle, one of the inventors at the company. She said she is glad to know the company is still successful today. She send the following picture and writes the following information.



Robert Samuel Peelle reared four daughters and one son and of course many children and grandchildren and now great grandchildren. Most of the Robert Peelle children are spread out all over the country from New York, Florida, GA, S.C. and CA. Some even in WA State. Many summers were spent at Lake Seneca in New York where the family still maintains the Robert Peelle home. It has been opened as a Bed and Breakfast called Willow Cove run by Joan Van Heusen.

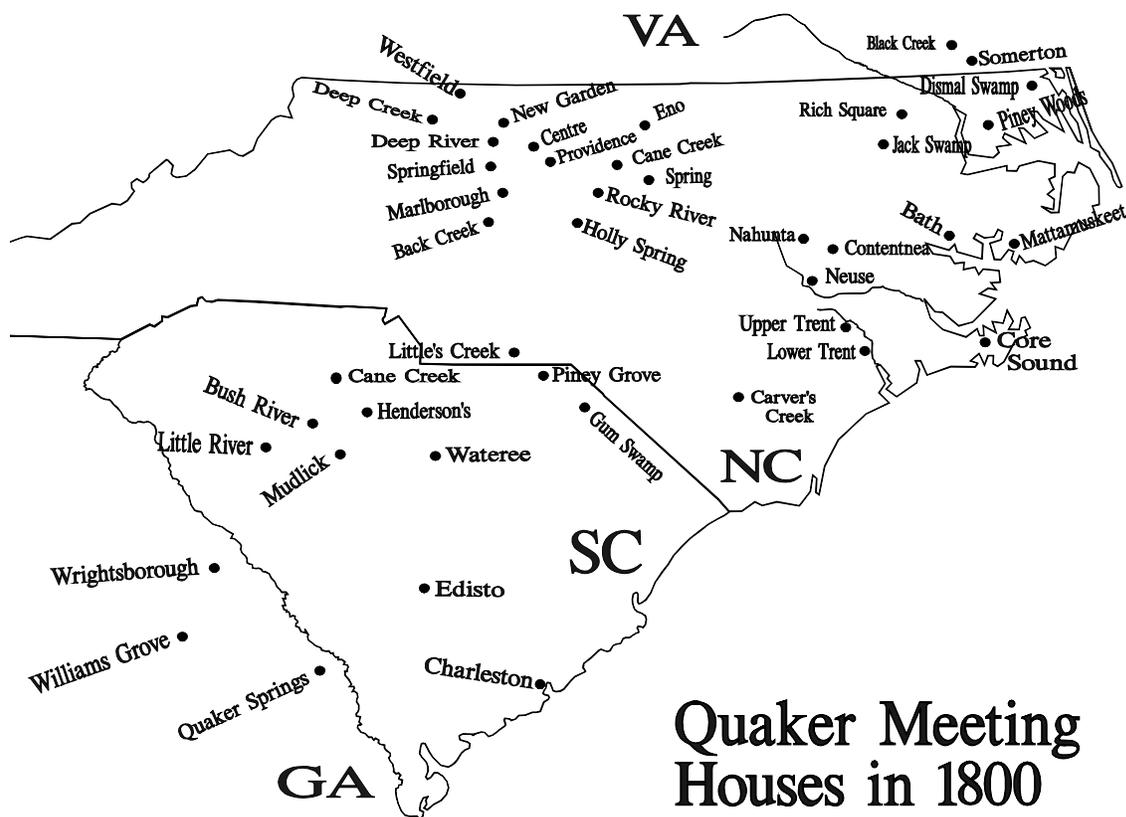
Many relatives still live on and around Seneca Lake. Down from Seneca Lake was a point called Fir Tree. Many Peelle's from another division maintain homes there as well. Like the Association says you can open a phone book and find Peelle's listed all over the U.S. Mark

Cressman the Great Grandson of Robert S. Peelle is an attorney in Winter Garden, Florida.  
(Patty Cressman)

# Feature Article

**Quakers and Slaves.** For many years the Quakers were busy at their Yearly Meetings handling the problems associated with a marvelous expansion of their membership. This expansion in the Quaker membership was soon to be followed by the sadness of closing meeting after meeting as their congregations found the economic struggle in the slave South too much for them.

Many Quakers moved to the Mid-West after Congress passed *The Northwest Ordinance of 1787*, which granted the Northwest Territory absolute freedom of religion and eliminated slavery or involuntary servitude except as punishment of crime. The following map shows the locations the meeting houses established in North Carolina, South Carolina, and Georgia in 1800.



When you browse the various Peelle/Peele/Peal/Peel records you soon realize that Quaker plantation owners were having a serious economic struggle in the slave South. It was difficult for them to compete with the more affluent non-Quaker plantation owners who had hundreds,

maybe thousands, of slaves as their farming machines. Slaves were expensive to buy; raising your own was the easiest way to get them, but also the slowest.

The British in Virginia had slaves from the beginning. It is recorded that there were twenty-two who survived the 1622 massacre. Robert Peale (1650-1705) had a young male slave named "Forty" who was valued at £25 in the 1706 inventory of Robert's Estate, which had a total value of £81. This one slave represented almost one third of Robert's total personal estate value, not counting land. In that inventory, a cow and yearling were valued at £2. By comparison, if one dares such, a slave was valued about the same as 12-25 cows. This Robert Peale is not part of our Peelle family.

In reading the wills, one gets the feeling that some Quakers who had slaves were actually shielding their slaves from the criminal acts that could take place in the hands of other less thoughtful owners. Robert Peelle (1709) must have been a very politically astute person with good knowledge of current law because he could see the ultimate impact that changes like *The Northwest Ordinance of 1787* would have upon the South. In his will dated 21 January 1782, he included the following:

Item: It is my will and desire that all my Negroes to wit, James, Pen and Kader, Dinah and her four Children, Viz., Heather, Molly, Ginny and Teressa and all the increase of said Dinah and four children if any, shall have their freedom if ever the Laws of the Land should admit of their having that privilege freely, clearly and absolutely....

Robert wanted all slaves to be free. He wrote this will five years before Congress passed the Northwest Ordinance. I believe that he knew that, once there was a slave-free area established, it would eventually expand into the entire South and that it would not be a quick process.

John Jellary Peele (1729-1804) was a Quaker Minister at Rich Square who also owned slaves but felt very strongly about their freedom. He stated the following in his will written 29 January 1799:

Item. I leave all the Negroes that have been or now are under my care (living) in trust altogether of my two sons Edmund and Thomas Peelle, for them to take care of and place as they may think most proper, as also to direct as they may from time to time find necessary, until the Laws of the Land will admit of their freedom and that they may then enjoy it fully, and all necessary expenses accruing there from to be paid out of my Estate.

The above extract is a convincing case for believing that Quakers actually harbored slaves to protect them until their freedom could be gained. We should never forget the very significant role that our Quaker ancestors played in ending the abominable practice of slavery. The Quakers at a very early period determined to take the moral high road and publicly declared that slavery was wrong and ought not to be. At the time that these actions were taken, it was a very far-reaching and unpopular position to espouse. There are some who argue that had it not been for the moral leadership provided to our nation by our Quaker ancestors, slavery might yet exist, that we all owe them an immense debt of gratitude for having done the right thing when it cost them so much.

What happened to the many slaves that John Jellery owned and passed to his sons Edmund and Thomas? It is recorded that:

Edmund Peele, a prominent Friend of Rich Square, N.C., at one time liberated 125 of his own slaves, took them to Liberia, Africa, and at his own expense, gave each \$25 with which to start in his new home, and began his changed life with such reduced resources as proved his action to have been a sacrifice for principle, which was really very great. Yet greater was the inheritance of Christian character which he left his worthy children. It was of far more value than all the slaves he could have given them. (*Southern Heroes or the Friends in War Time*, by Fernando G. Cartland, published by Cambridge and printed at the Riverside Press, Copyright 1895 page 64.)

It is also known that our Quaker ancestors participated in the Slave Underground Railroad, established to move slaves from the Deep South into areas of the Northwest Purchase as documented on page 622 of *Gateway to the West, Volume 1*, by Ruth Bowers and Anita Short:

That Robert Peele and Thomas I. Outland of Northampton County, North Carolina being legally authorized and empowered by trustees of the yearly meeting of the Society of Friends of North Carolina take charge and convey to the state of Ohio, Indiana and Illinois, Turner Peele together with a number of other colored people held by said trustees, said Robert Peele and Thomas I. Outland having removed and placed said Turner Peele together with a number of others in Highland County, Ohio and that said Turner Peele is a free man, dated this 1st day of the 12th month, 1836. Recorded 8-11-1837.

North Carolina had a law that no slave could be free and that if they had been freed then any other white person could lay claim to the slave. So instead of freeing them, many were given to the Quaker Meeting Houses for care. Subsequently they were moved to the new Northwest Territory. The above article on Robert Peele and his cousin Thomas I Outland, proves the point that the Quakers were very much involved in the Slave Underground Railroad.

Upon visiting Indiana and Ohio several years ago, I was told by Cousin Ruthanne Holder that if a Quaker family was part of the Underground, that they would hang a multicolored quilt on the clothes line to indicate that they would care (feed and sleep) those who had escaped and were in transit, moving west to escape to freedom. She even showed me a quilt that she had inherited from her Great-Grandmother Minnie Rosamond Peelle which had been used for that purpose.

It is interesting to note that as early as 1836 slaves were taking their owners' names as well as seeing the strong beliefs in the rights of mankind that our family had at that time. And while this was going on, there were other Peele Family members who bought, sold, and rented slaves. There are many records of such transactions.

There is one private collection in the North Carolina Archives named "Josiah Peelle Papers." It contains many interesting documents such as purchases made by the family for household goods in 1819 and charges made by Josiah Peelle, Jr., at the store of Cox and Hardy for the years of 1848 and 1852. It also contains three documents that relate to the ownership and rent of slaves. The first is a 1804 purchase of a slave named "James."

Know all men by these presents that I, Thomas Christmas, Jnr., of Warren County & State of N. Carolina for & in consideration of the sum of sixty pounds Virg, Currency to me in hand paid by Josiah Peel of the County of Bertie & State of North Carolina whereof I do ... sell & deliver unto the said Josiah Pell one Negroe man name James ...this 5 day of January One Thousand Eight Hundred & Fore.

Another document in the collection records that Josiah rented a Negro girl named “Tempy “ for twelve dollars for the year of 1816 from John Eaves. And another document records the sale of a slave by Josiah’s son Dempsey on behalf of his father in 1820.

Received of Josiah Peelle by the hand of Dempsey Peelle three hundred dollars in full of the purchase of a negroe man slave “Will” the property of Luke Raby sold this day by virtue of an execution issuing from Bertie County at the instance of Elisha A. Rhodes against said Raby returnable to August Term 1820. Signed Thomas Ruffin, Sheriff.

But back to my family, and still later, we have this accounting of the value of slaves in my home county, Richmond, North Carolina. While this article is not about a Peele, it is about my Great Grandfather Samuel Wright (1802-1848), son of George Wright on my Mother’s side. Not to offend anyone, I find this article interesting. It is an account reflecting the value of slaves in 1849.

**Samuel Wright** – Pursuant to an Order of the Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions of Richmond County, North Carolina, October Tern A. D. 1849 – ordering and empowering us, Alexander C. McKinnon, Charles Malloy and William Graham, Commissioners to allot and divide the Negroes belonging to the estate of Samuel Wright, deceased, between the several heirs and tenants in common, having met on the premises on the 15<sup>th</sup> day of Dec’r A. D. 1849 and after having been duly sworn according to law do proceed to divide and allot said Negroes among the several claimants, and allot to each his share in severalty in the following manner, to wit:

To Daniel Wright, Rachel and her child, Moses and a girl Amy, valued at nine hundred and fifty dollars.

To Samuel Wright, Tamer, Needham, Ben and York, valued at eight hundred and eighty dollars.

To Ann Wright, we allot Sarah, Elijah and Elisha, valued at eight hundred dollars.

Unto Wm W. OBryan and wife Eliza, we allot Edy, Mandy & Mitton, valued at one thousand dollars.

To Sabry Wright, York and Charles, valued at nine hundred fifty dollars.

To Cameron Wright, we allot Dennis and Joan, valued at nine hundred and fifty dollars.

To Sarah Ann Wright, we allot Jack and Martin, valued at eight hundred and fifty dollars.

Given under our hands and seals the 15<sup>th</sup> day of December 1849, (signed) Alexander C. McKinnon, Wm. Graham & C. Malloy. (Contributed by Joyce Braswell in material that she documented on the Wright Family of Richmond County, North Carolina.)

Later in 1864, my Great Great Grandfather Robert Peelle wrote his will leaving his slaves to his wife Mary Adams. Robert was a birthright Quaker with the original surname of Peelle. He still owned slaves right until his death and wrote this will even as the Civil War was ongoing.

**Text of the will:** I, Robert Peelle of the County of Richmond and State of North Carolina being of sound mind and memory but considering the uncertainty of my earthly existence, do make and declare this my Last Will and Testament in manner and form as follows:

First, that my executor hereinafter named shall provide for my body a decent burial suitable to the wishes of my relatives and friends and pay all funeral expenses together with my just debts howsoever and to whomsoever owing out of the monies that may first come in to his hands as a part or parcel of my estate.

Second, I give and devise to my beloved wife [Mary Adams] all the lands I now own to include my house all out houses and other improvements to have and to hold to her the said Mary Peelle for and during the terms of her natural life time, all of my real estate, all my beds and furniture household and kitchen furniture all my horses and mules, cattle, hogs and stock of all kind waggons and buggies all the crop of every description that may be upon the plantation where on I now reside and all the provisions on hand at the time of my death. I give and bequeath to my said beloved wife a certain lot of Negroes slaves named as follows: John, Henry, Lydia, Hammer, Horn, Winey, Moriah and their increase to have and to hold during her natural lifetime provided that if any of the children marries that are now unmarried that they will receive the same amount of my property that those is all ready married received from me and also my grand son Robertson Archibald Peelle to have an equal part of my property the same as one of my own children.

I do hereby constitute and appoint my friend Ziba Gibson my lawful executor to all intents and purposes to execute this my Last Will and Testament according to the same intent and meaning of the same and every part and clause thereof hereby revoking and declaring utterly void all other wills and testaments by me heretofore made. In witnesses whereof I the said Robert Peelle do hereunto set my hand and seal this 26 day of February 1864 AD.

**Robert Peelle**

**Comment:** Robert Peelle was providing for his grandson, Robertson Archibald Peelle who was born the same year that his grandson's father Robertson A. Peele died, 1858.

By the mid-1800s, the Quaker movement, around my home county of Richmond, had dwindled. Many had moved to the newer and more prosperous land in Indiana and Ohio. Of those who stayed in Carolina, many had converted to Methodism. Robert Peelle was one who converted to a Methodist.

We hope you enjoyed this article on Quaker and Slaves. There is so much to learn.

# Family Obits



*Hazel Peele McIntosh*

Woodfin - **Hazel Peele McIntosh**, 90, born December 22, 1917, died Thursday May 1, 2008 at the John F. Keever, Jr. Solace Center.

A native of Marlboro County, SC, she had resided in Buncombe County since 1945. She was a member of Pleasant Hill Baptist Church since 1978 and was a past Worthy Matron of the Order of Eastern Star Chapter #49 in Weaverville. She was a daughter of the late Willis and Annie Brown Peele and the wife of the late J. V. McIntosh.

Surviving are her nephews, Laurin Peele, Jr. and Willis M. Peele and nieces, Barbara Gleason, Phyllis Morris, Janice Gillespie and Elizabeth Hardee.

Funeral services will be held at 4:30 P.M. Sunday at Pleasant Hill Baptist Church with the Revs. Keith Watkins, Harry Culbertson and Eb Jenkins officiating. Burial will be in Ashelawn Gardens of Memory.

The family will receive friends from 6 to 7:30 P.M. Saturday at Anders-Rice Funeral Home.

Memorials may be made to: Pleasant Hill Baptist Church, 754 Aiken Road, Asheville NC 28804 or to: Care Partners Foundation, P.O. Box 25338, Asheville, NC 28813.

Genealogical Line -- 11<sup>th</sup> Generation to Lawrence: **Hazel<sup>11</sup> Peele** (Willis<sup>10</sup>, Robert James<sup>9</sup> Peelle, Robert<sup>8</sup>, David<sup>7</sup>, Robert<sup>6</sup>, Robert<sup>5</sup>, Robert<sup>4</sup>, Robert<sup>3</sup>, Robert<sup>2</sup>, Lawrence<sup>1</sup>)

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Email: 5/2/08

Dear Horace,

I'm Willis McLean Peele's daughter, Amie Peele Carter (Zionsville, Indiana). I am writing to let you know that my great aunt Hazel Peele McIntosh (Asheville, NC) passed away peacefully yesterday morning with family by her side. She was 90 years old. She was a great, great woman, unfailingly loving and kind, deeply faithful, and the best cook I've ever known. She was famous for her canning, her jams, her apple butter, her biscuits and fried apple pies. We loved and continue to love her dearly. I am confident that she always will watch over us.

The funeral will be held at 4:30 pm on Sunday at Pleasant Hill Baptist Church, 754 Aiken Rd., Asheville NC 28804. Visitation is tomorrow night at 6 pm. Their website, which will contain an obituary, is [www.andersrice.com](http://www.andersrice.com). Condolence cards can be sent to Willis and Sharmaine Peele, 200 Broadmoor Drive, Fayetteville, GA 30215.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Best regards,

Amie Peele Carter

317.237.1180 (office) 317.513.8655 (mobile)



*Cleo Peele*

—❦—

Cleo K. Peele - VIRGINIA BEACH. In the last publication of *Lawrence, Etc.*, included the obituary of Cleo Keech Peele but without her picture. Since that publication, we have obtained her picture. The previous copy was updated after the copies were mailed but many did not get to see the picture of this beautiful lady. Cleo was the widow of William Junior Peele.

Genealogical Line -- 12<sup>th</sup> Generation to Lawrence: **Cleo Ann (Keech) Peele** spouse of **William Junior<sup>12</sup> Peele** (William David<sup>11</sup>, Troy McRay<sup>10</sup>, Samuel Alexander<sup>9</sup> Peelle, John<sup>8</sup>, Willis<sup>7</sup>, Robert<sup>6</sup>, Robert<sup>5</sup>, Robert<sup>4</sup>, Robert<sup>3</sup>, Robert<sup>2</sup>, Lawrence<sup>1</sup>).



*Reginald P. Peele*

—❦—

**Reginald P. Peele – WILLIAMSTON.** Reginald Parker Peele, 80, of 302 E. Simmons Ave., died Easter Sunday, March 23, 2008. Funeral service will be held at Biggs Funeral Home on Wednesday at 11 a.m., followed by burial at Woodlawn Cemetery. Parker served in the U.S. Marine Corps in China in WWII. He married Martha Mendenhall in 1948. He retired from Virginia Electric Power Company with over 35 years of service, and had been an active member of the First Presbyterian Church of Williamston for many years, serving as Deacon, Treasurer, Sunday School teacher, and Clerk of the Session.

He was predeceased by his parents, Herbert Daniel Peele and Emma Sexton Peele; and his siblings, Herbert O. Peele, Robert Edwin Peele, Charles A. Peele, and Mildred Quincer. Surviving are his wife, Martha Mendenhall Peele; son, Herbert Edwin Peele of Williamston and his daughter, Elizabeth Anne Peele of King, and son, Kimball Taylor Peele and his wife, Mary Ruth Hayes Peele of Round Hill, Va. The family will receive friends at Biggs Funeral Home tonight from 7 to 8:30. Memorial contributions may be made to the Williamston Presbyterian Church, 125 E. Main St., Williamston, NC 27892. Arrangements by Biggs Funeral Home.. (Washington Daily New, Washington, NC, Contributed by Claudia J. Williams)

Genealogical Line -- 10<sup>th</sup> Generation to Lawrence: **Reginald Parker<sup>10</sup> Peele** (Herbert Daniel<sup>9</sup>, Jesse Biggs<sup>8</sup> Peal, Abijah Sylvester<sup>7</sup>, Thomas<sup>6</sup>, William<sup>5</sup> Peelle, William<sup>4</sup>, Robert<sup>3</sup>, Robert<sup>2</sup>, Lawrence<sup>1</sup>)

There are other obituaries for this quarter; some will be included in the next publication.

# *Disconnected Families*

**Mystery Time!!** Here are my *Ancient Orphans* for the quarter. Do you have any clues as to the parents of Maxwell/Franklin Peele or information on this family? Let me know please!! I know my brother Marvin will be interested since the son carries his name.

## Descendants of Maxwell/Franklin Peele

### *Generation No. 1*

**1. Maxwell/Franklin<sup>1</sup> Peele** was born in Norfolk, VA Area. He married **Agatha [Peele]**. Children of Maxwell/Franklin Peele and Agatha [Peele] are:

- + 2      i. Marvin Pierce<sup>2</sup> Peele, born 27 Jun 1918.
- 3      ii. Franklin Peele.
- 4      iii. Mack Peele.
- 5      iv. Louise Peele.
- 6      v. Natalie Peele.
- 7      vi. Shirley Peele.

### *Generation No. 2*

**2. Marvin Pierce<sup>2</sup> Peele** (Maxwell/Franklin<sup>1</sup>) was born 27 Jun 1918.

More About Marvin Pierce Peele:  
Occupation: Retired Army

Child of Marvin Pierce Peele is:

- 8      i. Marvin Pierce<sup>3</sup> Peele, Jr., born in Denver, CO while Father in Service.

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“*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 1621. The newsletter keeps readers updated on family news, publishes genealogical findings, and honors our mutual past.

**TO:**

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

**Editor:** Horace Peele

If you are willing to receive a PDF file rather than a printed document, please let me know. It will save time and money.

**Contributing Writers:** Where are your articles? I am looking for help. Of course Cousin Claudia Williams sends a ton of obituaries for the Eastern NC and VA area. Joyce Braswell sends ones for down home area in Richmond County.

Your suggestions, articles, photographs, and other submissions are **always** welcome. The four quarterly publications are January-March, April-June, July-September, and October-December.

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