

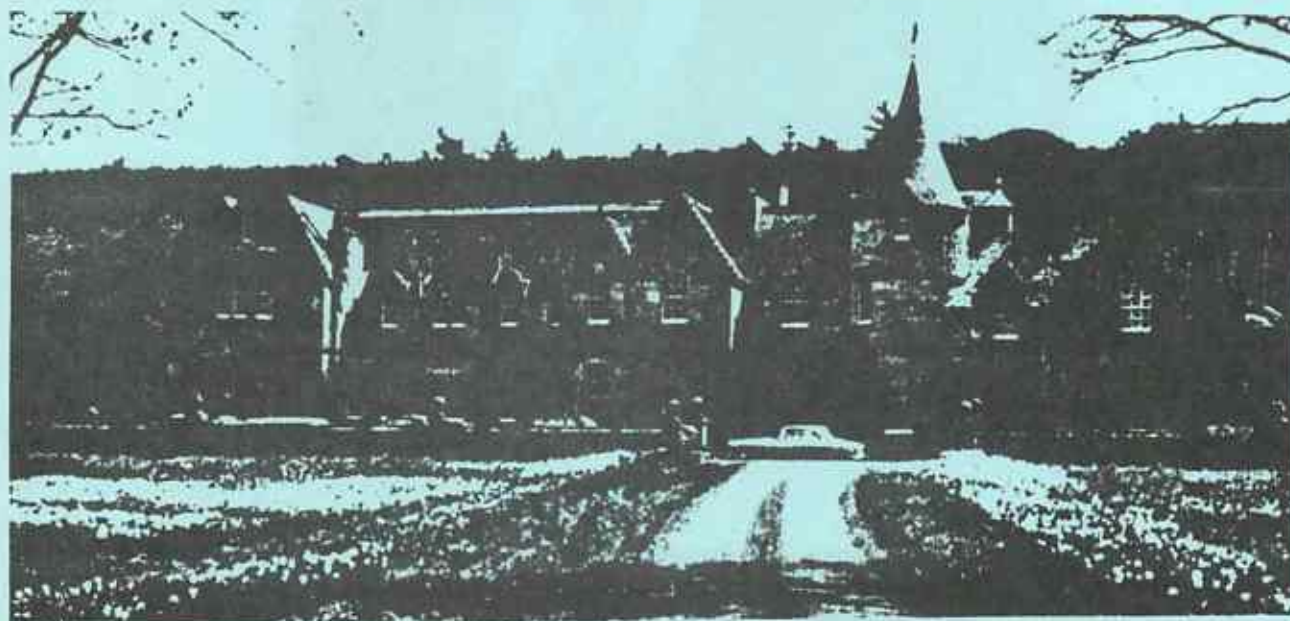
ORIGIN OF THE FAMILY

ORANGE COUNTY CALIFORNIA GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

*Veitch
Vache
Vetch
Veech*

The Veitches were Lowland Scots, many of whom belonged to noble and important families, even though they did not have the clans, the tartans, and the Gaelic of their better-known countrymen in the Scottish Highlands. The Veitch (Vache, Vetch, Veach, Veatch, Veech) family is of French origin and is very ancient, dating back to at least 900 A.D. and possibly back as far as 700 A.D. The earliest known members lived in the Duchy of Orleans, also of Anjou, but chiefly in Normandy. Some genealogists think they were Gascons. According to Dr. A. C. Veatch, the first known spelling of the Veitch family name is found in the signature of "William le Vache del Conte de Peebles" in Peeblesshire, Scotland, to the Ragman Rolls in 1296. The Ragman Rolls was a series of documents by which the nobility and gentry of Scotland of that time formally stated their allegiance to King Edward I of England. William le Vache was undoubtedly the first Laird of Dawyck. Laird is Scottish for landed proprietor or lord.

Vache is the French word for cow and three cow's heads adorned the Veitch of Dawyck coat-of-arms. Cows played an intriguing role in family legend. The ancient motto of the family of Veitch of Dawyck is Fanam Extendimus Factis which is interpreted as "We Extend Our Fame By Our Deeds."



Dawyck Castle, Peeblesshire, Scotland
(Photograph Courtesy of Wayne O. Veatch)

Research indicates that the lands of Dawyck were owned by our Veitch ancestors as far back as the 13th century under the name La Vache. About 1600 the head of the family at Dawyck adopted the Veitch form of spelling and this form was soon adopted by most of the members of the family and by the end of the 17th century by all members in Scotland and England. The estate and lands of Dawyck have the record of only three owners in 600 years - the Veitches, the Neasmiths and the present owners, the Balfours.

ORANGE COUNTY CALIFORNIA
GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

00000



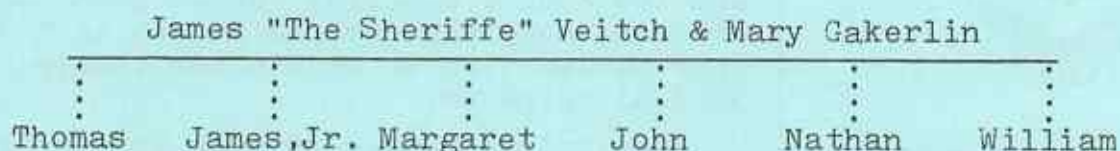
Laurence R. Guthrie



Wanda Veatch Clark

FIRST VEITCH TO AMERICA

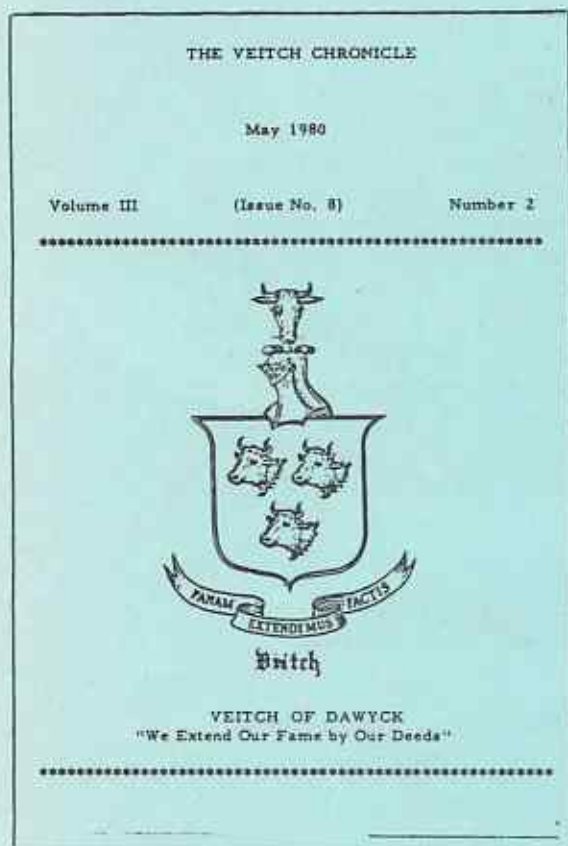
Our family in America has been traced to James Veitch who was born in Roxburgshire, Scotland in 1628 and came to this country in 1651 - 125 years before our Declaration of Independence. He settled near St. Mary's City, Maryland in the Chesapeake Bay area and served as Sheriff of Calvert County, Maryland from 1653-1657. Many of his descendants served our country in the Revolutionary War, War of 1812, Civil War, World Wars I and II, the Korean War and in the Vietnam conflict. His grandfather, Laird John Vaiche of Dawyck (1579-1606) married Janet Stewart of the Royal House of Stewart, therefore many of us are descended from European Royalty. King Charles I's Royal Architect was a Veitch back in the early part of the 17th century and the mothers of actor Noel Coward and Field Marshal Lord Haig were both Veitches.



A book, THE LIFE AND TIMES OF SHERIFF JAMES VEITCH OF CALVERT COUNTY was published in 1982. Lou Rose, author of the book, is curator of the Headquarters Room of the Calvert County (Maryland) Historical Society, Inc. in Prince Frederick, Maryland. In the foreword to her book, the author writes that "I did my best to 'ungrave' James Veitch, to 'stand him upright', and to visualize him going about the business of enforcing the law in the early pioneer days of the Maryland Colony, and living out his life as gentleman adventurer, planter, sometime real estate appraiser, and civil leader in that section of Maryland known in Veitch's time as Calvert County." The book deals at length with Veitch's pursuit, arrest and execution of John Dandy, a local gunsmith and multiple murderer, who enjoys the dubious distinction of having been the first man executed in Maryland. The Dandy case was obviously pivotal in James Veitch's career and life. In the absence of letters and journals written by Sheriff Veitch himself, the author has based his biography on information provided by contemporary documents and scholarly published sources. Copies of the book are available for \$7.50 each from the Calvert County Historical Society, Inc., Post Office Box 358, Prince Frederick, Maryland 20678. Add \$1.00 for postage and handling.

PUBLICATIONS

GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY ONLY

THE VEITCH CHRONICLE

The Society publishes THE VEITCH CHRONICLE in February, May and October of each year and it is mailed to all members. The first issue was published in October 1977 as the FOUR V NEWS-LETTER, however the name was changed to THE VEITCH CHRONICLE in July 1979. The 48-page CHRONICLE is devoted to current Society activities and articles dealing with genealogy of the V families. It tells about the past and present activities of Society members.

Recurring articles include Famous V's, Early Pioneers, Yesterday's Memories, Vital Statistics, Four V Events, Genealogical Helps, Four V Military Files, V's in Print and the Four V Memorial Fund. Each issue contains many photographs and it is a valuable publication to retain for family historical purposes.

A limited number of back issues are available for \$4.00 per copy from the Society historian in Redmond, Oregon.

WE VEITCHES, VEATCHES, VEACHES, VEECHES

WE VEITCHES, VEATCHES, VEACHES, VEECHES is an historical treasury of the descendants of James "The Sheriffe" Veitch who came to Maryland from Scotland in 1651. The book was compiled by Laurence R. Guthrie and edited and published by Wanda Veatch Clark in 1974. Mr. Guthrie completed the original manuscript in 1960 but for personal reasons was unable to publish it. The book includes photographs, over 900 pages of historical data and a complete index of over 10,000 names mentioned in the book. The enormous task of compiling a genealogy covering a period of over 325 years and including more than 10,000 names is such that there were many omissions. Therefore, a project is now underway to publish a supplement to this original book. The supplement will include additions and corrections to the original edition. It will also include other branches of the family, especially those who migrated to Canada and those in the United States who are descended from other than James "The Sheriffe" Veitch.

Copies of the book are available for \$13.00 each, postpaid, from Wanda Veatch Clark, Historian, Veitch Historical Society, 6060 S. W. Coyote Avenue, Redmond, Oregon 97756. (Phone 503-548-4113).

ORANGE COUNTY CALIFORNIA
GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

March 8, 1965

OCCGS REFERENCE ONLY

Dear Mr. Veach,

Your letter and papers received. Due to a death in the family, I was unable to answer till now. I may be sending a lot of stuff that will be of no use to you. If you can, well and fine.

Richard Veach's father's name was William and his mother's name was Elizabeth. I do not know her maiden name. Richard's brothers and sisters are as follows: Henry, Benjamin, Jane, Edmond, Rebecca, Thomas, John, Diana, Mary Ellen.

Richard Veach was married to Sarah Lawrence. They had seven children. Two - Asa and Mary - are buried in the Bowman Cemetery.

Jane Veach married a Mr. Hall, Rebecca married David Frazier, Mary Ellen married Lewis V. Bowman, and I do not know who the rest of Richard's brothers and sisters married.

Was Sylvester Wilson related to you? He married Ankah Beavers, a daughter of John Beavers. They are all buried in the Bowman Cemetery. John Beavers was born November 12, 1828 and died February 8, 1893. Sylvester Wilson was born January 30, 1860 and died October 7, 1922. I got some of this information out of the cemetery book. If I can get hold of the Primitive Baptist book at Ottumwa Church, I may get more information from it. Our daughter has the book, and I can get it sometime.

* * * * *

Arthur Veach, born August 4, 1824, died December 28, 1900.

Mary Ann (Harlan) Veach, born January 26, 1826, died May 1, 1889.

Samuel Veach, born February 14, 1871, died September 21, 1878.

These are all of the Veach family that I could find listed in the book. The only way that the others could have been buried there would have been that they had no markers and were marked unknown. I will try to think when I go to the cemetery and look to see if there are any stones on their lot marked unknown. (NOTE: This cemetery was moved to another location when the John Redmond Reservoir was built.)

My husband and I think that Joshua Veach was a son of Arthur Veach, and he had a brother, Benjamin, who married Lillie Mayer. Are we correct in that? If so, she has two nieces that live in Burlington. I am well acquainted with them. I guess this is all the information I have at this time.

Yours,
Mrs. Mildred Mark
RR 2
Burlington, Kansas 66839

ORANGE COUNTY CALIFORNIA
GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

The following data is also from Mrs. Mark. Taken from a family Bible:

John Bowman	Born January 13, 1793	Died August 10, 1882
Margaret Veach	Born October 3, 1794	Died December 19, 1845
	Married October 19, 1815	

Children:

1. Elizabeth	October 31, 1816	April 13, 1887
2. Delila	September 9, 1818	
3. Mary Ann	August 10, 1820	November 23, 1884
4. Rachel	September 6, 1825	October 15, 1892
5. Jane	December 19, 1831	February 12, 1849
6. Henry	July 22, 1823	
7. Benjamin	October 26, 1827	April 17, 1828
8. David	July 3, 1822	June 10, 1847
9. Lewis	January 1, 1835	January 13, 1903
10. Adis	March 26, 1837	March 30, 1831
11. Jonathan	January 16, 1839	

Lewis Bowman (who is my grandfather) was married to Mary Ellen Veach (who is a sister to Richard Veach) on April 4, 1859. Mary Ellen Veach was born April 14, 1837 and died June 20, 1927. Mary Ellen is a daughter of William and Elizabeth Veach.

I also have a list of John Bowman's girls and who they married if you should want them.

Mr. Veach:

The following is from a manuscript, Descendants of William Winchester, compiled by Louis Farrell, Col., U. S. Army. Does it relate to your Veach family even though it is spelled VEECH?

Olivia Winchester (daughter of Richard Winchester and Rebecca Lawrence) married 8 May 1821, Alexander Veech, son of John of "Indian Hill", Jefferson County, Kentucky.
Descendants in or near Louisville.

Issue: Rebecca Veech born 29 February 1822; died 1835, unmarried

Frances Veech born 29 February 1822, married Rev. James N. Saunders - no issue

*Richard Snowden Veech born 26 April 1833

Perhaps a James Veech who died young

*Richard Snowden Veech married 24 May 1853 Mary Louisa Nickols, born 7 July 1833, died 26 April 1904. Lived Indian Hill, St. Matthew's P.O., Jefferson County, Kentucky.
(Have issue for the above as well as later generations)

Betty Coburn Winchester
5020 Wyoming Trail
Fort Worth, Texas 76118
March 30, 1967

2202 W. 10th St.
Austin, Texas 78703
2 April 1967

Dear Mr. Veach,

I've had your address in my notebook so long that I've forgotten where I saw it -- possibly Ansearchin' News? Please forgive me for the intrusion if you're not interested in family history!

The reason I am writing is that I'm editing the Gold Rush journal and letters of some of my ancestors, and there are frequent mentions of a Dr. Veach who led a similar expedition. I wonder if you can identify him for me. Any information about him or sources where I might read about him would be most welcome.

If you are descended from him or interested at all, I'll be glad to copy the references to him for you. I am just starting my research for the book, so it will be some time before I even start looking for a publisher.

I'll be most grateful for any help you can give me, and if you cannot even refer me to anyone who might know, I hope you will be so kind as to return the enclosed card so I won't wait in vain!

Sincerely,
Mrs. Helen H. Rugeley

2202 W. 10th St.
Austin, Texas 78703
7 April 1967

Dear Mr. Veach,

Thank you so much for your prompt reply to my inquiry about the member of your family who led an expedition to California in 1849. I appreciate your offering to mention my quest in your family newsletter, and hope that someone will be able to identify him.

As George Turner was a very respectful young man and generous with honorary titles, he may not have been a medical doctor per se, or a captain in the military, but a captain by right of commanding the company. After I had typed the enclosed, I did find a reference to him in one letter, but the only further information was that they ate seven mules.

I'd be grateful for any information, historical or genealogical, about him to put in a footnote. If I can just find out his residence, I'll check the newspapers of that locality, and pass on anything I find.

Sincerely,
Mrs. Helen H. Rugeley

REFERENCES TO DR. VEACH IN GEORGE TURNER'S GOLD RUSH JOURNAL

In Mexico, between Santa Rosa and Presidio del Norte, 1849

- April 21st -- "Camped on a ravine almost dry. Found several things belonging to Dr. Veach's Company."
- April 26th -- "We had this far been upon the trail of Dr. Veaches Company, which preceeded us about three weeks, but here our old guide said he (Veach) had missed the way and told us that we must ride over the mountains on our left and leave the valley."
- May 3rd -- "To the Rio Grande again and crossed. Found a stray packmule and pack saddle of Dr. Veaches. Struck his trail again."
- May 7th -- "Late in the day we came upon Presidio del Norte a miserable little mud-town surrounded by luxuriant chaperal. Here we found Capt. Veaches' Company who left Texas before us ("We" left San Antonio April 1st.) just arrived and nearly starved. They had been lost in the mountains and had eaten many of their mules to keep alive."
- June 6th -- (near old fort, "San Bernardine," on a muddy spring "Agua prietta") "The wild cattle were quite plenty here, and Capt. Veach's company who had been here sometime before we arrived, had plenty of fat beef hanging around their fires.... Capt. Veach, we found, had dislocated his thigh by a fall from his mule and would be unable to move for a day or two."
- June 17th -- ". . . we were again on our road leaving Capt. Veach to join us at the first grass. He had a fine set of well armed men, so there was no danger to be apprehended from his royal visitor." (Apache chief called "King of the White Mountain")
- June 22nd -- "Capt. Veach and his party arrived whom we joined. We rode up a fine little valley and stream, a branch of the San Pedro."
- July 13th -- "All the Company but eight of us left today" (Presumably Capt. Veach left then, as he was not mentioned in letters written subsequently as being in "our" party. The last of the journal is lost.)
-

Washington, D.C.
5 April 1967

Dear Mr. Veach,

I saw a notice to the effect that you publish a Veatch Newsletter. Since I have a Veatch line, I am interested.

My Veatch line follows: James Veatch 1628-1681 - Mary Gaberlin.
Nathan Veatch 1667 - 1706 - Anne (Cloggett?)
John Veatch 1705 - 1767 - Grace Masters
Silas Veatch - Jane (Galton?)
Susanna Veatch 1762 - 1826 - Aaron Crain
Nancy Crain (1784 - ca. 1854) - Thomas Curry. - 1847
Aaron C. Curry - 1811 - 1896 - Frances Tolley 1818 - 1880
Sarah E. Curry 1842 - 1917 - Charles W. Lord 1836 - 1900
Edwin A. Lord 1860 - 1911 - Lula M. Crawford 1867 - 1939
Charles M. Lord 1895 - Laura V. Hamsberger 1907 -

I am almost certain that this is correct. However, there is one weak point. I have never seen any real proof that Nathan Veatch was a son of James, the immigrant. Do you know of any proof?

Also, I need more on some of the wives. Do you have proof that Anne, wife of Nathan Veatch, was s daughter of Thomas Cloggett?

Do you have data on the Masters family?

Do you have any on Galton?

Do you have any on Crain? Nancy was daughter of Aaron Crain and Susanna Veatch, but who were Aaron's parents?

Do you know of any others who are from this Veatch line?

Re the Veach Newsletter: How often is it run? How much does it cost? Does it have a query section?

Cordially,
Charles Lord
2800 Erie St..S.E.
Washington, D.C.
20020

The following information was taken from Hawkeye Heritage, Vol. 2, #1, Winter '67, Iowa Genealogical Society, P.O. Box 4084, H.P. Station, DesMoines, Iowa, 50333.

1852 Census, Appanoose County: Veach, Elias - 5 male & 5 female; Veach, I. - 3 male & 3 female; Veach, Posey, 5 male & 3 female.

Early Appanoose County Marriages: Brian, Reuben to Veach, Jane B. (no date)
Veach, Peter L. to Johnson, Sarah J. (23 Feb. 1854)

Appanoose County, Iowa Cemetery Inscriptions: (Farmer Cemetery, located off Hwy. 277, west of Centerville, Appanoose County, Iowa, in Lincoln township.

Veach, A. B., husband of Rhoda F. Veach, d. 4 Nov. 1893, age 57 yrs. 2 mo. 5 da.

Veach, Rhoda F., wife of A.B. Veach, d. 10 Jan. 1902, age 66 yr. 8 mo. 12 da.

Veach, Richard S., son of A.B. and R. F. Veach, d. 18 Nov 1889, age 21 yr. 29 da.

Veach, Vinea, dau. of A.B. and R.F. Veach, d. 7 Mar. 1880, Age 6 mo. 7 da.

1847 Census, Wapello County, Iowa: Veach, Ebenezer T. (page 7)

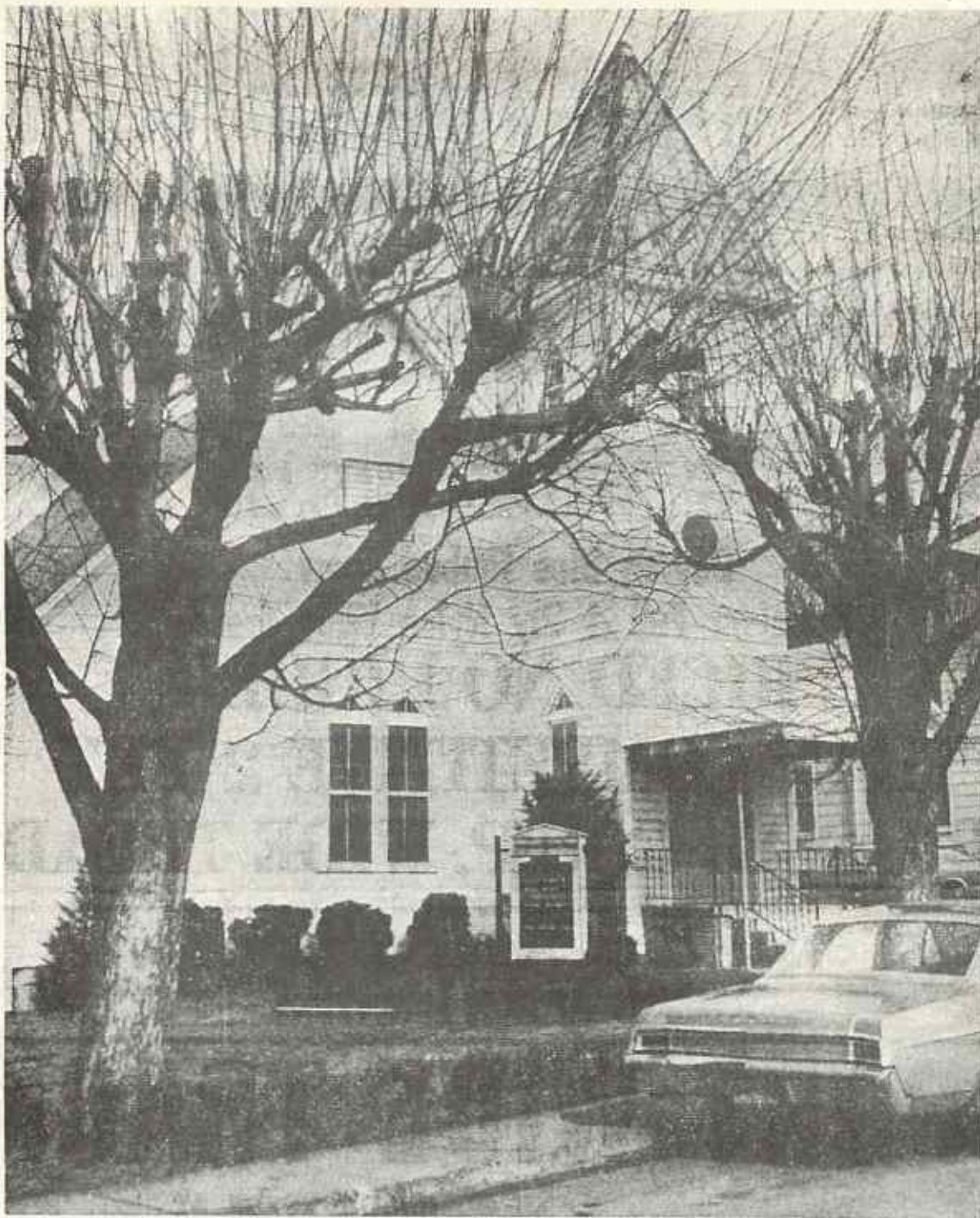
The following publications are now on an "exchange" basis with the Veach Newsletter:

Wyatt Newsletter - Kentucky Ancestors - Kansas Kin

The picture and caption on page 30 were submitted by Mr. Paul Hayhurst of Fairmont, West Virginia.

REFERENCE ONLY
NOT TO BE CIRCULATED

The Oregon County California
Genealogical Society



MONONGAH BAPTIST CHURCH

Lyndon Avenue, Monongah

Organized October 15, 1883 along the West Fork River on land deeded by John Evans to Benjamin Veach and Enoch Jones, Trustees.

A log church was erected and named the West Fork Baptist Church. In 1867, James Watkins gave the lot in Monongah. A church was built and served until 1901 when the present structure replaced it.

Records were misplaced with no knowledge of who organized the church or who the charter members were. The first pastor, James Gawthrop, served until 1845. One pastor, Daniel S. Morris, is a great-grandfather of Daniel S. Morris, who was ordained here, and at present is pastor of a Baptist church in Winchester, Virginia. At the close of the Civil War in 1865 revivals were held resulting in several additions to the church.

This church is the mother of two other churches. On November 14, 1840, the clerk, Benjamin Hill, gave letters of dismissal to Jesse Nixon, Ruth Nixon, Job Springer, Elenor Nixon and Rachel Sparks to organize the Boothsville Baptist Church and March 1844, William Cochran and six others were granted letters to organize the Baptist Church in Worthington. The name was changed from the West Fork Baptist to Monongah Baptist. Reverend Garland Powell is the present pastor.

Pauline O. Davis, Correspondent

PURPOSE OF THE SOCIETY

The purposes for which the Society is formed, as stated in the Articles of Association, are:

1. To promote the study and preservation of information relative to people who bear, or whose ancestors bore, any of the surnames Veach, Veatch, Veech, or Veitch.
2. To promote genealogical research.
3. To locate, mark and preserve historical landmarks that bear reference to the activities of the members of the families bearing any of these surnames.
4. To promote the dissemination of information relative to any of the above.



Arthur Clifford Veatch, 1878-1938

HISTORY OF THE SOCIETY

Many members of the Veatch, Veitch, Veach, Veech family have long been interested in their history. Civil War General James C. Veatch started gathering family historical data during the 1800's. His grandson, Dr. Arthur Clifford Veatch, did an extensive amount of research both in America and Scotland and hoped to publish a history of the family. His untimely death at the age of 60 prevented his realizing this goal.

Laurence R. Guthrie, whose mother was a Veatch, had published a book on his family genealogy and offered to finish this book. He worked on the task for many years but never completed it. Wanda Veatch Clark obtained the manuscript and additional material and in 1974 she published a 937 page book, *We Veitches, Veatches, Veaches, Veeches, An Historical Treasury of the Descendants of James Veitch*. With the publication of this book, more interest was generated in the family history and a meeting was held in 1976 in Kansas City, Kansas where the Veitch Historical Society was formally organized with Wayne O. Veatch serving as the first president of the Society.

Membership has grown from the original 125 in 1976 to nearly 400 and is continuing to increase. The Society is subdivided into geographical regions throughout the United States and Canada with members also in Australia, Denmark and the United Kingdom. An international reunion of the Society is held each year. Sites of past annual meetings include Kansas, Oklahoma, Kentucky, Ottawa Canada, Oregon, Virginia, and Texas.

WE VEITCHES, VEATCHES, VEACHES, VEECHES

WE VEITCHES, VEATCHES, VEACHES, VEECHES is an historical treasury of the descendants of James "The Sheriffe" who came to Maryland from Scotland in 1651. The book was compiled by Laurence R. Guthrie and edited and published by Wanda Veatch Clark in 1974. Mr. Guthrie completed the original manuscript in 1960 but for personal reasons was unable to publish it. The book includes photographs, over 900 pages of historical data and a complete index of over 10,000 names. The enormous task of compiling a genealogy covering a period of over 325 years and including more than 10,000 names is such that there were many omissions. Therefore, a project is now underway to publish a supplement to this book. The supplement will include additions and corrections to the original edition and it will also include other branches of the family, especially those who migrated to Canada and those in the United States who are descended from other than James "The Sheriffe" Veitch.

Copies of the book are available for \$13.00 each, postpaid, from Wanda Veatch Clark, Historian, Veitch Historical Society, 6060 S.W. Coyote Avenue, Redmond, Oregon 97756. (Phone 503-548-4113)



Dawyck House, Peebleshire, Scotland

VEITCH HISTORICAL SOCIETY VEACH, VEATCH, VEECH & VEITCH

"We Extend Our Fame by Our Deeds"



VEITCH OF DAWYCK

William Le Vache (1296)

·
Barnaba Vache of Dawyck (1434)

·
Paul Veitch of Dawyck (1457)

·
William the Vache of Dawyck (d. 1502)

·
William Veitch of Dawyck (d. 1545)

·
Jame Veitch of Dawyck (1536)

·
William Veitch of Dawyck (1535 — 1602)

·
Laird John Vaiche of Dawyck (1579 — 1606)

·
Malcolm Vaitche of Muirdean (d. 1630)

·
James "The Sheriffe" Veitch (1628 — 85)

ORIGIN OF THE FAMILY

The Veitches were Lowland Scots, many of whom belonged to noble and important families, even though they did not have the clans, the tartans, and the Gaelic of their better-known countrymen in the Scottish Highlands. The Veitch (Vache, Vetch, Veach, Veatch, Veech) family may be of French origin and is very ancient. According to Dr. A.C. Veatch, the first known spelling of the Veitch family name is found in the signature of "William le Vache del Conte de Peebles" in Peeblesshire, Scotland, to the Ragman Rolls in 1296. The Ragman Rolls was a series of documents by which the nobility and gentry of Scotland of that time formally stated their allegiance to King Edward I of England.

Vache is the French word for cow and three cow's heads adorned the Veitch of Dawck coat-of-arms. Cows played and intriguing role in family legend. The ancient motto of the family of Veitch of Dawyck is "Famam Extendimus Factis" which is interpreted as "We Extend Our Fame By Our Deeds."

Research indicates that the lands of Dawyck were owned by our Veitch ancestors as far back as the 13th century under the name La Vache. About 1600 the head of the family at Dawyck adopted the Veitch form of spelling and this form was soon used by most of the members of the family. The estate and lands of Dawyck have the record of only three owners in 600 years — the Veitches, the Neasmiths and the present owners, the Balfours.

FIRST VEITCH TO AMERICA

Our family in America has been traced to James Veitch who was born in Roxburghshire, Scotland in 1628 and came to this country in 1651 — 125 years before our Declaration of Independence. He settled on St. Leonard's Creek, Maryland in the Chesapeake Bay area and served as Sheriff of Calvert County, Maryland from 1653-1657. Many of his descendants served our country in the Revolutionary War, War of 1812, Civil War, and other wars. His grandfather, Laird John Vaiche of Dawcyk (1579-1606) married Janet Stewart of the Royal House of Stewart, therefore many of us are descended from European Royalty.



"The members of the Veitch Historical Society shall be all persons who are interested in the surnames of Veach, Veatch, Veech or Veitch and who pay their annual dues to the Society."

Article III of Society's Articles of Association

Any 4 V descendant — whether it was their mother's father or their great-grandfather who bore the surname is eligible. Some of the most interested and valuable members of the Society had mothers or grandmothers who had one of the four surnames.

There is only one type of membership available with annual dues of \$15.00 (U.S. Funds). Membership covers an individual or an individual and spouse in addition to children residing with them. Dues cover one address only and a copy of each issue of **The Veitch Chronicle** is mailed to that address.

To become a member, mail the application below, along with annual dues, to your Society's Membership chairman as follows:

Veitch Historical Society
Maurita Jaycox
610 Pilgrim Plaza
North Cape May, N. J. 08204

Veitch Historical Society
Maurita Jaycox
603 Bogie Lane
Kissimmee, Florida 32741

Veitch Historical Society
Membership Application
Annual Dues — \$15.00 (U.S. Funds)

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____

Zip Code _____ Telephone _____

Date _____

Checks Should be Made Payable to
Veitch Historical Society

THE VEITCH CHRONICLE

May 1982

Volume 9 Issue Number (4) Number 2



EDITOR: DR. DAVID L. VEITCH
"We Record the Past to Build the Future"

THE VEITCH CHRONICLE

The Society publishes **THE VEITCH CHRONICLE** in February, May and October of each year and it is mailed to all members. The first issue was published in October 1977 as the **FOUR V NEWS-LETTER**, however, the name was changed to **THE VEITCH CHRONICLE** in July 1979. The 48-page **CHRONICLE** is devoted to current Society activities and articles dealing with genealogy of the V families. It tells about the past and present activities of Society members.

Recurring articles include Famous V's, Early Pioneers, Yesterday's Memories, Vital Statistics, Four V Events, Genealogical Helps, Four V Military Files, V's in Print and the Four V Memorial Fund. Each issue contains many photographs and it is a valuable publication to retain for family historical purposes.

A limited number of back issues are available for \$3.00 per copy from the society historian in Redmond, Oregon. The price is \$6.00 per copy for non-members.

THE LAST OF THE CHOCTAW VEACHES

by William A. Veitch

2003

Introduction

Charles Wesley Veach and Elizabeth Burris, both born in Kentucky, were the parents of Horatio Veach who was born about 1843 or 1845. Horatio served in the Civil War in Company K, 40th Regiment, of the Indiana Infantry and was wounded in battle. After the war he moved west to the Indian Territories in what is now Oklahoma. There, on 19 November 1871, at Chickasha in the Indian Territories he married Sophia Bohannon or Sophina Johnson. Sophia was born on 27 December 1851 in Choctaw Nation, Indian Territories. She died on 11 January 1920 in Durant, Oklahoma. Her father was Edward Bohanan, a mixed blood Choctaw who reportedly came to the Indian Territories over the Trail of Tears, was born in 1830 in the Mississippi Indian Territories and died in 1871 in Blue County in the I.T. During the Civil War he served in the First Chickasaw Cavalry Battalion, C.S.A., and in General Douglas Cooper's Indian Brigade. Sophia's mother was Lucy Ann Robinson, the daughter of Amzi Robinson and Emily Folsom born in 1829 in Mississippi. Lucy died in 1897 in Blue County, Indian Territories. Sophia and Horatio moved to Durant in the Indian Territories where they lived and where Horatio died in 1927. Durant is near the Red River on the southeastern border of Oklahoma. Horatio and Sophia had twelve

children. The youngest was Columbus Veach born 9 April 1894.¹

After the Civil War, occupation of the western plains was accelerated by white settlers hungry for land. It had been the Government's policy to confine the various Indian tribes to reservations making it less likely for them to come into hostile contact with encroaching whites. In the beginning the Indian reservations were undivided territories where each Indian used as much land for a home site as he chose. The remaining reservation land was used as a common herding ground, fishing or hunting area by all members of the tribe.

However, all this changed with increasing pressure by white settlers for more land. As a result Congress passed the Dawes General Allotment Act of 1887. The allotment law intended that each reservation should be divided into tracts of 40 to 320 acres, depending on the amount of land in each reservation and the fertility of the soil. Any surplus land that was left after members of a tribe had claimed their allotment was purchased by the Government at the low rate of \$1.25 an acre, and this land was then taken up by white homesteaders. It was this incentive that led to the legendary land runs in the late 1880s that added an intense momentum to Oklahoma's march toward statehood which

was finally achieved on 17 November 1907. Each run promised settlers with a chance for a better life.

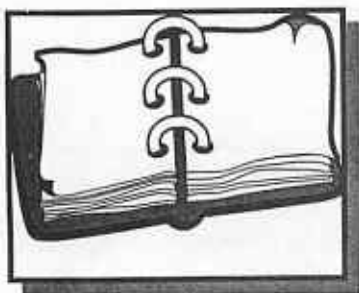
The Dawes Act of 1887 also bestowed citizenship rights on all Indians who received a land allotment. This citizenship required no responsibilities, since the allotted land was held under a trust patent and was exempt from taxation and from seizure for debt.²

It is not known whether the individual Indian land allotment or the citizenship rights promised by the Dawes Act, was the factor that motivated Horatio Veach in the summer of 1896. On the 20th of August that year, Horatio signed a petition on behalf of his youngest son, Columbus. The petition was signed in the Central Judicial District, Indian Territory and addressed to the "Hon. Henry L. Dawes, Frank C. Armstrong, A. S. McKennon, T. B. Cobiniss and A. B. Montgomery, Commissioners appointed by an act of Congress to pass upon the rights of citizenship of the Five Civilized Tribes of Indians."

In the petition, Horatio said that he had a son, Columbus, born 9 April 1894 which was after the "... last registration of the Choctaws, that the mother's name is Sophina Veach and she is a

¹The Descendants of Edward Bohanan by Charles Ladd, Smithville, OK

²THE VOLUME LIBRARY, Book X, "The Federal Government and the Indians," p. 1334, published in 1957 by the Educators Association, Inc.



ANNOUNCING

June 19-21, 2003 - **Palatines to America - 2003 National Conference** - in Columbus Ohio. Speakers include Cyndi Howells. For registration information, email sjbhall@aol.com (Nat'l Conf in subject line)

August 8-9, 2003 - **2003 MoSGA Genealogical Conference** - Missouri State Genealogical Association - Columbia, Missouri. For reservation information, see website at www.mosga.org.

October 3-5, 2003 - **The 28th Annual Pierre Chastain Family Reunion** - to be held in Tulsa, Oklahoma. For additional information, contact Carrie Chastain at jdchastain@cox-internet.com.

October 24-26, 2003 - **Genealogy in the Woods 2003 Retreat** - Cave Springs Retreat in Northeast Oklahoma (Cave Springs Christian Retreat near Miami, Oklahoma). For directions and information: www.gregathcompany.com/workshop/retreat2003/where.html or email: info@gregathcompany.com.



CONGRATULATIONS TO THE WINNERS OF THE *FAMILY STORY WRITING CONTEST*



Our thanks to all those who entered! The judges had a difficult time in determining the winners as they felt they were all great!



First: *The Last of the Choctaw Veaches* - by William A. Veitch (featured below)

Second: *The Story of a Young Man From England and His Descendants Who Settled in Northeastern Indian Territory, Oklahoma Before 1890* - by Donna K. Davis

Third: *The Stripper* - by Carolyn Branch Leonard

First Honorable Mention: *Grandpa's Heroic Pledge to the Stars and Stripes* - by Mary Laging Lewis

Second Honorable Mention: *Kids in the Country* - by Star Randol-McCulloch

-- To be featured in future issues of the Quarterly --

Choctaw Indian by blood and all her children are enrolled and recognized as Choctaw Indians by blood."

Horatio filed a second petition on the same date further stating that "... I am a white man by blood ... and that on the 19th day of November 1871 I was married to Sophina Bohannon" This petition indicates that "... the marriage was performed in the Chickasaw Nation" by a licensed preacher by the name of Harvey Bacon. On the basis of this marriage Horatio requested that his name be enrolled with the other married citizens of the Choctaw nation" ... so I can participate in all the rights, privileges and amenities granted them under the Treaties."

The facts related in Horatio's petitions are supported by the affidavits of others who also resided in Blue Country of the Choctaw Nation: Frances Duer, age 43, who was also a Choctaw Indian, Rebecca Bohannon, "... a Choctaw Indian by blood (possibly Sophina's sister)," who said Columbus was "... entitled to all the rights of a Choctaw Indian," and by Peter Durant a 38 year old Choctaw Indian who was "... well acquainted ..." with both Horatio and Sophina.

Horatio submitted a hand written marriage certification signed on the 19th of November 1871 by Harvey Bacon "... a minister of the Gospel" and an affidavit signed by Mrs. Frances A. Duer who stated "... she was present when Horatio Veach and Sophina Bohannon were

married."³

Horatio and Sophina's first four children died in infancy. They were David who was three years and eight months when he died; Ellsworth who was one year and two months at death; an unnamed infant probably still born; and Liddie who lived from 22 August 1875 to 9 October 1878. Their twelfth and youngest child, Dewey, lived from 17 December 1898 to 15 August 1899.⁴

Horatio's two petitions and supporting affidavits for Choctaw citizenship were filed with the Dawes Commission on the first of September 1896. On the 19th an answer was filed by Stuart, Gordon and Hailey, attorneys for the Choctaw Nation, to the effect that the Commission did not have the power or jurisdiction to hear or decide the claim of Horatio Veach for citizenship in the Choctaw Nation, that the law creating the Commission was unconstitutional and that there was "... no proper proof ..." of Horatio and Sophina's marriage or that he had complied with the laws of the Choctaw Nation regarding marriage.

The Dawes Commission Records show that Horatio appeared before the Commission at Durant, Indian Territory on 17 August 1899, and made a personal application for enrollment. On 18

November 1902 further proceedings were held in the matter of his application at Atoka, Indian Territory. Later, on 5 May 1903 the Commission issued its final opinion enrolling Horatio Veach as a citizen of the Choctaw Nation by intermarriage. The attorneys for the Choctaw Nation did not appeal this determination.

Documentation in support of that opinion shows Horatio and his family were on the 1896 Choctaw Nation Rolls. Sophina "Birdie," his wife, was listed as a 1/2 Choctaw and their eight children were listed as 1/4 Choctaws. The children were Calvin "Bud" Veach who married his cousin Nellie Veach *We Veitches*, Vol. I, p. 666; Sophina Birdie Veach; Charlie Walter Veach, a Captain in World War I, who married "Jimmie" Bennett; Lottie Veach who married Morrow Whited; Stanley Veach who married Pearl Midkiff; Frances Marion Veach who married Fred Callaway and Columbus Edward "Boss" Veach, a Lt. in World War I. The eighth and youngest child, Dewey, was born 17 December 1898. His birth date was supported by the sworn affidavit of the midwife in attendance, Mrs. Hannah A. Bays. A later affidavit by Horatio shows Dewey died in August 1899.

Other documentation in these record show the daughter, Sophina Birdie Veach, married George W. Seeley, enrolled on Choctaw cards No. 5747 & 10616. George and Birdie had a son, Gabe Horatio Seeley, born 23 December 1901. The physician in attendance was J. F. Park, M.D. On 30 December

³The National Archives & Records Administration, Control Number NRFF-75-MUSKOGEE49A-8889.

⁴Bohanan-Veach Cemetery Northeast of Durant, OK. Also buried in this cemetery are Calvin Veach 1879-1949 and his wife, Nellie, 1875-1945.

1901 Gabe was enrolled as a 1/8 Choctaw on Card No. 247.⁵ & ⁶

Birdie was the oldest daughter of Horatio and Sophina. Columbus was the youngest surviving child in the family. During World War I he served with his older brother, Captain Charles Walter Veach, in the 142nd Infantry, 36th Division, U.S. Army, American Expeditionary Forces, in France. Columbus had followed his brother, Walter, into military service having enlisted in the Oklahoma National Guard in 1914. Both were mustered into the Federal Service in 1916 when the Mexican, Pancho Villa, was threatening an invasion of Texas. Company H of the 1st Oklahoma was Brigaded with the 4th South Dakota and the 2nd Louisiana Infantry and stationed at San Benito, Texas. In February 1917 they were ordered to Fort Sill, Oklahoma to be mustered out of service as of March 1, 1917. However, the war in Europe ensnared the United States on the side of the Allies, and the 1st Oklahoma Infantry reported for War service on 1 April 1917. By November 1917 both Walter and Columbus were at Camp Bowie, Fort Worth, Texas where the 1st Oklahoma Infantry was combined with

Company L of the 7th Texas Infantry to form Company E, 142nd Infantry, 36th Division, U.S. Army. Company E was made up of about 250 Indians from Oklahoma and Texas. "The American aborigine organization" was commanded by Captain Walter Veach. His brother, Columbus was listed as "First Sergeant." Columbus served on active duty during World War I from 5 December 1917 to 5 June 1919 and was discharged as a 1st Lieutenant.⁷

Columbus married Mayme King, a school teacher. They had one child, Charles Edward Veach. Mayme was born 15 June 1897 and died in December 1969 in Holdenville, Oklahoma. Columbus "Boss" Veach and Mayme later divorced and he married Ina Porter. Ima/Ina Porter is buried in the same cemetery as Columbus. Ima May was born 12 April 1906 and died 18 March 1976.⁸

Family recollections

⁷Columbus E. Veach's Statement of Military Service dated 18 September 2000 from the National Personnel Records Center, St. Louis, Missouri and *The Daily Oklahoman*, Sunday 4 November 1917 and Sunday 18 November 1917.

⁸Hilander Cemetery, Durant, Oklahoma. Also buried here are Columbus' older brother, Walter, 18 May 1884 to 13 October 1996 and Walter's wife, Susie, 4 January 1890 to 22 July 1948. Both are buried in the same plot with their son, Bennett (Chief) Veach, 30 August 1925 to 14 February 1980. Possibly another son, Earl, is buried here, born in April 1928, died 7 March 1929. As is another of Columbus' older brothers, Stanley, born 26 July 1890 and died 24 September 1971. There is no burial recorded of Stanley's wife, Pearl. Stanley's son, Horation C. Veach, 14 February 1916 to 27 February 1975 is buried in this cemetery.

are: that Charles was born between 1918 and 1920 and that he served in the Merchant Marine during World War II and after the war Charles left the Merchant Marine. His father, Columbus, later divorced his mother Maymie. Charles and his father had a falling out. Charles left and was never heard of again. He allegedly disappeared about 1950 or 1951. Apparently Charles also left behind a substantial sum of money that he had saved. Some years after Charles disappeared his father, Columbus, went to court and had Charles declared legally dead. A search allegedly turned up no clue as to Charles' whereabouts. Since Charles was found to be legally dead his father, Columbus, was able to inherit his son's abandoned savings.⁹

Many years of experience told me that few if any people disappear without a trace. Therefore, I felt compelled to investigate what had happened to Charles Edward Veach. It did not seem right that he might have died somewhere alone and unknown. The other reason to look into his disappearance was that Charles was the last of the Choctaw Veaches and he might have married and had children who carried the name.

⁵*We Veitches*, Volume I, pp. 668 & 669 & Volume III, p. 910 & *The Veitch Historical Society Chronicle*, Volume XVIII, No. 1, 2/95, pp. 20-22. (Note: the new generation numbers will appear in Volume IV of *We Veitches*.)

⁶Oklahoma Historical Society, Choctaw Nation Rolls for 1896, No. 3527.

⁹Recollections of Relative Number 1, ate 84, in 1999.

THE SEARCH

I worked for the Social Security Administration for over 30 years in various capacities, one of which was as a Federal Freedom of Information Officer who determined whether requests for specific information about an individual (living or dead) could be legally released to other than next of kin. The truth is that there is very little personal information about an individual to which anyone can be denied access.

Moreover, during those 30 plus years with the Social Security Administration I conducted several in depth investigations of individuals who were using either false identifications or the personal identifications of deceased individuals. Invariably, the results of my investigations revealed the person using the false or purloined "ID's" were living undercover in the Federal Witness Protection Program or, as in the case of one who was a Nazi war criminal, had been given asylum by the United States after World War II ended. I knew that these were about the only kind of people who successfully "disappeared."

Research into, and documentation of the family's recollections established a somewhat different story from what I was initially told. The Bryan County School Records for the years 1927 and 1929 showed that Charles Edward Veach attended school those years and his birth date was recorded as 11 February 1921.¹⁰

The records of the District Court of Bryan County, Oklahoma show that Columbus Edward (Boss) Veach filed on 12 May 1972, a Petition for a Letter of Administration in the matter of the estate of Charles E. Veach, deceased, as his surviving father. The Petition represented that Charles had been a resident of Hughes County, Oklahoma until the early part of the year 1950, that he had been continuously absent and unheard from for a period of more than seven years from that date, that he owned no estate at the time that he left but that after the death of his mother, Mayme, he became vested with personal property in the form of "Social Security checks" worth about \$3,000.00 and a \$10,000.00 National Service Life Insurance Policy. The first page of the Petition shows Social Security Number 440-28-1395 but does not identify the owner of the

number.

On 26 October 1972 the Bryan County Court found that Charles E. Veach was deceased, that his exact date and place of death was unknown and that C. E. (Boss) Veach, as the sole surviving heir, was entitled to the \$3,000.00 of Social Security checks. The final accounting for the estate showed these were the only assets. No mention was made about the initial allegation that there was also a \$10,000.00 National Service Life Insurance Policy.¹¹

The estate of Mayme Veach, Charles' mother, offers an explanation about the alleged \$10,000.00 policy. Mayme had handwritten a will on note paper on 9 March 1964 leaving her entire estate to her sister Johnnie Foote. Mayme died on 12 December 1969 and Johnnie was named administratrix. The District Court of Hughes County, Oklahoma determined that Mayme's legal heirs consisted of her sister Johnnie, two nieces, two nephews and her adult son, Charles Edward Veach, whose whereabouts was unknown. After all expenses were paid the final accounting for the estate showed the net amount of Mayme's estate came to \$14,638.64 all of which was awarded to Johnnie Foote the only legal heir named in Mayme's holographic will. The assets of the estate consisted of a lot in the town of Holdenville, Oklahoma; some shares of stock, cash, a 1967 four door Chevrolet, the proceeds from the sale of some household furniture and \$374.00 from a small policy with the "Lincoln" National Life Insurance Company.¹² & ¹³

Further research established that Charles Edward Veach did **not** "disappear" in 1950 and did **not** die in 1972 as decreed by the Bryan County, Oklahoma Court. He may have died on

¹¹Probate Record P-72-75, in the District Court of Bryan County, Oklahoma 12 May through 26 October 1972. (These Court documents show Charles' Social Security Number may be 440-28-1395.

¹²Probate Record P69-141, in the District Court of Hughes County, Oklahoma, 30 December 1969 through 23 July 1970.

¹³The Social Security Master Death Index lists Mayme's Social Security Number as 441-32-7287 and confirms her date and place of birth and death.

¹⁰E-Mail message from Monty Oleson, President, Bryan County, Oklahoma Historical Society mtolsen@cherokeetel.com dated 25 January 2000.

13 March 1996 in New Orleans, Louisiana.¹⁴ Moreover, a letter from the United States Coast Guard confirmed that Charles had served in the Merchant Marine.¹⁵ However, his application for a Social Security Number shows he was "Unemployed" almost immediately after World War II ended and that he was born in Holdenville, Oklahoma on 11 February 1921.¹⁶

Since the evidence showed that Charles had probably survived for over forty years after he allegedly disappeared in 1950 or 1951 it was thought he might have married and had children who survived him. Therefore, an effort was made to obtain a death certificate regarding Charles Edward Veach that might show a surviving widow or child. But the Louisiana Vital Records Registry reported there was no record of his death in that State. No obituary notices were found in New Orleans newspapers and it was therefore assumed that Charles may have been indigent or homeless at the time of his death. Consequently, the Coroner's Office of the Parish of Orleans was contacted to determine if they had any record of his passing. Since Charles was over the age of 65 at the time of his apparent death and his name appeared on the Social Security Master Death Index it was further assumed that the Social Security Administration might have more information about him, especially whether there were a surviving widow or minor children. Contact was made with the Mid-City Center District Office in New Orleans since the evidence showed this office had received a notice that Charles had died and had therefore terminated his benefits.

The New Orleans Coroner's Office phoned to advise that they had no record of performing an autopsy on a Charles Edward Veach or anyone with any variation of the spelling of his name. The Coroner also checked their

¹⁴The Social Security Master Death Index shows a Charles Veach's Social Security Number as 440-28-1395, that it was issued in Oklahoma prior to 1951, that this Charles Veach was born 12 Feb. 1921 and that he died in New Orleans, LA on 13 March 1996.

¹⁵Letter dated 11 February 2000 from the Marine Personnel Division, U.S. Coast Guard.

¹⁶SS-5 Application for number 440-28-1395 for Charles Edward Veach signed Charles E. Veach on 20 August 1945 shows Columbus Veach and Mayme King as parent.

"John Doe" records for unidentified bodies with the same date of death as Charles.' Four of the "John Does" were women and the remainder were young men between the ages of 13 and 27 which eliminated this as a source of information.

On 3 May 2000 the Manager of the Mid-City Center District Social Security Office responded as follows:

"Since Mr. Veach is deceased and has **no survivors** receiving benefits on his record, I am free to release to you the last address on his Social Security record. Up until his death in March 1996, his address of record was **612 Henry Clay Avenue, New Orleans, La. 70018-5818**. There was also a telephone number on the record. It was **504-524-4819**."

On 17 May 2000 I requested that the Louisiana Dept. of Health & Hospitals run a computer cross-match for all male deaths that occurred on 13 March 1996 in Louisiana who were age 60 or older regardless of their date of birth. This request was denied based on the State Privacy Statutes. The Director and State Registrar responded on 18 May 2000 that my original request for a death certificate on Charles Edward Veach showed no one by that name or Social Security Number had died in Louisiana on 13 March 1996. The Registrar went on to state that:

"Although there is the possibility that your uncle's death certificate is filed in the state of Louisiana under a name other than Charles Edward Veach, the likelihood is relatively small. Our file search was based on the first, middle and last names and it used a search algorithm that retrieved other names that are similar in terms of spelling or phonetics. **In my experience, it is more likely that the death occurred in another state, or if the death occurred in Louisiana, that the responsible funeral home simply failed to register the event.**"

On the 8th of May 2000 I sent a request for information to the National Maritime Center in Arlington, Virginia for information about Charles Veach's Merchant Marine service and on 15 May 2000 a similar request was made to the National Personnel Records Center in St. Louis, Missouri.

The latter source denied that any records existed.

My 8 May 2000 request to the U.S. Coast Guard at the National Maritime Center included a copy of the Bryan County, Oklahoma Court Order dated 26 October 1972 in which the Court held that Charles Edward Veach was deceased. The Coast Guard declined to accept the Court's Order pointing out that the Social Security Administration's Death Index showed Charles died in Louisiana in 1996. However the Coast Guard's undated response, which was received on 21 July 2000, included photocopies of Charles' Merchant Marine employment records from 1946 to 1980, copies of his seaman's certificate applications for 1946, 1947, 1958 and 1980, his Merchant Marine certificate identification number, photographs of him, his fingerprints and his Social Security Number. The Coast Guard's response declined to release the remainder of his records based upon a claimed statutory exemption under the Freedom of Information Act.

On 24 July 2000 I appealed their denial to disclose further information on the basis that their response clearly indicated they already had an official record that Charles was dead. Therefore, there was no legal requirement for me to provide a certified copy of his death certificate. I also observed that based upon the current information they had sent me they had already compromised any privacy issues regarding the remainder of Charles' Merchant Marine files. (On 1 November 2001 I received a phone call from U.S. Coast Guard Chief Warrant Officer Robin Oullette, [202-267-2333] advising me that he had been assigned the appeal I filed in July 2000 and would respond shortly.¹⁷)

¹⁷United States Coast Guard Letter, dated 1 March 2002 signed by D. G. Taylor, FOIA Officer, advised that there was no record that Charles had served in the Merchant Marine earlier than January 1946 or during World War II. (An alternative possibly was that he had served as a seaman with the United States Army Transport Service during World War II. However, I was unsuccessful in resolving this

The additional information received showed that Charles first applied for a Merchant Mariner's Certification on 10 January 1946. The application showed his address was the same as his mother's in Holdenville, Oklahoma and that he had submitted an **ORIGINAL BIRTH CERTIFICATE FILED 3-4-1921 IN Bryan, Okla. Reg. No. 465.**" (NOTE: The Oklahoma Bureau of Vital Statistics earlier denied that an original record of his birth existed.)

He reapplied for seaman's papers on 16 October 1947 stating: "On October 15, 1947, in Merrill Stevens DD and Repair Company, Jacksonville, Fla. during the night somebody came into the forecandle and stole all my clothes including my seaman's papers." Duplicate seaman's papers were issued to him by the U.S. Coast Guard on 27 October 1947.

He filed a third application on 3 September 1958 to show that he had been certified as a "lifeboatman." Once again showing his mother's Holdenville address. His fourth and last application

was filed on 25 February 1980 and gives his address as 531 St. Louis St., Apt. #6, New Orleans, LA 70130.

These applications contain passport type photographs of Charles revealing how he aged over the years and describe him as 5'11" tall, weighing 168 to 175 pounds, race-white, brown hair and blue or green eyes. His employment records show he regularly served in the Merchant Marine from April 1946 until at least September 1980 primarily as a messman, wiper and ordinary seaman aboard mostly coastal shipping to ports on the Gulf and Atlantic coasts dispelling the myth that he had served during World War II and also dispelling any significant period of time on or about 1950 or 1951 when he allegedly underwent hospitalization and treatment for alcoholism and then forever "disappeared."

lead.)



In fact one can surmise an interesting chronological sequence of events in Charles' life which strongly refute much of the history recalled by the family. The available documentation shows he was **"unemployed"** in August 1945 when he first applied for a Social Security Number. He first applied for seaman papers on 10 January 1946. He was first employed as a Merchant Mariner on 21 February 1946 aboard the S.S. Monarch of the Seas sailing out of the Port of Beaumont, Texas. His employment record beginning with February 1946 and continuing through 13 September 1980 when his last ship, the Ogden Challenger, docked in Baton Rouge, Louisiana showed over 34 years of steady employment as a seaman. His first year, 1946, showed he had 332 days work at sea. Most other years during his career show he had well over 200 work days at sea with the exception of 1974 when he worked only 74 days. None of this information indicates that Charles Edward Veach **"disappeared"** about 1950 or 1951 as reported by family history.

Charles was at sea 150 days in 1950 and 212 days in 1951 during which time his Merchant Marine records show his home address was the same as his mother's Mayme (King) Veach in Holdenville, Oklahoma. The documentation does show that his mother died on or about 12 December 1969, that Charles was **NOT** a **beneficiary of her estate**, and that Mayme's estate was settled finally on 23 July 1970 by her Administratrix, sister and only heir, Johnnie Foote.

Charles' work record shows that he left Lake Charles, Louisiana on 23 October 1970 aboard the Rachel "V" operated by the Vantage Steamship Corporation and that the ship did not return to port at Mobile, Alabama until 7 January 1971. Those 7 days in 1971 are the only sea days on Charles record for 1971 and reflect the only significant gap in his work history when he might have been considered **"disappeared"** until he resumed work in April 1972. He had 184 sea days that year accumulated through October 1972 during which time, as the following shows, his father was busily engaged in Court having him declared legally dead so he, "Boss," could inherit some of Charles' personal property."

Charles' father, **"BOSS"** Veach, filed a petition in court to have Charles declared legally deceased on 12 May 1972 allegedly to collect \$3,000.00 in Social Security Checks but the Social Security Administration never issued checks to

Charles totaling that amount on or before his alleged disappearance in 1950 or 1951 or thereafter through the date of the Bryan County Court's proceedings. The final accounting of Charles' estate made by his father in July 1972 shows only \$3,000.00 in **"personal property,"** (not otherwise identified), was reported for State inheritance tax purposes.

On 8 May 2000 a letter was sent to the last known address for Charles E. Veach in New Orleans requesting any information that could be provided about Charles. A stamped return addressed envelope was enclosed but there was no response. In an effort to determine whether Charles had ever owned or rented the property at 612 Henry Clay Avenue in New Orleans, a letter dated 23 May 2000 was also sent to the Registrar of Conveyances in New Orleans but there was no response to this request either.

On 21 July 2000 I mailed a request for a copy of Charles' death certificate to the Bureau of Vital Statistics in Austin, Texas on the assumption that he may have died somewhere in Texas since his Merchant Marine employment records show the ships he worked on often docked at Galveston and Houston, Texas and other Gulf ports on the Texas coast. There was no record of Charles' death in Texas, Mississippi, Alabama or Florida the States where most of the seaports were located that he worked out of.

A careful analysis and investigation of all the evidence obtained revealed that the address given by the Social Security Administration as the last known address of Charles Edward Veitch, i.e., **"612 Henry Clay Ave., New Orleans, LA 70118-5818,"** was the identical mailing address of the New Orleans Home and Rehabilitation Center which is a facility of the Louisiana Department of Health & Hospitals. The Louisiana State Registrar's Office which is responsible for recording marriages, births and deaths also is a division of the Louisiana Department of Health & Hospitals. Since it appeared unlikely that the Center would have reported Charles E. Veach's death to the Social Security Administration and have neglected to report his death to the Louisiana State Registrar's Office another request was made for a copy of his death certificate to the Governor's Office on 1 December 2000 on the assumption that a record of Charles' death must exist somewhere within the Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals. This letter also requested information

about the name of the cemetery where Charles had been buried and the plot and grave number. I was notified that my letter to the Governor had been referred to the Administrator of the Louisiana Department of Health & Hospitals for further comment.¹⁸

Subsequently, on 11 January 2001, the Administrator of the Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals responded to my 1 December 2000 letter to the Governor's Office and confirmed that Charles Edward Veach had been admitted to the New Orleans Home & Rehabilitation Center from the Veterans Administration Hospital on 14 December 1994 and resided at the Center until 4 March 1996 when he was sent to the University Hospital in New Orleans with complaints of shortness of breath and over all weakness. On 13 March 1996 Charles reportedly "expired" at the University Hospital. However, the Louisiana State Registrar's Office still declined to issue a certified copy of Charles' death certificate even though a State facility admitted he had died within the boundaries of Louisiana. The University Hospital also reported that Charles' burial was handled by the Veterans Administration Medical Center who had also paid Charles' University Hospital medical bills "under contract." Their record did not show any surviving relatives. Their records did show that Charles left a "... **Bank Account at Whitney Bank. Their telephone number is 1-800-383-6538.**"¹⁹

On 16 January 2001 letters of inquiry were sent to both the University Hospital and the Veterans Administration Hospital in New Orleans. On 5 February 2001 the University Hospital reported that a search of their medical records at the University Hospital on Perdido Street and at the University's Charity Hospital on Tulane Avenue failed to reveal any information about Charles E. Veach.²⁰

On 12 February 2001 I responded to the University Hospital's letter noting that:

¹⁸Response from the Louisiana State Governor's Office.

¹⁹Response from the Louisiana Department of Health & Hospitals.

²⁰Response from Dorothy F. Jones, Health Information Supervisor, Medical Records Services, Louisiana State University Medical Center, New Orleans, Louisiana.

"Under the circumstances the hospital's admission that there is no record of his demise at either of your facilities appears to be extraordinary since the hospital already admitted that he "expired" at the hospital on 13 March 1996 and the Medical Records Services response clearly states that **"The medical record retention period for MCLNO is 20 years past the last date of treatment."** Since the New Orleans Home & Rehabilitation Center's letter shows [he] was treated at your hospital from 4 March 1996 until he died on 13 March 1996, a period of about 10 days, there must surely be some record available of his treatment, death and the disposition of his body. It does not appear that a very thorough search was made for the requested information." *Another search was requested but there was no response.*

On 8 February 2001 the Regional Office of the Department of Veterans Affairs in New Orleans, Louisiana notified me that my request for information had been referred to the Veterans Administration Medical Center for reply.

On 23 January 2001 a letter was sent to the unclaimed Property Section of the Louisiana Department of Revenue & Taxation to determine if Charles had left any unclaimed assets in Louisiana. On 25 January 2001 a letter was also sent to the Whitney Bank in New Orleans to try to learn what disposition had been made of Charles' account at that bank.

Both of these sources responded on 4 April 2001. The Unclaimed Property Division's response indicated that \$100.95 due Charles was being held by the Bellsouth Corporation. The Whitney National Bank's response indicated that they were holding an undisclosed amount of money deposited in Charles' account. Both letters stated they required a copy of Charles' Death Certificate and a Letter of Administration to release the funds. My response to both on 10 April 2001 was that it was impossible to comply with their requests due to the bureaucratic

negligence of the State of Louisiana in failing to properly record his death and the fact that to the best of my knowledge he had died in testate and, therefore, it was impossible to obtain a Letter of Administration from a Court.

On 16 April 2001 the Manager at the Morgan Branch of Whitney Bank responded that while he could not disclose the amount of Charles' money being held on account it "... will be worth the expense ... of hiring an attorney." I phoned him to discuss the matter further and he did disclose to my questioning that the amount of money being held by the bank was "in six figures." He also recommended the name of a local attorney who handled estates. I phoned the attorney who assured me there would be no problem for any potential heirs to inherit the estate, once they were identified, even though there was no certified copy of Charles E. Veach's death certificate.

Since it appeared that Charles had some kind of military service record that qualified him for treatment at a Veterans Administration Hospital prior to his death I inquired regarding the possibility that his body might have been interred at one of the National Military Cemeteries. However, on 21 March 2001 the National Cemetery Administration responded that: "We have found no record."²¹

Since the family history related by Relative Number 1 indicated that Charles had been hospitalized in the early 1950's to be "... dried out for alcoholism ..." I inquired further and this person recalled that Charles' father, Columbus, had made arrangements for Charles to be hospitalized at a Veterans Administration facility in Dallas, Texas based upon Columbus' military service during World War I. Therefore, on 12 April 2001 I sent an inquiry to the Veterans Administration in Dallas in an effort to verify this part of the family history. On 17 May 2001 the V.A. North Texas Health Care System responded that their files revealed no such records existed.

During the three year period of this genealogical investigation I also attempted to clarify Charles Edward Veach's correct date of birth with the Oklahoma State Department of Health. They insisted there was no record of his birth. However, they consistently refused to

search the year 1921 for any birth record. Instead, this Department insisted on limiting its birth record search to the years 1947 through 1999. After several years of being frustrated by Oklahoma's bureaucratic inertia, the incompetence and willful refusal to search in Charles' 1921 birth year I threatened the Department with media exposure of their obstinate stupidity and also sent them documentary evidence that an original birth record existed in 1946 when Charles submitted his original birth certificate at the time he made an application for Merchant Seaman's papers. On 13 March 2001 I received a copy of Charles' original birth record. It shows he was born 12 February 1921 rather than on the 11th as some of the other documentation showed. The copy of his original birth record further shows he was delivered by H. W. McKinney, M.D. Delivery was at his parents home three miles north of Durant, Oklahoma and he was shown as the first child of both parents. His father, Columbus E. Veach's, occupation was listed as "Farmer" and his race as "Indian." His mother, Mayme M. King's, occupation was listed as "Housewife" and her race as "White."²²

I started this genealogical investigation because the family history was intriguing and because I felt that it was virtually impossible for someone to "disappear without a trace" or to die alone, unnoticed, unrecorded and without anyone caring about their passing. I also wanted to determine if he had married and had children who continued this genealogical line of Veaches. I remain amazed at the final outcome for I had no inkling that Charles would have left a sizable estate. This fact alone would seem to indicate that he was not a chronic alcoholic as had been alleged. Moreover, his work history of working aboard ships for up to 2/3 or more of each year of his employment would further support a conclusion that he did not abuse "strong drink."

On 10 May 2001 at 2:30 p.m. Central Daylight Savings Time my investigation into Charles' disappearance took a bizarre turn. At that time I received a telephone call from Mr. Cornell Johnson, with the Veterans

²¹E-Mail Message from the National Cemetery Administration, 21 March 2001, public.inquiry@mail.va.gov Management Outreach Division.

²²Oklahoma State Department of Health, Bureau of Vital Statistics, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, Register No. 465, filed 4 March 1921 by Registrar J. L. Schooler, Copy certified 13 March 2001, by State Registrar of Vital Statistics, John C. Burks.

Administration Hospital in New Orleans. The phone call was in response to my inquiry regarding the status of my earlier request to the V.A. Regional Office in New Orleans which had been referred to the V.A. Hospital. Mr. Johnson stated that they had never received the referral and the first the V.A. Hospital knew of Charles Edward Veach's death was when they received my request for status dated 1 May 2001. Mr. Johnson further implied that the V.A. Hospital apparently had continued to pay "under contract" with the New Orleans Home and Rehabilitation Center for Charles' medical care and treatment for over 5 years after he died. Mr. Johnson and I then had a three way conversation with a supervisor at the University Hospital who confirmed that Charles had "expired" there on 13 March 1996. The supervisor was unable to tell us what had happened to Charles' body and suggested we contact the University Hospital's Medical Records Center which had already failed to provide any information. Mr. Johnson stated that the V.A. Hospital and Regional Office had never received any notice of Charles' death from either the University Hospital or from the New Orleans Home and Rehabilitation Center who were under contract with the V.A. Hospital to provide "hospice" care to Charles. Consequently, neither the V.A. Hospital nor Regional Office had any information about the disposition of Charles' body. Mr. Johnson said his V.A.H. phone number was 504-589-5290 and a further investigation would be conducted.

I filed a complaint on 15 June 2001 with the Inspector General of the Veterans Administration requesting an investigation of the disposition of Charles' body and also to learn why the VA continued to pay the State of Louisiana for his medical care for 5 years after he died.²³

However this strange odyssey was far from over. Relative Number 2 had phoned me on 10 June 2001 and related additional information about Charles. The recollection was that Charles had joined the Oklahoma National Guard in 1940 or early 1941. This would seem to be a natural thing for him to do since both his Father and Uncle had joined the Oklahoma National Guard prior to World War I. This person further recalled that Charles had been wounded during World War

II. This person also recalled that Charles was home on leave wearing an Army uniform before he went overseas and that he was wounded in action when a tank ran over one leg. A further recollection was that after the war Charles walked with a limp and that he was in a VA Hospital for postwar treatment in Waco, Texas. It was also remembered that during the years prior to his "disappearance" in 1950 or 1951 that Charles had lived in or near the Brownsville and Fort Worth, Texas areas. An inquiry was sent to the VA Regional Office in Waco, Texas on 12 June 2001 regarding Charles' postwar hospitalization. It seemed logical that Charles' VA hospitalization in 1994 was based on the eligibility of his Army World War II military service rather than Merchant Marine Service. *(However, this lead was not successfully resolved.)*²⁴

Military history shows that the Oklahoma National Guard was Federally mustered into the 45th Infantry Division on 16 February 1940 and was moved to Fort Sill, Oklahoma on 23 September 1940. After extensive training in Texas, Oklahoma and Louisiana the Division was sent overseas and took part in the North African campaign commencing on 23 June 1943. The 45th Division also invaded Sicily in July 1943 then Foggia, Italy in September 1943, fought at Anzio, Italy in January 1944, invaded Southern France on 15 August 1944 and later Germany in March 1945 before being sent home and deactivated on 7 December 1945 exactly four years after the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor. During the World War II period the 45th Division suffered 3547 killed in action and 14,441 wounded.²⁵

On the 19th of June 2001 I filed a request for Charles' World War II National Guard and Army records with the National Personnel Records Center in St. Louis, Missouri.²⁶ However, I was later denied access to these records because I did not have a "close enough" relationship to Charles E. Veach.²⁷ I filed an FOIA request for the same information on 17

²⁴Ibid, Footnote 17.

²⁵Military history of the 45th Infantry Division during World War II.

²⁶NARA Standard Form 180.

²⁷NPRC response dated 10 September 2001 but it showed Charles' Military Service No. 6 297 443.

²³VA OIG response dated 2 July 2001 acknowledged receipt of my complaint and notified me an investigation was opened under case Number 2001:HL-0814.

September 2001.

On 10 July 2001 I also sent a certified letter to the Morgue Administrator of the University Hospital in New Orleans requesting a copy of the morgue's records showing what disposition was made of Charles Edward Veach's body. There was no response, I did not receive a return receipt showing my certified letter was delivered and the United States Post Office has failed to respond to my request for a trace on the certified letter or to provide an explanation for what happened to my letter. The United States Post Office is now under Congressional Investigation for failure to timely deliver certified mail pursuant to my request to U.S. Senator Don Nickels dated 4 September 2001.

The Congressional investigation into the Veterans Affairs Office's handling of the case confirmed that Charles indeed had been buried in a New Orleans Potters Field. The investigation also established that as a result of the Congressional inquiry the University Hospital had earlier in the year (2001) prepared a death certificate and "... hand carried [it] to the State of Louisiana Bureau of Vital Statistics." This letter also reported that:

"Mr. Veach was buried in Potters Field Cemetery, Old Gentilly Road, New Orleans, Louisiana."²⁸

In May 2002 I received numerous medical reports about the medical treatment received by Charles from the Veterans Administration in New Orleans, Louisiana from 1988 until he died in March 1996. One medical report confirms the family story that he was wounded during World War II. The report shows he was receiving 30% service connected disability compensation for injuries he sustained to his left leg, knee and foot.²⁹

In July 2002 I received a belated response from the National Personnel Records Center in St. Louis, Missouri which as pertinent to my inquiry, stated:

²⁸Letter dated 23 November 2001 addressed to U.S. Senator James M. Inhofe from John D. Church, Jr., Medical Center Director, Department of Veterans Affairs, New Orleans, Louisiana.

²⁹Veterans Administration Medical Certificated dated 2 September 1988.

"Private Charles E. Veach enlisted in the Regular Army on July 11, 1939 in N. Gulf, Holdenville, OK. He was discharged on June 20, 1945 from Hammond General Hospital in Modesto, CA with rank of Private First Class ... the lists of medals that Private First Class Veach may have earned during his service are not available to this Center. The above information was obtained from an alternate records source.³⁰

Another National Personnel Records Center response to a follow up inquiry by my son confirmed the above information and further stated:

"From our available sources we can only verify the WW II Victory Medal and the WWII Honorable Service Lapel Button. Date of death is listed as March 13, 1996. No other information is available."³¹

The "six figure" unclaimed estate Charles left behind is now being enjoyed by his heirs. The estate was distributed late in October 2001 which foiled any attempt by the State of Louisiana to collect it.³²

A final note. The "Potters Field Cemetery" where Charles was buried is in Resthaven Memorial Park, 10400 Gentilly Road, New Orleans, LA 70127.³³

³⁰National Personnel Records Center letter dated 4 July 2002.

³¹National Personnel Records Center letter dated 18 October 2002 addressed to Lt. Col. W. A. Veitch. (Rank does shake the information tree a little more.)

³²E-Mail dated 25 October 2001 from Relative #1 and letter dated 1 November 2001 from Relative #2.

³³<http://www.yellowpages.com>