

# NKW Society News

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Adrian K. Hopkins issue Editor

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Dedicated to:

**Bertha F. Nuckolls & Grayson Co. VA her place of birth!**

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## First VA Nuckolls & Kindred Book By Bertha Frances Nuckolls

**B**ertha Frances Nuckolls b. August 29, 1889, d. December 24, 1957 at the age of 68. She was educated in Grayson County Virginia at Harrisburg College in Harrisburg Virginia. Bertha never married. She lived her life near the Nuckolls Healing Springs near Galax, VA.

After her education was made -- she went to Miami and worked for Henry Flagler (East Florida Railroad and developed Standard Oil with John D. Rockefeller) until she retired and returned to the Nuckolls Homestead after her mother died of pneumonia in 1941.

She looked after her father and sister Gay who was also still at home--became the matriarch--and was head Nuckolls

boss of our family from then on.

She was the keeper of the memorabilia of the family after her father died in 1947 and the farm was sold. All the stuff crammed into her little cottage

She fell in the early 40's and apparently broke her hip. Surgery was not successful and she had a severe limp and had to use canes/crutches to get around. Despite this injury she was almost entirely independent--raised a garden, did her own sewing, canning and collected materials for the Nuckolls chronology

I wish she were still alive--there are about a 1000 questions I would like to ask her now that I am one of the older history recorders.

Story by: James G. Nuckolls M.D. ; nephew of Bertha Galax, Virginia



Great picture--shows R to L Bertha & Glen Pless her nephew about 5 or 6yrs. Glen was born 1907-1995. Bertha's mother Leona Mitchell Cornett 1868-1941; & Bertha's mother's father Leona--Capt. William W. Cornett CSA--



Bertha 1889 — 1957  
Abt. Age 23

## New Updated Book Edition...ready early 2000!

Sandi Koscak has been working furiously to get all the data from the first printing of the book, First Virginia Nuckolls and Kindred updated. She has tackled this project with a zest that has too leave everyone in awe of her accomplishment.

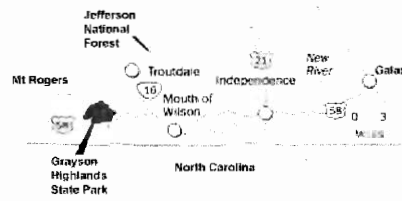
You will need to contact Sandi to **pre-order** your book copies. The finished book is 855 pages. Current NWK Society Members-One Book Only- \$13.00 (Thirteen) Additional Books, and Non Members- \$53.00 (Fifty Three) The Society is picking up the additional cost as a "benefit", "perk",

on a one time basis for the first book purchased for Active" Society members as of 12/31/1999. ALL additional books will be \$53.00. Write Sandi ASAP

# History of Grayson Co. Virginia

**G**rayson County, Virginia was authorized on November 7, 1792, but was not formally organized until 1793. It was named for William Grayson, who had served in The Continental Congress from 1784-1787 and was one of Virginia's first two United States Senators. The first permanent county seat was established at Old Town, in the eastern end of the present county. It was known, at the time, as Greenville, or Grayson Court House. When Carroll County was formed from the eastern district of Grayson in 1842, a debate ensued about where to locate the court house, there being a general consensus that a more centralized location was necessary. Independence was chosen in 1851

and has been the county seat since that time.



Grayson County's delegate to the constitutional convention of 1830 was William Oglesby (1785-1866).

Oglesby was a Lutheran merchant, in business with the **Nuckolls family**, owned 307

acres of land, 11 slaves, 5 horses. His business dealings resulted in his being one of the most prosperous members of the **Grayson Gentry**.

All through the early records of Grayson Co, VA you can find the **NUCKOLLS** family mentioned. Marriage records, Tax records, Land records and church records reveal a family that cared about their country and community. The men went to war the woman took care of the children.

A family that lived life to the fullest, one to be proud of.

## Galax, a city in Grayson Co., where Bertha grew up!

**T**he country surrounding Galax was settled principally by people of the Quaker faith, a majority of them coming up across the Blue Ridge from North Carolina after the battle of the Alamance in 1771, and the only wagon road across the mountain at that time was the Good Spur Gap road that reached the summit of the mountain at the old Morris Cemetery, near the present Fancy Gap Methodist Church, This road, being the first built, extended north, passing near Good

Hope church and on by the present Poor Farm In Carroll County and on north crossing the river at or near Jackson's Ferry and on connecting with the road leading east to west at Fort Chiswell in Wythe County.

By Frank M. Heaster

Excerpt from: 1906-1956

Golden Anniversary of Galax, Virginia



**Galax Street Scene**

## 'Good Ground Goin' to Waste!'

**W**hen the task of laying our the town was finished, a day was set for the opening of lot sales and a large crowd gathered for this opening sale. The most frequent expression heard from the crowd that day was "Why all these wide streets and sidewalks?; the town will never grow to where it needs street cars will be needed; it's just a wast of good ground."

When the crowd found that they could buy lots on the main part of town for \$100 to \$250 for

corner lots and could buy lots a couple of blocks back for \$50 they shook their heads and said it was entirely too much and many went home with the money in their pockets that they had brought with them for the purchasing lots.

By Frank M. Heaster

Excerpt from: 1906-1956

Golden Anniversary of Galax, Virginia



**Sheep going to market in Galax!  
'Good Ground Goin' to Waste!'**

## Grayson County Transportation and Roads... "You Cain't Git Thar Frum Here"

**G**rayson County Road Orders reflect. **1793** : Minitree Jones survey the road from the mouth of Elk Creek to the river at the dividing line between **Nuckolls** and Jones; William Blevins from thence to the top of the ridge beyond Mae's Branch; Abraham Hardwick from thence to the Carolina line.

**March 25, 1808**: Ordered that Robert Hill, Daniel Keith, John Patton, and Captain Robert Nuckolls view the ground proposed for a wagon road from **Grayson** Courthouse to low gap in Iron Mountain.

There were three types of roads in the early

days, bridle paths - wide enough to ride a horse comfortably on maintained by use or individual families or communities; roads - maintained by the county, wide enough for a wagon; and turnpikes which were wide enough for wagons to pass each other at almost any point, and were covered by boards for speed. Turnpikes were typically private enterprises, approved by the county courts, but owned by an individual or group of people for profit.

Road construction was not road construction in the modern sense of the term. The road jury in the earliest days simply cleared out the trees and underbrush along a particular route, wide enough for a wagon and horses to travel.

Roads were built along what was considered the best route, which was most beneficial to the wealthiest landowners, who owned the best land. Bottom land was the easiest to build roads through, however, they were subject to flooding and better locations were near the 100 year flood plain lines near the major streams. Note, that the wealthiest land owners who were also often members of the county courts used their positions to assist in their enterprises. In modern terms there was a severe conflict of interest in these actions, but it occurred on a routine basis.

## About the First Courthouse of Galax

**T**he land for the site of the first courthouse of Grayson County was furnished by Flower Swift and **Clark Nuckolls**. There were two courthouses built for the county. The last one is still standing and after the courthouse was moved to Independence, the building was occupied by William Waugh and used as a home and hotel. The little brick building across the street on the corner was built and used as the clerk's office but just when this building was erected I do

not know but it must be one of the oldest buildings standing in the county. After the court was moved to independence this building has been used for the post office, until just recently when it was discontinued.

This early county seat, ilke all others of its kind, was the scene of much happiness and also many tragedies, most of which have been forgotten by this present generation, but to try to relate any of them would not fit into this story.

The jail at this first courthouse was bull out of hewn logs. These logs were oak and they were so large that the hewn sides were 18 inches in width. The building was two stories and the partitions between the cells were of hewn logs also. The cells were small with high ceilings and for added protection the inside of the walls were driven thick with shop nails with high round heads that were driven so close to each other that they nearly touched. I never heard of anyone ever cutting his way out of this jail.

## Pictures of Early Galax during the lifetime of Bertha!



**Photo ca. 1916 showing Oxen and Automobiles in Galax**



**One of the First Factories in Galax - A Cannery**



**First School Building in Galax**



Dedicated to:  
Bertha F. Nuckolls & Grayson Co. VA her place of  
birth!

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[www.genweb.net/~nuck141/  
nuckolls.htm](http://www.genweb.net/~nuck141/nuckolls.htm)



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## God and Country and what it means to a man and woman!

**J**ohn Nuckolls married Mary Garland in approximately 1776 in Louisa Co. VA. All of the children of this couple were born in Louisa County VA and of the nine sons, seven of them settled in Grayson County VA.

2nd Generation, Robert Garland Nuckolls b. 1782 married Margaret Swift.

3rd Generation, Clark S. Nuckolls married Rosa Borne Hale.

4th Generation, Stephen Nathaniel Nuckolls married Leona Matilda Cornett.

5th Generation, **Bertha Frances Nuckolls** was born.

Growing up with a sense of family, faith and stability, Bertha turned out a book that has long been considered the *NUCKOLLS BIBLE*.

Everyone has been able to find help because of the years she worked tirelessly to complete her work. Where would we all be without her "road map"? I can only hope that as she

looks down from the portals of heaven and smiles. Her legacy lives on in print and on the Internet.

I hope that this issue has given you a peak into who this extraordinary woman was, where she grew up, lived and died. She was able to assemble thousands of pages of notes and letters that were sent to her from every where. Death took her before the manuscript could be completed. In the words of Sally Stetson Tongren, the editor of "First Virginia Nuckolls and Kindred," and taken from the Introduction of the same book.....

"Here, with humility and with deep affection and respect for Bertha Nuckolls and her labor of love, is the First Virginia Nuckolls and Kindred."

Soon to be released in early 2000 at the start of a new millennium!



CLARK NUCKOLLS AND WIFE, ROSA BORNE HALE

Clark and Rosa Nuckolls  
Grand Parents to Bertha

NEAL