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# NUCKOLLS NEWS

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Researching Nuckolls, Nuckols, Nuckles, Knuckles

March, 2002

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## Abner Clopton Nuckols

### The Life of a Great Man

Abner Clopton Nuckols was born May 31, 1841 in Goochland Co, Centerville, Virginia, the son of Joseph Nuckols and Phoebe Watkins.

*Goochland Co. Wills 1856 to 1879 17 Apr. 1869 will of Joseph Nuckols of Goochland Co. Mentions wife Phebe, to which Joseph gives all the land on which he now lives plus 25ac on the Rudy Branch and all livestock, furniture and appliances, after her death to go to son **Abner Nuckols**. Money divided between sons, Henry, Jacob, Abner, and Dau. Susan, wife of Benjamin C. Spillez. Also mentions Dau. Martha, wife of Frederick Dabney, Julia A., wife of William Winfree, Killy, wife of Isaiah C. Daniel and son Joseph. Children Pouncy and Mary, wife of Jacob Willhoir are mentioned separately as that they have already received their inheritance (and we believe are from a different wife). Abner Nuckols named executor. Witnesses, R. G. Parish, Pleasant C. Pollard. Will proved 3 Sept. 1877.*

**A**bner answered the call of his Country when he enlisted May 20, 1861 in Manakin as a Private in Co "F" of the 23<sup>rd</sup> Virginia Infantry, Field and Staff Support Division. The Goochland Grays enlisted 21 May 1861 at Manakin by Captain William F. Harrison. They were mustered at Camp Lee. During the course of the war a total seventy-eight (78) men served in the company. Nine (9) officers, nine (9) sergeants, four (4) corporals, fifty-six (56) privates. Greatest strength at muster, sixty-three (63) in May - June 1861, only three (3) men at Appomattox Court House.

On May 3, 1861, Virginia's Governor, John Letcher, called for assembly of Virginia's Volunteer Companies, and by proclamation entreated the citizenry to defend Virginia's borders against a threatened Northern invasion. The same day, General Lee began to issue orders to designated counties and cities to mobilize Virginia volunteers. He also stated in the orders, that as fast as

they could be mustered they would then be ordered to report to the camp of instruction near Richmond.

In late May of 1861, the 23rd Virginia Infantry Regiment was organized and began a program of drill and instruction at Camp Lee, located on the current site of the Richmond Fairgrounds. Ten companies enlisted for one year. By the muster of April 1862, Abner was promoted to 2<sup>nd</sup> Sergeant. He was Brigade Commissary Sergeant.



**G**oochland  
Grays

### 54 men became the Goochland Grays

#### Looking Back

by Melinda Gammon

Day dawned bright and clear in Manakin 135 years ago this week - May 20, 1861. Daylight signaled the beginning of what was to be a busy day in the little Goochland town. Before day's end 54 men from the Manakin-Dover Mines area would turn out to enlist in the newly formed Army of Virginia, a division of the armies which made up the Confederate States of America. The turnout, as many throughout the state, was a joyous event, though hectic. Southern men flocked to enlistment centers in a mad rush to join in the fighting before the War Between the States; the War of Northern Aggression, the Civil War ended. Time and death only could prove these beliefs were ill founded for both sides, but in May, 1861, hopes were high. The men showed up in Manakin that day were to be entrusted with an important part of the Southern defense. They were destined to be sent north to protect Virginia's borders from invasion by Federal forces.

South Carolina had seceded from the Union a scant five months prior, in December of 1860. Mississippi, Alabama,

Georgia and Louisiana had followed a month later in January, 1861. In February, the Confederate States of America was formed and Jefferson Davis was elected president. Other southern states, including Virginia, soon joined the confederation.

On April 12, 1861, Fort Sumter was taken by the Confederacy. The war had begun. On May 3, Robert E. Lee, who had resigned his post with the United States Army, declaring he must follow his mother state, had issued orders to Colonel J.B. Baldwin to "call and muster into the service of the State volunteers" from several Virginia counties, one of which was Goochland. On May 23, two dates after the enlistment in Manakin, Virginia voted to secede.

The 54 men who enlisted at Manakin were mustered in at Camp Lee in Richmond, the old fairgrounds, on May 27. These men, known as the Goochland Grays, were to become Company F, one of the nine companies in the 23rd Virginia Infantry. William F. Harrison was elected company captain.

The company was fraught with difficulties from the onset, the anticipation of "whipping the Yankee" soon gave way to the realities of war. Captain Harrison was faced with insubordination, outdated weapons and desertions from the very beginning. On June 7, Harrison wrote home saying "I ... never had so much trouble in my life ... several of my men left without leave tonight."

Despite these problems, Harrison persevered and, on June 9, Company F left Richmond by rail and moved through Louisa and Charlottesville. At midnight, the train arrived in Staunton. Two days later, the company marched out of the Shenandoah Valley through McDowell to Camp Laurel Hill (now in West Virginia), covering 120 miles by foot.

Harrison's early problems would be just a drop in the bucket, however. These were still the early days of the war. Officers were attended by black servants, ate from linen covered tables and drank from silver cups. Luxuries which would too quickly become half remembered trivialities in the harder days ahead.

The 23rd Virginia engaged in its first battle at Laurel Hill, and Captain Harrison was wounded. After a Confederate defeat at nearby Rich Hill, the 23rd Virginia was ordered to withdraw. This retreat would be the last for the next six months. In those months, the men of Company F learned intimately the names of places of which many may never had heard - Carricks Ford, Cheat Mountain and Greenbrier River were burned into their memories and haunted their dreams for years.

On December 8, 1861, Company F, pitched tents near Winchester. The men had marched 700 miles through mud, rain, sleet and snow. Three from their ranks had been captured or died. Another three had been discharged and others had deserted.

The following April, Thomas S. Michaels was elected captain, replacing Captain Harrison, who had resigned.

The next year, 1862, saw Company F in action in some of the war's most decisive battles - McDowell, Second Manassas, Sharpsburg, Fredericksburg and Chancellorsville.

On May 4 of the following year, 1863, the 23rd Virginia left the Rapidan with 250 men. Twenty-eight of the 54 men who had enlisted at Manakin, two years earlier, marched with the unit. Their destination would be Gettysburg, Pennsylvania. During the three-day battle in July, the 23rd Virginia drove the Federals from their trenches and occupied these until late in the morning of July 3 when the order to retreat came down.

Unlike most of the companies who saw action in Gettysburg, Company F, losses were few in comparison. Disaster courted the company, however, and the price was paid in lives at the Wilderness and Spotsylvania Courthouse, where the 23rd Virginia suffered 153 losses. Of the remaining few you had joined the army in Manakin, five men were captured and two were killed.

Unable to hold back the Union forces at the Battle of Petersburg on April 2, 1865, the 23rd Virginia was ordered to retreat to Danville. Company F retreated, leaving more of their comrades behind.

On April 3, the 23rd was camped at Winterham Manor, just east of the Appomattox River. Six days later, on April 9, 1865, General Robert E. Lee surrendered to General U.S. Grant and, though battles were still being fought on the western front, for all intents and purposes, the war was over.

The total 23rd Virginia roster for the course of the war lists 1,090 men. Of these, only 24 certified to be in line of battle upon surrender. Of the 54 men who had enlisted in Company F at Manakin, three appear on the parole at the time of the surrender at Appomattox Courthouse. Ten were prisoners of war, 19 had been wounded, and nine others had died. Others had been discharged or had deserted. General Gordon led the 23rd Virginia, which was among the first units to pass in surrender. Arms were stacked with battle flags folded on the musket stacks. The 23rd Virginia tore its battle flag to shreds rather than surrender it.

General Lee told his men "go to your homes and resume your occupations. Obey the laws and become as good citizens as you were soldiers." For Company F, the fighting was over.

**A** bner Clopton Nuckolls was captured July 11, 1864 near Washington, DC. "I have done some poking around to see what was happening near Washington on July 11, 1864, the day Grandpa Ab was captured, and found out that would have been Gen. Jubal Early's raid on Washington. In June Lee was facing

Grant at Cold Harbor and sent Early west to engage federal forces and draw support away from Richmond. Early moved to Lynchburg and then north down the Valley, defeating two Union forces on the way. By July 11th he had crossed into Maryland and was approaching Washington from the northwest. At the Monocacy River he met Union Gen. Lew Wallace (who wrote Ben Hur) who offered stiff enough resistance to delay Early's advance until reinforcements from Richmond arrived by water. In the confusion and uncertainty opposing units often splintered and passed by opposing forces to find themselves cut off. I suspect this is what happened when he was captured, wagon-sergeant, at the age of 23 and a long way from home." (*From great grandson, Bill Davis bildav@montana.com*)

### After Abner was Captured he was sent to Old Capitol Prison.



The Old Capitol Prison was located on the present site of the U S Supreme Court building. First Street and "A" Street NE, Washington, DC. The building was

erected about 1800 as a tavern and boarding house. It remained as such until the British burned the U S Capitol Building in 1814, during the War of 1812. On 8 December 1815 the U S Congress leased this building for their use. In 1817 President James Monroe was inaugurated on a platform outside the Brick Capitol, as this building became known. By 1825 the new U S Capitol building was built and this temporary structure became, among other things, a boarding house, a school, and a hotel at times. It also became known as the Old Capitol. IN 1853, Senator Isaac P Walker (Wisc), Representative Orlando B Flicking (Ill), and Representative Sampson W Harris (AL) resided in Mrs Hill's Old Capitol.

By the time of the American Civil War in 1861 it was a vacant building again. During the civil war this building again was inhabited, this time as the Old Capitol Prison. It housed both Confederate and Union Prisoners as well as prisoners of state. Some famous prisoners were Belle Boyd and Rose O'Neal, confederate spies, Captain Henry Wirz, commander of the infamous confederate Andersonville prison in Georgia, and the 14 April 1864 Lincoln assassination conspirators. Capt Henry Wirz was hanged 10 November 1865 in the Old Capitol Prison yard, and was the only Confederate tried and hanged for war crimes. He is buried at the Mt Olivet Cemetery, Washington, DC. Four of the Lincoln conspirators were hanged in the prison yard. There were eight conspirators with Booth. Booth died in a twelve day chase with the Union Army. Lewis Paine, George Atzerodt, David Herold and Mary Surratt were hanged in the yard of the Old Capitol Prison on 7 July 1865. Between 1929 -1932 the first permanent and the current U S Supreme Court Building was built for about \$9.5 million on the land where the Old Capitol Prison once stood.(Source-----

<http://www.mgl.ca/~sroberts/oldcapitolprison.html>

From the Old Capitol Prison, Abner Nuckols was transferred to **Elmira Prison.**



In May 1864 the U.S. War Department learned there were vacant barracks in Elmira, N.Y., that had been used as a rendezvous point earlier in the war. Men were sent to encircle the camp with a stockade fence and make it into Elmira Prison. By July about 700 Confederate prisoners were being transferred there from Point Lookout, Md., and other overcrowded Federal prisons, and before the end of August they numbered almost 10,000 enlisted men.

Living conditions were bad from the start, with insufficient shelter-the barracks held only half the prisoners; the others were crowded into tents, even in winter-and with a serious sanitary situation presented by a stagnant pond stretching the length of the enclosure, into which sinks drained. The 40-acre camp was below the level of the Chemung River, which bordered it, making drainage difficult.

The prisoners' diet lacked vegetables, and by August

there were 793 cases of scurvy. Dr. Eugene F. Sanger, camp surgeon and commandant, feuded constantly about unfilled needs and 1 Nov. 1864 wrote U.S. Army Surgeon General Joseph K. Barnes: "Since August there have been 2,011 patients admitted to the hospital and 775 deaths. . . . Have averaged daily 451 in hospital and 601 in quarters, and aggregate of 1,052 per day sick. At this rate the entire command will be admitted to hospital in less than a year and thirty-six percent die."

Winter was severe and prisoners suffered greatly before additional barracks were completed. New prisoners brought the total number confined to 12,122 by 12 May 1865, the last day captives arrived. On 1 July the officer in charge made this accounting of those prisoners of war: released, 8,970; still in hospital, 218; died, 2,917; escaped, 17. 10 escapees had spent 2 months digging a tunnel 66 ft long under the stockade perimeter, and at 4 a.m., 7 Oct. 1864, had crawled through to freedom.

Of the 12,122 soldiers imprisoned at Elmira, 2,963 died of sickness, exposure and associated causes. The camp was officially closed on July 5, 1865. All that remains today of Elmira Prison is a well kept Cemetery along the banks of the Chemung River.

Source: [The Historical Times "Encyclopedia of the Civil War."](#)

**A** bner told stories to his family about eating rats while in prison at Elmira. The following is another story told by a prisoner at Elmira.

*[The following document comes from the Confederate Veteran, a magazine published throughout the South from the 1890s until the 1940s. It comes from Volume ? which contains writings from the year 1926, page 379.]*

By F.S. Wade, Elgin, Tx

If there ever was a hell on Earth, Elmira Prison was that hell, but it was not a hot one, for the thermometer was often 40 degrees below zero. There were about six thousand Confederate prisoners, mostly from Georgia and the Carolinas. We were housed in long prison buildings, say one hundred and twenty feet long and forty feet wide, three tiers of bunks against each wall. A big coal stove every thirty feet was always kept red hot; but for these stoves, the most of us would have frozen. Around each stove was a chalk mark, five feet from the stove, marking the distance we should keep, so that all could be warm. We were thinly clad and not half of us had even one blanket. Our rations were ten ounces of bread and two ounces of meat per day. My weight fell from 180 to 160 in a month. We invented all kinds of traps and dead falls to catch rats. Every day Northern ladies came in the prison, some followed by dogs or cats, which the boys would slip aside and choke to death. The ribs of a stewed dog were delicious, and a broiled rat was superb.

One day I was at the guardhouse when about thirty-five of our boys had on barreled shirts, guards marching them around. A barreled shirt was made by knocking out the

head of a barrel then cutting a hole in the other head and putting it on the body. On these barreled shirts was written in big letters, "Stole a dog," "Stole a cat," "Stole a ration," "Stole a fur," etc. If a lady's fur was not fastened on, the boys would grab it, and some of them had been caught.

All the Yankees soldiers were not cruel. The chalk marks were drawn around the stoves so that all could get some of the heat. One day a poor sick boy lay down near the chalk line and went to sleep. In his sleep he threw his leg over the chalk line. A big guard caught him by his shoulder and threw him against the wall, making his nose bleed. I popped my big fist against the guard's jaw, knocking him heels over head. He ran out cursing me. Of course I was scared. In a few minutes, a captain came in with a file of soldiers, having the guard I had assaulted of the party, and asked: "Where is the man who knocked this soldier down?" I stepped out and said: "I am the man." Then I called up the sick boy and made him lie down, and I told the captain it made me so mad to see this poor boy so brutally treated that I could not help punishing the bully. He said to our men: "Has this man told the truth?" A dozen of our men stepped forward and said that they would swear that I had related the scene correctly. The captain slapped me on the soldier and said to the brute: "I will put you in the guardhouse." I was called before a court-martial, and, being sworn, related the whole matter as it occurred. The Judge Advocate said to the bully: "You will wear a ball and chain for thirty days and forfeit your pay for a month for brutality to a prisoner."

Good luck cam to me after I had been in this prison, say, a month. Some good Yankee ladies got up a lot of old schoolbooks and established a prison school, and I was appointed one of the teachers, the pay to be an extra ration. I soon got back me twenty pounds of flesh. This was the best pay I ever got for a job in my life.

My father and mother lived in Illinois. I wrote them my starving condition, and they sent me a big box of grub, and told me in their letter that my Uncle Jones lived in Utica, N.Y. I at once wrote him. He sent me a splendid pair of boots, and said that he could come to see me. He was what was called a "Copperhead," as he was opposed to the war, and could not get a pass. Then he smuggled a letter to me, asking me to be at the corner of a certain ward at sunset that day, and he would climb up on the observatory, a building outside the prison walls. At sundown, I saw a large old man slowly climb to the top of the observatory. On reaching the top, he faced me. We took off our hats and saluted. He slowly climbed down, with his handkerchief to his eyes. That was the only time I ever saw my dear uncle.

My dear comrade, Jimmie Jones, took smallpox and was sent to the smallpox hospital. I was immune and got permission to help nurse him. A young Chinese physician, by the name of Sin Lu, had just become a Mason. Jim and I were very proficient in the work. We

became great friends. One day the doctor went over to Lake Erie, a few miles away. The next day he told me to go to Jim's room. To my great surprise, Jim was sitting in a coffin with a white sheet around him. He handed me a paper of flour and said: "Sprinkle my face and hands with flour, then slightly fastened the coffin lid down, and when the dead wagon comes around, be sure to put my coffin on top of the other dead." Soon the dead wagon, driven by a Negro, came up. I got help and put Jim's coffin on top. It was forty years before I saw Jim again at a reunion of Greene's Brigade at Cuero, Texas; but a day or two after, I got a letter from Jim telling me about his experiences. He said when the dead wagon got out of the prison walls, he raised the coffin lid rapped on it, and said in a sepulchral voice: "Come to judgment." The darky looked around, jumped off the wagon, eyes like saucers, yelling: "Ghosties! Ghosties! Ghosties!" As soon as the darky was out of sight, he stripped off his sheet wiped the flour off his face and hands, took one of the horses out of the wagon, mounted and galloped to Lake Erie, where he found a boat awaiting him, and was soon in Canada.

Soon after, an order was issued for all prisoners from the subjugated States of Missouri, Kentucky, West Virginia, and Louisiana, to report for parole. All that night I rolled over in my bunk and wished that I was from one of those states. Just before daylight, I had another inspiration. I slipped on my clothes, ran to the office where the prison rolls were kept, and asked the officer in charge to turn to the entry of a certain date. I ran my finger down the list till I came to the name, "F.S. Wade, sergeant of McNill's Texas Scouts." I said to the officer: "I will give you \$10 to erase Texas and substitute Louisiana." Said he: "Show me the money." I started to take it out of my vest pocket, but he put his hand over mine and saw the "X." Then he made the change, and I walked out with my parole.

Soon an officer came in my ward and called me name for parole. I stepped out and fell in line. The boys in the prison kept saying: "He always sand he was from Texas." But I kept mum.

**A** bner Clopton Nuckols was released from Elmira Prison on June 14, 1865 and returned to his home in Goochland County, VA.. He met an married Martha "Mattie" Clarke English on January 20, 1869 in Goochland Co, VA. Martha was born December 6, 1849, the daughter of Joseph Jackson English and Martha E Clarke.



Martha Clarke English

Abner Clopton Nuckols

**A** bner and Mattie had eight children. Graham, Verna, Irene Clopton, Mabel, Buford, Lawton, Mason, and Stewart.

#### FIVE GENERATION HOMESTEAD



The following article was taken from THE SOUTHERN PLANTER, a semi monthly newspaper in Richmond Virginia dated April 1, 1928.

#### Balanced Farming Keeps Five Generations On The Land

Dr Bailey, in his delightful book, "The Harvest", suggests that a record be taken of the grandfather farms in existence. His idea is to determine the length of time that the same family of people have remained on the farm. In Henrico County Virginia, there is a great-great grandfather farm....

#### The Fifth Generation Starts Farming

This farm is owned by **O N Nuckols** and it was purchased by his grandfather in 1849. His grandfather died in 1857 when his father took charge. Mr Nuckols and his two sons now run the farm. The seven year old son of Forrest Nuckols enrolled as a member of a 4-H Club with County agent L M Walker, Jr, thus the fifth generation is taking its place in farming

### The Fourth Generation Remains On The Land

In this day and time when the tendency for boys to leave the farm it is interesting that two of the three sons of **Mr and Mrs Nuckols** are remaining on the land. It was made possible through making the boys feel that they had an important part in the management of the place. There has never been any actual division of work, livestock or crops. **Mr Nuckols** said, "We all work together. There is no division of duties. The idea is to make the whole farm a success." I think this explains why the boys have remained on the farm.

### The Farm Is Outstanding

This farm of 343.3 acres of which is cleared except about 100 acres, is an unusual one in many particulars. As one goes about the farm, it is easy to see that it is not an ordinary one. The fence rows, creek and ditch banks are clean; the fields not plowed for spring planting are covered with grass or small grains; there are no piles of manure around the barns, it has been spread uniformly over the fields with manure spreaders; hog lots are fenced off and properly cropped; water is piped to the house and barns; individual drinking cups are in the dairy barn; the land for spring planting is plowed during the winter; a good herd of dairy cows is to be seen; wonderfully built mules and mule colts are bred and raised; dairy calves and freshening heifers for sale and replacement purposes are found; the smokehouse is filled with well-smoked pork; in February the firewood for next year is already provided; bluegrass pastures are thriving; there is an abundance of corn, oats, stover, hay and grain; well housed machinery necessary for all farm operations is found; and hospitality in an abundance is dispensed in a well-ordered home.

### Balanced Farming The Feature

I asked County Agent Walker, what, in his opinion, was the outstanding characteristic of the **Nuckols** farm. He replied, "Diversification-they produce practically everything they use." There is always something to sell. Improved methods of farming that have proved to be successful are followed. There is no hurry, but things get done. The home is well provided for. Livestock raising is combined with crop production and there is nearly always crop and livestock to sell. Conditions are such as one could expect to find on a well-managed, efficiently operated farm that is made to pay its expenses and return a profit. There is no lavish expenditure of funds, each dollar spent is made to show a profitable return. In my opinion, one of the greatest factors of **Mr Nuckols'** success is shown by one of his last statements he made before Mr Walker and I left. In speaking of hired hands, he said, "The important thing to determine is how a man balances up. Every man has both faults and good traits." He has the ability to manage men. There is no greater attribute a man can possess when it comes to running a farm successfully.

When I remarked upon their improved type of poultry house, Mr Nuckols told me that one of his sons had attended a short course at Blacksburg and when he came back, he built the poultry house. One of his sons managed the farm of the Reform School at Maidens Virginia for a

few months. He found out there that dairying was a profitable business. He returned to his fathers farm and started a dairy which is proving to be very remunerative.

### Profitable Dairy Herd

The dairy herd last February consisted of thirty cows in milk, ten strippers and eight dry cows. They are mostly Holsteins but there are some Guernseys. Twenty-five of the cows are pure-bred and the others good grades. **Mr Nuckols** stated that when he first started in the dairy business he saved but a small percentage of his calves as he kept the calves **only** from the best cows. He has built his herd up to the point where he can keep practically all of the calves as all of his cows are high producers.

He has a modern thirty-cow dairy barn, silos and the necessary arrangements for cooling and aerating the milk. The individual drinking cups for the cows supply water in abundance at all times. The cows are fed a twenty-three percent commercial dairy feed. The roughages used are shredded corn stover, soybeans, alfalfa and mixed hays. The cows are run on a sixty acre bluegrass pasture. This pasture is ten years and is getting better each year. **Mr Nuckols** sends on the average, ninety-five gallons of milk per day to the Richmond market. The regular farm hands and Mr Nuckols and his sons do the milking. However, one man, A H Fuller, gives his entire time to looking after the cows and the young dairy stock. He takes great pride in the herd and is not satisfied unless each animal gets the best of care.

### Sale of Cows Gives Good Returns

**Mr Nuckols** sells about twelve fresh cows each year. He saves all heifer calves and keeps them until they freshen. Some are then sold and some are added to the herd. The sale of fresh cows is an important source of income to the farm....

### Cows Replace Tobacco

**Mr Nuckols** raised tobacco until six or seven years ago. He stopped raising it because of the method of selling. "There is no competition in buying. Nobody wants it but the tobaccoists. It is not true with other farm commodities. There are a number of people who want them. Tobacco from one pile when sold in different lots on the same floor the same day often brought me entirely different prices", stated **Mr Nuckols**. He stopped raising tobacco and went into the dairy business. "It makes a man work every day. However, it is more profitable than the other kinds of farming. That is the reason I went into it. One of the biggest assets of a dairy herd is that it helps to build up the land. The feed produced can be fed and the manure returned to the place."

### Superior Mules Raised

**Mr Nuckols** has a hobby. It is raising mule colts. He has two pure-bred Mammoth Jacks. There are no better bred individuals to be found. He now has eight

yearling mule colts, six coming two, and three coming three. The appearance of these animals shows that they are of superior breeding. **Mr Nuckols** has been raising mules all his life and will continue to so even though for the last five years there has been but little profit in them.

*(Ab's ggranddaughter Betty Nuckols (Abner, Stuart, Berger) in Virginia is that in the early 1900's Uncle Stuart would send out a buggy leading a jack to make the rounds of farms to breed mares that were in season. During the same period my grandfather Forrest, living about six miles away was sent out by his father Oscar, to do the same thing. To have two such closely related families engaged in the same business almost as competitors while they were trading farm work seems a bit unusual. I wonder, but will never know, if they worked together to coordinate their rounds. What it does show is that they dealt with horses and mules on a commodity basis. I have seen my grandfather glance at a group of twenty or so loose horses and instantly give a rundown of the pluses and minuses of each one. As commissary sergeant Ab would have had to organize large groups of men, wagons, and livestock, and I think that legacy was probably passed on to his descendants, even to me, however diluted. In my first years here in Montana I got a job packing mules for an outfitter, mostly on the basis of a simple statement that "I knew stock". Years later I was told by that outfitter that I was the best hand with mules that he ever had. But it was nothing that I did, or had to work at. It was just a way of walking and moving that I had received from those earlier ones who had to be good at it to survive.)* **Bill Davis, great great grandson of Abner Clopton Nuckols Jan 2003**

#### Hogs Raised on Pasture

**Mr Nuckols** keeps six or seven sows. He finds it more profitable to sell weaning pigs than to keep and fatten them. Only a few farmers raise pigs in this section. He grazes his hogs on alfalfa, clover mixture, soybeans and rape. He keeps mostly pure-bred Durocs. He raises all his own pork. Last fall 4,200 pounds of pork was saved for his own use.

The article goes on to say how he raises his own feed, uses good varieties, and profits from Alfalfa. The yield of the crops are well above average for the state. Manure is hauled out every day and they own machinery for every operation.

#### Attractive House

The house is at least 150 years old and it is typical of the houses built during that period. It is attractively furnished and has running water and bathroom fixtures. It is here that the influence of Mrs Nuckols is seen and her part in making the farming operation successful is not difficult to realize.

#### Influential Citizen

Mr Nuckols is not only a good farmer...he is an influential citizen. He is respected in his community. When the good of the community is concerned he is ready to serve and is generally called on. He has been a member of the County

Board of Supervisors for eighteen years and was manager of road construction for seventeen years prior to being made a supervisor. It is easy to see how this farm has become as great-great-grandfather farm. It is no wonder than five generations have remained on the land.

**A** bner Nuckols died November 1, 1924, exactly three months and eleven days after the death of Mattie. His pastor, T N Moody In Johnson Springs, Virginia wrote this eulogy...

#### A GOOD MAN GONE TO HIS REWARD

The subject of this sketch, Abner C Nuckols, was born May 31, 1841. He departed this life, to enter upon the better and fuller life on November 1, 1924, fulfilling four score and three years with the richness and nobility of Christian manhood. He lived his entire life and died in the home in which he was born; which is located on a large productive farm in the eastern portion of Goochland county, VA. This farm was owned and the house built by his Grandfather Nuckols, about 150 years ago, and has passed down to his posterity until now the fifth generation is being reared in the home, which is a stately two-story brick building of colonial type.\* (located on the road from Goochland Baptist Church to Centerville, no longer standing, 9-8-2001).

Brother Nuckols was married Jan 20 1869, to Miss Hattie Clark English, a daughter of J J English, of Richmond, VA. To this happy union there were five sons and three daughters born, six of whom remain to mourn the loss they have sustained in the death of their father. They are Mrs H M Nuckols, Mason Nuckols, and Lawton Nuckols, of Richmond, Mrs O N Nuckols, of Henrico county, and B D Nuckols, and Stuart Nuckols, of Goochland County.

He was blessed with the living and faithful companionship of his wife until just fifteen weeks before his death, when she crossed over to await his coming and to greet him in their heavenly home. He answered the call of his country and gave five of the best years of his life to the cause of the confederacy, where he made for himself an enviable record of loyalty to the cause and a faithful soldier. Immediately after the surrender he returned to the old homestead and took up farming for a life's occupation, finally purchasing all interests in the plantation and made marvelous success at his chosen vocation.

Early in his life he was converted and joined Goochland Baptist Church, of which he remained a member until his death. He served his church in the capacity of both deacon and treasurer, and taught a Sunday-School class for more than forty years. It is a common expression to hear men of middle age say of him, "He was my Sunday-School teacher when I was a young man.". He was ever loyal to his church and was faithful in attendance upon its worship. He loved the gospel and allowed only adverse circumstances to hinder his attendance upon its proclamation. His consecration was superb, but of an unassuming and humble type. In

public worship he was reserved, and yet there always radiated from his presence and influence that gave strength to an assembly.

In his life, as a Christian, as a citizen, as the head of a household, as a neighbor and as a friend, he built for himself a monument that will perpetuate his name and influence forever.

He numbered his friends with his acquaintances. He never spoke evil of any man, but believed there was something good in every one. He never frowned upon the most wayward, but always had a smile and a pleasant word for all.

In him purity and truth seemed to be tangible things, for he lived pure and spoke true.

His father subscribed for the Religious Herald immediately after it was established, and he continued the subscription throughout his life, so that the herald has been a weekly visitor in the home through all the years of its existence. He was a faithful reader of the paper and loved to pursue its pages second only to his Bible.

It was the writer's privilege to know Brother Nuckolls for a period of only five years, but I know that my life, as is true in the lives of all who knew him, has been made better and richer in Christian graces by having been associated with him.

His funeral was conducted by the writer, in his home, from whence his remains were borne to the family burying ground on the old homestead, and gently placed beside those of his companion, there peacefully to sleep till the resurrection morning.

"His spirit with a bound  
left its encumbering clay,  
His tent at sunrise, on the ground,  
a darkened ruin lay."  
"But as the sun in all his state  
illumined the eastern skies,  
He passed through Glory's morning gate  
and walks in paradise."

\*\*\*\*\*

I want to thank Bill Davis and his mother Ada-Clark Nuckolls Davis for providing most of the information for this article.

Continued Next Issue:  
1880 Census  
**New Next Issue**  
Cemetery Transcriptions  
**New Found Connections**



# Prayers of Sympathy

Alfred Norman Nuckolls  
died December 31, 2001 in Lancaster CA. He was born Oct 1, 1922 in Pulaski Co, Dixon, Missouri to William Caswell Nuckolls and Buella May Goodman. He was a grandson of James E Nuckolls and Mary Alice Hardison and a great-grandson of Caswell Benjamin Cobb Nuckolls . Line of John Nuckolls and Mary garland.



# W

elcome  
New Society members:

**Suellen Watkins**  
2177 Lawndale Ave  
Columbus, OH 43207  
614-443-0662  
[ewatkin@columbus.rr.com](mailto:ewatkin@columbus.rr.com)  
(From the line in the above obit. Suellen was the niece of Alfred.)

**Janie Campbell**  
1200 Lincoln St #426  
Bellingham, WA 98226-5742  
360-756-8053  
[alaskacampbells@msn.com](mailto:alaskacampbells@msn.com)

**Peggy Little**  
2637-6 Elliot Way  
Melbourne, FL 32935  
[tomorpeg@earthlink.net](mailto:tomorpeg@earthlink.net)



## Welcome

New Society members: *Continued*

### Charles Ray Harper

P O Box 1 Red House, VA 25168

[CharlesRay1@aol.com](mailto:CharlesRay1@aol.com)

(John Nuckles, Tazewell Co, VA)

### Sharon (Shari) Lytton

121 SW Logan St, Ankeny, IA 50021

515-964-0227

[Lyttonbs@aol.com](mailto:Lyttonbs@aol.com)

(not submitted her line)

### George L Hunsaker

6908 Isleta Blvd SW, Albuquerque, NM 87105

505-873-2223

[hunsaker78@aol.com](mailto:hunsaker78@aol.com)

(Charles Dabney Nuckolls)

## CALIFORNIA DEATH INDEX CONTINUED

NUCKOLLS JAKE K 04/29/1876 FINE  
NUCKOLLS M CALIFORNIA FRESNO  
01/28/1956 573-34-5873 79 yrs

NUCKOLLS JAMES 10/18/1902 NUCKOLLS  
BROWN M CALIFORNIA MARIN 04/19/1952  
49 yrs

NUCKOLLS JAMES W 10/02/1882 M  
CALIFORNIA ORANGE 05/27/1972 554-09-2024  
89 yrs

NUCKOLLS JANE L 02/21/1921 F ILLINOIS  
SAN MATEO 06/25/1972 348-18-0591 51 yrs

NUCKOLLS JOHN E 01/24/1919 KARHO  
NUCKOLLS M OKLAHOMA FRESNO  
10/21/1950 551-16-1678 31 yrs

NUCKOLLS JOHN FRANK 02/18/1914  
MCLAUGHLIN M ILLINOIS SONOMA  
03/28/1982 090-10-4744 68 yrs

NUCKOLLS JOHN W 03/11/1917 KELLEY M  
MISSOURI SHASTA 04/15/1969 519-07-3855 52  
yrs

NUCKOLLS JOSEPH CLAY 07/31/1930 RAYNER M  
ARKANSAS SACRAMENTO 09/03/1997 432-48-4507  
67 yrs

NUCKOLLS JOSEPH E 03/09/1901 RUSH M LOS  
ANGELES 07/23/1963 548-07-9532 63 yrs

NUCKOLLS KENNETH E 11/15/1905 FAWCETT M  
ILLINOIS LOS ANGELES 04/26/1964 331-01-8840 58  
yrs

NUCKOLLS LARRY R 10/18/1937 MEDEIROS M  
CALIFORNIA SANTA CLARA 12/23/1964 549-44-5481  
27 yrs

NUCKOLLS LAURA B 06/14/1888 F CALIFORNIA  
KERN 12/13/1977 561-66-3925 89 yrs

NUCKOLLS LAURENCE LYNN 01/07/1912 FAWCETT  
NUCKOLLS M ILLINOIS LOS ANGELES 05/19/1953  
318-12-3526 41 yrs

NUCKOLLS LAWRENCE P 12/06/1921 M  
CALIFORNIA VENTURA 12/16/1973 551-24-9751 52  
yrs

NUCKOLLS LEONA MAE 05/10/1905 FANN  
TIMMONS F CALIFORNIA SHASTA 06/01/1958  
560-50-2945 53 yrs

NUCKOLLS LEONA MAXINE 06/23/1916 ELLIOT  
SPRINGER F KANSAS ORANGE 05/22/1996  
545-44-6045 79 yrs

NUCKOLLS LEROY C 12/28/1898 M CALIFORNIA  
SHASTA 05/16/1976 561-01-8530 77 yrs

NUCKOLLS LESLIE W 06/11/1885 SMITH M  
CALIFORNIA SAN LUIS OBISPO San Luis Obispo  
04/20/1961 550-46-1913 75 yrs

NUCKOLLS LEWIS H 07/20/1896 NIGH M  
MISSOURI SAN BERNARDINO 10/31/1967  
483-10-6998 71 yrs

NUCKOLLS LORENZO PERRY 12/21/1877 CLAY  
NUCKOLLS M CALIFORNIA SHASTA 05/21/1959  
81 yrs

NUCKOLLS LORRAINE ROBERT 05/08/1905  
HENSHAW M MISSOURI RIVERSIDE 09/03/1985  
481-38-4892 80 yrs

Renew Subscriptions to

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903 N riverside Dr

Truth or Consequences, NM 87901-9754

Nuckolls Society web site relocated to:

[http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.com/  
~evilsizer/Nuckolls.html](http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.com/~evilsizer/Nuckolls.html)

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