

Snidow Association Newsletter

Volume 31 Issue 1

Summer 2008

Annual Association Meeting, August 2 and 3



Floating down the New River. Tangent guide, Don and Nancy Johnson, Melissa and Susan Staley, Vincent and Nancy Snidow, Virginia Robinson

The first weekend in August is rapidly approaching and, again, we look ahead in anticipation of seeing all the Snidow “cousins” at the annual meeting of the Snidow Association. Please mark your calendar for Saturday, August 2, and Sunday, August 3, 2008.

Saturday Picnic.

On Saturday, everyone is invited to a picnic at the Pembroke American Legion/ Rotary Park. We have reserved both the air-conditioned building and the picnic shelter for the event. Come anytime during the day, but a picnic lunch prepared by the planning committee will be ready to serve at noon. The picnic is provided by the association so there is no need to bring food or worry about a fee. Just come, visit and have a good time. The children will enjoy the “Treasure Island” play area

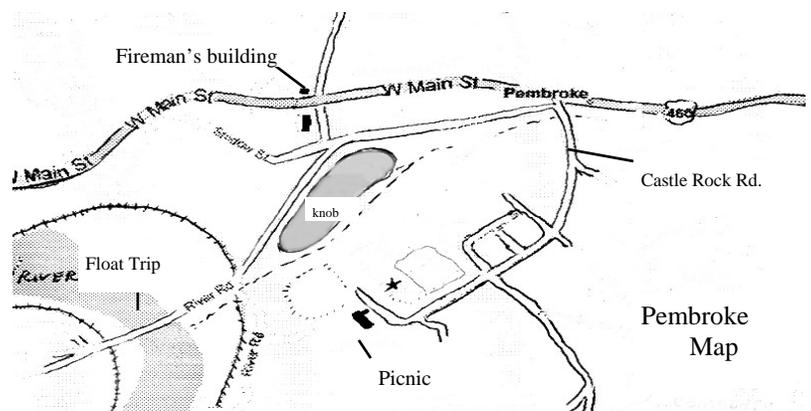
Saturday Afternoon

Last year, a number of the members enjoyed a float trip down the New River. This will be offered again for any who missed the trip or would like to repeat the experience. Tangent

Outfitters in Pembroke will provide rafts for the trip. We will need to know ahead of time of your interest in order to make reservations for the rafts. There is a form in the back of the newsletter. **Please complete the form and mail it to Pat Duncan by July 26.**

The float trip begins at the bridge in Pembroke and ends before the Ripplemead Bridge— about 1/2 mile. The trip is a gentle float with a few mild rapids (little bumps). We found the guides to be experts in showing us how to maneuver the boats. Yep, everyone gets to paddle. The cost per adult is \$35.00 and per child \$25.00. Tangent Outfitters will transport the group to and from the float sites.

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Apologies to Mary Anne Atherton

Mary Anne writes: (June 16, 2007)

I am enclosing my check in memoriam to my parents Frank Peck Snidow and Annie Neal Williams Snidow of Pembroke. They built and lived in the home where Will and Joyce Vest currently live. Seven of us children were born and raised in this home. I am the youngest and am currently living in Fallbrook, California. I have one living brother, Harvey C. Snidow, who lives in Richardson, Texas. You may have known my sister, Caroline Snidow Andrews, who was the last of us living in Pembroke. My brother, Harvey attended school with Mary Snidow Morrison, who is an active member of the Snidow Association and, incidentally, Mary was my teacher in the fifth grade. One of my classmates through school in Pembroke was Roma Snidow Collins.



Mary Anne Snidow-1949

I talked with Roma recently, after seeing my name in the "Memoriam" box in the Spring Edition 2007 Snidow Assoc. Newsletter.....For your information, my husband, Stewart Edward Atherton, passed away June 22, 2006, and **I am still alive and well.**

Editor's note: We apologize to Mary Anne for the mistake. The picture to the left was taken from a scrapbook compiled by Susan B. French. The picture is with an announcement of Mary Anne's engagement to Stewart Edward Atherton. They were married Feb. 17, 1949

In Memoriam

Carroll Givens Snidow— August 8, 2007, Roanoke, VA Son of Lloyd and Mattie Givens Snidow

Betty Talmadge Funk Snidow, Jul. 10, 2007, Miami, Florida.

Conley Trigg Snidow, Jr.-Oct. 6, 2007, Spartanburg, SC, Son of Conley T. Snidow, Sr.

Mary Frances Snidow Dunford-Oct. 29, 2007, Bland, Va. Daughter of William Easley Snidow, Jr.

Louis Snidow-March 8, 2008, Corolla, NC Son of Lyle C. and Jane S. Snidow

Patricia Neaves Yarbrough, April 26, 2008, Winston-Salem, NC. Wife of James Yarbrough

Remembered in 2007 Memorial Service

Mary Snidow Wright, June 22 2007, Silver Spring MD

Nancy Sue Dent Fox, June 25, 2007. Sebring, Fla., Daughter of Margaret Snidow Dent

Stewart Edward Atherton, June 22, 2007, Ca., Husband of Mary Anne Snidow Atherton

Officers of the Snidow Association

President: Mabel C. Peters 210 Shannon Court
Ridgeway, VA 24148

Vice Pres.: Wanda Hypes P.O. Box 858,
Pembroke, VA 24136

Secretary: Nancy Johnston 1825 Old Annapolis
Rd. Woodbine, MD 21797

Treasurer: Patricia Duncan 3305 West 1st St.
Belle, WV 25015

Financial Secretary: Patricia Duncan

Trustees: William Snidow 2002-2008

Betty Strauss 2004-2010

Jane Snidow 2006-2012

Reunion Planning Committee:

Chair: Ruth Blevins 111 Hemlock Street,
540-921-3548 Ripplemead, VA 24150

Roma Collins – 540-626-7332

William & Ellen Snidow– 540-626-3557

Rev. Eugene Snidow

Severe Wounds Taught Compassion

In June 1943, the Rev. R. E. Snidow graduated from high school in Princeton, W.Va., and had no doubt where he was going. A month later, every one of the 60 boys in his class was in military service as America fought World War II.

“It was something that had to be done,” he said. “And even as a young man of 18 all of us knew we were going to get into it because we had to.”

Wanting to fly, he enlisted in the Army to get into the Air Corps, but never had the chance for flight school due to his color blindness.

“I figured if I can’t fly ‘em, then I’ll ride them” the 82 year old minister joked in his Sebring home about volunteering for the 101st Airborne.

On Sept. 14, 1944, Snidow made his first, and last, parachute jump into combat, landing in the town of Zon in Holland.

“We were shock troops,” he said. “Come in and hit them hard and leave, that’s what the idea was.” That didn’t work out, though, because British armor failed to meet American infantry as planned and Snidow fought on the ground for 35 straight days.

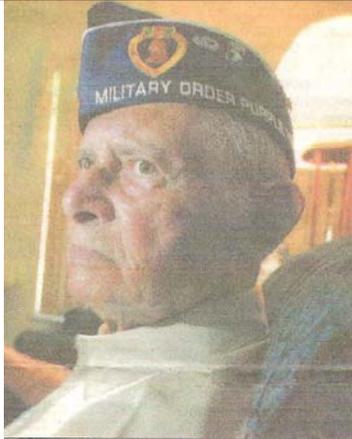
He said he was well trained, but nothing can fully prepare a soldier for the intensity of battles.

“The first night that we were bombed and strafed, I was laying on a sidewalk and I tease family that my buddy and I dug a hole right down through the sidewalk with our bare fingernail,” he said, “Oh, how I prayed-and that is a habit that hasn’t been broken.”

The toughest part was withstanding attacks by German rocket mortars, he said.

“We called them screaming meemies,” he said, “As they were coming through the air each one of the shells sounded like fire trucks coming down the street with all the sirens going off simultaneously. Scared the living daylight out of you.”

In late October, Snidow recalled, “a whole gang of them went off nearby, it’s hard to tell how many.” Severely wounded with shrapnel in both legs, his left hip and the left side of his head, Snidow was put on an ambulance for a ride he will never forget.



Rev. R. E. Snidow

Heading to an English army hospital in Brussels, he said. “the German artillery was tracking us, and when the ambulance crossed one of the bridges, shells were falling on each side of the bridge. It was a rough ride.”

Hospitalized first in an English army hospital and then an American Army hospital in England from October 1944 through September 1945, and again after his discharge for several months in 1946, Snidow encountered a new enemy-time.

“Time is your worst enemy (in the hospital), time was the worst thing that you had on your hands,” he said.

About his medical treatment, he remembers two things.

“Some of the time it was tough because I had to have several surgeries, and it seemed like every time I was getting well from one I had to have another,” he said. “But, hey, I was just one of many. I’ve been in a hospital ward with as many as 40 men and you’re just one of the guys, because everyone else has been torn up, too, some of them far worse than I. Missing arms, missing legs.. It’s not a pretty sight.”

And, he says he’ll never forget the Army doctors.

“Those doctors really cared about the men who came through. Those doctors were Army and we were just one of their boys, we were all members of the club, so to speak,” he said.

“And there was compassion-not that other doctors aren’t compassionate -but I think the Army doctors, knowing that the men have come out of combat and the hell that we went through, I think they appreciated what we went through and they want to make sure that they put us back together.”

After the war he earned a degree from Concord College in Athens, W. Va., worked in small-loan companies for 15 years, went into banking and moved with his wife, Louise, to Miami in 1966, and in the early 1970s left finance to become a Methodist Minister.

“God called me, and the second time He called he didn’t take no for an answer,” he said. Snidow retired and moved to Sebring in 1990 where he now serves as needed in ministry at First Presbyterian Church.

Continued on page 4.

Rev. Eugene Snidow (Cont. from page 3)

Asked if his war experience influenced his ministry, he answered, "Of course, I saw suffering first hand in a way that only nightmares are made of and I can very readily sympathize with people, and later on I could empathize with them. It helped me to be more compassionate."

Memorial Day always finds him at a veterans service, he said, because "it's in remembrance of the guys who gave up their lives for their country and what they believed in. And we all lost some of our very best friends in combat."

Snidow said who's proud of his service, "but first of all I'm proud to be an American. And I'm proud of what my country stands for. And if you want to get

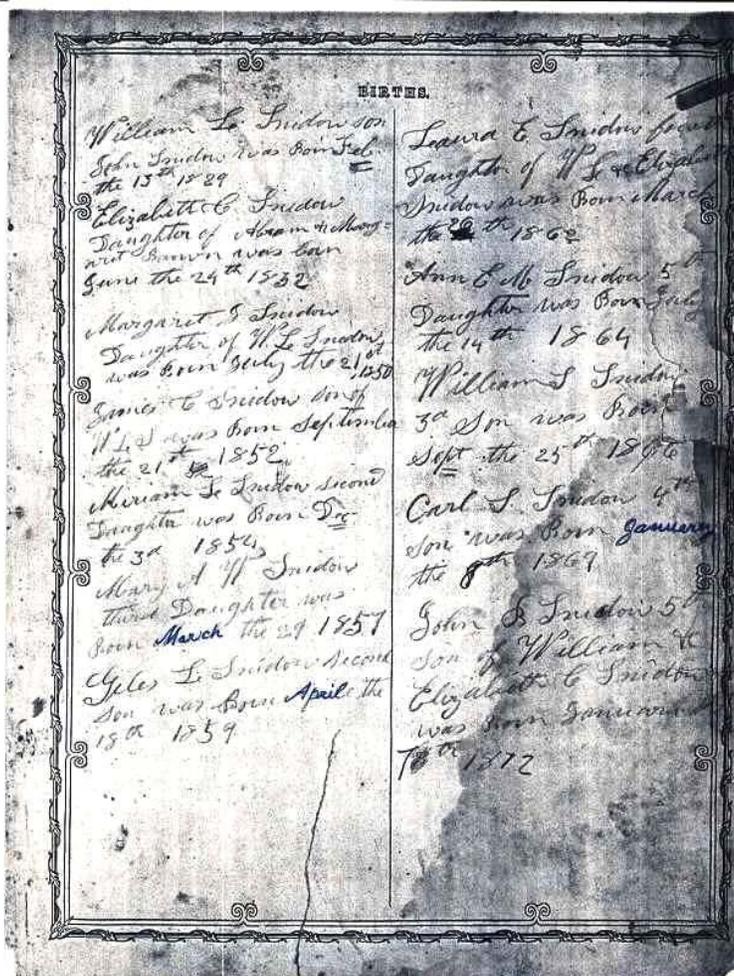
my anger aroused, you say something about my country, because we're not perfect, but it's the best system that's ever been known to mankind."

This article was in the Highland Today Newspaper in Sebring, Fla. on May 27, 2007. Rev. Snidow is the son of Roy Eugene Snidow, Sr. and is married to the former Louise Elswick of Richlands, Va. This year, they will celebrate their 62nd anniversary. They have one son, R. E. Snidow, Jr.

Rev. Snidow attended seminary at Emory University after a full career in banking to study for his ministry. He describes himself as being a person with a "gift for gab". When asked about his Snidow ancestors, he was unsure but thought he was a descendant of Col. Christian Snidow.

Snidow/Brown Family Bible Located

Submitted by Tammy Thaller Collier



Record # 3 from the Brown Family Bible. Birth dates of the children of William Lucas Snidow are recorded here.

The family bible pages of William Lucas and Elizabeth Campbell Snidow have been located. These pages contain valuable birth, death and marriage records. The record dates are from 1829 to 1882. It was originally owned by Abram Brown (father of Elizabeth Campbell Brown Snidow). The pages contain information on other children of Abram Brown, as well. The bible was passed to Elizabeth's son, John Brown Snidow. He passed it on to his daughter, Alice Pearl Snidow Visilakes. Jeanette Pierson Vasilakes found the bible while going through Alice Pearl's belongings after her death. The bible was severely damaged, however, Jeanette was able to save the family record pages. She transcribed the pages the best she could. In January of 2008, Jeannette sent me the pages. I was able to finish the transcription. A copy of these records have been sent to the Snidow Association and the Giles County Historical Society in Virginia. In addition, a copy was sent to the Hickory County Historical Society in Missouri (the area where William and Elizabeth Snidow raised their family).

Hickory County Historical Society, P.O. Box 248, Hermitage, MO 65668, (573) 745-6716

John Lybrook

by Anne Snidow Frazer

According to *History of Middle New River Settlements & Contiguous Territory* by David E. Johnston, the Lybrooks (original name Leibrock) came from Holland.

Philip Lybrook came Pennsylvania to New River Valley between 1748 and 1755 locating at the mouth of Sinking Creek in now Giles County. He was visited by John Jacob Snidow from Pa., in 1765 and his family settled near him in 1766.

The Lybrook-Chapman-Snidow fort stood a short distance below the mouth of Sinking Creek on New River. The Lybrooks and a Mr. McGriff had erected several cabins for their families. Mr. John Chapman had brought his children to the fort when the Indian attack took place Sunday, Aug. 7, 1774. They killed a young woman by the name of Scott, five small children of Lybrook's and Mrs. Snidow, wounded Mr. Lybrook in the arm, captured three small boys and ran a foot race after John Lybrook, eleven years old, who escaped to his father's house. He became a famous hunter and brave, bold Indian fighter, serving several years in various forts along the New River Valley frontier under Capt. John Floyd and Lt. Christian Snidow.

John lived and grew to manhood and old age. He married Annie Chapman, daughter of John and Sallie Abbott Chapman. Their marriage bond bears the date, Jan 11, 1787. They had a number of children, among them, Philip, the first surveyor of Giles county and man of prominence in his days.

According to the 1815 tax list, Giles records Ibid. page 224— John Lybrook and Ann deeded land to Philip— part of 950 acres granted John in 1804. Witnesses: William Burke, Baltzer Lybrook and John Mars.

John Lybrook was impaneled on the second grand jury for Giles County (first court, May 13, 1806)

Mary Snidow Morrison and Anne Snidow Frazer visited the grave and took a picture of the tombstone of John Lybrook on a hot summer day in 1979. It is located on the Doe Creek Road, Pembroke, Va., on land previously owned by their grandfather, James C. Lucas, who purchased it from the Lybrooks. At that time(1979), the land was owned by the Conley Snidow heirs.

The stone was broken. The reading on it is: Sacred to the memory of John Lybrook, Born Nov. 20, 1763. Departed this life 18 Dec. 1837. This tribute of filial affection was erected by his son, Philip, and the rest of his children.



White Haired Rebecca

In the Horseshoe cemetery, there is a foot stone that is marked "R D." and like many others interred in the cemetery has an interesting story to tell. It is a marker for Rebecca Burke Davidson, who is buried beside her parents. **Ruth Blevins** wrote the following story about her.

Rebecca Burke grew up on the Horseshoe Farm in Pembroke. Her father was Captain Thomas Burke. She married Andrew Davidson. They built a cabin near the head of East River. At the time of this story, they had two little girls, one little boy and were expecting their fourth child. They also took care of two orphan children whose last name was Brumfield.

In the spring of 1791, Mr. Davidson had to be away on business. Rebecca was out gathering sugar water from sugar maple trees near her cabin when the Indi-

ans came. They set fire to the cabin and captured Rebecca and the children. The new baby was born during the trip to the Indian town. The Indians killed the baby and the two little Davidson girls. Rebecca's little son was given to an Indian squaw. She accidentally upset her canoe and he drowned. No more is known of the Brumfield children. Rebecca was taken to Canada and sold as a slave to a French family. Three years later Andrew was still searching for Rebecca when he made his way to Canada. Guided by a friendly Indian, he stopped by that Canadian house to ask for some food. He hardly noticed the white-haired servant lady, for the last time he saw Rebecca, she had black hair. But white-haired Rebecca recognized him instantly and said, "Andrew Davidson, I am your wife". He brought her home and they had more children. She lived to be 104 years old. She is buried in the Horseshoe Cemetery

Treasurer's Statement

Bank Statements – 5/21/ 08 at BB & T

Checking	\$2571.64
Savings	2131.97
CD	<u>4287.71</u>
Total Funds Available- June 1, 2008	\$8991.32

Checks Written Aug. 07, 2008- June 1, 2008

Pat Duncan (Picnic supplies)	\$100.53
Country Kitchen (Sunday Luncheon)	714.87
Alvin Jones (Mowing Lilly Land Cem.)	100.00
Pembroke Ruritan (Picnic shelter rental)	150.00
Nathan Snidow (Mowing Horseshoe Cem.)	<u>400.00</u>
Total disbursements	\$1465.40

A special thank you goes to everyone who made donations to the Snidow Association, whether to the treasury, or contributions of food, and door prizes as well as the hours spent in helping.

*Contributions to the treasury may be sent to: **Patricia Duncan, 3305 West 1st Ave., Belle, WV 25015***

Donations:

In Memory:

John Chapman Snidow, Sr.

Given by Betty Snidow Strauss

H. V. Snidow

Given by Virginia Robinson

Mary Snidow Wright

Given by Joyce L. Mostard, Mary Alice Bishop

Carroll Givens Snidow

Given by Mary French Boswell

Conley Snidow

Given by Patricia Knowles

In Honor:

Bud Snidow (90th Birthday)

Given by Nancy J. Snidow

General Fund donations

Anne Snidow Frazer

Thomas Phlegar

Linda Sharp

Nancy Pebley

Newsletter Donations

Joyce L. Mostard

Mary Alice Bishop

Silver Dollar Awards



Claire Snidow received the Silver Dollar for being the youngest. She is two years old and the daughter of Greg and Karen Snidow.



Mary Allen Brown received the Silver Dollar award for being the oldest present. She is 95 years old.



Chip, Melissa, and Chris Strauss came from Columbus, Ohio. They are the grandchildren of John and Betty Strauss.

Photos by Sallie Lucas

Snidow Family History Files Incarcerated.

An unlikely place for keeping of the Snidow files has become a possibility for the Snidow Association— the Giles County jail in Pearisburg, Virginia. Not to worry though about the availability of the files to the Snidow family, the jail is no longer in use. Prisoners are now housed in a new jail located in another area.

Ruth Blevins learned of the possibility and made the suggestion. We can put file cabinets in a jail cell. The cell will be locked but

a key will be in the office of the building for anyone who wants to use the files. Over the years, association members have accumulated information which would be useful to everyone if made available. We hope this will be a solution and encourage everyone to continue to bring your family tree, photos, or other records to share.

Sunday Luncheon Reservation Form

Please fill-in and mail with payment to Pat Duncan, 3305 West 1st Ave., Belle, WV 25015

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Address: _____

Please count _____ people for the picnic on Saturday.

Reserve _____ spaces for the float trip on the New River.

_____ Adults @ \$12.00	\$ _____
_____ Children @ \$6.00	\$ _____
Total Enclosed: \$ _____	
Checks made to: <i>Snidow Association</i>	

Work at the Horseshoe Cemetery

Don and Nancy Johnston have been especially hard at work at the Horseshoe Cemetery since last August. They worked for several days in November and for a week after Memorial Day.

Don and Nancy attended a workshop on how to stabilize tombstones and have put that information to work. With the help of William Snidow, Jim Yarbrough, and Larry Snidow, they have been digging up stones and setting them on a bed of marble chips. During the last week of May, they began to piece together the broken stones and to glue them. They hauled equipment(including a small crane) all the way from Maryland to help with the work. Nancy had a sunburn as proof of her hours of labor.

Some of the rewards have been immediate. While digging up the headstone of Adeline Chapman Snidow, another tombstone was discovered buried about a foot deep on top of the grave. When examined, it seems to be an original stone for Mary Burke Snidow, wife of Colonel Christian Snidow. The inscription reads: Mary Snidow, Born 23 Dec. 1761, Died 3 May 1825.

As they worked, the Johnstons have learned a lot about the history of the individuals buried in the cemetery. They plan to do a scale diagram showing the location of each grave and perhaps will put together a book giving a biographical history of the Snidow family members resting there.

A special thank you goes to Don, Nancy and their helpers.



William Snidow holds a headstone for Mary Burke Snidow, which was discovered while re-setting tombstones in the Horseshoe Cemetery.

We're on the Web!
www.snidow.net



Snidow

Annual Snidow Luncheon/Business Meeting August 3, 2008

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The association business meeting and memorial service will take place on Sunday afternoon at the Fireman's Activity Building in Pembroke. This is the time we hope everyone will bring family mementos to display. It is always a time to find out tidbits of information about ancestors or pick up that bit of proof needed for a family tree search. Silver dollar awards will be given to the person who is oldest, traveled the farthest or is the youngest. Somewhere between eating and the other activities, the business of the association will take place.

Lunch is at 12:30 P.M.

The meal will be catered by Country Kitchen Catering Service and will include three entrees, six vegetable dishes, three different salads, and an assortment of desserts. The cost will be \$12.00 for adults and \$6.00 for children

under 10 years of age. A certain number have to be guaranteed, so **reservations** for the meal will need to be received by **July 26**. Please complete the form on page seven of the newsletter and mail to Pat Duncan.



Vince Snidow
won a painting
done by Bud
Snidow