



Mary French Boswell, Compiler,

Vol. 1, No. 1

SALLY SNIDOW PHLEGAR OBSERVES 100th
BIRTHDAY

On November 10, 1977 Sarah Jane, fondly known as Sally (or Auntie to the nieces and nephews) Phlegar, the widow of James William Phlegar, observed her 100th birthday at her home in Giles County near Bipplemead, Virginia.

Now making her home in Salem, Virginia with a niece, it was Sally's express wish to return to her home in Giles to observe this very important and happy occasion with only rembers of her family. Mrs. Phlegar has a vivid memory of the homeplace where she went to live in 1908. One of the oldest structures in Giles County and the oldest house in continuous use, it was built partly around the log cabin erected there in 1778 by David Johnston, one of the original settlers of Giles County. The kitchen of the Phlegar home is the original log cabin.

Fourteen members of her family gathered for lunch in a warm and cheery atmosphere and following lunch several other family members came for punch and the cutting of the birthday cake. A great-great nephew, Robert Allen Phlegar helped blow out the 100 candles. A Baptist minister of Pearisburg gave the Tribute and prayer for Sally at the cutting of the cake. Sally is a baptist and is a member of Salem Baptist Church. As was her wish it was only her family, and they represented four generations, who were present to see her open her gifts and reminisce with her about all the happy times they had had together.

Mrs. Phlegar is noted for her remarkable memory of early Giles County history and county families and family connections as well as her knowledge of current affairs. However, these days she finds it tiring and prefers not to be interviewed or discuss family data or history.

Several Snidow descendants have written to ask about Sally Snidow Phlegar's descent from the original settler. She is descended from Philip Snidow (d.1792) through his youngest son, George Snidow, Sr., (d. 1865) who had a son, John Madison Snidow (d. 1899), whose son, Christian Newton Snidow was Sally's father.

(See p. 2)

FIRST SNIDOW FAMILY ANNUAL REUNION

Everything Splendid!
Sunday, September 25, 1977 was a warm, bright, fall day.
Preston Park Center, of Roanoke Parks and Recreation Department, was an inspired choice of meeting place.
Covered-dish Luncheon! Snidows are the world's greatest cooks. And the company! Snidows all---70 to be exact---such attractive, charming people.

We came, young and old, from many parts of Virginia; from West Virginia; Colorado; Arkansas. We came from Richmond, Jarratt, Lynchburg, Roanoke, Christiansburg, Blacksburg, Giles County, Virginia.

Burman C. Snidow, Route 2, Princeton, West Virginia, age 96, was the oldest. The six-month old son of Jamie Lynn and Gary Harkrader, Lebanon, Va., grandson of Judge J.C. Snidow, Jr., Christiansburg, Va. was the youngest. Coming the greatest distance, Mr. and Mrs. Charles C. Snidow, Fort Smith, Ark., scheduled their trip East for September so they could attend this family party. Also, Ralph W. Snidow, Aurora, Colorado, attended and intends now to return to live in Giles County, Va. Mr. and Mrs. John Snidow of Lynchburg had the largest family representation. With John and Alma were their two sons and daughter, wives and husband, and several grandchildren. Mr. and Mrs. Clifton Snidow, Jr. had made plans that all four of their children would attend, but only one son, a student at Hampden-Sydney, was able to get to the picnic.

It was appropriate that the Invocation and Benediction were given by two brothers, Lloyd and John Snidow, sons of John Milton Snidow.

All planning for this delightful first Snidow family party was done by Mrs. John (Mary French Turner) Boswell, assisted by Mr. and Mrs. James M. (Twyla Maddox) Snidow, Sr. Now that the Snidow family has recognized itself in an historical association sense (thanks to the work of Mary French), plans are underway for annual meetings. Twyla Snidow who had earlier agreed to be General Chairman appointed a committee to plan future reunions:

(See p. 2)

DEDICATION OF MARKER HOLDING PLAQUE OF GILES REVOLUTIONARY SOLDIERS

Of special interest to Snidow descendants should be the unveiling and dedication of a large native rock of Giles County that holds a bronze plaque containing the names of Giles County men who served as soldiers in the American Revolution. This marker stands on the north east corner of the courthouse lawn and was dedicated on Sunday afternoon, Oct. 9, 1977, Giles County's final Bicentennial event. The group responsible for obtaining names of the soldiers and doing the research on this project was the Bicentennial Commission's Research and Preservation of Colonial History Committee whose chairman was (and is) Mrs. C.A. (Ruth Guthrie) Blevins, a Snidow descendant and enthusiastic booster of our Snidow Family Assoc.

Not only were the following Snidow brothers on the list of Revolutionary soldiers--- Philip, Col. Christian, Jacob and Theophilus (who died as a young man) but many others to whom we, as descendants of Giles County's earliest pioneers, can trace back. This writer is descended from five Giles County men who served--Philip Snidow, Capt. Thomas Burke, George Henry Williams, Matthew French and John Chapman, Sr.

The following 93 names are inscribed on the plaque-----

- | | |
|----------------------|----------------------|
| James Adair | Ezekial Clay |
| Jacob Albert | Mitchell Clay, Sr. |
| John Alsup | Robert Clendenin |
| Hezekiah Atkins | Thomas Copley |
| Milliton Atkins | James Emmons |
| Parker Atkins | Thomas Farley, Jr. |
| James Bame, Jr. | Thomas Farley, Sr. |
| William Bradley | John French |
| Lowe Brown | Matthew French |
| William Brown | George Fry, Jr. |
| Humphrey Brumfield | George Fry, Sr. |
| James Brumfield, Jr. | Edward Hale |
| James Brumfield, Sr. | Joseph Hare |
| John Burke | Ferdinand Harless |
| Capt. Thomas Burke | Andrew Hatfield |
| William Burke | Issac Hatfield |
| John Burton | Capt. John Henderson |
| John Carr, Jr. | Robert Hunter |
| Simon Cassidy | James Johnston |
| Thomas Cassidy | James Kerr |
| Issac Chapman | Robert Kerr |
| John Chapman, Sr. | Andrew Kessinger |
| Richard Chapman | John Kirk |
| David Clay | Charles Lucas, Jr. |

(See next column)

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|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Charles Lucas, Sr. | Joel Sartain, Sr. |
| Capt. John Lucas | John Sartain |
| Parker Lucas | George Scott |
| William Lucas | Samuel Scott |
| Henry Lybrook | Samuel Shannon |
| John Lybrook | Capt. Thomas Shannon |
| Paulser Lybrook | Daniel Shumate, III |
| John McGriff | Issac Smith |
| Thomas McGriff | Col. Christian Snidow |
| Issac McKinsey | Jacob Snidow |
| Moredock McKinsey | Philip Snidow |
| Michael Madden | Theophilus Snidow |
| Michael Madden's | Ralph Stafford |
| cropper | Capt. Ralph Stewart |
| John Mann | Andrew Straley |
| Thomas Marshall | Jacob Straley |
| John Martin | William Tracy |
| Jacob Meadows | Andrew Vaught |
| Capt. George Pearis | Charles Walker |
| John Peters | William Webb |
| Hezekiah Philips | George Henry Williams |
| Josiah Porterfield | Philip Williams |
| David Price | John Young |
| (Mary French Boswell) | |

SNIDOW REUNION (continued)

- Mrs. Lawrence (Virginia Faye) Adams, Lynchburg
- Mrs. C.A. (Ruth Guthrie) Blevins, Ripplemead
- Carroll G. Snidow, Richmond
- Sylvan S. Snidow, Roanoke and Rocky Mount

Plans for a 1978 Snidow Family Reunion will be announced in a Spring-Summer Newsletter.

What a splendid first Snidow Family Get-together!
(Elisabeth McDonald Drewry)

100th Birthday (continued)

The Pearisburg Virginian-Leader that reported on her birthday stated that, when asked to what she attributed her long life, Sally made this reply, "The Lord has been good to me."

In the mail Sally Phlegar received many greetings, some family records and family charts from the Snidows all over the United States. She wants to thank all of you who remembered her with your good wishes on her 100th birthday!
(Mary French Boswell)

HARRIET FRENCH TURNER REMEMBERED, A Commemorative Show of Oils of the Blue Ridge

A Reception and Commemorative Show entitled HARRIET FRENCH TURNER REMEMBERED opened on Dec. 4, 1977 at the First National Exchange Bank, Main Office, Roanoke, cosponsored by the bank and the John Will Creasy Art Society. This show which hung at the bank from Dec. 4-30 was a Tribute to Harriet French Turner and her work on the occasion of the tenth anniversary of her death--Dec.7,1967.

Harriet French Turner, known as Virginia's Grandma Moses, was the first living folk artist invited to have a show at the Abby Aldrich Rockefeller Collection, Colonial Williamsburg. While the show was in progress a film was made of her work entitled "Folk Artist of the Blue Ridge". This film won several awards and was judged the best travel film in Virginia in 1964. Later there was a show of several of her paintings at the Waldorf-Astoria in New York in connection with the Va. Travel Council's exhibit there. The premiere of the film was held at Colonial Williamsburg during the weekend of the Commemorative Session of the Va. General Assembly in Feb. 1964 when Harriet French Turner and her family were guests of Colonial Williamsburg. Today the film "Folk Artist of the Blue Ridge" is available for use from Colonial Williamsburg.

Quoting excerpts from an article by Mary Bland Armistead in Roanoke Times and World-News on Dec. 4, 1977, "---Special guest for the Reception and Speaker of the afternoon will be Dr. James Morton Smith, Director of the Henry Francis duPont Winterthur Museum, Winterthur, Del. who will discuss the work and career of Harriet French Turner. Included in the show will be "Benediction" owned by the Abby Aldrich Rockefeller Collection; "Early Spring", her first original painting done in 1954 at age 68 and owned by the Fine Arts Department of Hollins College; "Sunset in the Blue Ridge" loaned by State Supreme Court Justice Albert S. Harrison, Jr. and "Peaks of Otter", kindly loaned by Mrs. Lynlee Paine Johnson where the painting is housed at the LBJ Ranch in Johnson City, Texas.

Ann Weinstein, Art Columnist of the Roanoke Times and World-News, on Dec.25,1977 wrote:

Speaking to a full house at the opening of the Harriet French Turner exhibit, Dr. James Morton Smith, director of the Winterthur Museum, noted that there had been a renewed interest and acceptance of folk art.

The question in this age of diversity is no longer one of prescribed styles and forms but of valid and convincing expressions. Much work that was formerly dismissed because it was outside the realm of "high" art is lately appreciated for the esthetic qualities peculiar to it.

Receptive to the fullness and variety of nature, Harriet French Turner painted naive images that are not simple. They are complex in observation, abstract qualities

and composition. Intricately detailed passages reward close scrutiny.

Much more importantly than getting her work correct, Harriet Turner got it right. If her skills were not polished, her sensitivity was keen. Few intellectual considerations interjected themselves between her perceptions and her delineations. She substituted a direct and intuitive response for accuracies of drawing, anatomy and perspective.

Evident in this commemorative exhibit, installed in the lobby of the First National Exchange Bank in downtown Roanoke and cosponsored by the John Will Creasy Art Society, Harriet Turner was alive to her surroundings and to the lyrical pleasure they gave her.

Her serene sensibility is interpreted through rhythmic patterns and designs that create a potent sense of place and of season.

Turner could convey amplified feelings through the intensification of light. A cold light beyond a mountain or a flaming sunset establishes not only the time and climate but the very flavor of a day. She obviously observed from her small corner of the world what pilots the world over know--that the land grows dark before the sky does.

These personal, intimate paintings charm and delight the viewer. Turner did not bring to them second hand or rehashed ideas, but her own experience of what fed her sense of joy, tranquility and even awe. These remain as fresh and convincing as the day she set them down.

* * *

The following sketch written especially for this Tribute to Harriet French Turner gives some of her life and her genealogy:

Harriet French Turner was born on April 7,1886 in Giles County, Virginia, the daughter of Guy Dingees French and Barbara Elizabeth Snidow. Her ancestors on both sides of her family were the earliest pioneers of the New River Valley of what is today Giles County, all settling there prior to the Revolution. Through the genealogical research of her daughter it has been recorded that she is descended from 23 Revolutionary War soldiers and patriots.

From her Snidow heritage Harriet French Turner's mother was of almost pure German stock. These German immigrants, fleeing their homeland for religious and social freedom in the wake of the Thirty Years War, came from the Rhine Valley or near Switzerland in the early to the middle of the 18th century. They came first to Pennsylvania, generally settling in Lancaster County, then by way of the Great Wagon Road migrated through the Valley of Virginia to the New River area before the Revolution.

From her father's side she was English, Scotch-Irish and Irish. She was also descended from one Huguenot couple who came to Virginia about 1700 and settled in or near Manikintown, just above Richmond. Several members of her family are members of the Huguenot Society through this ancestry.

(See p. 4)

HARRIET FRENCH TURNER REMEMBERED (cont.)

She was also descended from the Alexander family who traces its ancestry back to King Robert Bruce of Scotland. Also, on her father's side she could trace back to three of the barons who in 1215 forced King John to sign the Magna Charta. Two of Harriet French Turner's descendants and several of her cousins are members of the Magna Charta Dames, an hereditary society which honors the memory of the 27 barons who opposed King John and laid the foundation for representative government in England.

Born Harriet Clark French, she lived in Giles County until 1900 when her family moved to Roanoke. She was educated in the Roanoke schools and graduated from Roanoke High School in 1907. She taught school in old Gilmer Avenue School for two years, then was married on June 29, 1909 to James Russell Turner, a druggist in Roanoke. He was a native of Roanoke County. He died in 1961, two years after they had celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary. Their descendants include three daughters, all living, (Mary French T. Boswell, Catherine T. Snyder of Wayne, Pa. and Dorothy T. Bevard of Charlotte, N.C.) five grandchildren and two great granddaughters.

Harriet Turner was a very creative person all of her life, her creativity taking the form of interior decoration (she painted several murals on walls in her home), designing and making her daughters' clothes, designing and hooking woolen rugs, making patchwork and appliqued quilts. She even made a tufted headboard for a bed with matching bedspread at the age of 65. She was an excellent cook and delighted in preparing dishes that were favorites of the members of her family. She loved to travel. The trips she made with members of her family were highlights in her life--a trip by car to the west coast, one fall-foliage trip to New England, trips to New York and Florida .

She died in Roanoke at the age of 81 on December 7, 1967.

Harriet French Turner was descended from Philip Snidow (d. 1792) through his son, Christian Snidow (d. 1861), through his son William Turner Snidow (d. 1894), through his daughter Barbara Elizabeth Snidow (d. 1945) who married Guy Dingess French.

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If you have access to the DAR Magazine (all public libraries have a copy), Harriet French Turner is featured in the Jan. 1978 issue, p. 55.

Janet Dellins, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Phil Dellins and granddaughter of Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd Snidow, who entered University of Southern Illinois (Carbondale, Ill.) as a graduate student in the fall of 1977 has recently been appointed to the staff of the university in the Music Department in organ and piano. She is also an organist in a local church.

To let you know how the Snidow Family Assoc. stands financially, James M. Snidow, Sr. has submitted this report---

Bal. on Jan. 10, 1978-----\$67.00
Cost of this mailing----- 33.00

Bal. on hand---\$34.00

If you want to contribute to the Snidow Association, cash or check can be sent to----
James M. Snidow, Sr.
2019 Maiden Lane, S.W.
Roanoke, Virginia 24015

Notices, genealogical material or articles on Snidow descendants we will welcome---please send on to us. Will be glad to use any and all in our next Snidow Newsletter!
