

# Snidow Association Newsletter

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June, 2006

## CHRISTIAN CEPHUS SNIDOW

**Christian Cephus Snidow** (*Chris*) was an entrepreneur, who worked at a variety of trades. Some of them were demanding jobs for a man who lost a hand in the prime of his life. For most of his career, he was a lumberman but other titles might include merchant, and ferryman.

While a young man, he and his brothers, **James** and **Milton**, bought the Bowden Saw Mill which was located on Big Stoney Creek. One of the first areas in which they operated the mill was on the property of Henley French at Curve, Virginia (*near Pearisburg*). About then, Norfolk and Western was building the railroad to the West Virginia coal fields and no doubt provided a ready market for their lumber. From there, the company cut timber on the Charles Painter farm on Walker's Creek and later moved to Pembroke. Sometime in the 1880's, Chris suffered the loss of his hand in a sawing accident. The saw mill was sold and the owner moved it to West Virginia. His sons remembered helping in the construction of the Methodist Church at Bluff City. Lumber was hauled to the river by wagon and ferried across on the Snidow-Chapman Ferry.

Chris was born January 24, 1854, the son of **William Turner** and **Nancy Burke Williams Snidow**. Like most of his siblings, he was born at home in Norcross, Virginia, and continued to live there even during the first ten years of his marriage.

On September 18, 1879, he wed **Mary Clarke French** in Fayette County, West Virginia. She was the daughter of Henley Chapman and Harriet Thomas Easley French. Three children were born to this union, **Henley French** (*father to association members Mary Morrison, Anne Frazier, and Guy Snidow*), **William Easley** (*father to Lucille Collins*) and **Eunice Leake**.

In 1890, Chris purchased a seven acre lot from **Harvey Snidow** which was located between Doe Creek, Little Stoney Creek and the banks of the New River in Pembroke. On this land, he built a home that still stands in 2006. Henley and Lacie Snidow purchased the house in 1910 and lived there during their lifetime.

Christian Cephus and John F. Williams became business partners. They built and operated a farmer's store in Pembroke for a number of years. (*Clifton L. Snidow, Sr. began his career here.*) The store was located near the in-



*Christian Cephus, Eunice, and Mary Clarke*

tersection of today's Castle Rock and Snidow Streets. Chris eventually sold his interest in the business and built another store on the New River close to his home and the Snidow Ferry which he operated. He also kept a livery stable that was used to transport guests and freight to Mountain Lake.

When Eunice was ready for college, Chris and Mary Clarke moved with her to Farmville, Virginia, so she could attend Farmville State Teacher's College. Chris died October 21, 1914, while in Farmville. He is buried in the family cemetery at Norcross beside his mother and father. In later years, he was described as being tall, with dark hair and keen brown eyes. His home was always hospitable and he was well liked.

*House built by C. C. Snidow as seen spring, 2006.*





## In Memoriam



Carroll Snidow Martin. Died September 19, 2005. She is survived a daughter, Nancy Martin Rader. Her parents were William Bane and Sallie Slaughter Snidow.

Inez Snidow Johnson. Died December 11, 2005. She is survived by children, Pat Duncan and Charles E. Stumbo. Homer and Rena Snidow were her parents.

James Milton "Jay" Snidow. Died February 13, 2006. He is survived by his wife, Lori and son, Jason. His parents are Jim and Peggy Snidow.

William L. Aldrich. Died January 27, 2006. He is the father of Jean Aldrich Snidow, Hardy, Va.

Lois Johnston Reynolds, Descendent of Philip Snidow.

Al Guthrie. Died February, 2006. He is the nephew of Ruth Blevins

Elizabeth Drewry. Wife of Carlton Drewry.

## News From the 2005 Association Meeting

### On Saturday

A number of the Snidow family enjoyed a buffet luncheon at the Holiday Inn in Blacksburg. Afterwards, William Snidow and Dale Collins led the group to the New River near Hoges Chapel to view the probable site of the 1774 Indian raid. It was noted that on Sunday, August 7, 231 years earlier, an Indian massacre claimed the lives of two young Snidow girls and resulted in the abduction of Jacob and Theophilis Snidow.

### Silver Dollar Awards

One highlight of the reunion is the traditional giving of silver dollars. The oldest person present was **Mary Allen Brown** (94 years old). Award for being the youngest went to **Madison Sedosky** (7 weeks old), son of Katherine and Tim Sedosky, and grandson to Sharon Cook. **Bob Wright** of Palm Coast, Florida, received the silver dollar for traveling the farthest.

### Other Business

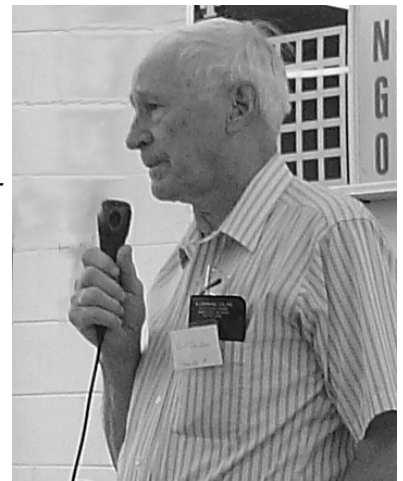
**Nancy Johnston** was appointed secretary to serve out the unexpired term of Doretta Collins.

**Wanda Hypes, Sallie Lucas, and Pat Duncan** were appointed to the nominating committee. They will present a slate of officers for election at

the 2006 Snidow Association meeting.

### Cemetery Upkeep

**William Snidow** discussed the need for volunteer help in the up-keep of the cemeteries and the Snidow Monument. To help relieve the problem, the decision was made to set aside from the memorial funds money as needed to help with the maintenance.



William Snidow

### At the Snidow Monument

A brief memorial service was held at the Snidow Pioneer Monument to remember those who died in the past year. Flowers were laid at the base of the monument in memory of the following:

*Robert F. Snidow, Clifton Snidow III,  
Martha M. Moretz, Clifton L. Snidow Jr.,  
Jane Lois Snidow, Elizabeth O'Brian Williams,  
Frances Morgan, Emma C. Phleger,  
Jane Ann Snidow Wilhite.*



**Row 1:** Carolyn Hagner, Barbara Clark, Ruth Blevins, Nancy Havermann, Barbara Savalick, Nancy Pebley. **Row 2:** Nancy Johnston, Hazel Johnston, Ellen Snidow, Nancy Moore, Shirley Willingham, Mabel Peters, Megan Hasenmeuller, Bud Moline, Pete Hasenmeuller in front, Marilyn Alewel, Betty Blomquist. **Back Row:** Don Johnston, William Snidow, Patty Hasenmeuller.

This picture was taken in the Cemetery at Madison, Missouri. The Virginia group took a wreath which was put on the grave of Steve Allen Snidow, who was killed in the Vietnam war.

## Ozark Pudding Recipe

Beat well:

1 egg,  
3/4 C sugar

Add:

2 Tbsp. Flour,  
1 1/4 tsp. Baking Powder  
1/8 tsp. Salt

Add:

1/2 C. chopped nuts  
1/2 C. chopped raw apples  
1 tsp. Vanilla

Bake in a buttered 8-9 " pan for  
35 minutes at 350 degrees.

Serve with ice cream or whipped  
cream.

*Nancy Havermann gave this recipe to  
members of the Virginia group who traveled  
to Missouri last summer.*

## Orphan Trains

The Snidow trip to Missouri brought up the question of Orphan Trains and whether there were ever any Snidows involved. **Hazel Johnston** agreed to research the topic, but did not find a connection. She writes that she was seven years old when the trains quit running in 1929. In 1930 & 31, her family lived near the Wabash railroad tracks.

" I do vividly remember the hobos who lined the tops of the trains in bitter cold and blazing heat, searching for jobs that did not exist. That was during the Great Depression.

My sister, Faye, and I had to walk down the railroad tracks to school. The first day to this new school, we were inside a pasture along the tracks, I was screaming my head off and the engineer blew steam out at us. I soon got used to the trains and we walked right on the tracks. The second year, another older girl lived on the other side of the tracks and we would meet her and walk together. I learned to "walk the rails" and still could in my seventies."

Immigrants coming to American to escape poverty, and oppression, unfortunately, found conditions little better when they arrived. The children of these families suffered terribly. Where families were unable to care for them, they turned to the streets to sell newspapers, beg

for food or steal to get by. It was estimated in 1854 that New York City had around 34,000 homeless children. Something had to be done for this class of people called "street Arabs" or "the dangerous class".

Charles Loring Brace, a Methodist Minister, was the first to conceive the idea of sending the children west to find homes with farm families. His plan was to send notices to Midwest towns announcing the time and date a trainload of orphans would be arriving. The trains would leave New York with the children and two adults from the society. As the train made its stops, families would select a child. Some were just babies, several months old. The train continued west until all the children found homes. The first of the trains left New York in 1854 and continued to run for the next 75 years with the last one pulling into Trenton, Missouri, in 1929. Researchers estimate that 150,000 to 400,000 children were sent west. Around 100,000 were placed in Missouri.

Hazel recommends several books for any interested in further reading.

- *Orphan Train Rider, One Boy's True Story* by Andrea Warren, Houghton Mifflin Co., Boston, MA
- *Orphan Trains & Their Precious Cargo* by Clark Kidder- Heritage Books, Inc.
- *We Are Part of History -The Story of the Orphan Trains*, by Michael Patrick, Evelyn Sheets, & Evelyn

## The Indian Massacre

**A Lybrook account of the Indian Massacre Sunday August 7, 1774 of the New River near mouth of Sinking Creek Montgomery Co. now Giles Co as told by John Lybrook's grandson found among old Snidow papers.**

I think that it was about the year 1776, when the Indians made an incursion in to this country. My grandfather was then a boy about ten or twelve years old, living with his father on New River. During the summer of that year, on a Sunday morning, the children of my great grand father, (some half dozen or more), the children of another family named McGriff who lived on the place and some children that were there on a visit (two Snidow boys among them) went to the river, not more than a hundred yards distant from the dwelling and my great grandfather to his mill on the spring branch near the river bank. The girls, all small but one, went to the river above the branch and got into a canoe and were rowing about when the Indians made their appearance.



View of the New River where the massacre took place.

The boys, seven in number I think, went about two hundred yards below the spring, where a rock protruded above the surface of the water, about twenty feet from the edge of the water, it being so shallow that small boys could wade and play in it without danger of drowning. Three of the boys (*a Snidow and Baltzer Lybrook*) were from fifteen to eighteen years of age and could swim very well. They went beyond the rock spoken of and were swimming, while the other four small boys, two Snidows, McGriff, and my grandfather, John Lybrook, were playing in the water between the rock and the bank of the river. The bank of the river was about ten feet high, perpendicular, leaving a space between the water and the foot of the bank about six or eight feet wide. There were some narrow paths cut into the bank, suppose to have been done by deer going to water, which were sandy from the top down to the river and the only places of ascent from the water to the top of the bank.

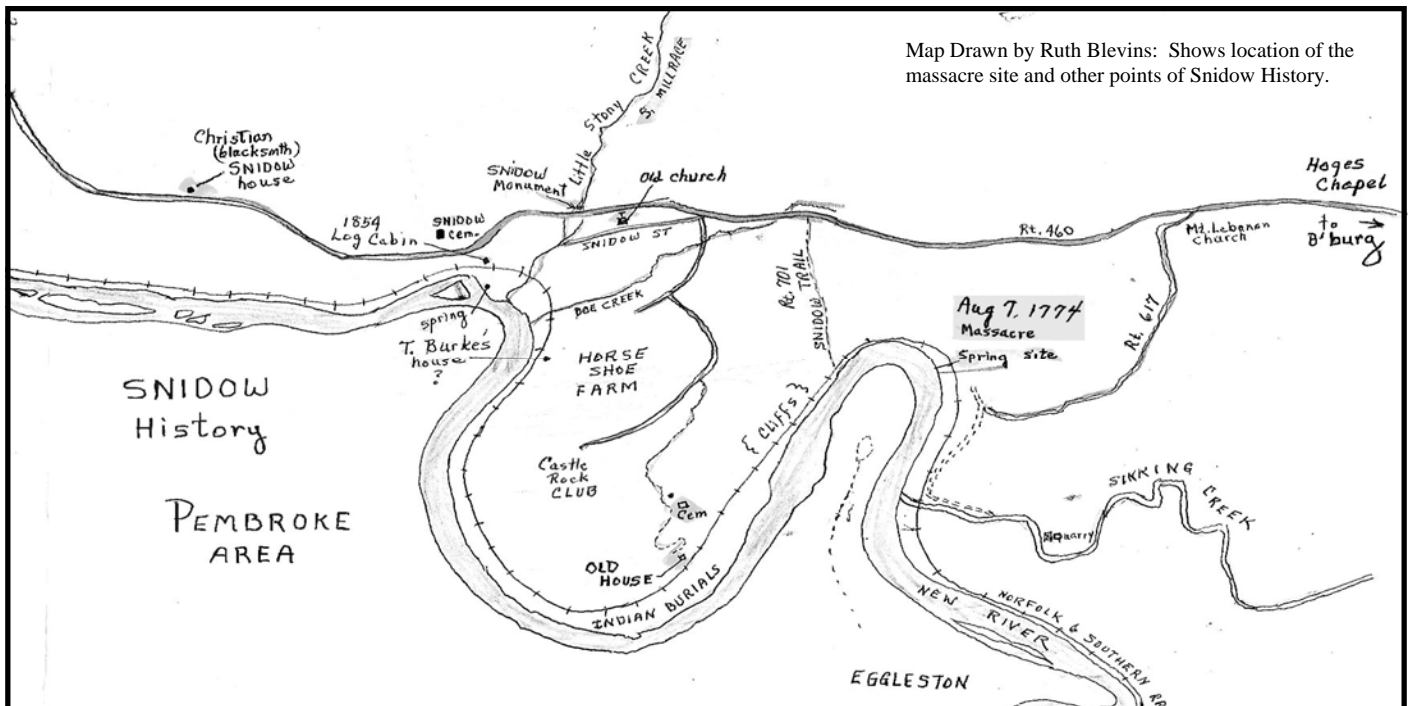
The little boys made no attempt to escape but simply climbed upon the rock and sat there, except my grandfather, who made several attempts to get up the bank by the paths cut into it, but was always met by an Indian on top, and would then retreat and try another path only to be met by an Indian to receive him. The Indian was during this time, still shooting at the boys in the river as opportunity presented. While thus engaged, my grandfather succeeded in getting on top of the bank. There was a path from this point to the Fort, one and a half miles below on the river, along which my grandfather assayed to make his escape. The alarm having been made in the direction of the house, he was afraid to run in that direction and also having the Indian between him and the house.

From one hundred and fifty yards below this point, the heavy rains had cut out a ditch about eight feet deep and about as wide as deep. He had just begun to race to the fort when he discovered the Indian in pursuit. He then remembered this deep ditch that lay across his path, but knowing that this path was the only way of escape, he made up his mind to leap it or fall into it. The Indian gained on the boy from the beginning of the race until he reached the ditch when he cleared it a bound. The Indian's lasso striking him on the back as he landed on the opposite side. The pursuit ended and the Indian went back to the boys who were still sitting on the rock and led them away.

My grandfather, after leaping the ditch and running a short distance, stopped and stood still, having as he said up to this time felt no fear. By this time the large boys had gained the opposite shore, and under cover of the trees, were enabled to take a view of the condition of things on this side of the river, and seeing my grandfather in the path, hollowed to him to run. He then for the first time took fright and said that he scarcely knew how he reached the fort, but did get there and gave the alarm.

In the meantime, another Indian went to the mill and shot my great grandfather, breaking his arm. He got to the house and out of danger, but how, I never knew.

While these exciting scenes were transpiring below, the girl (she may have been my great aunt) was in a canoe on the river some distance above the spring with four or five little girls, children of my great grandfather and McGriff, hearing the noise below, became frightened and went to the shore. She was in the rear of the canoe, rowing it, and the children were in front of her. When the canoe reached the bank, an Indian stepped out of the high weeds that lined the bank, and deliberately entered the front end of the canoe and proceeded to knock the children in the head and take their scalps. The girl was so frightened that she sat still until the Indian had killed and scalped all save one that sat next to her. Seeing that her time was near, she drew her end of the canoe to the bank, which she succeed in doing just as the last child was finished and she jumped to the bank. The cries from the children brought a large dog from the house to the scene of action. Just as the girl started to run to the house, the Indian started after her. She had not gone far when the Indian overtook her and she called on the dog to catch him, which he did instantly. Two or three fights ensued between the dog and Indian before he gave up the chase of the girl. She finally succeeded in reaching the house and saved herself, by the aid of the dog, from capture or being murdered. (continued on page



Map Drawn by Ruth Blevins: Shows location of the massacre site and other points of Snidow History.

## Indian Massacre Continued

The three small boys were taken away and traveled thru woods for several days, I do not know how long. The Indians, only four in number, having ceased to watch them closely, and they having opportunity to converse with each other upon their situation, were led to determination to escape. They laid their plans which were acted on by two of them but failed with the other. Their plan was to lie down as usual at nite, but not to sleep, to be as quiet as if they were asleep, until they were sure that the Indians were sound asleep. They were then to get up and start on their long lonesome and perilous journey towards the east their only guide, the moon and stars, and can we help believing, the God who watches over the destinies of Nations, guided these little wanderers thru the wilderness in safety to their homes again?



Spring that flows into the New River. Philip Lybrook had a mill on the spring branch near river. The children were playing near-by "on a rock located two hundred yards below the spring".

They had no food to subsist upon but the roots perhaps the insects. When the time came for them to make the start, one of the Snidow boys had fallen so soundly asleep, the others could devise no plan by which they could awaken him. After pinching, scratching, and pulling him for some time to no effect, the two concluded to forsake him and try to make their way home without him. Accordingly, they quietly left the camp and had not gone far when they discovered a large tree that had fallen down which suggested the idea of concealment and being afraid of pursuit, they crept into this hollow trunk and had just secreted themselves when the Indians discovered their absence and raised the howl and began searching for the boys. They took circles around the camp, enlarging the circle each time they went around and were up on the log in which the boys were concealed, several times.

After some hours, they gave up the search and returned to camp. When quiet was again restored, the boys left the log and cautiously pursued their journey. They arrived home about two weeks afterward and were nearly starved. The other boy remained with the Indians about fourteen years and by some arrangement was then restored to his people, but had contracted Indian habits and tastes and back home too estranged from civilization that he was never satisfied or happy among his people and soon sickened and died. This is the story. I remember hearing it told by my father many years ago.

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**Editor's note:** An account of the story is given in Pendleton's History of Tazwell County and Southwest Virginia with this additional information. Under orders of Co. William Preston, Major James Robertson and a scouting party of 20 men were sent to Crump's Bottom in Summers County, West Virginia to build a fort. On August 1, 1774, he wrote to Col. Preston, "As John Draper came down yesterday, he surely seen the tracks of five or six Indians, he says on Wolf Creek, and they made their way to the settlements." Evidently, these were the same Indians who attacked the Lybrooks and Snidows. On August 12, he again wrote to say, "this morning our scouts met with a couple of poor little boys between this and Blue Stone, one a John McGriff, the other a son of Widow Snidow..." News of the massacre was widespread, and in effect, retarded the planned march of troops to Ohio because men were afraid to go and leave their families exposed to Indian attacks.

## Snidow Association Treasurer's Report

**Memorial Donations:**

James E. Yarbrough- In memory of Anne Snidow Yarbrough  
 Missy & Joey Meredith- In memory of grandfather, Joe J. Snidow

**Donations: General Fund-Newsletter**

Karen & Jeffrey Wright  
 Mr. & Mrs. Tom Phlegar  
 Nancy L. Pebley  
 Mary A. Atherton

**Other Deposits:**

Saturday Luncheon Personal Checks	\$112.00
Sale of hat & T-shirt	\$ 25.00
Reunion Cabin Box Collection (cks. 360.00, Cash 323.00)	<u>\$683.00</u>
	<b>\$820.00</b>

**Disbursements:**

Jane Snidow (reimb. Saturday Luncheon)	\$112.01
Jimmy Chapman (Horseshoe Cemetery)	\$ 35.00
Jimmy Chapman (Horseshoe Cemetery)	\$ 40.00
Ruth Blevins (reimb. reunion decorations)	\$ 28.36
Pembroke Fire Department ( use of building)	\$ 50.00
Jimmy Chapman (Horseshoe Cemetery) grass cutting/ gas	\$ 40.00
Jimmy Chapman (Horseshoe Cemetery)	\$ 40.00
Alvin Jones (Lilly Land cemetery up-keep)	\$ 50.00
Jimmy Chapman (Horseshoe Cemetery)	<u>\$ 40.00</u>
	<b>\$435.37</b>

<b>Business CD Account:</b>	<b>\$3,946.22</b>
<b>Business Money Rate Savings:</b>	<b>\$2,116.24</b>
<b>Checking Account:</b>	<b>\$2,414.22</b>

We appreciate all of your support to the Snidow Association. If at anytime, you should have questions regarding this report, please do not hesitate to contact me. I will be happy to answer any questions of concern. Please continue to send donations to:

**Barbara S. Meredith,  
 PO Box 683,  
 Pembroke, VA 24136**

Barbara S. Meredith, Treasurer

Mark your Calendar  
 for August 5-6



Snidow  
 Association  
 Reunion

### From Jane's Desk

**“Penmanship” Award**

Our heartfelt thanks to cousin Jim Yarbrough of Winston Salem, NC, for contributing two magnificently hand-crafted pens as door prizes for last year’s reunion. The winners were Mary Bales and Danny Lucas.

Jim made the pens from exotic woods and they were not only beautiful but keepsake items to be treasured for a long time. THANK YOU, JIM!!

**[www.snidow.org](http://www.snidow.org)**

My apologies for the web site being

unavailable recently. There is a problem (okay, a “fight”!) over the domain name and until that is resolved, the web site may not be viewable for a while longer. But please check it from time to time. And, thanks for your patience.

### Preserve Your Family History

Recently, I have been reading about ways to preserve family documents and photos. There were many ways suggested ranging from use of acid free paper to bank safety deposit boxes, The idea that caught my attention and made the most sense was to spread the information in as

many places as possible!

By this method, someone would always have access to the record and could perpetuate the family history. What better way is there to tell and preserve your story than in the Snidow Association Newsletter?

Your family biographies, and pictures are always welcome.

Mabel Peters, Compiler

Thank you to Ann Snidow Frazer for the information and pictures on Christian Cephus Snidow.



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## 2006 Snidow Association Reunion-Aug 5-6

Red, white and blue colors will be evident at this year's 30th annual meeting of the Snidow Association on **Sunday, August 6**. This patriotic look is in celebration of the theme, "The Giles County 200th Birthday". The gathering will be held as usual at the Fireman's Recreation Building in Pembroke, Virginia. The building is located on Rt. 460 and is easy to find.

Activities will begin with a potluck lunch at 12:30 PM. Each family is asked to bring a dish to share. The afternoon session includes door prizes, recognitions, and business. The best part will be greeting cousins and sharing family information. Afterwards, a brief memorial service for deceased members will be held at the Snidow Monument.

For those arriving **Saturday, August 5**, a luncheon will be held in the Latitude Room of the Holiday Inn University in Blacksburg, Virginia. The luncheon is buffet with choices of baked chicken or roast beef and will be served at 12:30 p.m. The cost is \$14.00 (tip and tax included) for each person. Reservations are required and must be made by August 1. To make reservations, please call Ruth Blevins (540-921-3548), Roma Collins (540-626-7332), or Mary Morrison (540-626-3627). Please note that payment is due on all reservations whether used or not.

Directions: Take 460 by-pass to Prices Fork Road. Go east on Prices Fork Road for less than a mile. The hotel is located on your left, directly across from the VPI campus.

**Saturday afternoon from 2-5 PM**, everyone is invited to tour the newly renovated Giles County Courthouse in Pearisburg. By special permission, Ruth Blevins will lead the tour and we can see where our ancestors actually conducted their business. From the courthouse, the group will move to The Andrew Johnston house and the Giles Historical Center and Museum. These places are all handicap accessible and within easy walking distance.