

A Tribute to Mary French

Nat Clark (former Snidow Historian and President, deceased 2008;) expressed these details about Mary French in the Spring 2004 Snidow newsletter and they are still fitting today:

Mary French Turner Boswell is a seventh generation Snidow descendant in Virginia (see her line of descent below). She established the Snidow Family Association in September of 1977 and was assisted by the late Jim and Twyla (Maddox) Snidow also of Roanoke. *(The 1977 and 1978 reunions were held at Preston Park, Roanoke and in 1979 moved to Castle Rock Recreation Club in Pembroke; thereafter, most of the other reunions have been held on original Snidow land.)*

Mary French put together the first Snidow Newsletter in January 1978 and continued with two editions annually for the next four years, sharing her talent, vast knowledge, and extensive genealogical research in her meticulously-written articles. She served as Snidow Historian from 1977 through 1994; however, she continued after that to produce outstanding articles on the life and events of our ancestors for the Snidow Newsletter. Early on she conceived the idea for the Snidow Pioneer Monument in Pembroke and served on the committee to plan, design and raise the funds necessary for the idea to become a reality on August 28, 1988. She also served on the Board of Directors for the Snidow Family Association, Inc.

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Mary French's line of descent:

1. John Jacob Snidow (d. by 1771) & Elizabeth Helm Snidow, Lancaster Co. PA
2. Philip Snidow 1756-1792 m. in 1782 to Barbara Prillaman 1764-1848
3. Christian Snidow 1787-1861 m. in 1809 to Sarah Turner 1788-1874
4. William Turner Snidow 1812-1894 m. in 1838 to Nancy Burk Williams
5. Barbara Elizabeth Snidow 1850-1945 m. in 1878 to Guy Dingess French 1853-1910
6. Harriett Clark French 1886-1967 m. in 1909 to James Russell Turner d. 1961
7. Mary French Turner 1912-2011 m. John Walter Boswell

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Her obituary from the Roanoke Times follows:

Mary French Turner Boswell, 98, of Roanoke, passed away on Wednesday, May 4, 2011. She was preceded in death by her husband, John Walter Boswell. She is survived by her granddaughter and grandson-in-law, Maggie and Daniel Newman; and great-grandchildren, Anna, Olivia, Benjamin and Brooke Newman, all of Salem. Graveside funeral service was held at 10am on Friday, May 6 at Fair View Cemetery. Arrangements by Oakey's, Roanoke.

