

Casto Connections

Volume 2, Issue 3

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New Year, New Ideas!

It is my opinion that even the best of ideas can become stale after awhile if they do not receive the proper attention and care due them. On the other hand, I've also heard it said, "If it ain't broke, don't fix it!". Well, this month I'm trying some new things with the newsletter, and if they don't inject a breath of fresh air, I'll close the window and go back to what we know works!

The first of two major changes was that for the first time I did not write the feature article myself. Our article this month on Captain Kidd and the Castos was written by two of our subscribers, Lori and Shawn Godfrey. I thought a different voice might be an interesting change of pace and will be very anxious to hear feedback on the idea of an occasional guest writer.

I've also replaced the feature that had the Jackson County Vitals and am now running a feature that will spotlight a specific branch of the Casto family

each issue and perhaps make some *Casto Connections* for a few subscribers!

Now, once again I'm excited about what's coming up in our April issue of the newsletter. Last April, I printed a whole issue that was just subscriber's lines and a chart showing how everyone was related to each other. We now have enough subscribers to do that again. The response to that issue was so great that I think this might become an annual tradition - if we can keep adding enough new subscribers, that is!

Well, that's all for this time. I hope everyone had a wonderful holiday season and is all geared up for a winter full of in-depth research and exciting discoveries!

Until Next Time!

Danita

Casto Connections Newsletter

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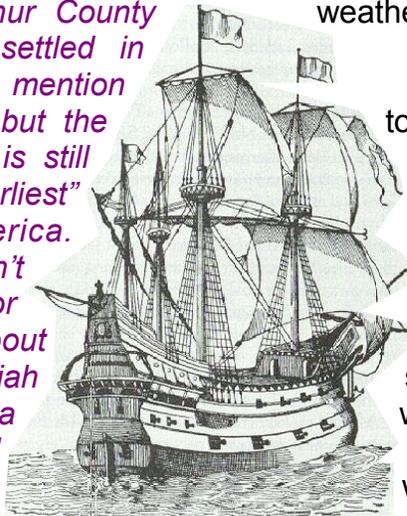
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Our Casto Ancestors Were They **Kidding?** by Lori and Shawn Godfrey

Editor's Note: Back on January 10, 1958, my great-grandfather, Isadore Casto, published an article in his local newspaper, The Jackson Herald, that said, "The first Casto which I have any record of came to the United States in 1696 from Wales and settled in Egg Harbor, New Jersey. He married there and reared a family at that place. His name was Azariah Casto. He had a son named William C. Casto, who was born in 1717 and died in 1778. This William C. Casto had two sons who came to West Virginia. One of the sons, named Jonathan, settled in Upshur County and the other named William, settled in Jackson County." Isadore didn't mention the pirate story or Captain Kidd but the date he used, 1696, is one that is still being "tossed about" as the "earliest" date for the Castos in America. Isadore's article, unfortunately, didn't mention what sources he used for his theories and his comments about William C. being the son of Azariah have proven to be incorrect. In Ina Tuft's book, "Casto Story and Casto Collection [1985, revised with James Casto 1990], she discusses a bible belonging to the Azariah Casto family (b. 1750, son of William Casto b. 1717) which is now known as the "burned bible" or "Hare Bible" because it fell into a fireplace and was badly burned but which had apparently shown reference to an Azariah in Egg Harbor, NJ in 1696. Documentation of the earliest Castos apparently only goes back to 1714 when William Castilo who married Elizabeth Abbott c. 1705, Salem Co., NJ, quitclaimed her land on Alloways Creek. And yet, those pirate stories still abound - is there any possibility?..... DS

Salt spray leaps high over the bow of the small frigate "St. Antonio" as she nimbly leaps through the deep green water off the coast of the Americas. The vessel on a heading of North by Northeast tacks about into the currents that will eventually take her into the settled territories of the east coast of the New World and the civilized environs of New York.

"It's turning rough, Captain, shall I have the lads prepare you a meal and lay out your weather gear below?"



With a sigh, William Kidd turns to his First Mate and dejectedly replies,

"No, I'll just go below for awhile. No sense overworking the lads in rough seas. Besides, they're not aware of their separation coming about once we hit landfall on the Long Island. Mate Peters say's he's a sister who will take the younger lad but not the older. "

Kidd turns from the quarterdeck and descends the ladder to the main deck. He pauses a moment in thought and continues,

"Cook Smith, though, says the older can be apprenticed to his cousin in Rhode Island who is looking for a bright lad to take up apprenticeship. We'll put him off there along with any of the other crew not looking to face Bellamont's wrath when we land in New York."

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"Aye Cap'n, I'll see to the arrangements and have the boats and gear made ready."

Captain Kidd nods and descends below deck to prepare for his homecoming in New York.

While the above is fiction, to an extent it does contain several nuggets of truth interesting to all those in pursuit of discovering the origins of their Casto ancestors. I refer of course to the continuing rumor of "THE Casto Story" which in all of its forms mentions the arrival of our first ancestors to the shores of the Americas by the intercession of some pirate most often ascribed to be William Kidd. I couldn't possibly list all of the permutations of this tale in as short an article as I am here presenting but the basic facts are that two boys were delivered ashore to America by a privateer of the time and became the starting points of our now varied Casto lines.

To review the possible places where our line could have crossed the path of a well-known merchant and privateer as Kidd, I have below compiled a timeline of Kidd and his exploits.

- 1645 William Kidd is born in Greenock, Scotland, son of Reverend John Kidd and his wife.
- 1688 Kidd, after spending years apprenticed to an unknown list of vessels, is living in New York and travels regularly as a trader to the West Indies.
- 1689 Now Captain Kidd offers the service of his merchantman "Blessed William" to the English interests in the Leeward Islands. A fleet was formed and Kidd helped in the capture of the island of Marie Galante from the

French interests that held it (All through this period in time, England and France were in some fashion warring amongst themselves).

- 1689 After capturing Marie Galante, the fleet fought for the release of the island of St. Marie. Upon completion of the battle, while Kidd is ashore, his crew steals away with his ship. The Governor of St. Marie gives Kidd control of the vessel "Antigua" to pursue his crew in the "Blessed William" back towards New York.

- 1691 No other mention is found as to the outcome of his ship or its crew but historical records show he returned to New York and married a widower Sarah Bradley Cox Ort on May 16th, only days after the death of her previous husband. At this time Kidd continued to live a mercantile life and was quite settled. He owned several plots of land in New York and was a member of the Trinity Church in Manhattan, New York. (A pew in the church still bears an inscription of his patronage)

- 1695 Looking to improve his status in society, Kidd sailed for London to ask His Majesty King William for a commission in the Royal Navy. Kidd's commission came with a price. Instead of a return to New York society, Kidd found himself immersed in a plan wherefore he was to operate as a legitimate privateer in the Indian Ocean in order to curtail French merchant shipping and protect those vessels of the East India Company which were at the time under dire threat to the pirate elements also operating in those waters.

- 1696 On February 27th Kidd sailed towards Plymouth, England, in his new ship, the "Adventure Galley". The story goes that on March 1st he displayed several rude attitudes and gestures towards passing ships of the

(Continued on page 4)

crown and probably because of his actions he was boarded by a ship of the line and his core of senior sailors was conscripted into the Royal Navy. It took Kidd until April to finally leave England's shores and commence the journey back across the Atlantic with a very green, undermanned crew.

Kidd arrived in New York to outfit the "Adventure Galley" on July 4th before sailing around the Cape of Good Hope. Kidd left New York bound southward. In December he rounded the Cape of Good Hope and entered the area of his commission.

-1697 After several unsuccessful attempts to privateer Kidd met with some limited success by attacking ships which may have been outside of the letters of his commission. Upon refusing to take action against one set of vessels, Kidd found himself in a fight with one of his gunners, William Moore, which ended when Kidd hit Moore in the head with a wooden bucket, killing him. This action would later haunt him as one of the articles the Crown would present at his trial and charge him with murder.

-1698 In January, Kidd and his crew claimed as a prize the merchant vessel "Quedah Merchant" which was richly laden with treasure. The ship was sailed to St. Marys on the island of Madagascar where another pirate, Culliford, relieved Kidd of a good portion of his wealth and all of his ships but the "Quedah Merchant". Kidd's original vessel

"Adventure Galley" was scuttled. Kidd renamed the "Quedah Merchant" the "Adventure Prize" and sailed in November for Hispaniola.

-1699 In April, Kidd reaches Hispaniola and leaves behind the "Adventure Prize". Kidd's new vessel, "St. Antonio", is outfitted and it is at about this time that Kidd discovers he has angered his backers back home who in his absence (he was to return to New York to divide any bounty from his privateering in March 1697) had declared him a pirate and renegade. Kidd sails the "St. Antonio" northward to meet his backers, probably with the hope of correcting the situation and clearing his name. After stops at Long Island and Rhode Island, Kidd arrived in New York and in July was arrested by the governor of New York, Lord Bellamont, who was also one of Kidd's original backers. Kidd is promptly shipped to England to stand trial.



Captain Kidd burying his treasure,
an illustration by Howard Pyle.

-1701 Kidd has languished in jail with no contact with his lawyers or any friends.

His trial in May lasts only two days (8th & 9th) and the verdict more than likely was established before the trial began. Kidd's evidence has been tampered with, the testimonies of his witnesses is ignored or refuted and he finds himself faced with a final verdict of death by hanging. On May 23rd, William Kidd, aged approximately 56 years, was marched to the gallows and hung by the neck.. His luck was such that the first rope

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broke and he had to be lifted up and rehung to finish the job. His body was then publicly displayed until it was decomposed entirely as a lesson to other would-be enemies of the Crown.

Now with all of this span of history there are several spots where we Castos could have found ourselves interjected. The two most popular being the last voyage north of the "St. Antonio" in 1699 or possibly the first voyage of the "Adventure Galley" from England in 1696. I think the weight of which story sets better lies in which tale of our founding countries country's ancestry you favor. Are we French? Welsh? English?

I unfortunately, Dear Reader, do not have any really new research or light to shed on William the Kidd's experience with our ancestors. Other than to mention that in information published by Richard H. Provance which he compiled from the "Casto Cousins" publication of Eileen Vickers and the works of Stanley D. Casto and his own exhaustive research that the Casto family origins appear to be from an Azariah Casto who arrived in New Jersey from Wales in 1696 and settled in Egg Harbor. Azariah's existence here in the States in 1696 would limit his having had contact with Captain Kidd unless Azariah had passage on the "Adventure Galley" over from England or had been previously familiar with Captain Kidd as a merchant in his travels to the West Indies prior to 1696.

Sources:

Pirates by Nancy Roberts

Web pages

http://members.tripod.com/~toby_g/pirates/pirates.html

http://www.thehistorynet.com/BritishHeritage/articles/0596_cover.htm

<http://www.people.cornell.edu/pages/cjb24>

<http://ncbs.cros.net/Captkidd.htm>

<http://www.state.nh.us/nhinfo/gov.html>

<http://home.eznet.net/~dminor/NYNY1695.html>

<http://www.lihistory.com/history/3/hs324.htm>

<http://www.powerup.com.au/~glen/william.htm>

<http://www.easthamptonstar.com/980625/HIST1.htm>



Harpers Magazine

A drawing imagines Capt. William Kidd and his men burying treasure on Gardiners Island (off Long Island).



Spotlights On.....

The Ancestors of Amy Hatcher Ryan

Danita has asked me to serve as a kickstart for the rest of you: in this issue of **Casto Connections** I will be introducing myself to you with a short explanation of how I got started on this never-ending quest for my ancestors, Casto and others. Next time we hope someone else will contribute a brief sketch about his or her own genealogical beginnings or a favorite story of a Casto ancestor.

I grew up in Gallia County, Ohio, just across the river from West Virginia and less than an hour from where my (and probably most of your) Casto ancestors lived: Jackson County, WV. Gallia County is fairly rural (okay, extremely rural), and one of the main summer activities for kids is 4-H. Believe it or not, there is a 4-H project on genealogy, and that's how I got into this mess. At the tender age of 11, I was penciling names and dates into the charts in the project book. My information came directly from my grandparents, all four of whom were still living at that time, and astonishingly, most of it was accurate, back to my great-great-grandparents.

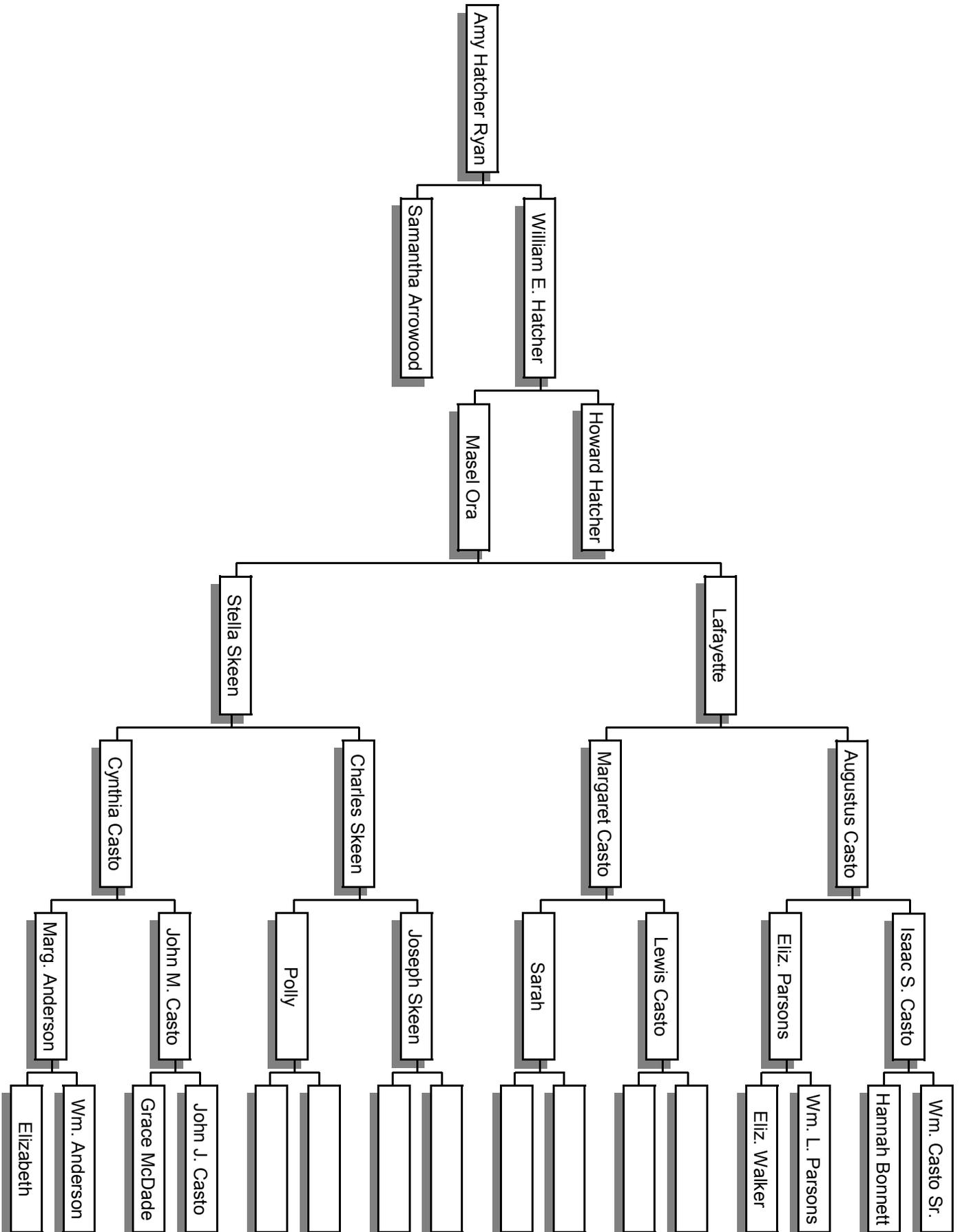
The 4-H project might not have been enough to send me on this long road of discovery, but there were two things that firmly set my course. One was a family Bible. Sounds simple, but when I held the heavy, crumbling, leather-bound volume in my own hands, I felt that connection of time and blood calling to me. My great-great-grandfather Hatcher never knew me, probably never spent a second contemplating my generation, but through that Bible, I knew him. I knew his pride from the strong script that emblazoned his children's names. I knew a bit of humor from one daughter's middle name that was scratched out and changed at the last minute. And I knew his grief from the shaky hand with which he wrote the death dates for four small children. That Bible was my physical link with time past.

The second was my grandmother, Masel Ora Casto Hatcher (1912-1996). She always had an interest in her family's history, and even corresponded with some other Casto researchers (if there's anyone else out there who remembers her, I'd love to hear from you). I now know why my similar interest pleased her so much, because I'm already wondering if my son will care about my research (he's not even two yet) and who will keep searching when I no longer can. She knew that I would keep digging, and that was an important part of our relationship. When I'm frustrated and ready to let a genealogical brick wall stand, I think of her and know she's rooting for me (yes, pun intended).

So that's what pushed me down this path, and that's what keeps me going. And since I have opened up and told you all more than you want to know about me, I expect each of you to return the favor. Please contribute your stories to Casto Connections!

Amy Hatcher Ryan is a stay-at-home mom with one son. Amy and her family recently moved to Chattanooga, where her husband Jon is the executive producer for WDEF-TV. Before she spent her time chasing a baby, Amy was a newspaper reporter and a writer/copy editor for two needlework magazines.

E-mail comments/questions to Amy at <amyhryan@hotmail.com>



Editor's Note: Since there is not enough space to adequately present all the family information that Amy has provided, I am using a custom-made form to provide the most important of the information. For further details on any of the families listed or if you can help Amy fill in her "blank spots", please contact Amy Ryan at amyhryan@hotmail.com. DS

Generation 1

Husband: William Casto, Sr.

Born: 1759 in: Cumberland Co., NJ
 Married: abt 1783 in: Fayette Co., PA
 Died: 1836 in: Jackson Co., VA

Father: **David Casto**
 Mother: **Phebe Gandy**

Wife: Hannah Bonnett

Born: abt 1770 in: Pennsylvania
 Died: bef 1815

Children:**James Casto**

Wm. Casto, Jr. born: 1790 died: 1884 married: **Martha Patsy Parsons**

Margaret Casto

Lucretia Casto born: abt 1792 died: abt 1846 married: **Elijah Rollins, Jr.** abt. 1806

Mary Ann Casto**Jonathan Casto****Joseph Casto****John Casto****Rhoda Casto****Absalom Casto****Levi Casto**

Isaac Casto born: 1811 died: 1858 married: **Marg. Green; Eliz. Parsons**

Generation 2

Husband: Isaac Casto

Born: 1811 in: Mason Co., VA
 Married: Nov. 21, 1840
 Died: 1858

Father: **Wm. Casto, Sr.**

Mother: **Hannah Bonnett**

Wife: Elizabeth Parsons Other Wives: Margaret Green

Born: 1817

Father: **William Lowther Parsons**

Mother: **Elizabeth Nancy Walker**

Children:

Augustus Early Casto born: Oct 1841 died bef 1910 married: **Marg. E. Casto; Martha Sheppard**

Lorena J. Casto born: abt 1843 married: **Thaddaus Cunningham** in 1864

Albert S. Casto born: abt 1846 married: **Mary Thomas** in 1869

Nancy E. Casto born: abt 1850

Hannah Casto born: abt 1852

Isaac S. Casto born: abt. 1856

Generation 3

Husband: Augustus Early Casto

Born: Oct. 1841 in: VA

Married: 1863

Died: bef 1910 in: Jackson Co., WV

Father: Isaac Casto

Mother: Eliabeth Parsons

Wife: Margaret E. Casto (or Tolley??) Other Wives: Martha Sheppard

Born: abt 1841

Died: abt 1884

Children:

Leona E. Casto	born: abt 1865	married: Walter Scott Scarberry in 1887
Elza Casto	born: abt 1868	married: Mary Blanch Green
L. Allen Casto	born: Feb. 1870	married: Ann McClain or Lanham
Dora Casto	born: July 1874	married: Thornton Hatcher
Rader Casto	born: Aug. 1876	married: Doshia Casto
William Early Casto	born: Mar. 8, 1880	died: Mar. 18, 1961 married: Polly Staats, Leota Warner
Lafayette Casto	born: Feb. 17, 1884	died: Feb. 17, 1943 married: Stella Jane Skeen 10/21/1911

Generation 4

Husband: Lafayette Casto

Born: Feb. 17, 1884 in: Staats Mill, Jackson Co., WV

Married: Oct. 21, 1911 in: Belgrove, Jackson Co., WV

Died: Feb. 17, 1943 in: Gay, Jackson Co., WV

Father: Augustus Early Casto

Mother: Margaret E. Casto

Wife: Stella Jane Skeen

Born: Apr. 18, 1889 in: Belgrove, Jackson Co., WV

Died: May 26, 1974 in: Gay, Jackson Co., WV

Father: Charles S. Skeen

Mother: Cynthia Casto

Children:

Masel Ora Casto	born: June 14, 1912	died: Feb. 21, 1996	married: Howard Hatcher 11/17/1934
Delmer Denzil "Buss" Casto	born: Dec. 14, 1914	died: Apr. 3, 1990	married: Olivia Casto
Elizabeth Casto	born: Jul 1, 1916	died: Aug. 19, 1976	married: Christopher Clavis Winter
Elmer Darrell Casto	born: Oct. 18, 1919		married: Ellen Rhodes
Glenva Evelyn Casto	born: Nov. 2, 1921	died: Feb. 1, 1991	
Edra Edna Casto	born: Apr. 4, 1924	died: Sept. 26, 1985	married: James Ayrel Casto
Dexter Ray Casto	born: Apr. 27, 1927		married: Orbie May Lupardis
Imogene Kathleen Casto	born: Sep. 11, 1931		married: Dean Richard Bush

Generation 5

Husband: Howard Sherman Hatcher

Born: July 7, 1912 in: Fletcher, Jackson Co., WV

Married: Nov. 17, 19344 in: Ripley, Jackson Co., WV

Died: Oct. 25, 1990 in: Bidwell, Gallia Co., OH

Father: Roscoe Napoleon Hatcher

Mother: Icy Belle Williams

Wife: Masel Ora Casto

Born: June 14, 1912 in: Staats Mill, Jackson Co., WV

Died: Feb. 21, 1996 in: Bidwell, Gallia Co., OH

Father: Lafayette Casto

Mother: Stella Jane Skeen

Children:

William Eugene Hatcher	born: Aug. 15, 1941	married: Samantha May Arrowood on Aug. 10, 1963
Robert Dean Hatcher	born: Mar. 1, 1947	married: Bonnie Kay White on July 29, 1972

Quips and Queries

We are looking for information on Leander D. Casto. After looking for months in West Virginia and finding a marriage license to Ora Frances Goff in May 1907 in Clay County, we have been unable to find anything further, no one seems to know him but many remember Ora. We found a Leander D. Casto in your cemetery listing b. 1879 d. 1921 and we think this is "our" Leander! Do you know where the J.L. Casto Cemetery is located? We are hoping that the others listed are the missing relatives. Anything you can provide us would be helpful.

Wanda Vicari
Wanda1Der@aol.com

Editor's Note: If you have any information to share and do not use a computer, you can send correspondence here to the newsletter and I will forward it on to the correct person!

I am a descendent of John George Casto. In researching his line I've found an N.B. Casto who was in the 1840 Newton Co., Missouri census. He was in Sweetwater Township and was not listed in any index. He was between 50-60 years of age and had a much younger wife and two small children. This man was Noah B. Casto. Apparently his wife, Martha Cornutt, killed him in Barry Co., Mo. in 1842. They had a son, Noah S. Casto, who enlisted in the Union Army as Noah S. Carnutt in Springfield, Mo. in 1862. He died of smallpox a year later. Given the close proximity they lived to one another it's reasonable to assume Noah B. Casto was a relative of my gr-gr-grandfather, John G. Casto, and they knew of each others presence in southwest Missouri. My ancestor lived in Barry Co. from the 1840's until the War began. If any of your subscribers have any information on Noah B. Casto, I would like to hear from them. Thank you!

David E. Casto, P.O. Box 86, Atkins, Arkansas 72823-0086



Web Wanderings

Many of you "on-line" genealogists are familiar with Cyndi's List of Genealogy Sites on the Internet - truly a massive wealth of information, which lists many sites broken down into several categories. Well, there is one section of Cyndi's site that I find useful from time to time - Supplies, Charts, Forms, etc. It's address is:

<http://www.cyndislist.com/supplies.htm>

Under magazines, for example, I found links to 39 genealogy magazines which were for "snail mail" or home delivery. There are links to site which talk about dating 19th century photos to putting your favorite photo on a quilted pillow! There are maps, newspapers, software, and microfiche links to explore. If you're every looking for a genealogy "accessory", this should be your first stop online!



For Our Next Issue, April, 1999:

Our issue last April was such a huge success that we've decided to do a repeat performance with new players! We will publish the lines of another 20 Casto subscribers and see what connections turn up this time. If your line wasn't featured last year, don't be surprised if you hear from me soon!