

Mom's Cedar Chest



When 50 North Fenwick was cleared out and items distributed, a cedar chest was turned into the unofficial family archive. It housed items that weren't specific to any of the siblings. The chest and its contents were briefly explored around that time but for the most part left untouched until the summer of 2016. As part of a big clearing out, we spent several days looking through the contents. One of the reasons it sat without being looked at is because it was the home of two fox stoles, each complete with head and legs. Once one gets past the fox heads, there are several Bibles, several photo albums, and two quilts. There is a bag of photos, condolence books from funerals, a few letters – an odd assortment. There are also tape recordings of conversations. We've looked through everything, listened to all the tapes and want to be sure that what was learned is shared here with a few added items to compliment the chest's contents. We hope we've created a record of our adventures exploring the chest. And, we hope you enjoy it. As Mom said once on a trip through Loudoun County to look at old family property "it's nice of you all to be interested". - David

Morris Love Mitchell

This is labeled "Morris L. Mitchell 6mo"



Morris was born at Watson in Loudoun County, Virginia in 1908. As an adult, he was six feet tall, heavyset, had dark hair and brown eyes. He attended public schools at Aldie through 12th grade. He played basketball and baseball in high school. He attended two years at Southern Brothers Business College in Washington, graduating in 1928. He worked at his father's store in Watson, Virginia and then for C.D. Kenney Wholesale Grocers. Starting as a truck driver he became a wholesale grocery representative selling products to small grocery stores for a secession of companies (Monarch Finer Foods, Consolidated Foods, B. Green Company) in the Washington D.C. area. The small grocery market was being supplanted by large chain stores, so nearing retirement

Morris became a teller's assistant and customer's aide for National Bank and Trust in Washington D.C.



Morris was hard working and helpful. As a young man he would drive to Washington, D.C. to pick up products to be sold at the store in Watson. He also helped manage his father's properties near Watson. He was the executor of his father's estate and handled the trust fund that J.W. Mitchell left to a grandson.

He was courageous and a man of action. On a camping trip as an Assistant Scout Master the peaceful night was disturbed by shouts coming from one of the tents. A boy emerged shrieking that his tent mate was wildly swinging a knife. No one moved, no one knew exactly what to do except Morris who quickly pulled back the tent flap and crawled in the tent, took the knife and quieted the boy.

Another time Morris was late coming home from work. When he arrived home he had blood on his sleeves and shirt front. It turned out not to be Morris' blood, but that of a driver who was in an accident. On his way home Morris had pulled the injured driver through the broken windshield, to safety.

Morris was active in his community. He was a member of the Arlington Democratic Committee, worked at the polls and supported the candidates. He was very active in his church. He was a member of the Lyon Park Citizen's Association, and always ready to help his neighbors. He was charitable to a fault. Once he gave away some of my camping equipment to a needy scout, before I was through with it!



Morris' Family

J.W. Mitchell (1868-1958) - Morris' Father

John William "J.W." Mitchell was born in 1868. He retired after 68 years from his general store business at Watson near Gilberts Corner. He sold the store and the eight-room frame house and two acres of adjoining land. He had bought the store in 1889. At the time of his retirement he owned a farm, four houses and a forty acre wooded lot. He died in 1958. For a period of time his family continued to celebrate his birthday, gathering annually on January 1st at the Lyon Park Community Center in Arlington.



*This is believed to be
John William Mitchell*



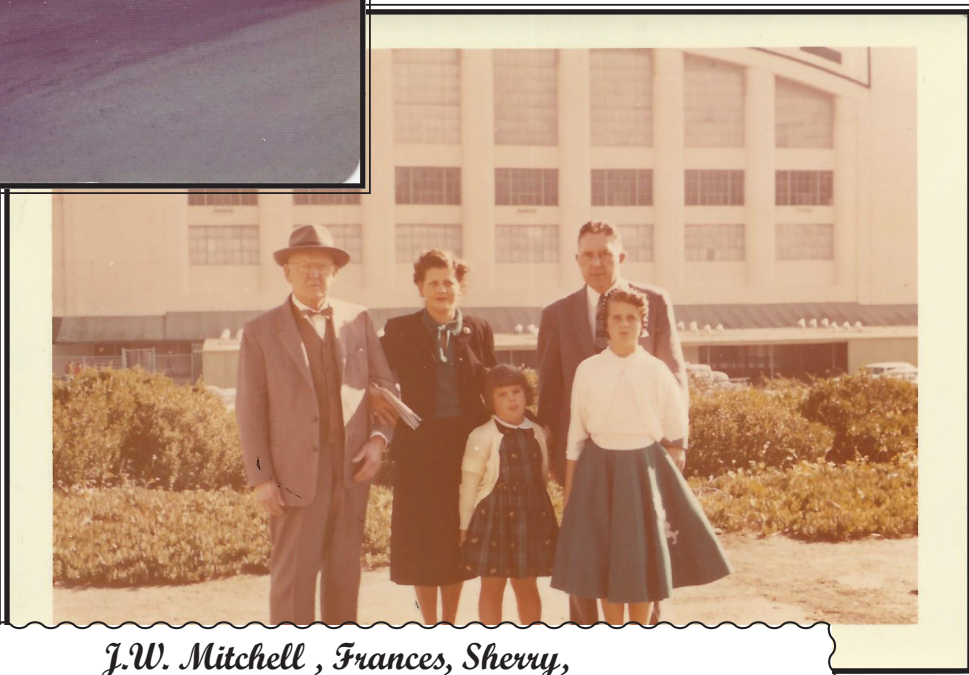
*Above, J.W. Mitchell visiting
his son Jacklin*



J.W. Mitchell visiting 50 North Fenwick



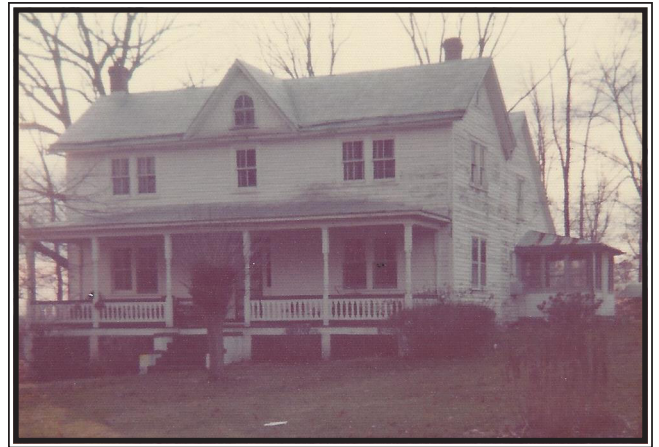
*J.W. Mitchell is shown at his store, above.
A more current photo of the store from the
road, is shown to the left.*



*J.W. Mitchell , Frances, Sherry,
Diane Mitchell (Jacklin's family) and Morris*

An undated news article entitled
*“Mitchell Sells His Watson Store
After 68 Years at Same Stand”.*

“The mercantile business will go on, uninterrupted at Watson, although J.W. Mitchell at the age of 88 has sold out his interests there. Friday marked the first time in 68 years that Mr. Mitchell turned over the day’s cash receipts to another.



Mr. Mitchell has sold the store, his house and approximately two acres of land at Watson to Mr. and Mrs. Claude Church, who will carry on to serve the needs of the area people as has Mr. Mitchell over a record number of years. Few people anywhere, it is said, can boast such a record such as Mr. Mitchell has established for continuous service in one location in the mercantile business.

Mr. Mitchell will stay on to make his home at Watson, having reserved quarters in his old homestead. He will be around too, to help the Churches continue a thriving business at the site.

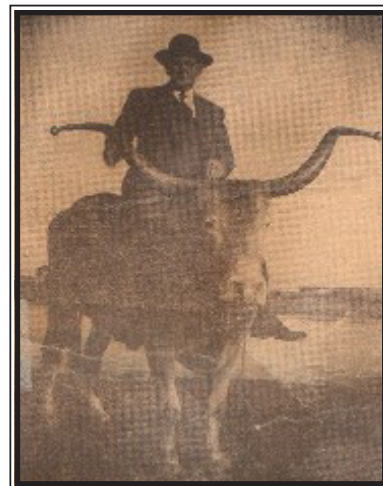
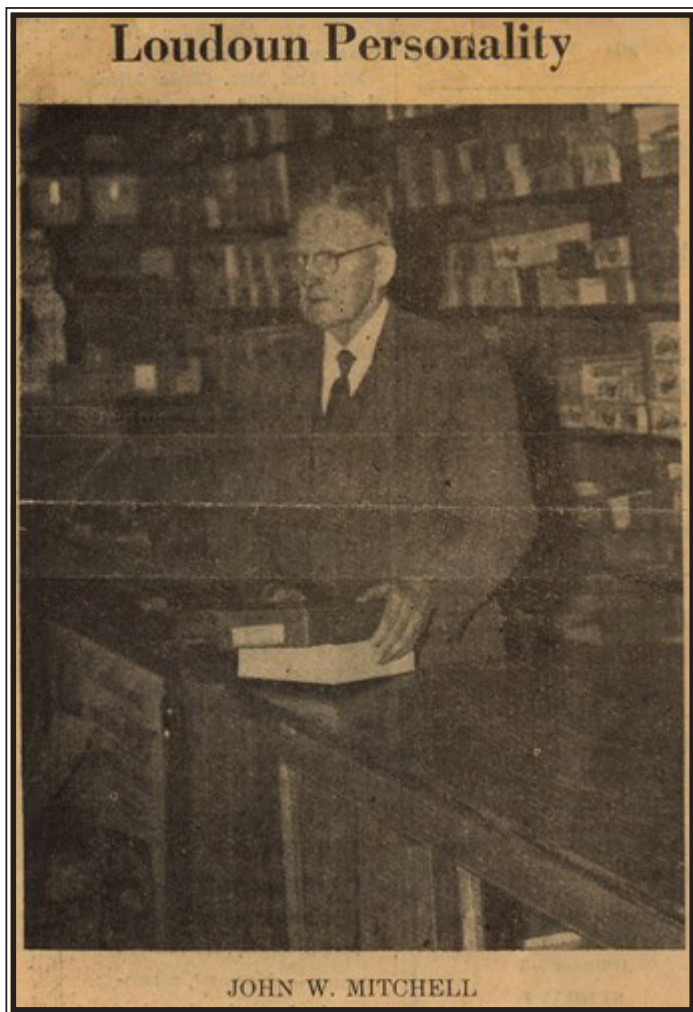
Mr. Mitchell thinks he will do a little traveling now. He likes to see the country but the store was pretty confining. Now he can get away more but he thinks he will always come back to the familiar scenes around Watson store.

Mr. Mitchell was born in 1868 on a farm in Mt. Gilead, at property owned by John Aldrich. His parents had come to Mt. Gilead from Madison County after the war and later the family moved to Oak Hill where Mr. Mitchell went to school. His father presented each child at 21 with a horse, \$25 in cash and his blessing.

Mr. Mitchell’s merchandise at Watson moved with the times but he still had in stock when he sold the store, some unusual items that are never called for any more. There were shoe pegs, in assorted sizes, for halfsoling boots, and when he purchased the store from Joe Daniel there was a regular cobbler’s shop connected to the store where two full time employees made boots and shoes. ‘Those days are past’, Mr. Mitchell says regretfully. ‘Nobody does that work anymore’.

When he took over the store in 1888 one of his first purchases was a large supply of whale bone and whale bone covers for corsets. He still had some of both on hand when he sold out last week. Nobody asks for horse collars anymore either, or hog bristles or seving shoes and the old tobacco knife, which looks like a paper cutter, is never called into service. Other interesting curios in the store were two clocks, with moving figures, which could never be duplicated now.

Mr. Mitchell kept everything in his general merchandise store and sold everything. The oldest part of the building holds food kerosene, oil and salt herring. Out front are thousands of items: cigarettes, castor oil, canned goods, slates, snuff, shoes, stick candy, toys, blankets, hardware, nails, pots and pans and dishes.”





Minnie Love Morris Mitchell (1876-1946)



Minnie was born in 1876 and died in 1946. She was the mother of ten children, seven survived to adulthood. She had poor health near the end of her life, suffering from diabetes, and had a leg amputated. As children, we were always told a story that her leg was buried in the back woods.



The home of Minnie and J.W. Mitchell



*From the top, counter-clockwise:
Anna, "Jack", Morris and Claude*



Children of J.W. & Minnie Mitchell

John William Mitchell (1897 - 1907)
 Anna Maria Mitchell Ferguson (1899 - 1985)
 Clarissa Ellen "Jack" Mitchell Fletcher (1900 - 1983)
 Claudius "Claude" Hunton Mitchell (1904 - 1988)
 Morris Love Mitchell (1908 - 1974)
 Alvin Lee Mitchell, (stillborn 1911)
 Margaret Virginia Mitchell Hummer (1914 - 2009)
 Catherine Ellis Mitchell (1916 - 1921)
 Jacklin Wilson Mitchell (1918 - 2010)
 Geraldine Sydney Mitchell Thomas (1921 - 1987)



*The Sisters and
Daughters-In-Law
From left: Anna, Ann, "Jack",
Frances, Margaret, Mae,
Geraldine*



*Front left to right: "Jack", Margaret, Anna,
Geraldine Back left to right: Jacklin, Morris, Claude*



*At Lyon Park Community Center
left to right: Geraldine, Frances, Jacklin, Ikey, Margaret, "Jack", Ann, Mae, Claude*



Grandad's birthday was celebrated at Lyon Park each year. This is a photo of the 1957 gathering. There was always a table set up for the poker players.

Martha Ann Leith Mitchell



Martha Ann Leith was born in 1908 at the family home called Meadowfield in Mountville, Virginia. As an adult, Ann had reddish hair, brown eyes, light complexion, was five feet tall and average build.

Ann had an interesting and eventful early life in Mountville. The only daughter of seven children and next to youngest, she played with the boys, but rarely joined them in the farm work. When asked what kind of chores she did as a child, Ann said "I used to sweep a lot, before my head came up to the top of the broom. It doesn't come up there very far now".

Ann went to The Mountville School through the 6th grade. Her secondary education was in Morgantown, West Virginia. One of her older brothers had a degree in chemistry and was employed at West Virginia University. "Toots" (Theodoric), his wife Henrietta and their young daughters lived in Morgantown. Ann attended school in Morgantown and lived with Toots during the school term. For 7th and 8th grades she went to Central High School. But, there were too many tuition students at Central for her ninth grade so she went to Westover School. Westover was across the Monongahela River. Ann said she would walk across that bridge to get to class. For 10th grade she returned to Central. That was her last year of formal education. After each term she returned home to Sunnyside. The train ride home from Morgantown took all night.

She married Turner J. Ross on October 11, 1928 at Winchester. They lived at The Trappe near Upperville. Turner died just two months later on December 19, 1928. It has been said that he died while blowing out a flame but inhaled by accident. Ann was twenty and Turner twenty-one. Turner is buried at Ebenezer Baptist Church Cemetery in Bluemont, Virginia. Ann is not mentioned on his tombstone and there was always a feeling that Turner's parents treated Ann poorly after his death. Ann described Turner's death in a conversation. After the accident they took Turner to a local doctor. His head rested in Ann's lap in the back seat of the car but by the time they reached the doctor, Turner had expired. Afterward Turner's father said something to the effect that he never wanted to see Ann again. Ann spent the next eight years with her family before her second marriage to Morris.

Ann's Hospital Stay

When she was 10 years old Ann suffered a severe gunshot wound that would hospitalize her for two months. She and the boys were playing in the yard at what apparently was Meadowfield, where she was born. Her brother Joe had chased a rabbit into a stone fence and set his gun down to pull it out. Julian, another brother, picked up the gun, shouting "turn him loose Joe and I'll shoot him." The gun, Ann said, had a hair trigger, and accidentally fired hitting her in the upper back of her leg. She was taken first to a local doctor, Dr. Gelter, who said he couldn't do anything for her, and that she should go to Washington, D.C. They first attempted to catch the local train at The Plains, but missed it. They next missed the train at Leesburg. So it was a long drive down country roads with Ann lying on her stomach on a cot in the bed of a pickup truck. Her brother Walter rode with her in the bed and Dr. Gelter was in the front seat. At Emergency Hospital in Washington, a Dr. Mankin said "I can't do anything for her." Walter said "Oh yes you can!" Then Dr. Neal, who Ann described as "from home" took over and removed most of the buckshot and closed up the wound.



Ann described that her recovery in the hospital started with a week lying in bed on her stomach, her leg and knee held up in the air. During the remaining time in the hospital she had more mobility. It was "flu time" and the hospital was quarantined so she couldn't have many visitors. Put in the "ladies ward", she was apparently appreciated by the staff, being tasked as the "watch guard" for the nurses dancing in the "black ward". This was the time of the great Flu epidemic. Flu victims were put on the porch for the fresh air and to die. Ann described seeing the patients being wheeled back from the porch with the sheet pulled over their head. It was also the time of the end of WW I. The nurses set her in the window sill and she watched as the planes dropped leaflets announcing the Armistice.

"Taken in my bed while at the sanatorium" is written on the back of this photo. .

Ann's Family



Ann is on the right with the long hair. Grandma Annie is on the left. Grandma Annie lived in North Fork when Ann was growing up.



Ann is on the left



Left to right: Mamie, Leith Howell, Ann

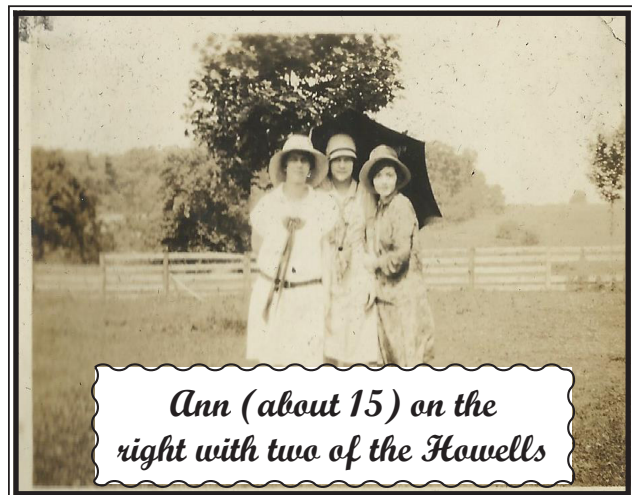


Left to right: E. Johnson, Frank Hines and Ann



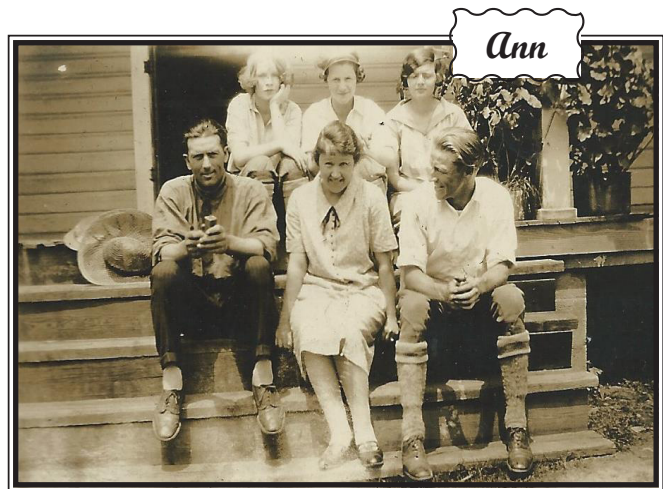


Ann said that Toots and Henrietta camped on their honeymoon. "Walter drove them down there. Toots took an old commode and put it on the ground so Henrietta could go to the bathroom. When they left they covered the hole with dirt and brought the toilet home. The toilet never looked the same."





Ann remembered that the Howells would come up every Sunday and “we’d include enough chickens for them”. Viva Howell was a cousin. She had three daughters and a son. Something had happened to her husband but Ann didn’t remember what.



Ann remembered a horse named Windmill that dumped her. She was going to “ride Windmill up to Philomont to take her music lesson and Howard adjusted the stirrups on one side”. She had one foot in and picked up the reins (when you pick up the reins on a racehorse that means you’re ready to go). Off he went. She thought he was going to jump the fence but he just wheeled and went around the house and she fell off. She remembered that “Mamie and Moma laughed”.



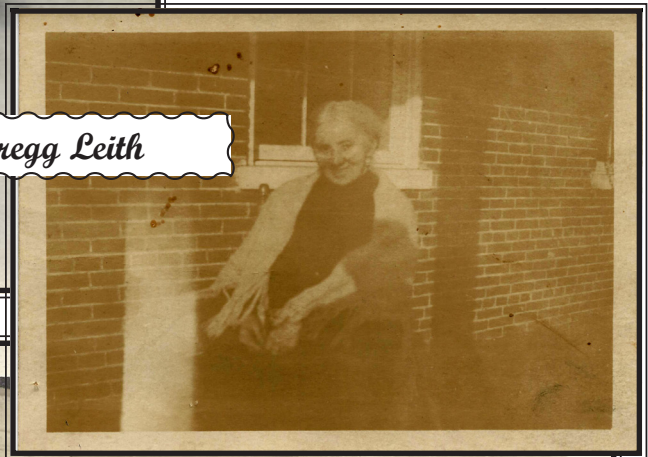
Ann with V.M. Johnson who lived across the road. He is smelling a flower

She didn’t ride side saddle much but remembered that her saddle was in the attic at Sunnyside and wondered what happened to it.



Anna Gregg Leith

It is believed that the chest that stored all these items belonged to Ann's grandmother Anna Gregg, "Grandma Annie", who was born in 1837 and died in 1921. She was married to Theodoric Bryant Leith and is buried at the Middleburg cemetery. After she was widowed, she lived at Huntland (the estate at Potthouse outside of Middleburg) and at North Fork with Aunt Eva, Aunt Alice and widowed Aunt Bessie and her children.



Anna Gregg Leith on right

Ann's Parents

Mary Frances “Franny” Leith was born and raised at Turkey Roost, near the Snickersville Turnpike. She was the one who kept accounts and kept track of business affairs during her married life. Mary Frances was 5’4”, average build, brown hair and brown eyes, with a fair complexion. She was said to be quite beautiful.

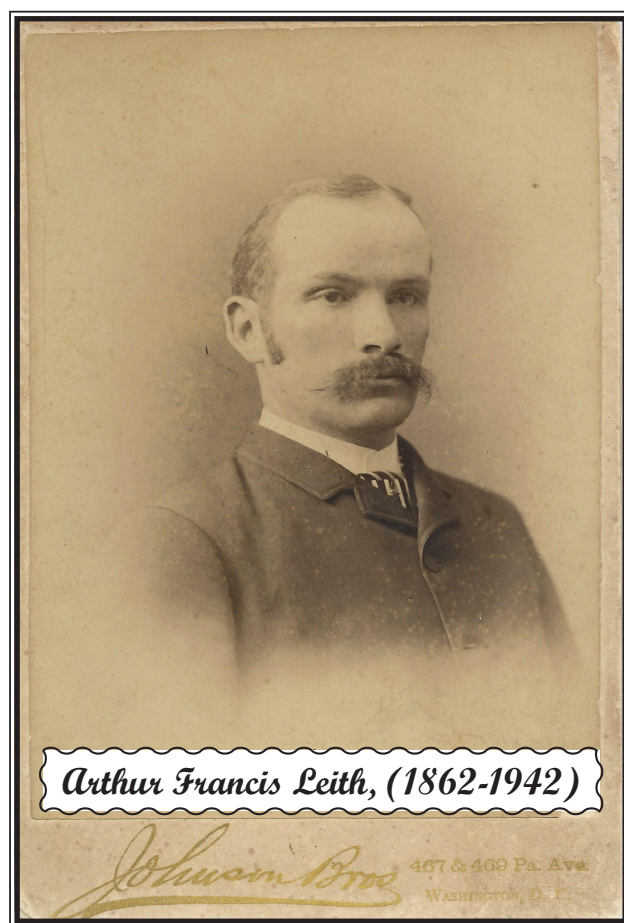
Arthur Francis Leith was born at Farmer’s Delight. As an adult he was about 6 feet tall and 200 pounds. He had brown hair and eyes and was bald early. After he married Franny, his cousin, they lived at Farmer’s Delight, then at the family home called the Wright Place, near Mountville, where Arthur (Arrie), Theodric (Toots), Howard and Walter were born. The family moved to



Meadowfield, also near Mountville, where the remainder of the children (Joe, Julian, Nap and Ann) were born. The Meadowfield property included the land where the house was plus a creek field and the church field across the road.

They had relatives living with them. Uncle Billy Gregg, retired dentist, who lost most of his money on bad investments, Miss Helen Lane, who was a distant relative, and Uncle Joe Lane Leith. Orsman Leith who was a 1st cousin of both Franny and Arthur lived with them for a while.

Arthur and the boys farmed. Ann said he was a good worker but didn’t work too hard. She said it might have been because he was raised not having to work hard. And she said her father



“was in the war and got pneumonia and he was never well after that”. We haven’t been able to determine what war he might have been in. He liked to fish and hunt. He owned hounds and hunted foxes. According to Ann, he would be working in the fields, drop everything, and say to the boys, “Come on, I baited the fishing hole yesterday, let’s go catch some fish”.

Arthur had a stroke seven years before his death, recovered and had several other strokes, leaving him an invalid for his three final years. Ann says he was content to lie in bed and read, cooperating and never complaining. Two years before Arthur’s death Mary Frances “Franny” had a stroke. She lived for five months before her death. While she was sick, Ann said her “mother was upstairs and father was downstairs, both invalids”, and her mother “worried so they carried her down to her father’s room in a chair”. After Franny died, Joe with the help of a local woman who came during the day, cared for Arthur. Arthur Francis and Mary Frances are buried at Middleburg Cemetery.

*The Children of Arthur Francis Leith
and Mary Frances Leith*

Arthur “Arrie” Frances Leith (1892 - 1974)

Theodric “Toots” Leith (1894 - 1974)

Howard Randolph Leith (1895 - 1981)

Walter Gregg Leith (1897 - 1971)

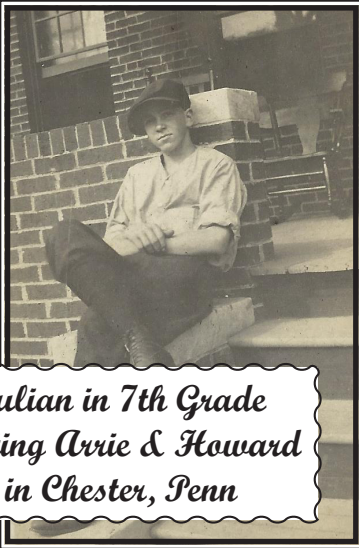
Joseph Emile Leith (1899 - 1976)

Julian Hawthorn Leith (1905 - 1959)

Martha Ann Leith (1908 - 2003)*

Frances Marian “Nap” Leith (1910 - 1985)

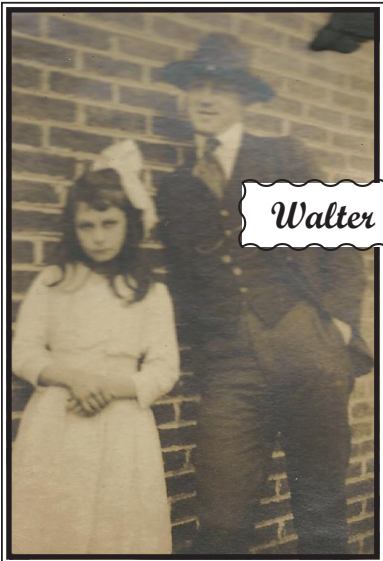
* The family bible listed her name as Annie Martha Leith



*Julian in 7th Grade
visiting Arrie & Howard
in Chester, Penn*



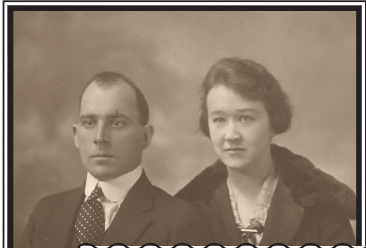
Howard



Walter



*Toots & Henrietta on
their honeymoon*



Howard & Mamie



Joe

Ann said that the boys worked in the shipyard during WWI in Chester, PA. Arrie and Howard were there and Julian also worked there in the summer when he was in 7th or 8th grade. She thought that maybe Joe was up there too but remembered him farming.

During WWII Julian was “so short that they didn’t give him a real gun. He had a wooden gun to train with”. They made him a medic. Ann said he didn’t like it. He had to run out on the field with a stretcher and bring the dead and injured back. “He would hear a wiz go by his ear and know it was a bullet. He’d get down low to the ground.” Julian was 45 in WWII and was sent home after the Battle of the Bulge because of his age. During WWII farmers and those with children didn’t have to serve.

Toots was the only child with a college degree. He attended Washington-Lee and became a member of the chemistry department at West Virginia University. Arrie, the oldest sibling, became a horse trainer in Charleston West Virginia. Joe, Walter and Nap all farmed in the Middleburg/Mountville area. Julian was the lightest son and the principle jockey. After WWII Julian got ill at Sunnyside, and was moved to the Veterans Hospital in West Virginia, where he died.

Leith Family Homes

Circa 1923



Circa 1975

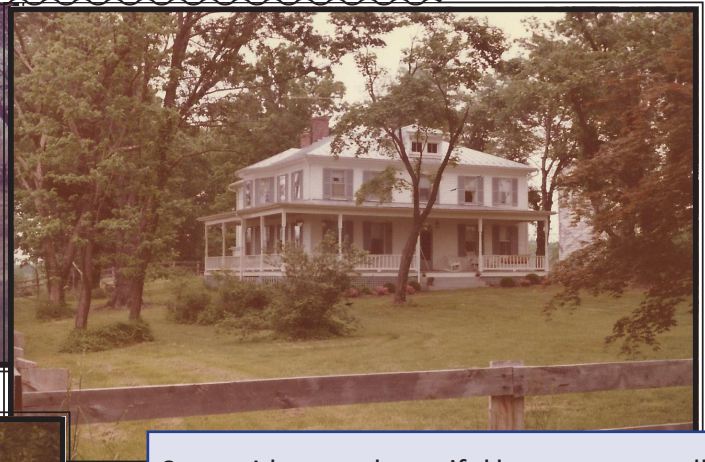


All of these photos are of Sunnyside

Circa 1975



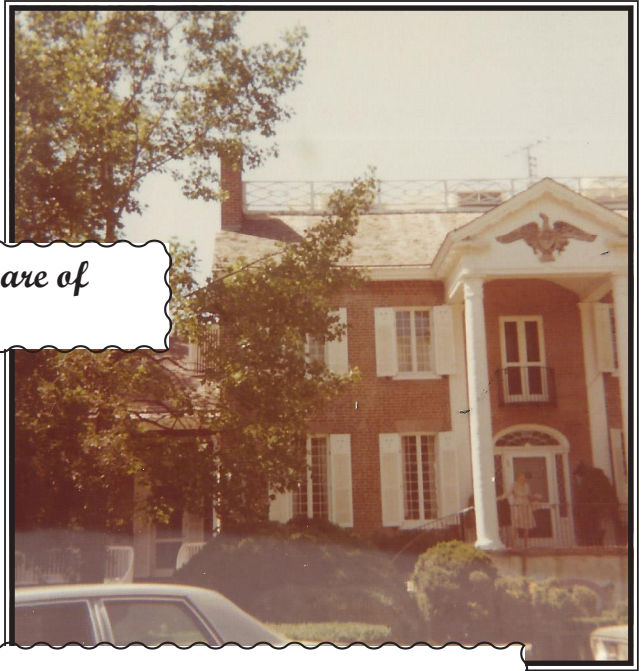
Sunnyside was a beautiful house, eventually having tall stately trees. In the Spring, abundant jonquils, planted by Annie Francis Leith, bloomed along the road. Ann said her mother had geraniums in pots all along the porch.



Ann remembered that when she was a child, they didn't have electricity but instead had acetylene lights. The acetylene was stored in a tank. She also remembered that there was a pump in the spring house that sent water to a tank in the kitchen. Sometimes it would get "out of whack". She'd "put a rock on it to make it work".



Ann said that her Uncle Lawrence's children were Orsman, Louie, Veva – they were raised at Locust Shade but no photo can be found.



*All of these photos are of
Huntland*

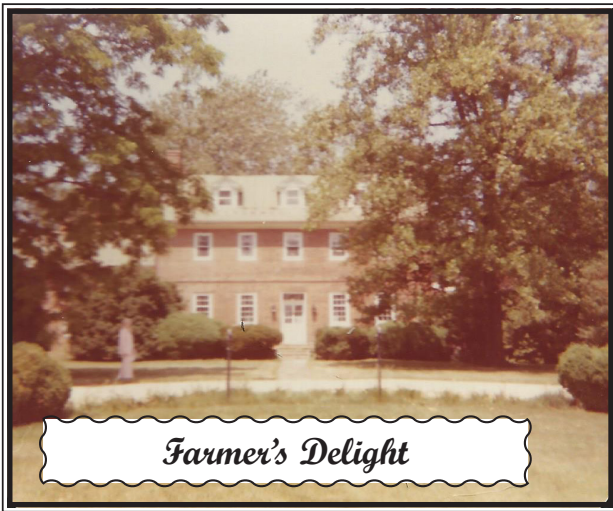


*According to Ann, Grandma Annie and
“the girls” lived here before moving
to North Folk*



Huntland, formerly known as New Lisbon, is sited about four miles northwest of the Town of Middleburg in southern Loudoun County, Virginia. It is bordered by Foxcroft Road to the north and by Pot House Road to the east. At the roads' intersection at the northeast corner of the property is the small hamlet known as Pot House..

Ann had not very fond memories of her uncle Bob, both related to his drinking. In fact she called him a “drunk”. She remembered once when he rode the horse across the field so hard it was all foamy. And she remembered that one time “Uncle Lawrence was sick and Bob came and drank the whiskey they were using to keep his heart beating”.



Farmer's Delight

Ann remembered going to Farmer's Delight overnight at two years old. That was the first time she stayed away from her mother. She later realized it was because her little brother Nap was being born and they wanted her out of the house. She remembers going upstairs to sleep and thought she heard rats in the attic. She cried and yelled. Aunt Em sang and tried to make her happy but finally called Uncle Joe – "come up her and get this girl, I can't do anything with her". Uncle Joe and Aunt Em were Ann's father's siblings. Both were unmarried.

Ann remembered that "Joe was kind of delicate. Sickly. But he did farm". She also remembered that Joe would ride down on a horse from Farmer's Delight and carry her back on the front of the horse. She laughed as she remembered that Joe used to say "now let's lick our plates so Aunt Em doesn't have to wash them".

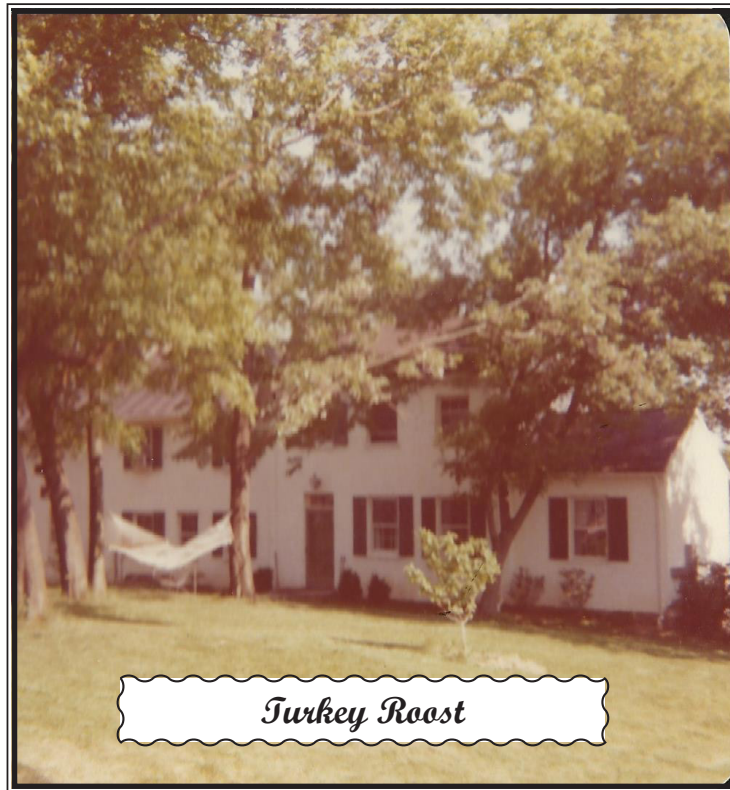
And she remembered that they would go to the general store across from Pink House and get fabric and Aunt Em would make her clothes.

Aunt Em got pneumonia and only lived a month or so. Uncle Joe lived at Sunnyside after Farmer's Delight was sold to Jack Frost, sleeping with Ann's brother Joe. Ann explained that "people shared double beds" then.

Farmer's Delight was built in 1791 by Colonel Joseph Flavius Lane (3rd great-grand father of Ann). Lane, a member of the Virginia General Assembly from 1792-1793, was a colonel in the U.S. Army during the Whiskey Rebellion, and had been a member of the Continental Army during the American Revolution. Although Lane died in 1803, the plantation stayed in the Lane family until 1856, when it was sold to the Leith family. At this time it was known as the Gregg Farm, after Lane descendant Emily Crain Gregg (Ann's great-grand mother), who had inherited the property. The Leiths held the property until 1919, lending their name to the nearby community of Leithtown. Ann said there is a little grave yard around back of the house but it is unclear if any family is buried there. Ann's father was born here.



The drive to Farmer's Delight



Turkey Roost

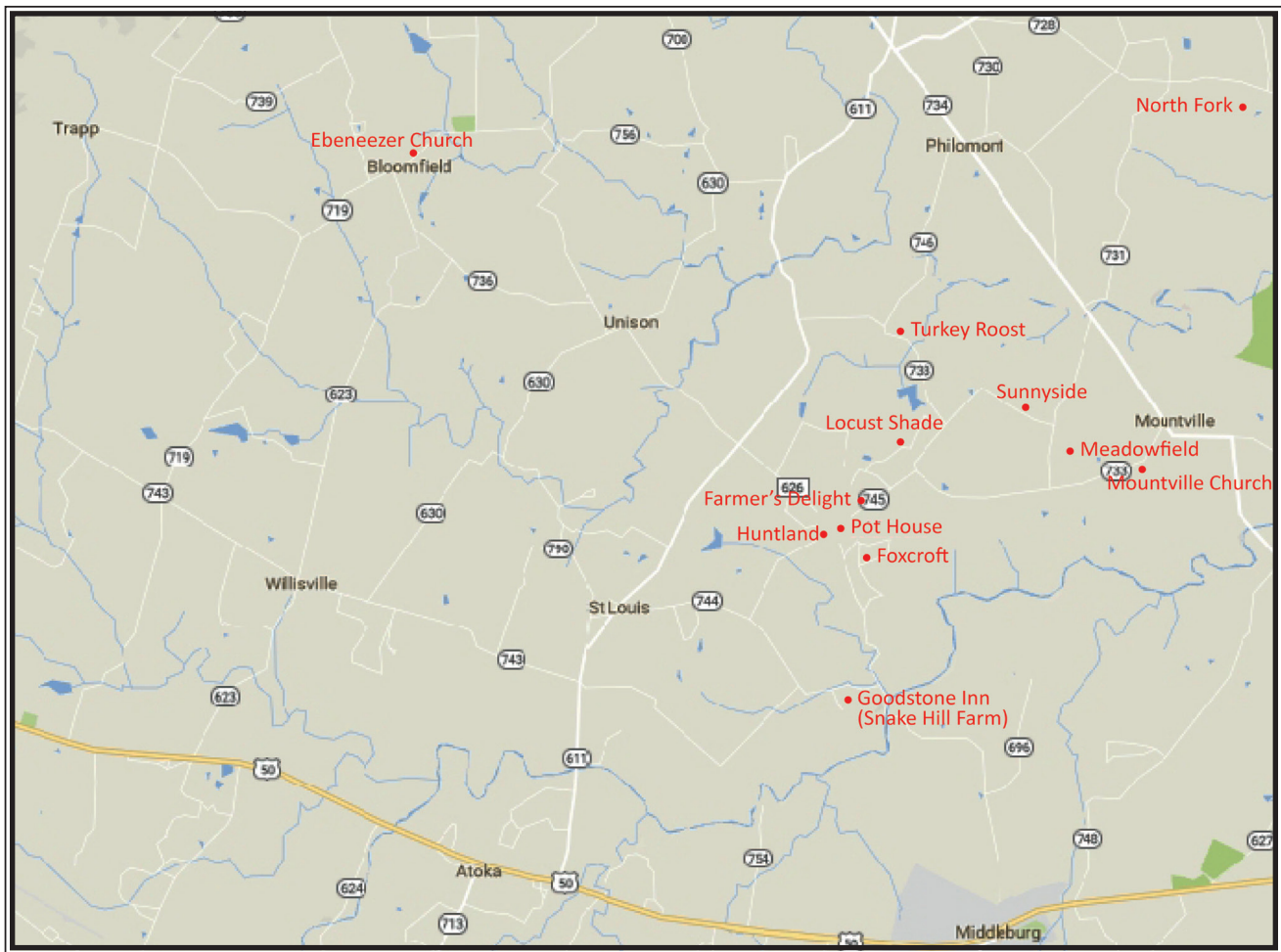
Ann remembered that at Turkey Roost, her brother Joe would tie a rope around Bill and Bob and let them fish. If they fell in, he could pull them out.

This is the church Ann's family attended. It is believed that the land for it was donated by her family but that can't be verified. Ann also said that the Leiths sold off two fields and then the house next to the Mountville Church.

Ann remembered that the balcony was for the "colored people. Ladies sat on one side, men on the other".



Mountville Church



Old Leith Homes

Ann's ancestors had great land holdings in the Loudoun County area. In about 1768, Jamie "the Scot" Leith bought land on the frontier of what was the Virginia Colony and developed a plantation. Leith bought 640 acres of land bordering Goose Creek for 240 pounds sterling.

Part of that original land is where the Goodstone Inn is today. A family cemetery can be found on a hill in the middle of a hill there.

Ann also said her family owned most of the land between Leithtown and Mountville.

Morris and Ann

Morris and Ann married in 1936. They knew each other distantly as children. Morris grew up at Watson, near Evergreen Mills to the east of Aldie. Ann lived at Mountville, to the west of Aldie. Aldie was a place both families would have visited regularly. As young adults, Ann said that they both may have attended local dances. Before they were married, Ann was living at her family home, Sunnyside, and Morris lived with his father and mother adjacent their store in Watson.

The marriage took place on December 11, 1936 in Middleburg. During a taped conversation, Ann remembered that when Morris came after her to get married, the car was all muddy. Their honeymoon began with “driving over the mountain” into Winchester, where Ann recalled that Morris got the car washed. From there they traveled to Endless Caverns, then on to Covington, West Virginia where they stayed with Morris’ brother Claude, and then to his sister Jack’s house for a night. Morris and Ann “set up housekeeping” in Washington, D.C. Anna Ferguson, one of Morris’ sisters who lived in Arlington, wanted them to stay in Watson and for Morris to help at the family store. Ann said she said “no, if you want someone to, you go up there”. She didn’t want to raise a family there.

Morris and Ann moved to Arlington and raised their four children there. They built a life around church, scouting, the Lyon Park Community Center, work and extended family. After Morris died, Ann became a docent at Arlington House. She also participated with the Senior Center at Thomas Jefferson Community Center, crocheting, knitting and doing crafts. And she delivered Meals on Wheels.



Morris and Ann Mitchell at their home on Fenwick Street in Arlington, Virginia



That on the Eleventh day of
December

in the year of our Lord 1936.

Morris L. Mitchell
and Anne Seith Ross

were by me united in

MARRIAGE

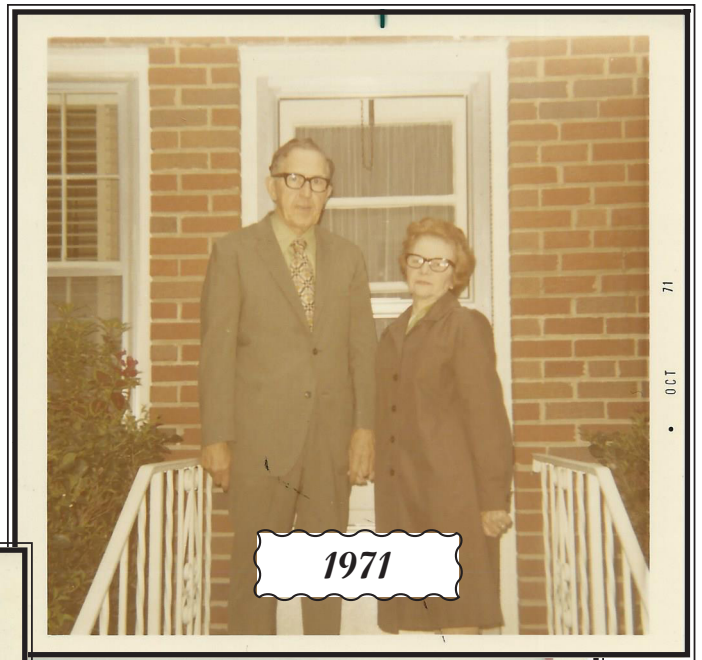
at Middleburg, Virginia

according to the Ordinance of God and Laws
of The State of Virginia

Witnesses
Mrs. W. H. Hodges W. H. Hodges
Geneva H. Hodges



Morris and Anne in 1940 at home on Fenwick Street



50 North Fenwick

After marrying, Morris and Ann first lived in an apartment (owned by Mrs. Grooms) on C Street by the Capitol in Washington, D.C. They lived there for one year and then moved to an apartment on 17th Street NW near Sibley Hospital because it had more room. Bill was born when they lived there. They lived in D.C. for three years. Ann's Uncle Joe had died and left her some money so they bought land and contracted with Broyhill to build their home. Uncle Joe Leith was a bachelor who had lived at Farmer's Delight with his sister "Aunt Em". He had a lot of money. According to Ann he had \$50,000 from selling the Pickett Place and Locust Shade. He also had put most of his money in the "Miller Train Control" which was booming.

When they moved to Arlington in 1939 they lived on Pershing Drive in the Stead house and then the summer the house was being built on Fenwick Street they lived on Cleveland Street for a few months. On Cleveland Street, they had "two rooms and never any hot water". Ann and Bill would walk up to Fenwick Street to check on the construction progress every day.

The house was one of just a few houses on the street at that time. Ann recalled only the Dodge house (49 Fenwick) and the Stormer house (1st and Garfield Street). Arlington Blvd wasn't paved and it was only two lanes. They paid \$2,000 for the lot and \$6,000 to have the house built. Twenty years later, they added the side room, enclosing the porch, for \$13,000 thinking they'd like to have a room on that floor with a bath when they got old.

At the beginning of their marriage, they would go to Loudoun County on Sundays. They would go to the Mountville Church or The Hall, if with the Mitchells. The Hall was a gathering spot and place of worship near Watson that J.W. Mitchell help establish. When they moved to Arlington, they joined Clarendon Methodist Church. Once David started school, Ann began working at Fillmore Elementary in the cafeteria.

When talking about her home and life, Ann said "Dad never made a lot of money. We didn't live expensively. Didn't buy a lot of stuff that cost money". She also said "I've lived 90 years because everyone has taken such good care of me - you all and my family as I was raised".

18-082-013
5900900
18-082-013
R-6

MITCHELL MORRIS L & ANN L.
50 N FENWICK ST
ARLINGTON VA 22201

LT 37 PARK
S LYON PARK

53-E

RECORD OF OWNERSHIP

DR.	Pg.	DATE	CONSIDERATION
MITCHELL ROBERT ET AL MITCHELL WILLIAM J 50 N FENWICK ST ARLINGTON VA 22201	18082013 X037/0452 03/11/2003		
CAHILL STEVEN E & KATHLEEN D 50 N FENWICK ST ARLINGTON, VA 22201	18-082-013 DB 3594/1892 9/12/03 \$580,000		
CAHILL STEVEN E & KATHLEEN D 50 N FENWICK ST ARLINGTON VA 22201	18082013 DB 3594/1892 9/12/03 E \$580,000		

et al - ~~David M. Mitchell~~

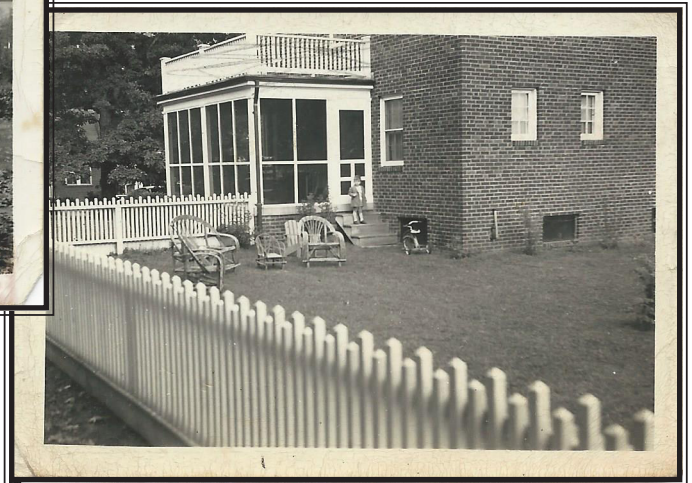
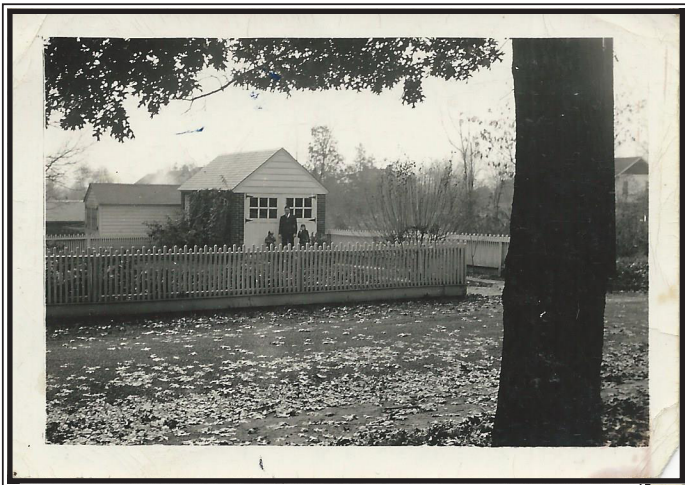
REMARKS:

LAND AREA: 50 N Fenwick St
Sq. Ft. 6234
Acreage

Year	Value of Land	Value of Improvements	TOTAL VALUE
1984	920	5340	6260
1985			
1986	1210	5190	6400
1987	1220	6700	7920
1988	1800	6960	8760
1989			
1990	2800	6920	9720
1991	3120	10140	13260
1992	4160	12960	17120
1993	5280	15700	20980
1994			
1995			
1996			
1997			
1998			
1999			
2000			
2001			
2002			
2003			
2004			
2005			
2006			
2007			
2008			
2009			
2010			
2011			
2012			
2013			
2014			
2015			
2016			
2017			
2018			
2019			
2020			
2021			
2022			
2023			
2024			
2025			
2026			
2027			
2028			
2029			
2030			
2031			
2032			
2033			
2034			
2035			
2036			
2037			
2038			
2039			
2040			
2041			
2042			
2043			
2044			
2045			
2046			
2047			
2048			
2049			
2050			
2051			
2052			
2053			
2054			
2055			
2056			
2057			
2058			
2059			
2060			
2061			
2062			
2063			
2064			
2065			
2066			
2067			
2068			
2069			
2070			
2071			
2072			
2073			
2074			
2075			
2076			
2077			
2078			
2079			
2080			
2081			
2082			
2083			
2084			
2085			
2086			
2087			
2088			
2089			
2090			
2091			
2092			
2093			
2094			
2095			
2096			
2097			
2098			
2099			
2100			
2101			
2102			
2103			
2104			
2105			
2106			
2107			
2108			
2109			
2110			
2111			
2112			
2113			
2114			
2115			
2116			
2117			
2118			
2119			
2120			
2121			
2122			
2123			
2124			
2125			
2126			
2127			
2128			
2129			
2130			
2131			
2132			
2133			
2134			
2135			
2136			
2137			
2138			
2139			
2140			
2141			
2142			
2143			
2144			
2145			
2146			
2147			
2148			
2149			
2150			
2151			
2152			
2153			
2154			
2155			
2156			
2157			
2158			
2159			
2160			
2161			
2162			
2163			
2164			
2165			
2166			
2167			
2168			
2169			
2170			
2171			
2172			
2173			
2174			
2175			
2176			
2177			
2178			
2179			
2180			
2181			
2182			
2183			
2184			
2185			
2186			
2187			
2188			
2189			
2190			
2191			
2192			
2193			
2194			
2195			
2196			
2197			
2198			
2199			
2200			
2201			
2202			
2203			
2204			
2205			
2206			
2207			
2208			
2209			
2210			
2211			
2212			
2213			
2214			
2215			
2216			
2217			
2218			
2219			
2220			
2221			
2222			
2223			
2224			
2225			
2226			
2227			
2228			
2229			
2230			
2231			
2232			
2233			
2234			
2235			
2236			
2237			
2238			
2239			
2240			
2241			
2242			
2243			
2244			
2245			
2246			
2247			
2248			
2249			
2250			
2251			
2252			
2253			
2254			
2255			
2256			
2257			
2258			
2259			
2260			
2261			
2262			
2263			
2264			
2265			
2266			
2267			
2268			
2269			
2270			
2271			
2272			
2273			
2274			
2275			
2276			
2277			
2278			
2279			
2280			
2281			
2282			
2283			
2284			
2285			
2286			
2287			
2288			
2289			
2290			
2291			
2292			
2293			
2294			
2295			
2296			
2297			
2298			
2299			
2300			
2301			
2302			
2303			
2304			
2305			
2306			
2307			
2308			
2309			
2310			
2311			
2312			
2313			
2314			
2315			
2316			
2317			
2318			
2319			
2320			
2321			
2322			
2323			
2324			
2325			
2326			
2327			
2328			
2329			
2330			
2331			
2332			
2333			
2334			
2335			
2336			
2337			
2338			
2339			
2340			
2341			
2342			
2343			
2344			
2345			
2346			

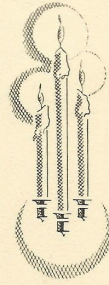


If you look hard at some of these photos, you'll see parts of the family. In the top left it looks like Linda, David and Bob on the porch. In the bottom left, it looks like David, Morris and Linda at the garage. Below you can see David standing on the steps.





Family Life



*Holiday
Greetings*

Billy & Betty Mitchell





Christmas Cards were often made from photos taken by a photographer who would come to the house.



Best Christmas Wishes and
Happiness throughout the Year



Best Christmas Wishes and
Happiness throughout the Year

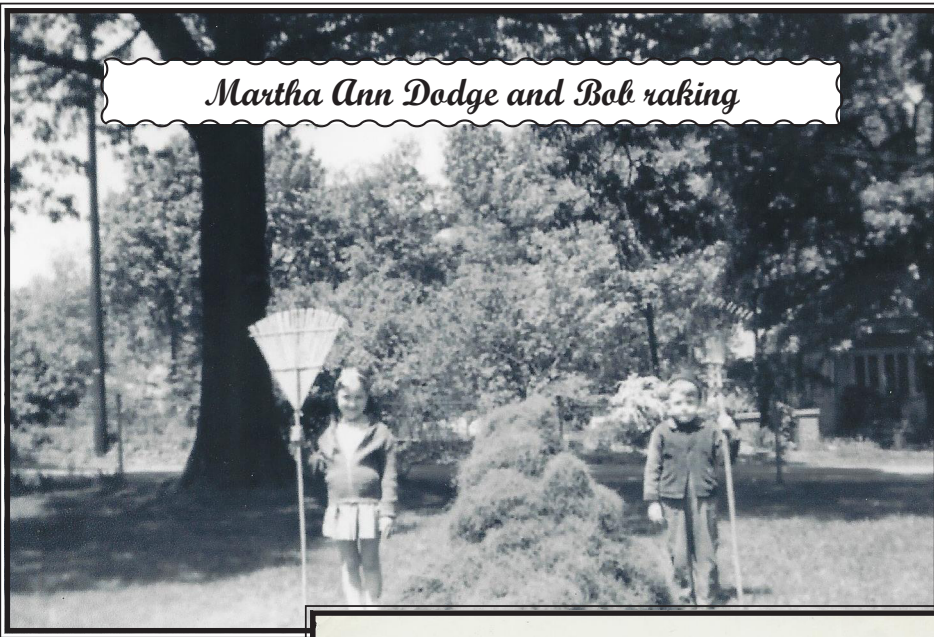
CHRISTMAS 1941



Ann was 5 months pregnant with Bob when her mother died. The last words she remembered her mother saying to her were "bless his little heart he comes to see his grandmother every weekend" referencing Bill. Ann and Morris would go to the country every weekend. Morris would go to his family and Ann to hers.

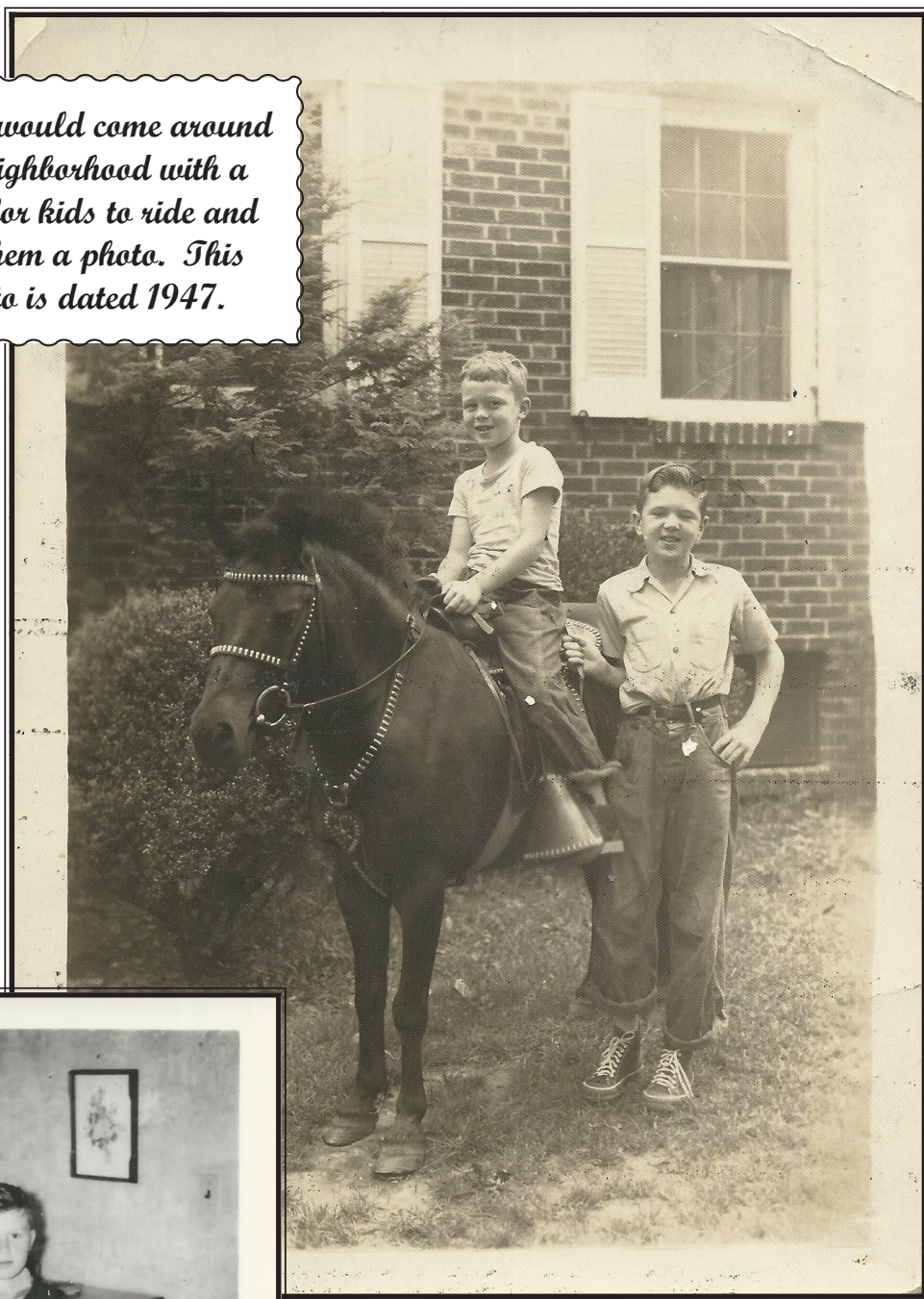


Martha Ann Dodge and Bob raking



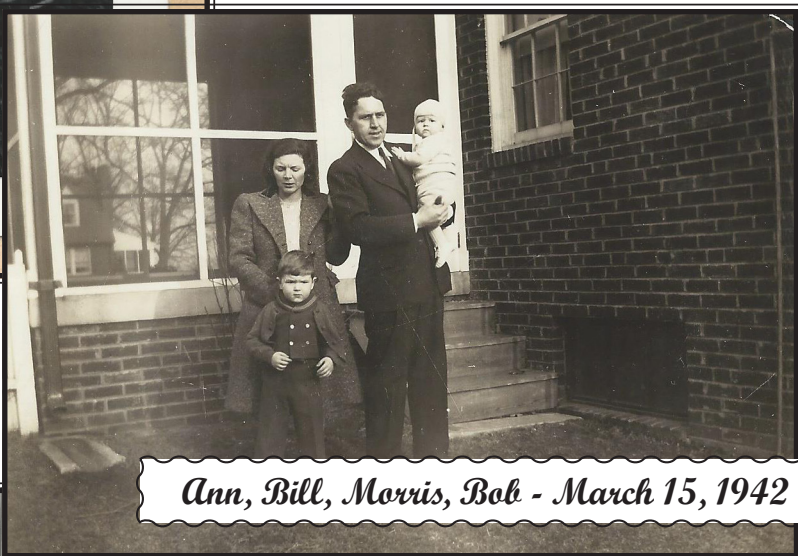


*A man would come around
the neighborhood with a
pony for kids to ride and
sell them a photo. This
photo is dated 1947.*





David



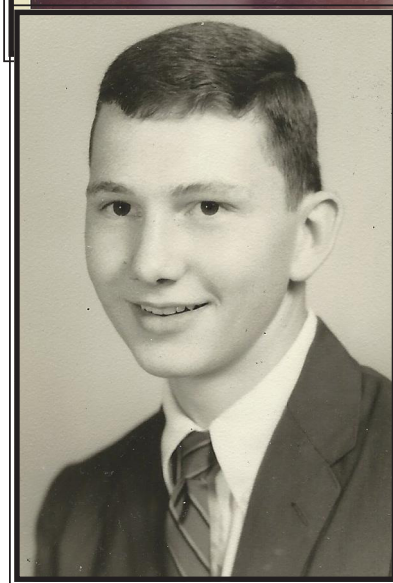
Ann, Bill, Morris, Bob - March 15, 1942



David, Ann, Morris, Linda, Bill, Spot, Sam, Bob



That tall one in the back is Bill



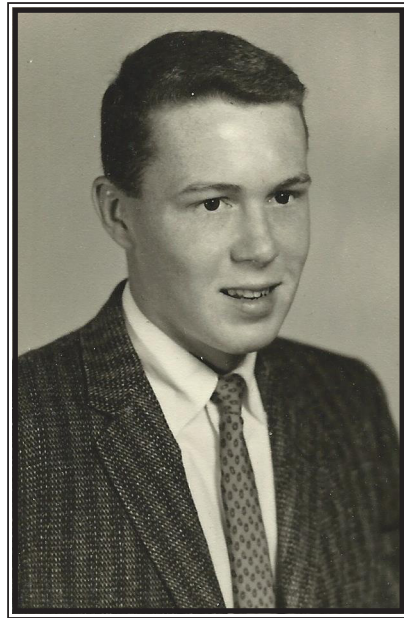


*David and Bob with a
two man high*



*Paige, Linda and David
(Paige was a grandchild of Toots)*







JAN • 57

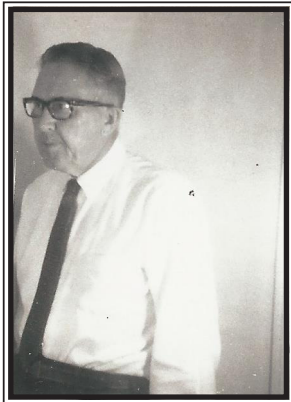


MAR • 59

Looks like Linda got a doll for Christmas one year and a sewing machine another. Or is that Ann's sewing machine? Looks like Morris is putting together a metal garage for David.

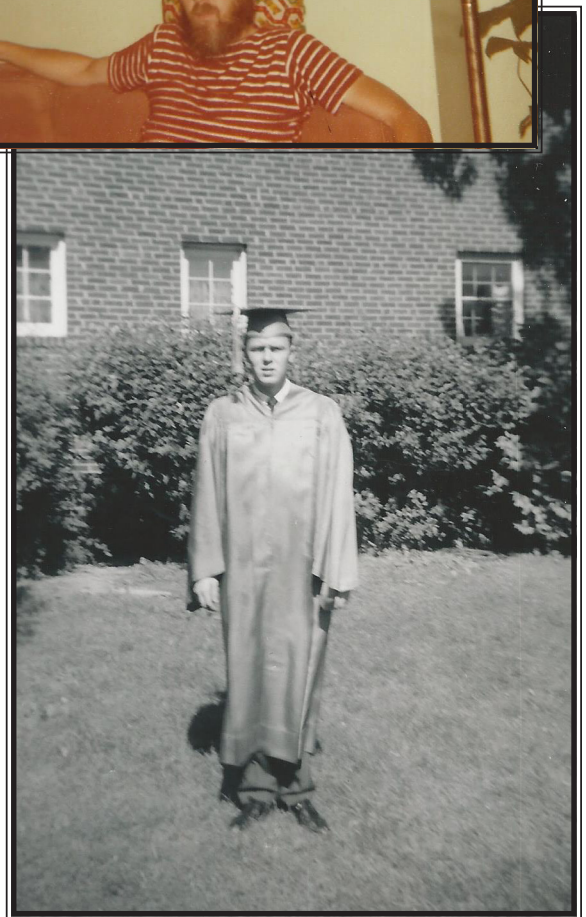


JAN • 57





*How many times did
Bob graduate?*

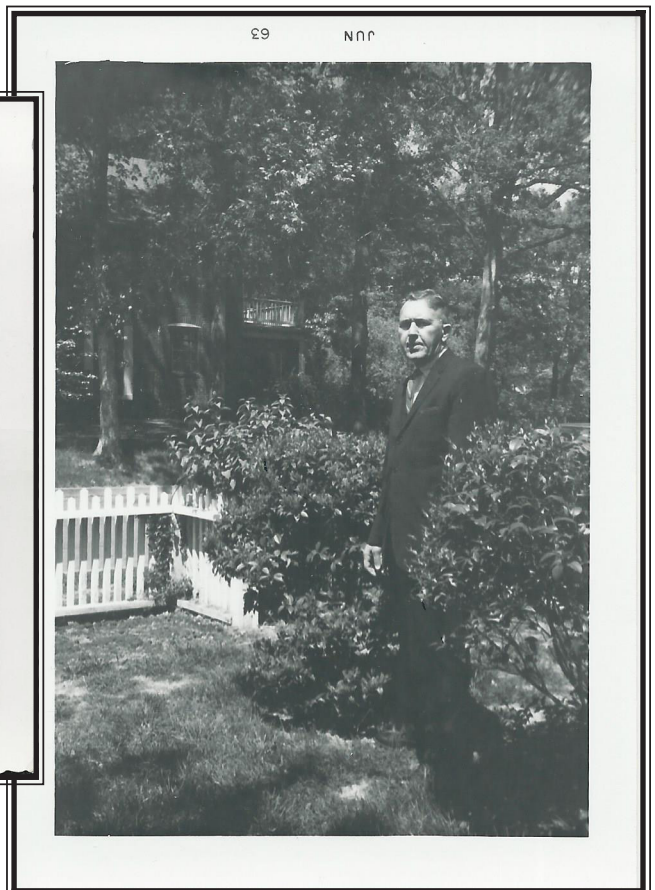


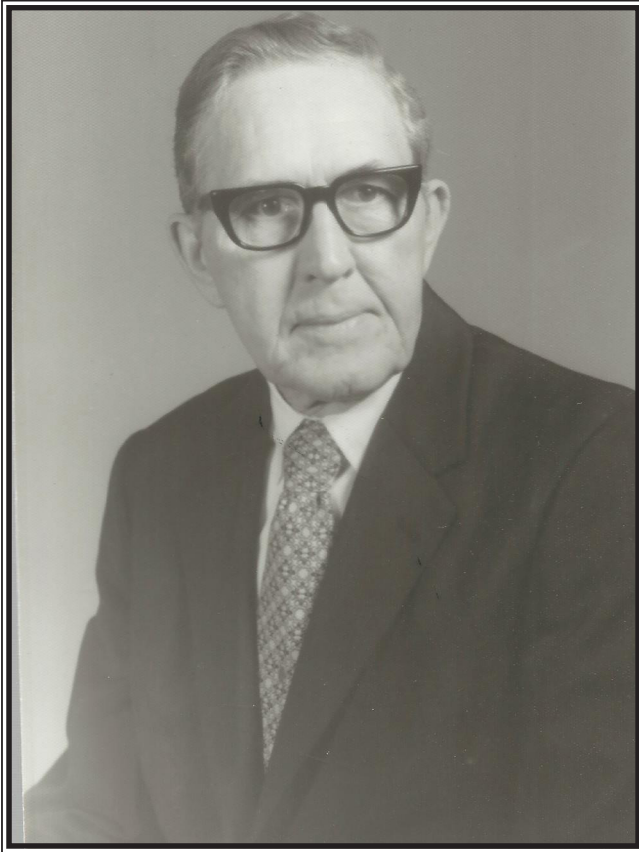


72
• JAN



Ann remembered that Morris almost had to serve in World War II "but they made a law that anyone with children or those over forty didn't have to serve". She also said that her brother Joe wanted her to bring the kids and stay with him during WWII thinking they'd be safer in the country but they didn't go.





Ann said that “before they were married, Morris would run up and down the Washington monument because he was playing baseball”.





Ann and Morris always enjoyed yard work and gardening. Pictured here they are working in the Fenwick Street yard. Ann remembered that during WWII there were victory gardens where Fillmore School (now Long Branch) is. Ann remembered that they planted “a good garden – lima beans and everything”.

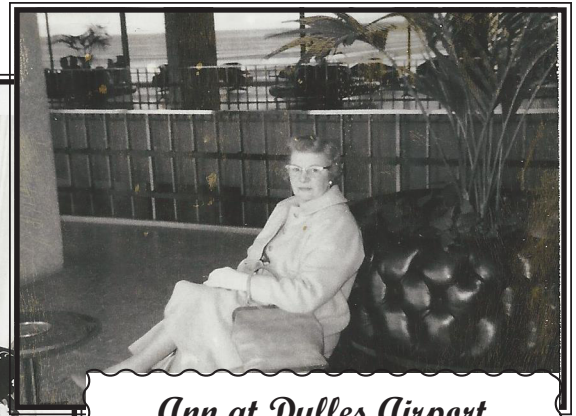




No tie? It was rare to see Morris without a tie. You'll notice that even when mowing the grass he wore one.



• JUN • 70



*Ann at Dulles Airport
in 1964*



1973

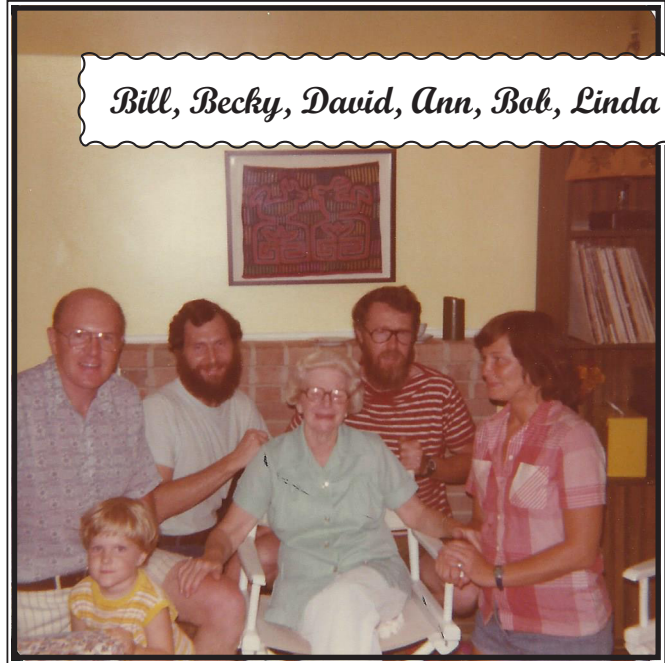
Ann remembered that Linda got lost once at Griffith Stadium in D.C. at a Boy Scout jamboree. Ann was holding David's hand and not Linda's and Linda followed the "wrong dress" out of the stadium. But Linda realized the mistake and knew not to go all the way out of the stadium. Ann reported her lost and they announced over the PA that Linda Mitchell should stay where she was and someone would come for her and they told Ann to stand at home plate. Ann said that Morris, Bob and Bill came running to home plate when they heard the announcement. Soon enough, some neighbors found Linda and took her to home plate.



Ann holding baby Linda on the right, Bill looking down



Aunt Mamie, Linda, Ann, David



Bill, Becky, David, Ann, Bob, Linda

After Ann's mother died, she "felt closer to Mamie [Howard's wife] than anyone else". Mamie and Howard had lived at the "Wilson place" and at Sunnyside for nine years with Ann when she was young. The first time Ann drove a car, she came around the turn and Mamie, who was in the car with her, threw up her hands because someone was coming at them.



*Gardening - Even on vacation
This was taken in Bill's side yard in 1973*



Ann remembered that on the farm during the depression, they had all the family needed because they raised or grew it. The depression didn't affect them. She also remembered that things like coffee, sugar and gasoline were rationed during the second World War.













A big part of Ann's life involved activities at the Lyon Park Community Center where she was a member of the Women's Club. The Ladies Circle at church was also a major activity for her. This photo of her "serving" is how she spent a lot of time. The community center was the center of the neighborhood. It housed dance lessons, the annual Mitchell reunion and many other activities. Kindergarten was at Lyon Park Community House too. At that time you had to pay for kindergarten but Morris and Ann thought the kids would "do better if they went to kindergarten first". Through the years Morris and Ann worked at the Community Center. Ann was the rental agent. Morris mowed the grass and waxed the floors.



Arlington House Docent

This was in the Washington Post Magazine on November 22, 1987.

*It was labeled
"Volunteers at Arlington House".*





Cousins - the next generation



*Lyda, Becky, Jennifer,
Jason, John, Seth, Jean*

*You figure out where the
photos were taken and where
each cousin is in each photo.*





Do you see Ann reflected in the mirror?.





*Lyda, Becky, Jennifer,
Jason, John, Seth, Jean, Julie*

*You figure out where the
photos were taken and where
each cousin is in each photo.*



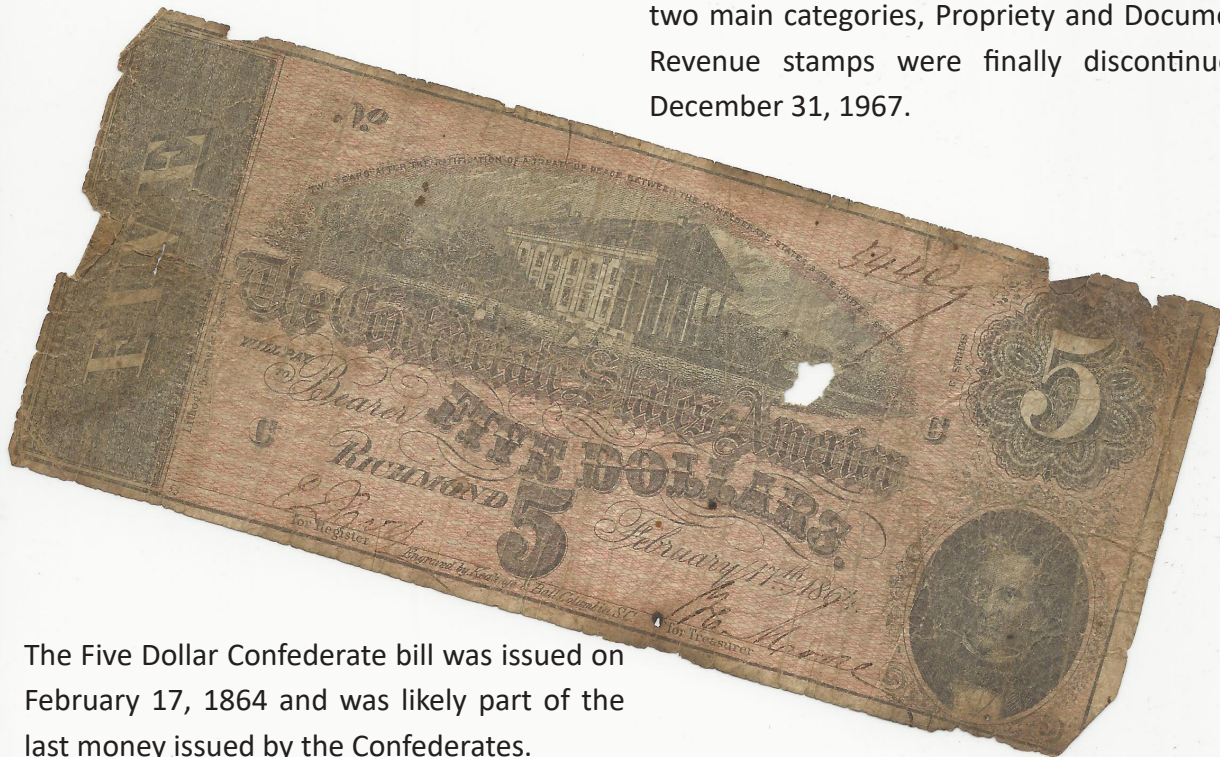
Other Cedar Chest Treasures

These items were found between the pages of a Bible.

The 2 cent stamp was printed around 1890 and was a regular postage stamp.



The 10 cent Documentary Revenue stamps were issued sometime after 1919. The first revenue stamps printed by the United States were issued in the midst of the American Civil War, to raise revenue to pay for the costs it incurred. After the war ended however, revenue stamps and the taxes they represented still continued. Revenue stamps served to pay tax duties on items that came under two main categories, Propriety and Documentary. Revenue stamps were finally discontinued on December 31, 1967.



The Five Dollar Confederate bill was issued on February 17, 1864 and was likely part of the last money issued by the Confederates.



One of the items in the cedar chest was this photo album. Ann said that these old photos were taken using her Brownie camera. At some time, Bob and David sat with her and went through page by page recording their conversation. Bob made a legend to go with the book.

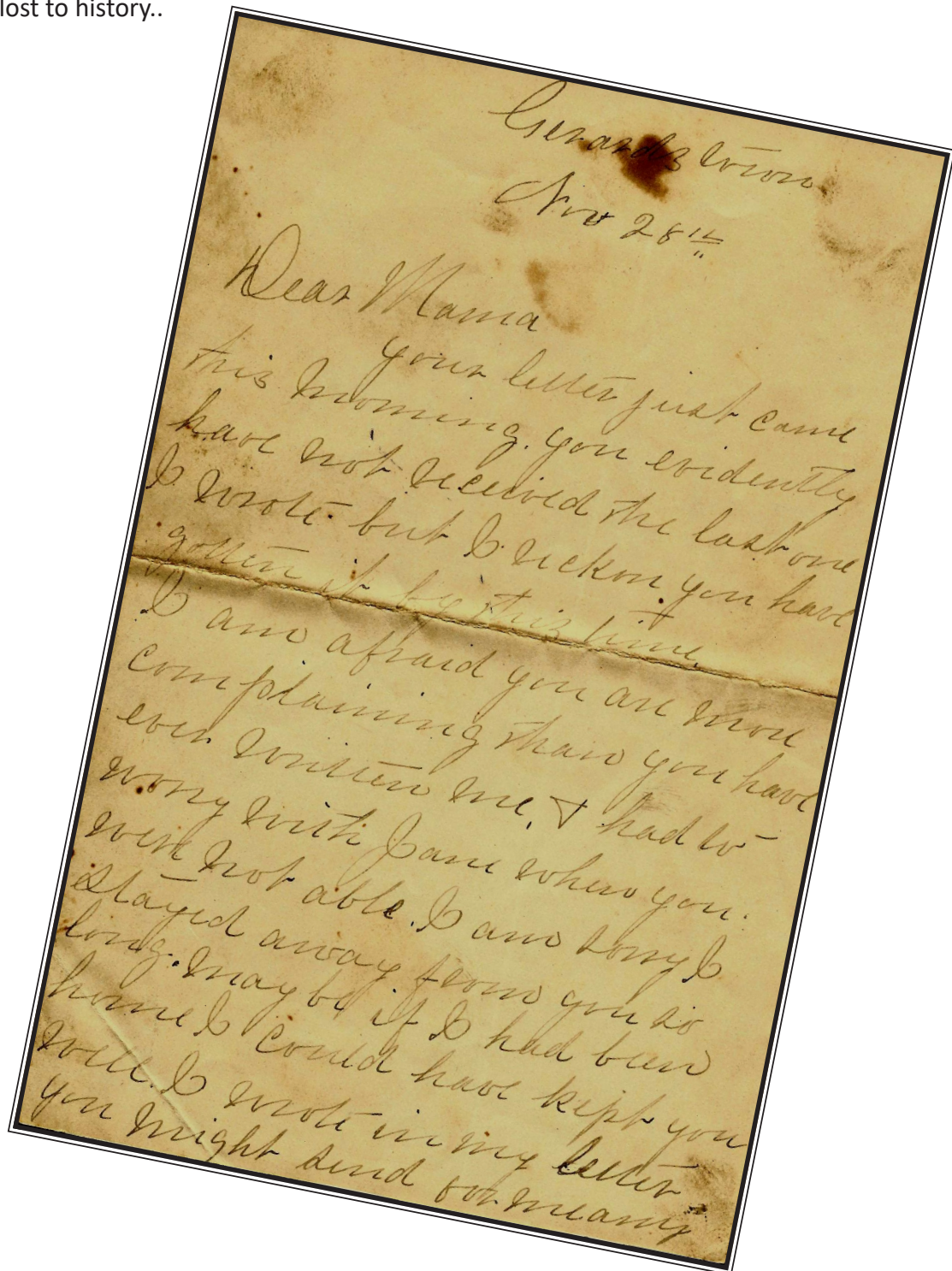


This is one of the schools in West Virginia Ann attended. This photo was found in the album.

This "Dear Moma" letter is incomplete and so there is no way to tell who it was to or from or what year. It is dated Nov 28 and reads:

"Dear Moma

Your letter just came this morning. You evidently have not received the last one I wrote but I reckon you have gotten it by this time. I am afraid you are more complaining that you have ever written me. I had to worry with Jane where you were not able. I am sorry I stayed away from you so long. Maybe if I had been home I could have kept you well. I wrote in my letter you might send for me any ..." The rest is lost to history..



Grandmother
Nov 28th
Dear Moma
Your letter just came
this morning. You evidently
have not received the last one
I wrote but I reckon you have
gotten it by this time.
I am afraid you are more
complaining than you have
ever written me. I had to
worry with Jane where you
were not able. I am sorry I
stayed away from you so
long. Maybe if I had been
home I could have kept you
well. I wrote in my letter
you might send for me any

You are

strange of hearing from me, but I have been
of writing to you for a long time a short letter to inform
you I am still in the land of living. My wife and Children
are all well at this time I have not heard from Vir in a
long time. Just to correspond with Helen but from some
cause she has stoped. What has become of her, well that
I will only ask you a few questions concerning the
family. What has become of Phil and Family & all of your
Betsy & Henry Long - I think next Spring I will visit you all
once ~~for~~ more times I suppose has change very much since
I was there, that ~~what~~ has become of Mary & Chichester
her in particular & the other Children & all of the Lucetts
I want you to write me a long letter & give all the news of
the country & people in general

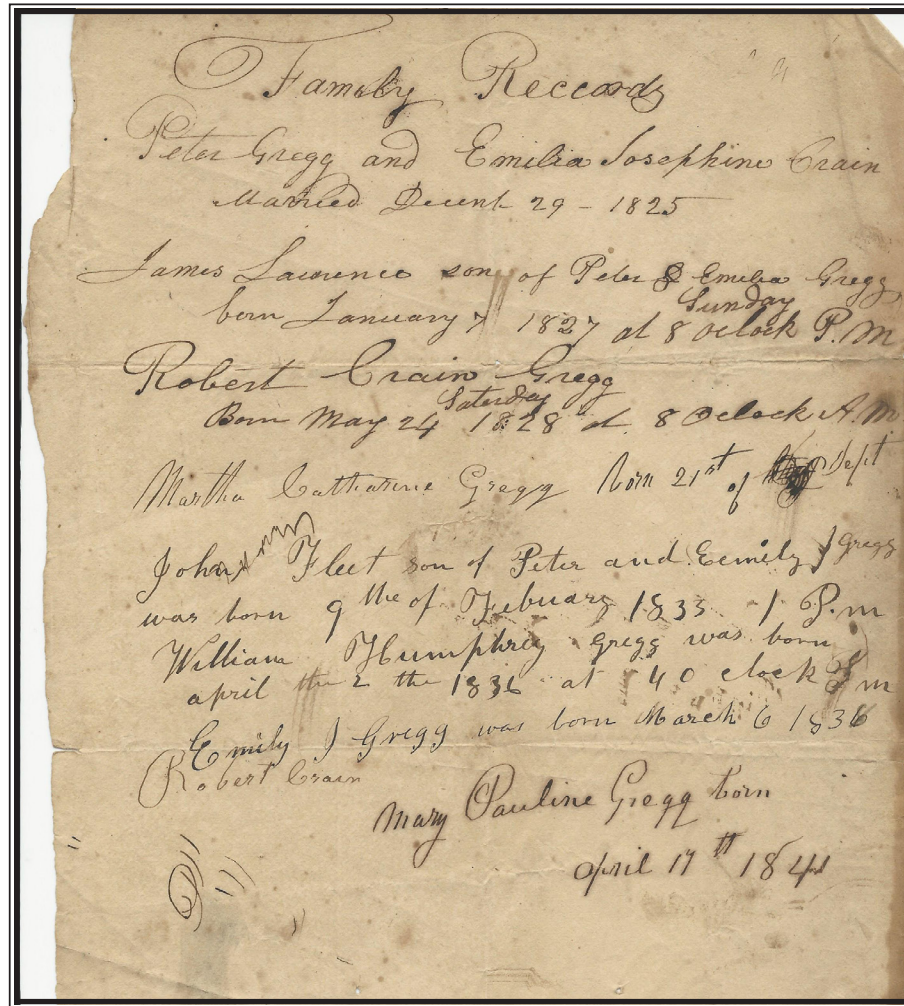
this is my first writing since the war I had a long spell
of sour eyes - I hope you will excuse this few imperfect
lines I will send you the San Antonio paper when I hear
from you - What has become of old Vig give my love to him
My kindest regards to Howard & all inquired friends

I am doing very well I still am in the stock business
write to me soon

Your Uncle
W. P. Crain

Direct your letter Nopal Po
McMullen Co

There is no way to know who this letter is to or from or when it was written or why it was kept and in the chest. Although there are Crains in the family, we can't figure out who W.P. Crain is. In the letter he says "this is my first writing since the war". Which war? He is writing from San Antonio, Texas and says he is still in "stock business".



This piece of paper was tucked away in a Bible and reads:

"Family Records

Peter Gregg and Emilia Josephine Crain married Decmb 29 - 1825

James Lawrence son of Peter & Emilia Gregg born January 7 1827 at 8 oclock PM Sunday

Robert Crain Gregg born May 24 Saturday 1828 at 8 oclock AM

Martha Catharine Gregg born 21st of [scratched out] Sept [no year but we know she was born in 1830]

John Fleet son of Peter and Emily Gregg was born 9th of February 1835 1 PM

William Humphrey Gregg was born April the 2 the 1836 at 4 oclock [unreadable]

Emily J Gregg was born March 6 1836

Robert Crain

Mary Pauline Gregg born April 17 1841"

If you read the dates there is an obvious error. William and Emily couldn't have been born a month apart.

SIXTY-FIFTH CONGRESS.

EDWIN Y. WEBB, N. C., CHAIRMAN.
 CHARLES C. CARLIN, VA. JOSEPH V. FLYNN, N. Y.
 ROBERT Y. THOMAS, JR., KY. ANDREW J. VOLSTEAD, MINN.
 WILLIAM L. IGOE, MO. JOHN M. NELSON, WIS.
 WARREN GARD, OHIO. DICK T. MORGAN, OKLA.
 RICHARD S. WHALEY, S. C. GEORGE S. GRAHAM, PA.
 THADDEUS H. CARAWAY, ARK. WALTER M. CHANDLER, N. Y.
 M. H. NEELY, W. VA. LEONIDAS C. DYER, MO.
 HENRY J. STEELE, PA. JOSEPH WALSH, MASS.
 J. RANDALL WALKER, GA. C. FRANK REAVIS, NEBR.
 HATTON W. SUMNERS, TEX. WALTER W. MAGEE, N. Y.
 A. L. QUICKEL, CLERK.

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY,

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES U. S.,

WASHINGTON, D. C.

March 5, 1918.

W. P. Leith, Esq.,
 Mountville, Va.

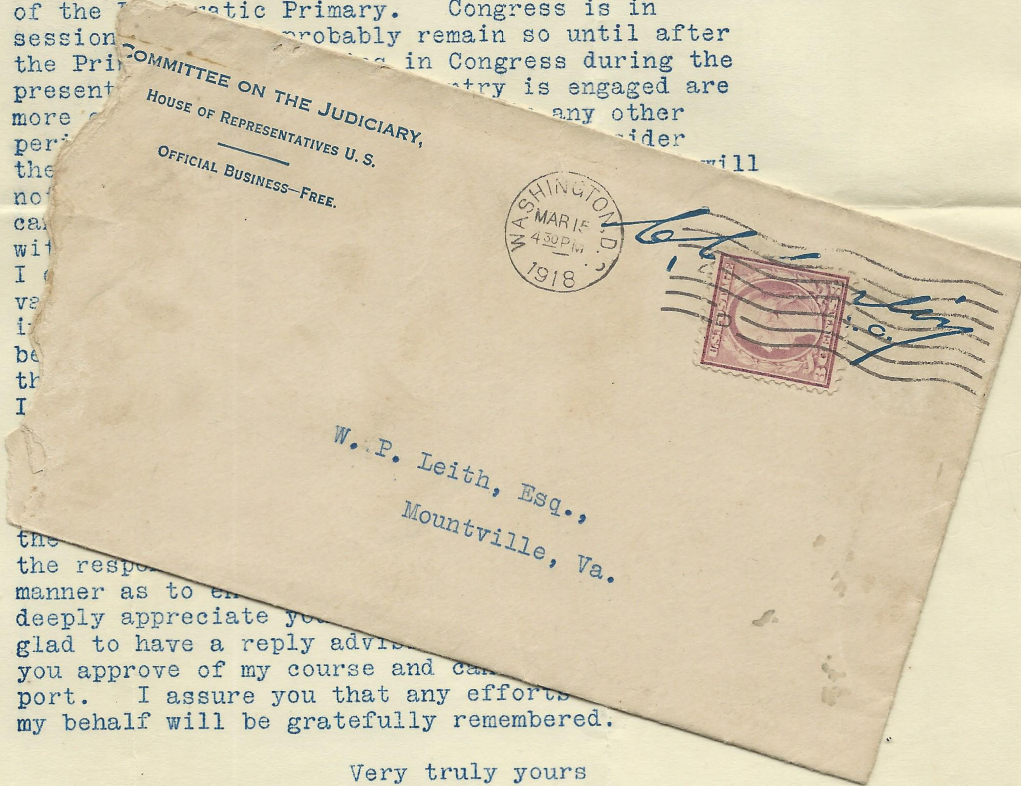
Dear Sir:

The time has arrived when I feel that I should announce to my constituents that I am a candidate for re-election, subject to the action of the Democratic Primary. Congress is in session and probably remain so until after the Primary. In Congress during the present session the country is engaged are more than any other.

the response in the manner as to deeply appreciate you glad to have a reply advise you approve of my course and support. I assure you that any efforts my behalf will be gratefully remembered.

Very truly yours

W. P. Leith, Esq.,
Mountville, Va.



This letter was found in the chest. We believe that the addressee, W.P. Leith , is William Peter Leith, a brother of Arthur Francis. As a side, it is interesting to note that none of Arthur Francis' brothers married.



Harthill Castle (c 1600) to the left and Leith Hall (c 1650) below are ancestral homes found in Scotland. These photos were found in the chest and the following was found on line.

“Harthill Castle is situated near Oyne, Aberdeenshire. The castle is the ancient seat of the family of Leith of Harthill. It dates from the 15th century, if not earlier, and was extensively restored in 1638 by John Leith. Harthill Castle is a pink-washed Z-plan tower. The 77 feet high tower dates from the 17th century. It has 4 stories with vaulted ground floor rooms. The castle has a Great Hall and four poster bedrooms. The castle was restored between 1975 and 1977, transforming it from a ruin to a magnificent building.”

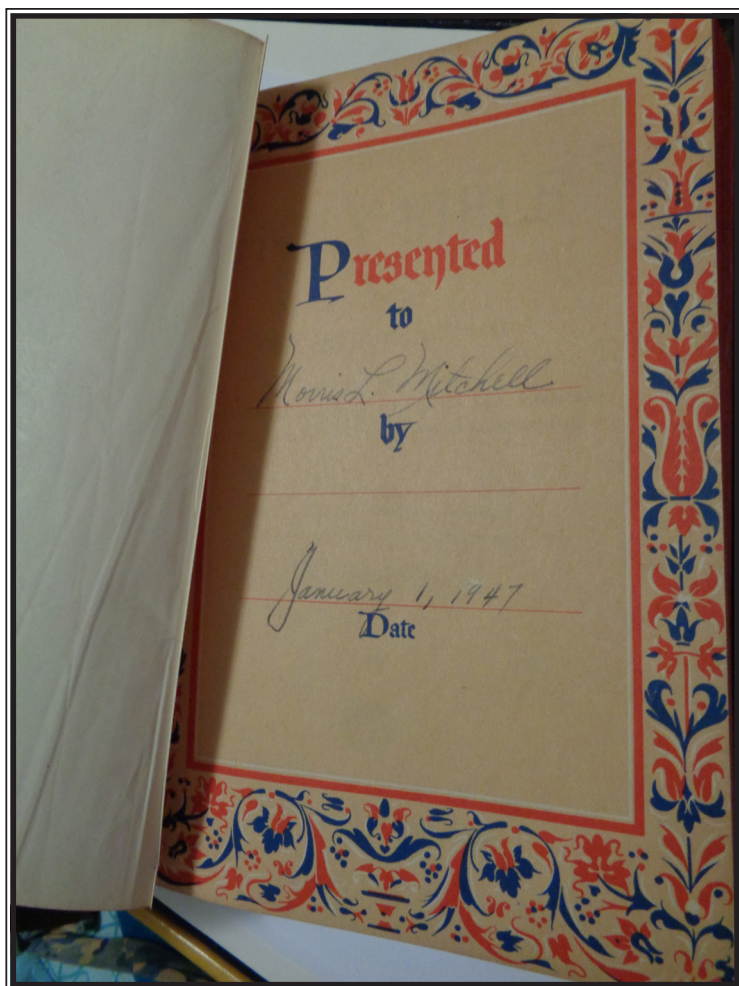


“Built in 1650 by James Leith, Leith Hall was very much a family home, lived in, used and altered to meet the family’s needs for nearly three hundred years.

During World War I the hall was used as a military hospital. The hall, gardens, wider estate and much of the original collection came to the NTS [National Trust of Scotland] in 1945.

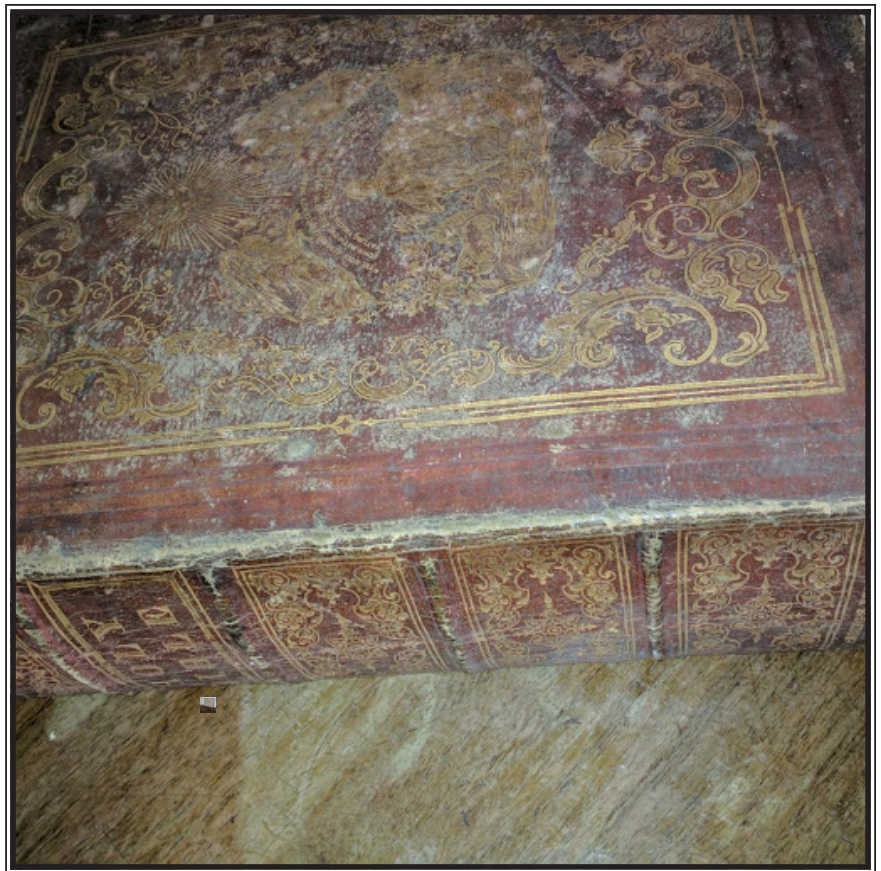
Never having been sold and remaining in the same family for ten generations, it offers a rare glimpse of the changing

aspirations, needs and tastes of the middle-ranking gentry and a fascinating insight into the Leith-Hay family. A typical Scottish laird’s residence brimming with family treasures, Leith Hall is set in a scenic estate containing a beautiful garden that overlooks some of Aberdeenshire’s finest rolling countryside.”

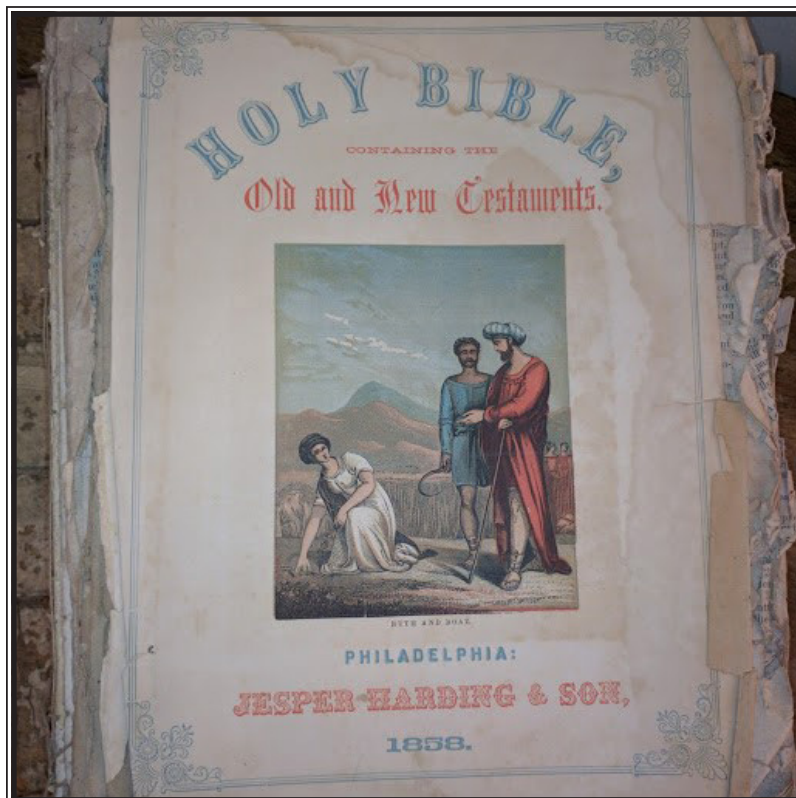


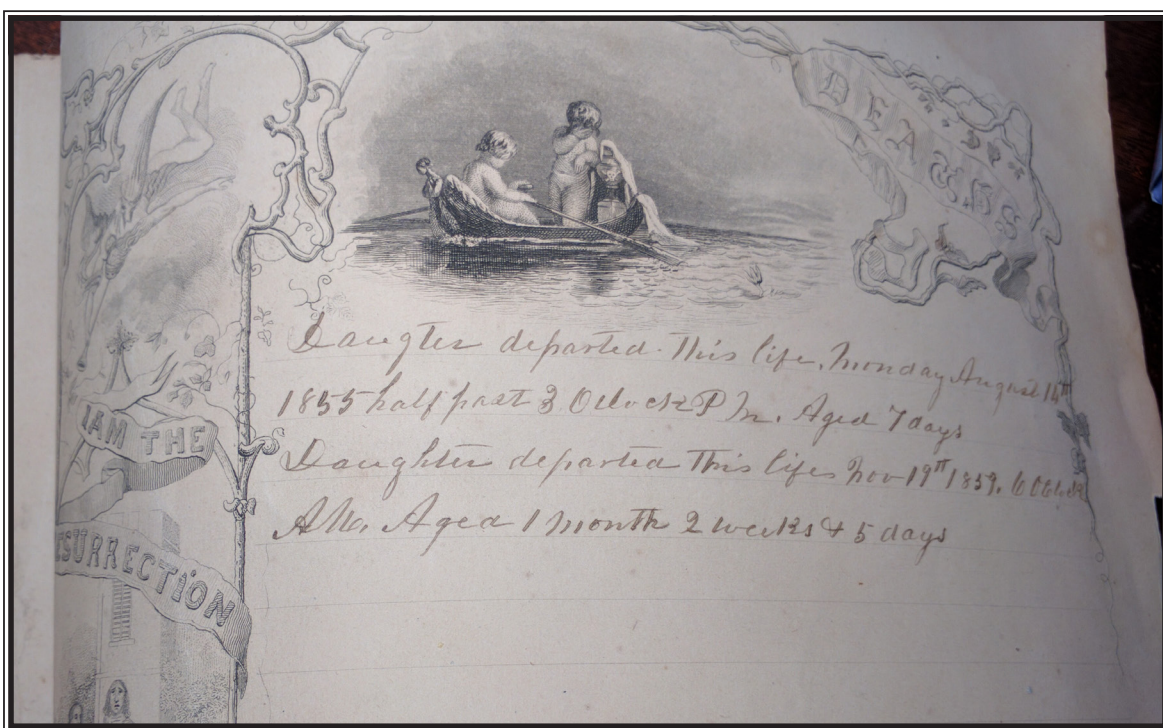
In the cedar chest we found a Bible given to Morris and a clipping of his obituary. The Bible dedication reads January 1, 1947.

ith; father and Paul ldren also JOSEPH Wiscon- (parking day and p.m. No- 1 December 6 Brooks funeral 30) Sud- 26, 1974, graham Mary R. sie Hurt Charles Thomas avis of w, Mrs. , Pa.; N.Y.	ny's Church, 12th and Monroe sts. n.e. on Tuesday, December 31 at 10 a.m. Interment Glenwood Cemetery.	and 7 offered on Tue Intern
	MITCHELL, MORRIS L. On Sunday, December 29, 1974, at Arlington Hospi- tal, MORRIS L. MITCHELL of Arling- ton, Va., beloved husband of Ann L. Mitchell; father of Robert L. of Ar- lington, Va., David M. of Dale City, Va., and William J. Mitchell of Brook- field, Conn., and Mrs. Linda Lindaman of Arlington, Va. Also surviving are two brothers, four sisters, and six grandchildren. Friends may call at the ARLINGTON FUNERAL HOME, 3901 N. Fairfax dr., Arlington, Va., from 7 to 9 p.m. Monday, December 30, where service will be held on Tuesday, December 31, at 2 p.m. Interment Na- tional Memorial Park.	RODG (DINK 1974, S late M of Mr also will BETH NER Beth Mond will olic Sprit 9:30 tery SCIAC Frid Was



Bible of Randolph Howard and Martha Catharine Leith, published in 1858



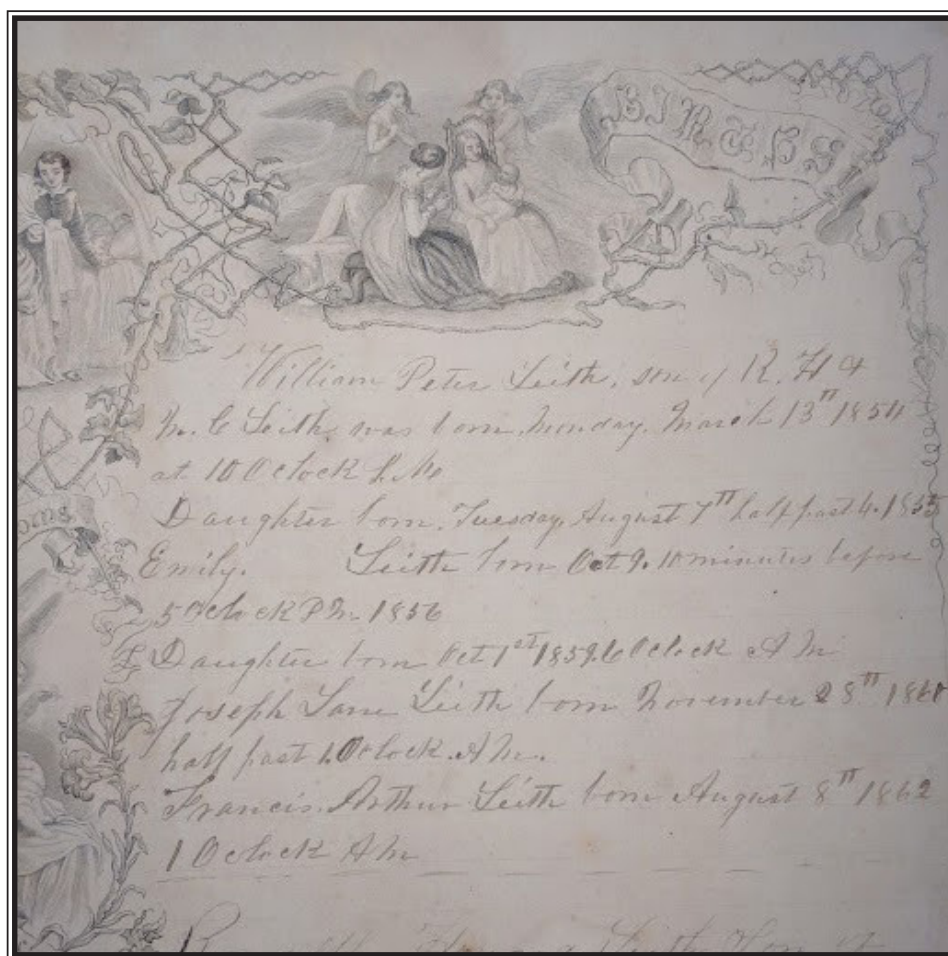


A page in the Bible of Randolph Howard and Martha Catharine Leith

This reads:

"Daughter departed this life Monday August 14 1855 half past 3:00 PM aged 7 days

Daughter departed this life Nov 19th 1859 6 o'clock AM Aged 1 month 2 weeks and 5 days"



A page in the Bible of Randolph Howard and Martha Catharine Leith

This reads:

"William Peter Leith, son of RH & MC Leith was born Monday March 13 1854 at 10 o'clock PM

Daughter born Tuesday August 7 half past four 1855

Emily ____ Leith born Oct 9 10 minutes before 5 o'clock PM 1856

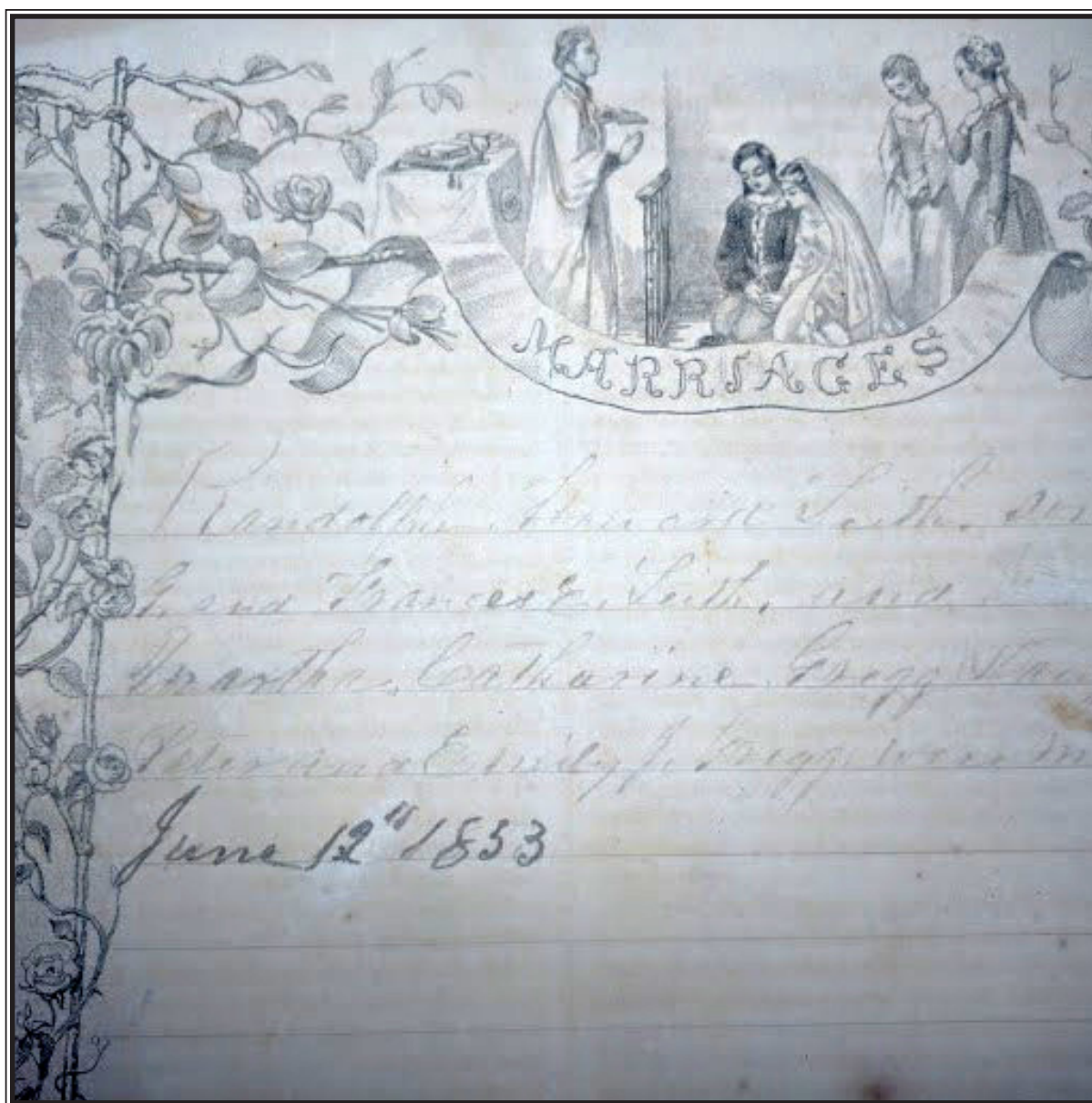
Daughter born Oct 1st 1859 6 o'clock AM

Joseph Lane Leith born November 28th 1861 half past 1 o'clock AM

Francis Arthur Leith born Aug 8 1862 1 o'clock AM

Randolph Howard Leith son of William G & Frances E Leith was born June 19th 1828

Martha Catharine Leith daughter of Peter & Emily Gregg was born September 21st 1830 8 oclock PM"

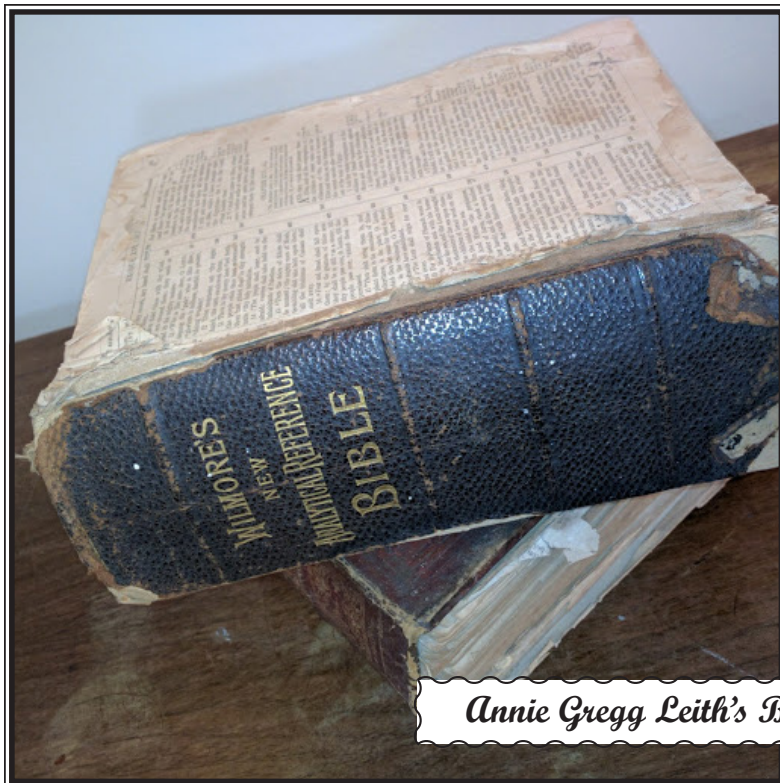


A page in the Bible of Randolph Howard and Martha Catharine Leith

This reads:

"Randolph Howard Leith son of William Goram Leith and Frances E Leith [erasure]

Martha Catharine Gregg daughter of Peter and Emily Gregg were married Thurs June 12th 1853"



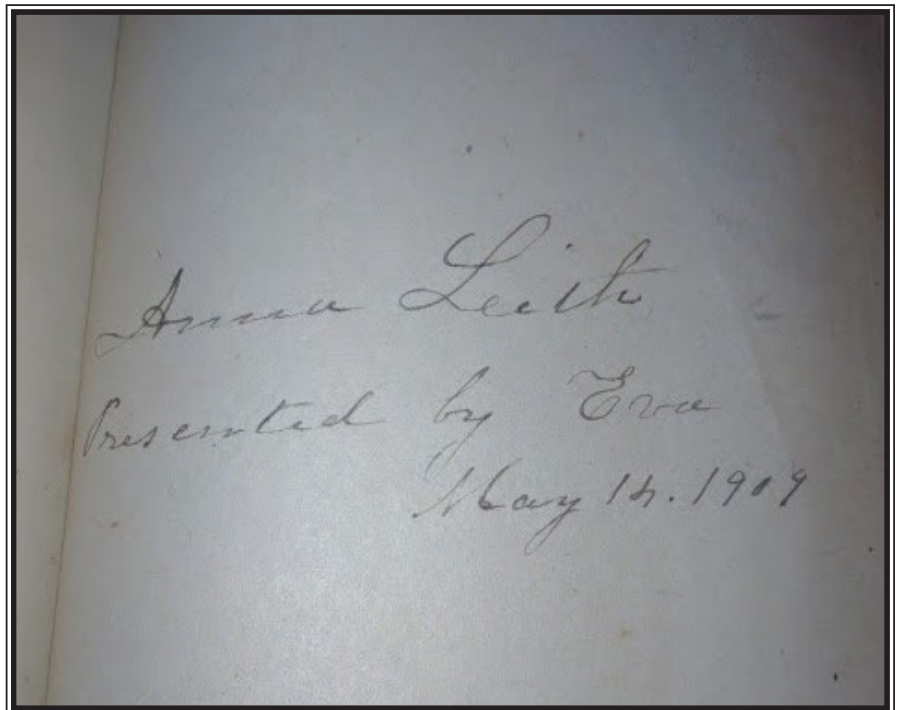
Annie Gregg Leith's Bible

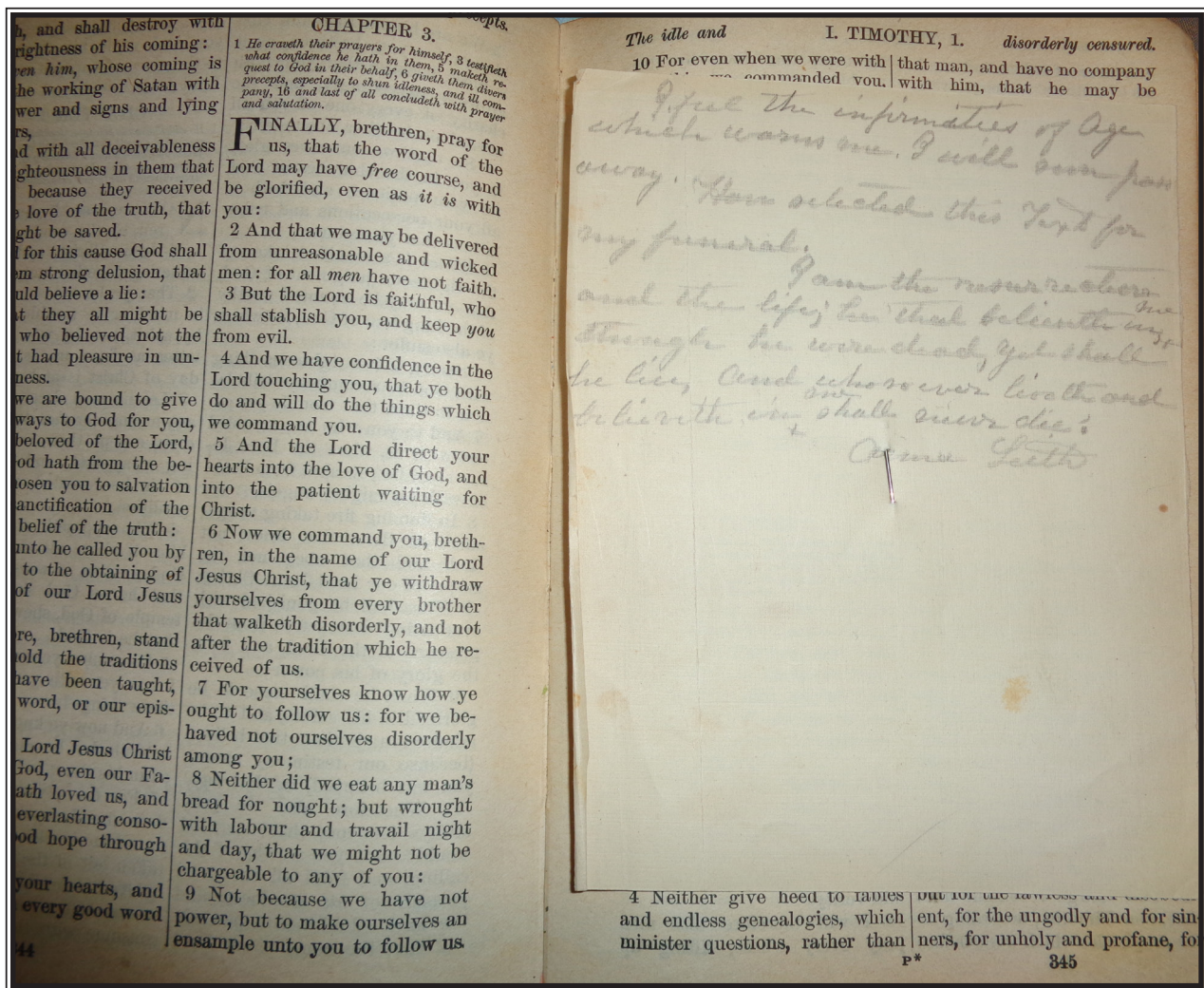
This page reads

"Annie* Leith
presented by Eva
May 14, 1909"

* it might read "Anna or Anne"

Annie was married to
Theodoric Bryant Leith.





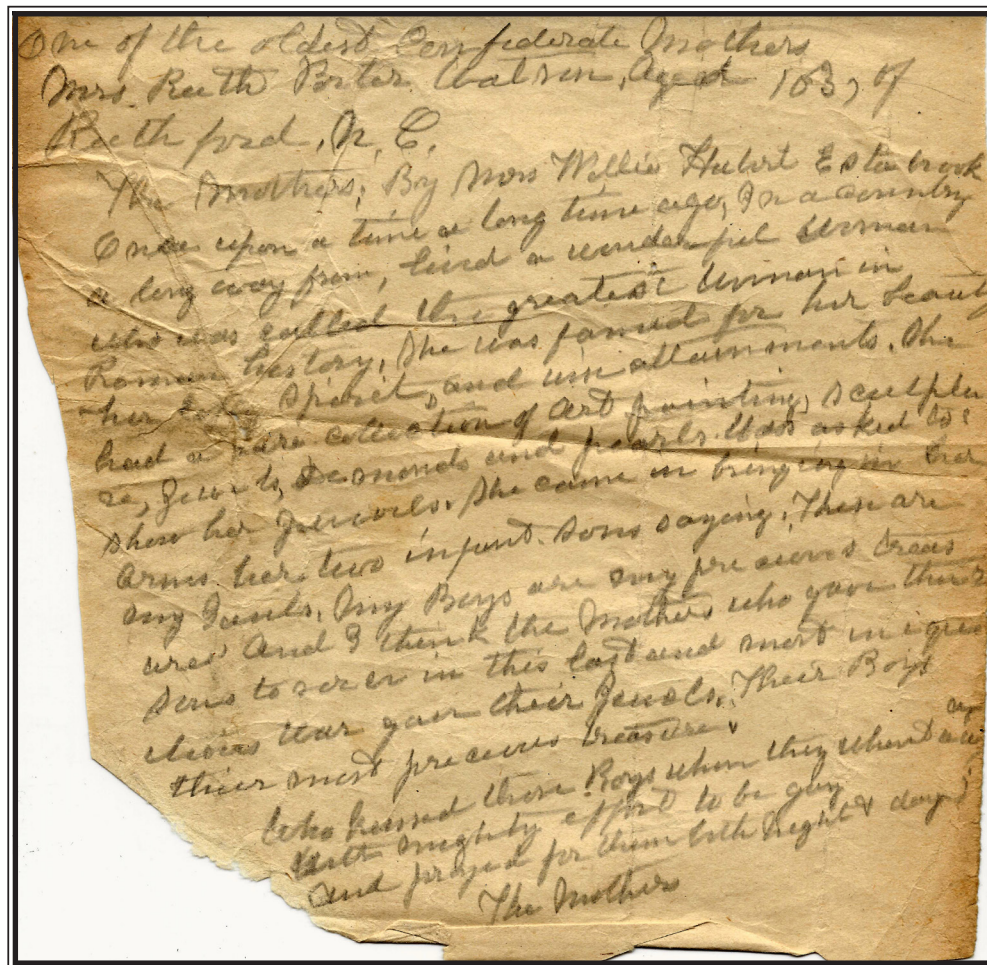
Pinned in Annie Leith's Bible

"I feel the infirmities of age which warns me I will soon pass away. Have selected this text for my funeral.

'I am the resurrection and the life. He that believeths me even though he were dead. Yet shall he live, And who so ever liveth and believeth in me shall never die.'

Annie Leith"

This is John 11:26 and the note was pinned to 1st Timothy just after Thessalonians.



This paper was found in Annie Leith's Bible. Annie copied it from something and it must have had great meaning for her to have been placed in the Bible. We only have her as the mother of two girls - Mary Francis and Mae. Mae likely died early. Is it possible she had sons who died in the Civil War? The paper reads:

"One of the oldest confederate mothers Mrs. Ruth Portor Watson, aged 103 of Rutherford NC

The Mothers by Mrs. Millie Hubert Estabrook

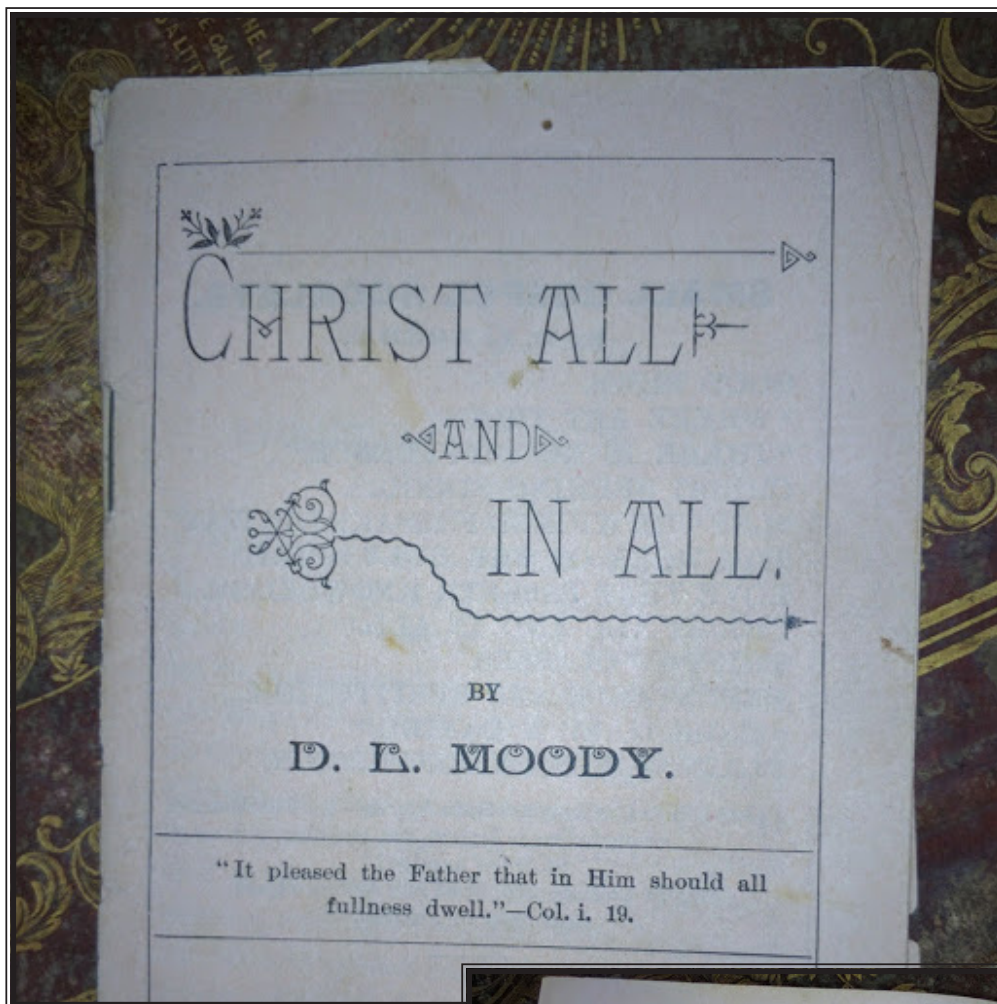
Once upon a time a long time ago, in a country a long way from [sic] lived a wonderful woman who was called the greatest living in Roman history. She was famed for her beauty, her lofty spirit and wide attainments. She had rare collections of art, furniture, tapestries, jewels, diamonds and pearls. Once when asked to show her jewels she came in bringing in her arms her two infant sons saying 'these are my jewels, my boys are my precious treasures'. And I think the mothers who gave their sons to serve in this last and most iniquitous war gave their jewels, their boys, their most precious treasures.

Who kissed these boys when they went away

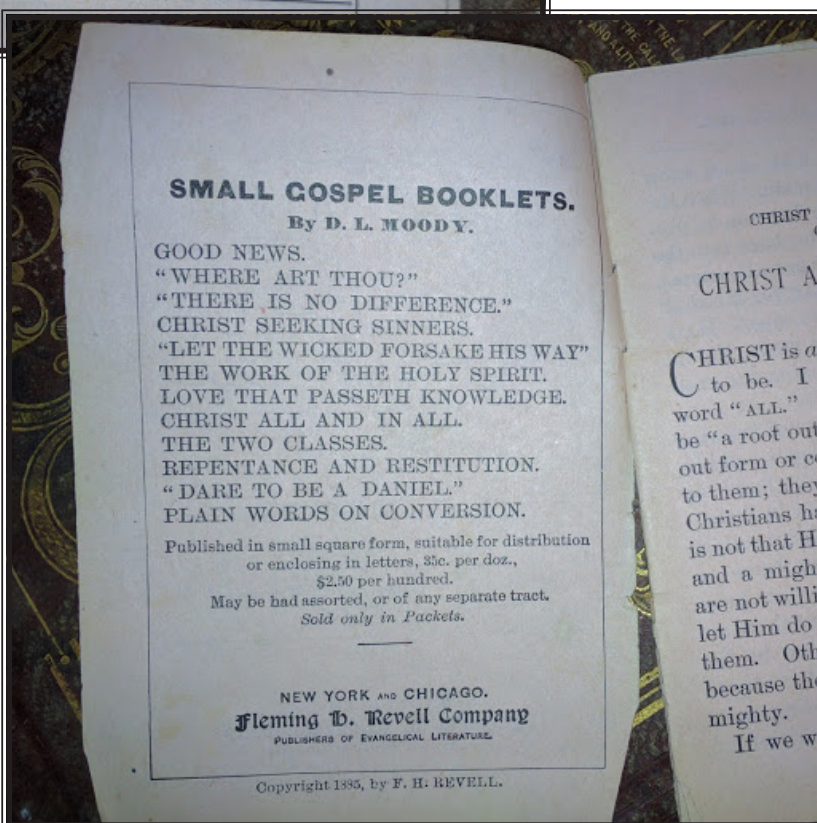
With mighty effort to be gay

And prayed for them both night and day

The Mothers"



This little booklet dated 1895 was found tucked in the Bible of Annie Gregg Leith.



NAMES		PARENTS			
		When	Where	When	Where
Howard Leith	1828				
Martha Gregg					
Theodorick Leith	1883				
Annie Gregg	1837				
PARENTS					
NAMES		BORN			
		When	Where	When	Where
Arthur Leith	1862				
Frances Leith	1867				
THEY WERE MARRIED May 7 1894 - Washington Wrightman					
CHILDREN					
NAMES		BORN		MARRIED	
		When	Where	When	To whom
Arthur Leith	Feb 19 1892				
Theodric Leith	Jan 4 1894				
Howard Leith	May 8 1895				
Walter Leith	July 2 1897				
Joseph Leith	May 20 1899				
Julian Hawthorn Leith	Feb 23 1905				
Annie Martha Leith	Oct 6 1908				
Francis Marian Leith	Aug 20 1910				

A page in the Bible of Arthur and Frances Leith

This reads:

"Grandparents

Father's Father - Howard Leith born 1828 *

Father's Mother - Martha Gregg *

Mother's Father - Theodorick Leith born 1833 *

Mother's Father - Annie Gregg born 1837 *

Parents

Arthur Leith born 1862

Frances Leith born 1867

* Howard and Theodorick were brothers.

Martha and Annie were cousins.

Children

Arthur Leith Feb 19th 1892

Theodric Leith Jan 4th 1894

Howard Leith May 8 1895

Walter Leith July 2 1897

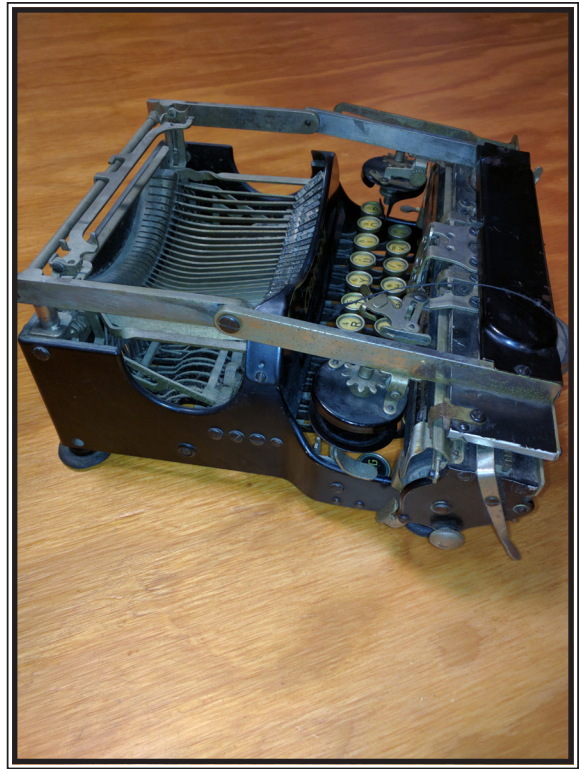
Joseph Leith May 20 1899

Julian Hawthorn Leith Feb 23 1905

Annie Martha Leith Oct 6 1908 **

Francis Marian Leith Aug 20 1910"

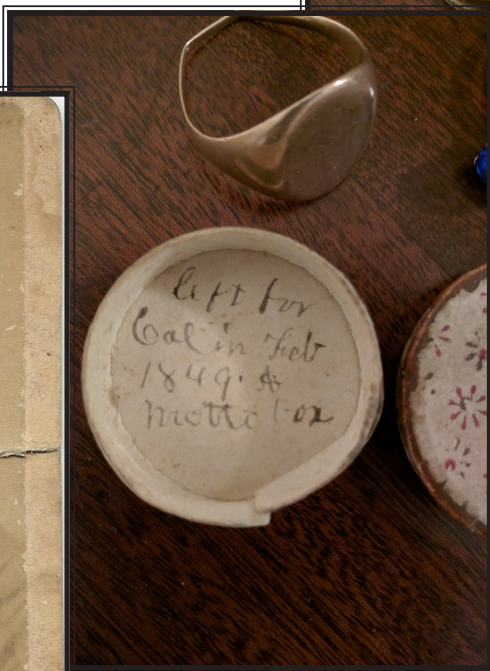
**It is interesting to note that we've always known her as Martha Ann Leith Mitchell but here, in the family Bible, her name is Annie Martha.



This is a typewriter Morris used. It was portable. It would fold and fit in a carrying case. The diploma conveys a degree for “secretary” to Morris.

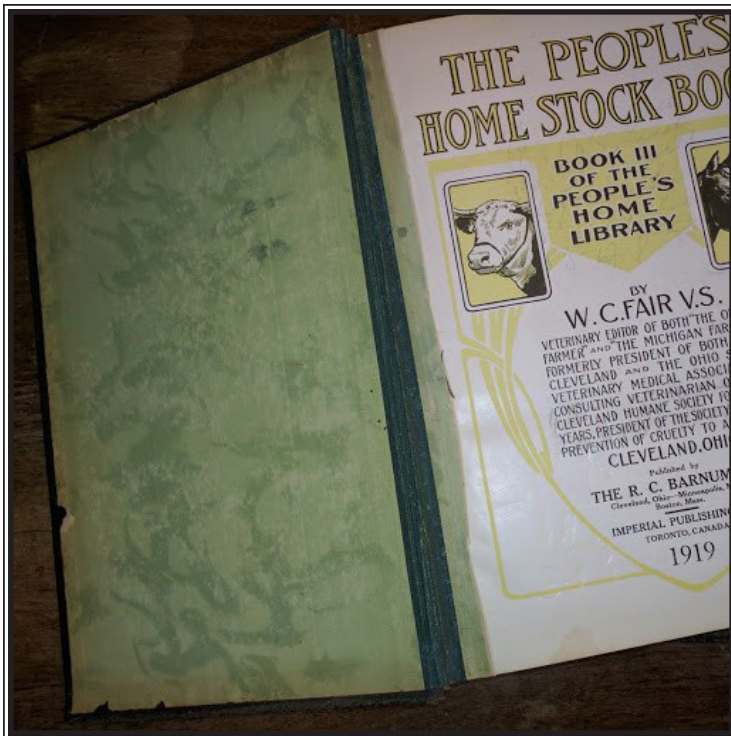


Ann said that “Howard Leith, a cousin of [her] father, went to California in the gold rush and had rings made of pure gold. Aunt Em and [her] mother had them from at the Frost Place, they were in a trunk that came from there”. This little box says “left for Cal in Feb 1849” and something else that is hard to read. Could this gold ring be one of the rings? It is large enough to fit a man’s finger. And what can that blue ring be that was tucked away all these years? It is possible the photo below is of cousin Howard?



Also found in the chest were these baby bracelets. All for boys! Where is Linda’s?





This is part of a two-volume set of books on animals and their care found in the chest. It is dated 1919



It is unclear if these are meant to be worn or are just pelts.

Old Quilts

The origin of these quilts is unknown. The cotton fabric in the one on the right would indicate it was made in the late 1800s or very early 1900s. It is like a Dresden plate pattern and is hand-pieced. The one on the left is very simple in design. It has hourglass squares alternating with solid squares. It is small and feels like it is made of silks, possibly silks used for horse racing.



The Chest

The chest has no labels or marks so determining its age is difficult. The lock is labeled "Yale Junior". Linus Yale Jr got patents for a tumbler lock in 1861 and 1865. It is hard to say when it might have been acquired by Annie. She was born in 1837, married in 1866 and died in 1921.



End Note

This booklet is not intended to necessarily be a genealogical record. Instead it is simply a description of the various family items found in Ann's cedar chest and it focuses on the last several generations of Leiths and Mitchells.

We have deep roots in American, enough to fill several books. We can trace our ancestors back to the Jamestown settlement with our ancestor Robert Beheathland (9th great-grand father of Ann) who came to Jamestown in 1607. He and his offspring are considered the first family of America because he was the only survivor of the original Jamestown settlement who had children who survived. George Eskridge (5th great-grand father of Ann) came to America in about 1690 and owned a great deal of land on the northern neck of Virginia. He was the guardian of Martha Ball, the mother of George Washington and our first president was named for him.

On the Mitchell side, ancestors were part of the Second Germanna Colony in 1717. That year about eighty Germans left their homes in southwest Germany expecting to go to Pennsylvania. Instead the ship captain took them to Virginia where they were indentured to the Lieutenant Governor of Virginia and were settled on the most western frontier of Virginia which at that time was around what is Madison today. These settlers built the future of the new nation. They established schools, churches and communities. Some were Quakers. Some were Lutherans.

It appears that on both sides of the family, all of our ancestors came to and stayed in Virginia. They were large land holders and small farmers. Some have been easily traced, others are still to be found.

The Leiths owned a lot of land in what is now Loudoun County. The earliest ancestor in that area was James Leith (Jamie the Scot, died in 1800) who established his domain at Snake Hill Farm, now the site of the Goodstone Inn. The Inn still maintains a small graveyard where James is buried. From Snakehill the Leith's properties spread north and west at least up to Mountville. It seems that land was bought and divided among children and expanded through marriage, until it began being sold off in the early to mid-1900s. None of Ann's siblings or their descendants, that we know of, own land in Loudoun County now.

The Mitchell's were relative late comers to Loudoun, moving north from Madison. Morris' grandfather first came to the Watson area after the Civil War. Morris' father bought his store at the beginning of the 19th century. None of Morris' siblings, or their descendants that we know of, own land in Loudoun County now, either.

Often confusing and ambiguous information has been discovered. The Leiths tended to refer to their houses by various names describing the location and, once sold or as previously owned, by the names of the owners. Thus we find that Farmer's Delight became "the Frost place" after Joe Leith sold it to Mr. Frost. Similarly, Sunnyside may be called "the Wilson place". Sometimes where the houses no longer exist we can only guess as to where they were.

The Leith's also had an affinity for using names for people that might have been most convenient. Thus the oldest of Ann's brothers was "Arrie" for Arthur Francis. Ann always used Ann L. Mitchell after her marriage, but from various records her given name seems to have been Martha Ann Leith. This becomes particularly confusing since her mother wrote her only daughter's name in the family Bible as "Annie Martha". Also, Ann's grandmother, although referred to as "Grandma Annie", apparently was "Anna".

An attempt has been made at accuracy. Most of the narrative information is derived from and thus verified by tape recordings of Ann. Other information has been verified by genealogical research, and some by simple Google searches.

It is, what it is: a discussion of items found in a chest which provide a true snatch of history, as well as an opportunity for conjecture.

