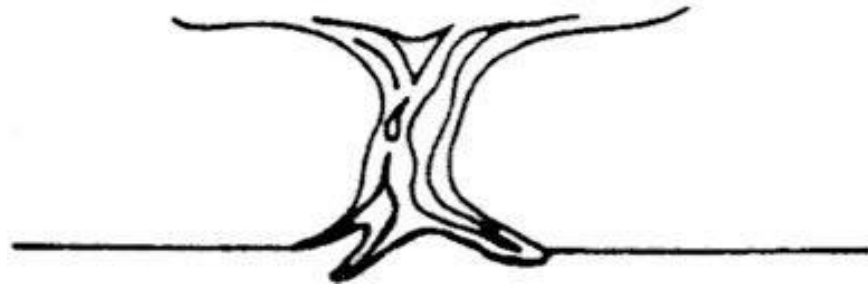


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Speak/e/s
Family Association Bulletin
April 2024

Volume 45, Issue 1

SPEAK/E/S FAMILY ASSOCIATION

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Greetings from your President

Dear Cousins,

I am excited to announce that our Annual Meeting for 2024 will be held in La Plata and Newburg, Maryland. This location is important as La Plata is the County Seat of our ancestral home, Charles County, Maryland. We are scheduled to meet October 18-20, 2024. We have a reserved block of rooms at the Holiday Inn Express in La Plata where we will have our opening reception on Oct 18, Friday evening. We have planned our Saturday morning meeting to be held in the Maryland Veterans Museum in Newburg, which is 9 miles south of the hotel in La Plata. The Veterans Museum has a large auditorium that is equipped with the technology to share our meeting with those who cannot be present in person but wish to join the meeting virtually. On Saturday afternoon we will tour local sites of significance to the Speak/e/s family—places our ancestors lived, worked, and worshiped. We will share more details of the program in the next Bulletin.

The choice of Charles County, Maryland for the location of the Annual Meeting was based on the Speak/e/s Family Survey we conducted in December 2023-January 2024. Nearly half of the respondents chose Southern Maryland as their preference of our Annual meeting location. Further information about reserving rooms for our Annual Meeting is provided below in this Bulletin. *Please consider reserving your room soon.*

Also included in this bulletin are:

- The full results of the Speak/e/s Family Survey compiled by Vice President, Rebecca McClanahan,
- An update on the plans for the www.speakfamily.org website by our Webmaster and Archivist Megan Speakes,
- And in a very exciting development, Jeani Picard publishes her research that conclusively shows that her great-grandmother Flora Speaks was the granddaughter of Samuel Patton Speak, Jr. Her genealogy published here adds a significant new branch to our Speak/e/s family tree by enumerating these newfound descendants of Reverend Nicholas Speak of Speak Chapel at Rose Hill, Lee County, Virginia.

--Your cousin, John Payne

The Results of the Survey of the Speak/e/s Family Association Members, Winter 2023-2024

Rebecca McClanahan, Vice President

With the increase in new membership, the Executive Committee conducted an online survey available to all Association members during the period of the first week of December 2023 through – January 31, 2024. To stress our desire to include your input, two reminders were sent to the membership after the initial notice the survey was posted online. Our purpose for conducting the Survey was to gather membership feedback on what information, activities and services was of importance or most of interest to them. Additionally, it was designed to capture our member's wishes for operational issues (e.g., timing and content for Annual meetings, Bulletins [newsletters], website services, online archives, and our Facebook page).

We were extremely pleased and appreciated the excellent Survey response rate of nearly 50% of our membership providing input. We continue to work through the responses to capture and deliver the experience you expect from the Association. A specific example is our decision to hold the 2024 annual meeting in our ancestral home of Charles County, Maryland, in October 2024. This site and timing were based on the preference of the membership as stated in the survey.

Q 1. What do you want most from the Association?

Respondents were asked to rank 5 activities or outcomes. The ranked order follows:

1. Information to help me build my family tree
2. Genetic Genealogy—finding out how we are related through DNA testing and analysis
3. Family history—Speak/e/s stories and photos
4. Archives—collecting, organizing, and making Speak/e/s cousins and relatives
5. Annual meeting with Speak/e/s family cousins and relatives

Q 2. What are ways you receive information from the Association?

Respondents were asked to select all they use or personally prefer. Listed in order, from most to least selected:

1. The Speak/e/s Family Association Bulletin (95%)
2. Speak/e/s Family Association website (68%)
3. The Speak/e/s Family Association Facebook page (42%)
4. The Annual Meeting (29%)
5. Email from cousins (20%)

Respondents who selected “other” specified the following: Four respondents expressed they were unable to travel and two said they would appreciate recorded or virtual attendance at events. Others asked that the website and Facebook be more up-to-date, they would like to receive more push notifications and one specifically requested more genealogical information be available in the online archives. One mentioned the desire to have access to Roberta Estes’ blog. One expressed appreciation for the website, newsletter and emails with cousins as a way of staying in touch.

Q 3. What are the reasons you would be most likely to attend an annual meeting in 2024?

Respondents were asked to check all that apply.

1. I would like a virtual attendance option accessing presenters or help sessions (57 %)
2. Get the latest and best information on Speak/e/s Family genealogical advances (55%)
3. Hear from experts regarding advancing the understanding of Speak/e/s family relationships through DNA testing (55%)
4. Sustain the Speak/e/s Family Association to make sure it continues to serve the family (52%)
5. Visit with my cousins who have become great friends, and to meet new cousins (38%)
6. I am unlikely to attend an annual meeting (29%)

Q 4. How much do the following factors influence your choice to attend the annual meeting?

Respondents were asked to rank their preferences. In rank order:

1. Access to historical sites of significance to the Speak/e/s Family
2. Access to genealogical libraries or archives
3. Access to optional excursions to local attractions
4. Family-centered activities or to visit family/friends in the area

Q 5. Would you be most likely to attend an annual meeting in 2024 if it were held in:

Answers are listed in order by the number most favored by respondents.

1. Southern Maryland (Washington, DC airports; ancestral homeland)
2. Frankfort, Kentucky (near genealogical resources)
3. Cincinnati, Ohio (near extended family members)

Respondents also could respond “other” and add their comments. There were 12 comments, as follows: Seven responses mentioned problems with travel and two suggested that options for virtual attendance be made available. Other locations mentioned included Western Maryland, Salt Lake City, UT, Mississippi, Tennessee, California and Texas.

Q 7. In the past, the Association has published three to five Bulletins per year. How many Bulletins would you like to receive per year?

Answers are listed by the number most favored by respondents.

- | | |
|-----------------------------|-------|
| 1. Three Bulletins per year | (37%) |
| 2. Four Bulletins per year | (32%) |
| 3. Five Bulletins per year | (16%) |
| 4. Two Bulletins per year | (16%) |

Q 8. How would you describe your demographic?

- | | |
|-------------------------|-------|
| 1. Age 61 or older | (83%) |
| 2. Age 41-60 | (14%) |
| 3. Prefer not to answer | (3%) |

4. 40 or younger. (0%)

Q 9. How long have you been a member of the Association?

- 1. More than ten years (45%)
- 2. Five to ten years (24%)
- 3. One to five years (24%)
- 4. Less than one year (5%)
- 5. I am currently not a member (2%)

End of survey responses.

Your Board wishes to thank you for taking the survey. Our hope is this information will help us ensure that membership in the Association is meaningful and attracts others to join us. We plan to conduct an annual survey that will inform our actions going forward.

* * *

Website and Archive Update

Megan Speakes, Webmaster and Archivist

One of the main goals for our website is to give members easy access to the association’s archived information about our various Speak/e/s families. Most of the archive-related activity since our current site was launched in 2022 has focused on SFA Bulletins. Currently, 136 past SFA Bulletins are available on the website in the members-only area.

Recent improvements to the Bulletin archive include fixing some broken links and arranging the Bulletins in chronological order, making it easier to track and research. I have also made note of some potential missing items in our online collection. I’m working with our President, John Payne, to verify that list and determine how to obtain digital copies of any that we are missing. Hopefully, in the not-too-distant future, we’ll have a complete collection of SFA Bulletins, available to our members in our online archive!

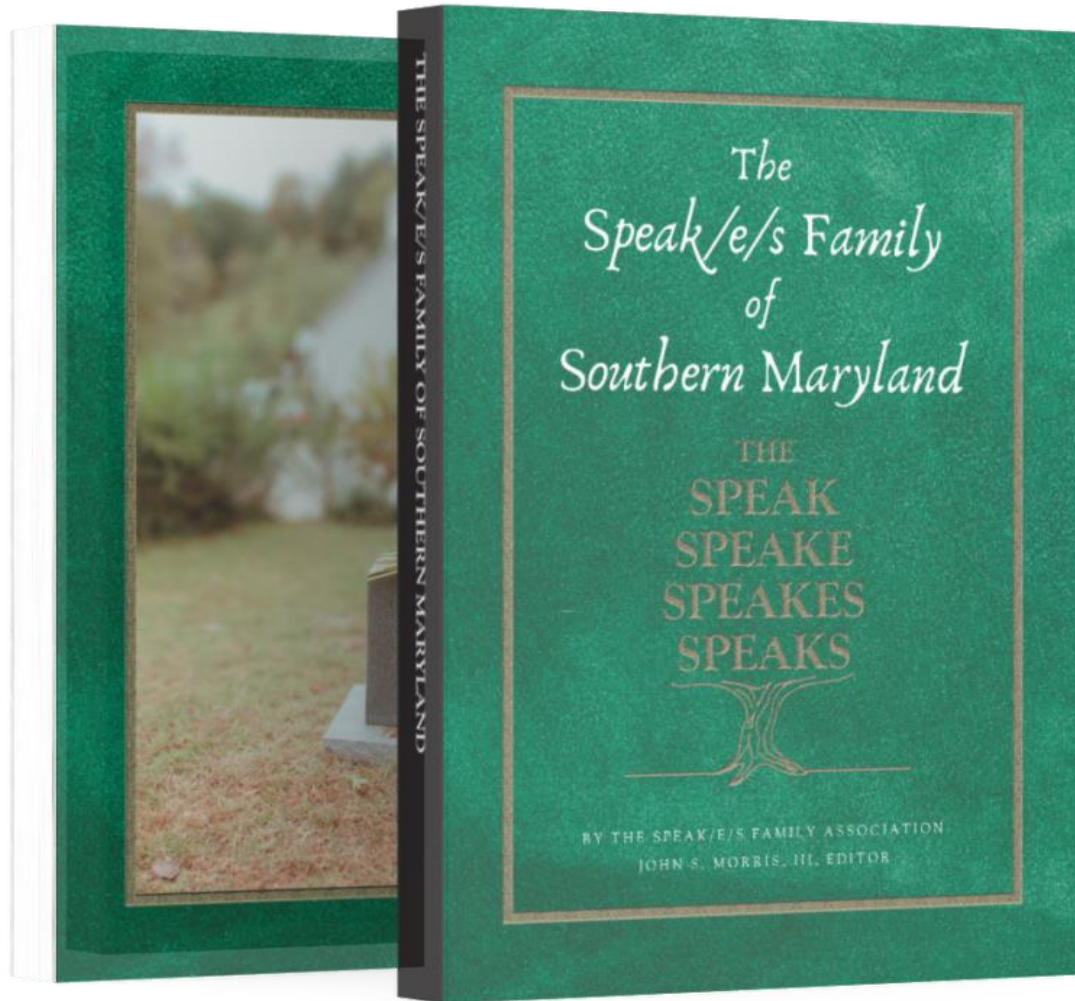
Aside from Bulletins, over the next year, there are a few things we plan to work on related to the website and online archives (in addition to normal content updates):

- **Getting additional files online in the members-only area of the website.** The current plan for this is to try to add the files that were distributed as part of the SFA archive CD/DVDs between 2010 and 2015. Many of those files were on previous websites developed for the Speak/e/s Family Association. John and I are currently coordinating a file naming and organizational structure for the files. This will simplify retrieval and tracking of our files.
- **Figure out the method available to us to ensure all SFA members have access to the online archive.** Currently, everyone who subscribes and renews their membership online on the site automatically gets access to the members-only area. Some manual intervention is needed to get access for those members who pay their membership dues by check. We are investigating to see whether we can add member accounts for them and distribute the information. It is possible that the solution available to us may be different: creating a special “coupon code” that we would distribute to the check-paying members so that they can create their website accounts without going through the online membership payment process.
- **Streamline the pay functions of the website.** There are currently three tasks that require payment on the website: membership signup, book purchase, and donation to the Speak Chapel cemetery fund. These functions are currently on separate pages, and we plan to investigate whether they should be consolidated into fewer separate places on the site.

The SFA Executive Committee has authorized \$800 for us to work with website development professionals to make improvements to the site, if needed. We currently have a \$200 credit with site developers, so we should be able to get professional help to make site improvements, if needed.

* * *

Order copies of *The Speak/e/s Family of Southern Maryland* online at www.speakfamily.org. Great gifts purchased for birthday or graduation gifts, or for your local library.



If you donate a book to a library, genealogical society library, or a historical society, please email John Morris, III at jsmorrislaw@gmail.com so that we can add your donation to our list of libraries to whom books have been donated.

Reserve your Room Now for the Speak/e/s Family Association Meeting in Charles County, Maryland to be Held October 18-20, 2024

A block of rooms is being held for your reservations for the Annual Meeting at the Holiday Inn Express, 6860 Crain Highway, La Plata, Maryland under the name "Speak/e/s Family Association Room Block Code LLPMD."

To reserve a room, call (443) 404-9542 and indicate that you are reserving a room in the Speak/e/s Family Association block of rooms. Specify whether you prefer a room with 1 king-sized bed or one with 2 queen-sized beds. The rate for either is \$144 per night. The block of rooms will be held until the reservation cut-off date of **September 18, 2024**.

The hotel has a complimentary breakfast, an indoor swimming pool and an exercise room. Rooms have microwaves and refrigerators. The general phone number for the hotel is (301) 392-0065, and the email address is gmlaplata@crhi.net.

There is bus service from Washington, DC to La Plata provided by the Maryland Transit Administration, commuter route 630 (see MTA website for schedule and fares). Local transportation will be arranged by the Association.

Agenda for the Annual Meeting: Friday, October 18, is the check-in date. We will have a 'getting reconnected' reception with an informal dinner and entertainment in the hotel conference room from 5 PM until 9 PM.

Saturday, October 19 we will have breakfast at the hotel and then go to the conference venue at the Maryland Veterans Museum in Newburg, Maryland (9 miles south of La Plata) where we will have a morning session and a brief business meeting. In the afternoon we will tour various locations significant to our ancestors. We will have a festive dinner Saturday evening.

Sunday, October 20 is morning checkout. There will be an option to attend religious services at one of the two or three historic churches (Catholic or Episcopalian) where our ancestors likely worshiped. An alternative will be to visit additional historic sites of importance the Speak/e/s family.

Flora Speaks, Granddaughter of Samuel Patton Speak, Jr., Born on 2 October 1877 in Lee County Virginia, Died on 8 September 1968 in Wagoner, Wagoner County, Oklahoma, and Her Descendants.

Jeani Picard and John Payne

Note: Author Jeani Picard has been working for decades on finding the parents of Flora Speaks. A query was published in the SFA Bulletin for the Summer 2020, but the query did not lead to resolution. This article documents Jeani's research that has recently been expanded by the access to additional records available online for births and deaths in Lee County, Virginia. Following publication, she will be following up on DNA matches with cousins who are also descendants of Martha J. Speak to further the evidence provided here.

This article starts documentation of Flora Speaks genealogy at the sixth generation of descendants of Thomas Speake "The Immigrant," who came to St. Mary's City from England around 1657, as described in *The Speak/e/s Family of Southern Maryland*. Consult the book for previous generations.

* * *

Generation 6

According to the record for Samuel Patton⁶ Speak (Nicholas⁵, Charles⁴, Thomas³, Bowling², Thomas¹) in *The Speak/e/s Family of Southern Maryland*, he married Sarah Hardy about 1828 in Lee County Virginia. Samuel Patton⁶ and Sarah had six children, one of whom was Samuel Patton⁷ Speak, born in 1833.¹

Generation 7

Samuel Patton⁷ Speak (Samuel Patton⁶, Nicholas⁵, Charles⁴, Thomas³, Bowling², Thomas¹) was referred to variously by first names Samuel, Patton, or Samuel Patton and by the last name Speak or Speaks. The suffix "Jr." was rarely used in records of him. In this article we will consistently use the bolded-underlined

¹ *Ibid.*, p. 221

superscript “⁷” in referring to him to avoid confusion with his father of the same name. We also use the bolded-underlined superscript numerals throughout this article for Speak/Speaks family descendants to denote their generation.

Samuel P.⁷ Speak married Margaret Lowe, daughter of Vincent Lowe and Martha Seybert on 19 November 1859 in Lee County, Virginia,² and their daughter Martha J.⁸ was born soon after on 27 January 1860.³ They had a second daughter, Cynthia⁸ born about October 1860 who died on 26 June 1866 at the age of 5 years and 8 months.⁴

The 1860 Federal Census shows Samuel⁷ and Margaret living in the same household as his father (Samuel⁶) with a daughter, Martha⁸, who was 4 months old.⁵ Samuel was conscripted on 18 April 1863 as a Confederate soldier in the Civil War but apparently remained in Lee County.⁶ He was captured by the Union Army in Lee County on 17 May 1864, and died as a prisoner of war on 20 November 1864 in the Union prison at Camp Douglas, Cook County, Illinois, [not as has been reported at Rock Island, Illinois] and is buried in the “Confederate Mound” mass grave at Oak Woods Cemetery in Chicago.^{7 8 9}

Summary of Generation 7:

Samuel Patton⁷ Speak and Margaret had the following children:^{10 11}

² Virginia, U.S., Select Marriages, 1785-1940. www.ancestry.com.

³ Virginia, U.S., Births Registers, 1853-1911. 1879. P. 153 (written), line 160. “Martha J.” Image 559 of 678. www.ancestry.com.

⁴ Virginia Death Registers 1853-1911, Cynthia Speak aged 5 years & 8 months old, d. 26 June 1866, Inflammation. www.ancestry.com.

⁵ 1860 Federal Census for Jonesville, Lee County, Virginia; dwelling 505, family 519, household of Samuel Speak.

⁶ The Virginia Regimental Histories Series. U.S., Civil War Soldier Records and Profiles. www.ancestry.com.

⁷ Civil War Prisoner of War Records, 1861-1864. No page number, image 37307 of 55967 of microfilm. “Speak, Sam’l P. Rank: conscripted; Reg’t: unassigned; Where captured: Lee Co., Virg.; Captured: May 17, 1864; Died: Nov. 20, 1864.” www.ancestry.com.

⁸ Find-a-Grave. Memorial ID 40107188. Oak Woods Cemetery, Chicago, Cook County, Illinois. Cemetery plot: “Confederate Mound.”

⁹ The Speak/e/s of Southern Maryland. The Speak/e/s Family Association, 2022. John S. Morris, III, Editor. p. 221.

¹⁰ Virginia, U.S., Births Registers, 1853-1911. 1879. p 153 (written), line 160. “Martha J.”, image 559 of 678. www.ancestry.com.

¹¹ Virginia Death Registers 1853-1911, Cynthia Speak aged 5 years & 8 month old, d. 26 June 1866, Inflammation. www.ancestry.com.

1. Martha J.⁸ Speak. She was born on 27 January 1860¹² and died on 1 December 1884.¹³
2. Cynthia⁸ Speak. She was born about October 1860 and died on 26 June 1866.¹⁴

After Samuel's death, Margaret Lowe Speak also had a daughter Lucretia Victoria Speak, whose father is unknown. She was born on 6 January 1870 in Lee County. She married George Washington Dillman, had no children, and died in Lee County on 16 September 1915.¹⁵

Generation 8

Martha J.⁸ Speak (Samuel Patton⁷, Samuel Patton⁶, Nicholas⁵, Charles⁴, Thomas³, Bowling², Thomas¹) is recorded in the 1870 Federal Census as a 9-year old living with her mother Margaret Speak as head of her family, living in Rose Hill, Lee County, Virginia. Also listed as Margaret's daughter is 9-month-old Lucretia V.¹⁶

The father of Lucretia Victoria is unknown. Samuel Patton⁷ died in Illinois in 1864 and Lucretia Victoria was born on 6 January 1870.¹⁷ In the 1900 Census Victoria L. Speake at age 28 was living as a servant in the household of F.C. Thompson in White Shoals, Lee County.¹⁸ Victoria later married George Washington Dillman in Lee County.¹⁹ Victoria Dillman died in Lee County, Virginia on 16 September 1915. Her death certificate names her mother as Margaret Lowe and it also claims her father was Patton⁷ Speaks, which is not possible, because he died over five years before she was born. She was buried in the McLin cemetery at Rose Hill, Lee County.²⁰

¹² Virginia, U.S., Births Registers, 1853-1911. 1879. p 153 (written), line 160. "Martha J.", image 559 of 678. www.ancestry.com.

¹³ Virginia Death Registers 1853-1911, Mattie Niday aged 22, d. 1 Dec 1884, Consumption. www.ancestry.com.

¹⁴ *Ibid.* Cynthia Speak aged 5 years & 8 month old, d. 26 June 1866, Inflammation.

¹⁵ Find-a-Grave. Memorial ID 70861246. Victoria L. Dillman, McLin Cemetery, Lee County, VA.

¹⁶ 1870 Federal Census for Rose Hill, Lee County, Virginia; dwelling & family 78, household of Margaret Speak.

¹⁷ Find-a-Grave. Memorial ID 70861246. Victoria L. Dillman, McLin Cemetery, Lee County, VA.

¹⁸ 1900 Federal Census, White Shoals, Lee County, Virginia; dwelling 215 family 223, household of F.C. Thompson.

¹⁹ Virginia Select Marriages. Victoria Speake, widowed, age 32, b. 1870, Lee County; father: Patton Speak, Mother: Martha Speak; Spouse: G. W. Dillman. www.ancestry.com.

²⁰ Find-a-Grave. Memorial ID 70861246. Victoria L. Dillman, McLin Cemetery, Lee County, VA.

The next record for Martha is the 1880 Federal Census record for Jonesville, Lee County, Virginia where she is recorded at age 19 in the household of George H. Nydy, age 22 head of household, with her daughters, three-year-old Florence S. and eight-month-old Sarah G.²¹ No marriage record has been found for Martha Speaks and George Nida, or for that matter between Martha Speaks and any other person, although marriage records do exist for Lee County during that time period.

Although there is a birth record for Sarah G., recorded as born to George Niday and Martha Niday on 20 October 1879,²² no birth record can be found for a Flora/Florence Speak/s or Florence/Flora Niday. Other than the one-time listing of Flora in the “Nydy” household in the 1880 Census, as far as can be determined, Flora consistently used Speaks as her maiden family name and is not known to have ever used Nida (or any variation), which might indicate that Flora was born to Martha with a different father before they became part of George’s household in 1878 or 1879.²³ It must be noted that, although Flora is not listed, at least some children born out of wedlock are recorded in the Lee County Birth register. It is possible that Martha was previously married and was married when Flora was born, but no such record has been found. A closer look at DNA may be the only way to reach a definitive conclusion as to Flora’s paternity.

Older relatives reported to author Jeani that Flora’s maiden name was Speaks and there was a family tradition of the tragic death by gunshot of her unknown father when she was very young. A document of a death by gunshot for a man who could have been her father has not yet been found. In the death records for Lee County there are several young men reported to have died by gunshot during this time period, but it has not yet been possible to link any of those specifically to Martha. This family story through oral tradition may yet be proven true with new evidence, or the story may be a transposition or a conflation of the story of the untimely death of her grandfather Samuel Patton⁷, who certainly had a tragic death. On her death certificate it says “mother's maiden name Speaks,” “father's name unknown.”

²¹ 1880 Federal Census for Jonesville, Lee County, Virginia; dwelling78, household of George H. Nydy.

²² Virginia, U.S., Births Registers, 1853-1911. 1879. p 153 (written), line 94. “Niday, Sarah G.”, image 549 of 678. www.ancestry.com

²³ 1880 Federal Census for Jonesville, Lee County, Virginia; dwelling78, household of George H. Nydy.

That's all anyone knew because for Flora her unhappy childhood was a closed subject!²⁴

A daughter Mary was born to George and Martha on 10 May 1881, but apparently died soon after.²⁵ A daughter Marilda was born to George and Martha on 16 May 1883.²⁶ A daughter M. Octavia was born to George and Martha on 31 October 1884 and died on 15 November 1884.²⁷ Martha's death record is in the name of "Mattie Niday," age recorded as 22 (although she was actually 24), who died on 1 December 1884 from "consumption" (tuberculosis).²⁸ Flora² would have been about 7 years old when her mother Martha died.

Three months after Martha's⁸ death a marriage license for George Nidy described him as a widowed man age 28. He married Virginia Isabella Harris in Lee County on 4 March 1885.²⁹ Mary Alice Nida was born on 17 November 1885³⁰ to George and Isabella, and a daughter Dora Octavia was born on 29 November 1886 (not to be confused with George and Martha's deceased daughter named M. Octavia).³¹ Daughter Roxa Ellen (also called Roxy and Roxie) was born on 29 August 1888 in Rose Hill, Lee County, Virginia.³²

Although no record of her has been found between 1880 and her marriage, Flora seems to have been left behind when George and Isabella and daughters moved to Nebraska sometime between Roxa's birth in 1888 in Virginia and Roxa's death in Nebraska on 31 December 1893.³³ Both of Flora's younger half-sisters (or sisters) moved to Nebraska and used Nida or Neida as their maiden names and listed George as their father on legal documents. In 1898 there is a marriage record for Flora's half-sister (or sister) Geneva (Sarah G. in the 1880 census) listing her father

²⁴ Personal communication from Flora Speaks Yearly as recorded by Jeani Picard.

²⁵ Virginia, U.S., Births Registers, 1853-1911. 1881. Page 170 (handwritten), line 107, "Nidy, Mary," image 566 of 678. www.ancestry.com.

²⁶ *Ibid.* 1883. Page 198 (handwritten), line 141, "Nidy, Marilda," image 595 of 678.

²⁷ Virginia Death Registers 1853-1911, M. Octavia age 15 days. 15 Nov 1884. www.ancestry.com.

²⁸ Virginia Death Registers 1853-1911, Mattie Niday aged 22, d. 1 Dec 1884, Consumption. www.ancestry.com.

²⁹ Virginia Select Marriages. George Nidy, widowed, age 28, b. 1857, Lee County; father: J. Nidy, Mother: R. Nidy; Spouse: Isabel Harris. www.ancestry.com.

³⁰ Virginia, U.S., Births Registers, 1853-1911. 1879. p 230 (written), line 116. "Mary Alice Niday," image 627 of 678. www.ancestry.com.

³¹ *Ibid.* 1879. p 245 (written), line 105. "Dora Octavia Niday," image 642 of 678.

³² *Ibid.* p. 274, line 77, "Nidy, Roxy E." image 672 of 678.

³³ Find-a-Grave. Memorial ID 66291964. Roxie Nida, Juniata Cemetery, Adams County, Nebraska.

as George Neida and her mother as Martha Low (mistakenly giving Martha's mother's maiden name rather than her actual maiden name, Speak). George Neida signed Geneva's marriage license application as her father when she married in Nebraska.³⁴

In the 1900 Federal Census for Highland, Adams, Nebraska, George Nida is listed as head of household, age 41, with wife Isabel 36 and daughter Dora 13. Martha Speak and George Nida's daughter Marilda (listed as "Rilda A. Nida") is also recorded in that same census living in Adams County, Nebraska, as a servant to the Perkins family. She later married Lindsey E. Perkins.³⁵

Summary of Generation 8:

Martha J.⁸ Speaks had a daughter:

1. Flora⁹ Speaks. Her paternity cannot yet be documented. Flora was born in Lee County on 2 October 1877, married Henry Bascom Yeary in Hancock County, Tennessee on 27 December 1895,³⁶ and died in Wagoner, Wagoner County, Oklahoma, on 8 September 1968.³⁷

Martha J.⁸ Speaks had the following four daughters born in Lee County with George Niday, father:

2. Sarah Geneva² Niday. She was born on 25 September 1879. She married Artimus Robinson and died in Nebraska.³⁸
3. Mary² Niday. She was born on 10 May 1881,³⁹ but apparently died soon after.
4. Marilda² Niday. She was born on 16 May 1883. She married Lindsey E. Perkins and died in Nebraska.⁴⁰

³⁴ Marriages in Hall County, Nebraska, Marriage license between Artimus Robinson and Geneva Neida, 27 September 1898. www.ancestry.com.

³⁵ 1900 Federal Census for Highland Township., Adams County, Nebraska; sheet 7, dwelling & family 64, household of George Nida.

³⁶ Virginia, U.S., Select Marriages, 1785-1940. Flora & H.B. Yeary. www.ancestry.com.

³⁷ Find-a-Grave. Memorial ID 28419335. Flora Speaks Yeary, Elmwood Cemetery, Wagoner County, Oklahoma.

³⁸ Find-a-Grave. Memorial ID 5202452. Geneva Robinson, Juniata Cemetery, Adams County, Nebraska.

³⁹ Virginia, U.S., Births Registers, 1853-1911. 1881. P 170 (written), line107, "Nidy, Mary," image 566 of 678. www.ancestry.com.

⁴⁰ Find-a-Grave. Memorial ID 67811210. Marilda A. Perkins, Juniata Cemetery, Adams County, Nebraska.

5. M. Octavia² Niday. She was born on 31 October 1884 and died on 15 November 1884 just 16 days before her mother Martha's death.⁴¹

Generation 9

Flora² Speaks (Martha J.⁸, Samuel Patton⁷, Samuel Patton⁶, Nicholas⁵, Charles⁴, Thomas³, Bowling², Thomas¹) was born on 2 October 1877 to Martha J.⁸ Speak, daughter of Margaret Lowe and Samuel Patton⁷ Speak. The name of her father is uncertain. Various records show her year of birth as 1877 or 1878. The authors of this paper choose to use 2 October 1877 because it is most consistent with other documents.

When Flora Speaks talked with her great granddaughter Jeani Picard between September 1966 and September 1968, she told Jeani her maiden name was "Speaks, Flora Speaks." She would not talk about her parents or her unhappy childhood. Flora's mother Martha died of tuberculosis when Flora was 7.⁴²

When Flora Speaks was 18, she married Henry Bascom Yeary on 27 December 1895⁴³ in Hancock County, Tennessee. He was born in Rose Hill, Lee County on 8 January 1869.⁴⁴ He died on 25 July 1954 in Muskogee, Oklahoma.⁴⁵

The 1900 census shows them living in Claiborne County, Tennessee in the household of Bascom Yeary. The census notes that they have been married 3 years, and that Flora has borne two children. The children listed are Halie, age 2, and Gracie, age 1, both born in Virginia. Also living with them are Bascom's mother Pollie, two sisters and a brother.⁴⁶

⁴¹ Virginia Death Registers 1853-1911, M. Octavia age 15 days. 15 November 1884. www.ancestry.com.

⁴² Personal communication from Flora Speaks Yeary as recorded by Jeani Picard, recorded 1966-1968.

⁴³ Virginia, U.S., Select Marriages, 1785-1940. Flora & H.B. Yeary. www.ancestry.com.

⁴⁴ Virginia, U.S., Birth Records, 1912-2015, Delayed Birth Records, 1721-1920. Henry Bascom Yeary, Certificate 1904021364. www.ancestry.com.

⁴⁵ Find-a-Grave. Memorial ID 28419040. Henry Bascom Yeary. b. 8 January 1869, Lee County, VA. d. 25 July 1954, Muskogee, Oklahoma.

⁴⁶ 1900 Federal Census for Claiborne County, Tennessee; sheet 7, dwelling & family 129, household of Bascom Yeary.

The 1910 Federal Census for Rose Hill, Lee County, Virginia records the household of Boscam Yeary who is married to Flora, age 31, with children: Hallie (14), Rilie (12), Clide (7), George (5), Jocie (2), and Nellie, an infant.⁴⁷

Shortly thereafter the family moved to Kannapolis, North Carolina, where Halcie and Grace as young teenagers worked in the textile mills.⁴⁸ It is unknown exactly when Flora and Bascom began their trip with their seven children from Kannapolis, North Carolina to Wagoner County, Oklahoma; a trip of approximately 1,000 miles in a covered wagon. It is said that a covered wagon travels about 10 to 15 miles per day, more or less depending on weather and other difficulties; so the trip would have taken 66 to 100 days.

Author Jeani had heard a few family stories of three or four of the children being born and/or dying on the trip. But the facts have not supported those stories. We know the family was still in Virginia on 11 May 1910 (date the census was taken),⁴⁹ and we know that they were in Oklahoma before 7 May 1912, when their oldest daughter Halcie married a young man who had already been living in Oklahoma. Therefore, Easter was born and died before they left Virginia; Nellie was born before they left Virginia and died after they got to Oklahoma. Gladys and Thelma were born and died after they got to Oklahoma. These births and deaths are not recorded in official documents. There are two factors that might have led to the lack of documentation. The family was in transit from Virginia to North Carolina and then again to Oklahoma during this time. When they got to Oklahoma the state and county governments were just in the process of formation.

When they got to Oklahoma, Bascom built a log cabin with a dirt floor. He cut down the trees, stripped the bark, and did it all. The 1920 census shows Flora and Bascom living in Blue Mound, Wagoner, Oklahoma, with six children, Raleigh, Clyde, George, Josie, Addie, Lela and Geneva. Halcie and Grace were married by then, Halcie having married Earnest Joseph Payne on 7 May 1912 and Grace having married Earnest's younger brother Chauncey Smith "Dick" Payne on 11 July 1918.⁵⁰

⁴⁷ 1910 Federal Census for Rose Hill, Lee County, Virginia; household of Boscam Yeary.

⁴⁸ Personal communication from Grace Yeary Payne to Jeani Picard.

⁴⁹ 1910 Federal Census for Rose Hill, Lee County, Virginia; household of Boscam Yeary.

⁵⁰ Personal communication from Grace Yeary Payne to Jeani Picard.

Summary of Generation 9:

Flora² Speaks and Henry Bascom Yeary had the following children:

1. Halcie¹⁰ Yeary. She was born on 16 November 1896 in Lee County. She married Earnest Joseph Payne on 7 May 1912 in Oklahoma; they had three children. She died on 21 July 1922 in Wagoner, Wagoner County, Oklahoma.⁵¹
2. Grace Lenore¹⁰ Yeary. She was born on 16 May 1898 in Lee County. She married Chauncey Smith “Dick” Payne on 11 July 1918 in Wagoner County and had three children. She died on 27 October 1964 in Kerman, Fresno, California.⁵²
3. Raleigh¹⁰ Yeary. He was born on 1 March 1901 in Lee County. He married Pearl Britt; they had three children. He died on 24 December 1980 in Wagoner County.⁵³
4. Clyde Gibson¹⁰ Yeary. He was born on 2 January 1903 at Rose Hill, Lee County. He married Flossie Woodard; they had 4 children. He died on 20 October 1990 in Wagoner County.⁵⁴
5. George Edward¹⁰ Yeary. He was born on 29 October 1904 in Lee County. He married Marcia, had one child, and died on 18 October 1947 in San Francisco.⁵⁵
6. Easter¹⁰ Yeary. Family records say she was born on 18 March 1908 at Rose Hill, Lee County, and died on 16 June 1908 at Gibson Station, Lee County. According to the 1910 Lee County census, Flora had given birth to 8 children and 7 were still living. The child who had died was Easter.⁵⁶

⁵¹ Find-a-Grave. Memorial ID 29920496. Halcie Yeary Payne, Elmwood Cemetery, Wagoner County, Oklahoma.

⁵² Find-a-Grave. Memorial ID 28567831. Grace Lenore Yeary Payne, Golden Sunset Memorial Park, Kerman, Fresno, California.

⁵³ Find-a-Grave. Memorial ID 29045910. Raleigh Yeary, Elmwood Cemetery, Wagoner County, Oklahoma.

⁵⁴ Find-a-Grave. Memorial ID 33005927. Clyde Gibson Yeary, Pioneer Memorial Cemetery, Wagoner County, Oklahoma.

⁵⁵ Find-a-Grave. Memorial ID 87540770. George Edward Yeary, Cypress Lawn Memorial Park, San Mateo County, California.

⁵⁶ Personal communication to Jeani Picard of family records including a list of births and deaths from Flora Speaks Yeary’s Bible.

7. Josephine Mary¹⁰ “Josie” Yeary. She was born on 22 January 1907 in Tennessee. She married Samuel Henry “Sam” Ensminger with whom she had one child and died on 30 September 1940 in Los Angeles.⁵⁷
8. Nellie Mae¹⁰ Yeary. On the 1910 Lee County census, she was listed as being 8 months old. Family records say she was born on 11 November 1909 in Lee County and died on 9 November 1912 in Oklahoma.⁵⁸ Though we have found no death record in Oklahoma (the state was brand new), her death on 9 November 1912 clearly was well after the family settled in Oklahoma.
9. Gladys¹⁰ Yeary. Family records say she was born on 30 August 1912 and died on 6 November 1912 in Oklahoma.
10. Thelma Eva¹⁰ Yeary. Family records say she was born on 12 June 1913 in Wagoner County, Oklahoma and died on 8 November 1913 in Oklahoma.⁵⁹
11. Addie Patricia¹⁰ Yeary (a twin). She was born on 8 January 1916 in Wagoner County. She married Miles Vostal, and they had two children. She died on 4 May 1994 in Dade City, Pasco, Florida.⁶⁰
12. Lela Fae¹⁰ “Lee” Speaks (a twin). She was born on 8 January 1916. She first married Carl Stewart with whom she had one child, then Samuel Oser with whom she had one child, and her last husband was John A. Parry, who preceded her in death. She died on 6 April 1997 in Redding, Shasta, California.⁶¹
13. Geneva¹⁰ Yeary. She was born on 24 August 1919 in Wagoner County. She married Aubert Andrew Austin, and they had one child. She died on 18 February 1947 in Inola, Rogers, Oklahoma.⁶²

Jeani Picard, an author of this article, is a great granddaughter of Flora² Speaks.

⁵⁷ California, U.S., Death Index, 1940-1997. “Josephine Mary Ensminger” 571-12-0342. www.ancestry.com.

⁵⁸ Personal communication to Jeani Picard of family records including a list of births and deaths from Flora Speaks Yeary’s Bible.

⁵⁹ *Ibid.*

⁶⁰ Find-a-Grave. Memorial ID 46573597. Addie Patricia Yeary Vostal, Southern Memorial Park, Dade County, Florida.

⁶¹ Find-a-Grave. Memorial ID 32894738. Lela Yeary Parry, Shasta County, California.

⁶² Find-a-Grave. Memorial ID 28829614. Geneva Yeary Austin, Elmwood Cemetery, Wagoner County, Oklahoma.

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