



# Cromartie Family Association

## 2023 Reunion News

Wilmington, North Carolina USA

5 Sep 2023

[www.cromartiefamilyassociation.com](http://www.cromartiefamilyassociation.com)

### President's Corner

#### HELLO CROMARTIE COUSINS!

This time last year, we were planning (and hoping) for our first in person Cromartie Family Reunion since 2019. On October 9, 2022, we were blessed with great weather, an interesting and informative program, incredible bagpipe playing, delicious food, and most importantly, a host of wonderful Cromartie kinfolk. Some we met for the first time, while others took the opportunity to reconnect after so many years. While we enjoyed everyone who could make the reunion in person, we were also happy to share the experience with those who could not be there in person but wanted to be there in spirit (138 views on YouTube).

This year we will be once again holding our in-person reunion at South River Presbyterian Church near Garland, NC (Lord willing and the Creek doesn't literally rise). I encourage you to come and join us in this time of celebration of family, heritage, and history. However, if you cannot be with us in person, please join us online via YOUTUBE. We will be sending out the link the morning of October 8th prior to the start of the service. So please join us, either in-person or online at 11:00 a.m.

I want to take this opportunity to make a sales pitch. We are very blessed to have such a dedicated Board of Directors and several others who magically make the reunion and all the surrounding activities a reality. However, we need your help and participation. It is not necessary that you live in

*(continued on page 2)*

### Reunion Plans

#### SATURDAY, 7 OCT 2023, 5:30 P.M. ET

**Dinner.** Little Pond Catering Restaurant, 2016 Princess Place Drive, Wilmington, NC 28405, (910) 960-7663.

**Fee:** \$40 per person.

#### SUNDAY, 8 OCT 2023, 10:00 A.M. ET

**Reunion, Business Meeting:** South River Presbyterian Church, 1899 NC-210 East, Elizabethtown, NC 28337.

**Directions:** See page 12.

**Guest Speakers:** Robert McLeod, President of the Cape Fear Scottish Immigration Memorial Fund, and Catherine Fort, President of the Wilmington Scottish Society.

**BBQ Lunch:** Private caterer.

**Fee:** \$25 per person.

**Other:** A bagpiper will perform Scottish favorites. There will also be opportunities onsite for family portraits.

**Virtual:** We will seek to livestream this event on YouTube. Look for details to be emailed to Cromartie Family Association members toward the end of September.

**Questions:** [cromartiefamilyassociation@gmail.com](mailto:cromartiefamilyassociation@gmail.com)

Please add meeting reminders to your Calendars.

## President's Corner, cont'd

(continued from page 1)

the area or even in North Carolina for that matter. If you have an interest in becoming involved with the reunion planning and execution, the website, etc., or just want to help in any way, please contact me or one of the other board members or speak with us at the Reunion. Most of our meetings are on Zoom and it is not that time consuming. Please consider getting involved and help us keep this family reunion going for many years to come. Lastly, even if you don't wish to become active with the planning and preparation, but you have some thoughts or suggestions regarding the Reunion, the newsletter, the website, etc., please feel free to contact me and I promise not to try too hard to solicit your involvement (fingers crossed).

I will close with the same thoughts that I shared last year.....

**Faith, Family, and Fellowship** are what makes us who we are. As the world grows ever larger and families spread out across the land, we must never forget our roots and loved

ones. We all share a genetic connection that goes back to one man, William Cromartie, who had the courage to brave the stormy Atlantic Ocean to come to a New World where he hoped to make a new life. From that dream and his bold actions, he settled in Bladen County along the South River and raised a large family. From that one man, there are now many thousands of Cromartie descendants throughout North America.

**Faith, Family, and Fellowship**, these are the values that sustain us, nourish us, and empower us. I encourage you to learn about, become involved with, and connect with this family we call, **Cromartie**. Find your roots and get to know your cousins.

Come and join us on Sunday October 8th either in person or online for the 93rd Cromartie Reunion

Your Cous,

**Greg Butler**  
**Cromartie Family Reunion President**



## Ancestor Profile: Nicholas Snow ( -1676)



By James Reed Campbell Jr.

Our ancestor **Nicholas Snow** ( -1676) led an impactful and honorable life. He was among the earliest settlers of the Plymouth Colony in modern-day Massachusetts, co-founded the town of Eastham on Cape Cod; and then served as one of its public officials for 32 years until his death. Yet his origins remain uncertain. Records from St. Leonard's Church in Shoreditch, London show a Nicholas Snowe, son of Nicholas Snowe, baptized on 25 Jan 1599.<sup>1</sup> This baby was long thought to be the person who would travel to America 24 years later. However, burial records of St. Leonard's have recently been discovered and indicate that this baby was buried three days later.<sup>2</sup>

Snow sailed from London on the 144-ton supply ship "Anne," which arrived in Plymouth on 10 Jul 1623. It was joined by the 44-ton pinnacle "Little James," which arrived one-to-two weeks later. There were 90 passengers aboard the two ships, including many with connections to the original "Mayflower" passengers from three years earlier. Snow traveled alone and it is unknown what may have caused him to make this journey.<sup>3</sup> He appears to have been skilled as a carpenter, as his will inventory included cooper's

and carpenter's tools. This inventory also included several books, implying that Snow was literate.<sup>4</sup>

Snow was promptly granted shares in the Plymouth division of land in 1623. He lived at Hobs Hole on the westerly side of the Eel River.<sup>5</sup> Along the route from Plymouth were Thomas Clarke, Ralph Wallen, Manassah Kempton, Edward Bangs, and our ancestor **Stephen Hopkins** (1581-1644).<sup>6</sup> This proximity may have introduced Snow to Hopkins' teenaged daughter, our ancestor **Constance Hopkins** (1606-1677). They would be married before the Plymouth division of land in 1627.<sup>7</sup>

In 1626, Snow was listed among the 58 Purchasers, who guaranteed the debt of the Plymouth Colony.<sup>8</sup> Plymouth historian Eugene Aubrey Stratton wrote, "the list of Purchasers continued to be an important one for, in general, these people were privileged above others in future land grants in the colony."<sup>9</sup>

Snow appeared on the Plymouth list of freemen of 1633; then again on the Plymouth list of 1639, before appearing on the Eastham section lists starting in 1658. He was also appointed surveyor and supervisor of highways in 1639, 1640, 1647, 1653, and 1671. From 1638 through 1643, Snow served on numerous Plymouth juries. In 1640, Snow was on a

## Ancestor Profile: Nicholas Snow ( -1676), cont'd

committee to lay out land, although he was brought before the court later that year for not mending highways. In 1643, he was on the Plymouth list of men able to bear arms.<sup>10</sup>

Snow was active in acquiring land in Plymouth. In 1636, he was assigned mowing ground; and then requested more hay ground one year later. In 1638, Snow requested five or six acres, while that same year he sold his house and garden in Plymouth. In 1640, he was granted 10 acres in the South Meadows.<sup>11</sup>

In April 1644, Snow joined six other families, including those of our ancestors **John Smalley** (1613-1692) and **Dcn. John Doane** (1589-1685), to found the town of Nauset, incorporated in 1651 as Eastham. According to Cape Cod historian Frederick Freeman, its original boundaries were 15 miles in length, from Provincetown down to parts of modern-day Chatham, by two and-one-half miles in width, from Cape Cod Bay across to the Atlantic Ocean. Snow's family lived on the north shore of Great Pond.<sup>12</sup>

Before moving to Nauset, Snow sold his house, buildings and land in Plymouth, which totaled 52 acres. In his will, written 32 years later, Snow specified 106.5 acres in his estate, plus several meadows, marshes, and unmeasured

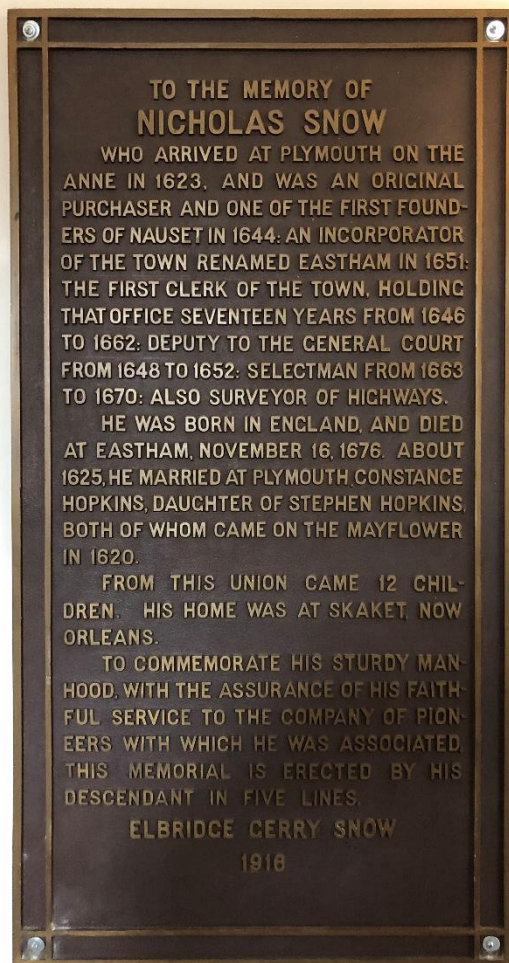
tracts. Yet by the time his will inventory was updated in March 1677, four months after his death, no real estate was included, suggesting that Snow had disbursed it all to his family members.<sup>13</sup>

Snow was elected as the first town clerk of Nauset, a role he would perform for the next 16 years before handing it over to his oldest child Cpt. Mark Snow. In 1648, he served as excise collector and committee member, as well as deputy to the general court from Eastham for the next four years. In 1662, he served as constable. In 1670, 1672, 1674, and 1675, Snow was a selectman for Eastham.<sup>14</sup> Snow's lengthy public service was honored in a bronze plaque, erected in the Eastham Town Offices in 1913 by his ancestor Elbridge Gerry Snow. It is inscribed, "To commemorate his sturdy manhood with the assurance of his faithful service to the company of pioneers with which he is associated."

Snow and Constance had 12 children, including our ancestor **John Snow** (ca 1638-bef 1692). Snow's will included his bequeathing to "my loving wife Constance" all of his livestock and moveable goods, plus the part of their house in which they lived, along with 20 acres. It provided John with "all that my land at Paomett purchased or unpurchased...and all my right and title or privilege there." Snow's will also allocated to the Church of Eastham 10 shillings for pewter or other necessities to adorn "the furniture of the Table of the Lord." Constance, Cpt. Mark and John served as administrators of Snow's estate.<sup>15</sup>

Snow died in Eastham on 15 Nov 1676; Constance died there one year later, in the middle of October 1677.<sup>16</sup> They were buried together in Cove Burial Ground, along with our ancestors **Cpt. Richard Knowles** ( -1670/75) and **Dcn. John Doane** (1589-1685). Monuments to the Snows and Doanes were erected by their descendants, respectively in 1966 and 1907. They may be viewed in this public cemetery, maintained by the Eastham Historical Society, and located along Massachusetts Route 6. The Cove Burial Ground is a regular stop on bus tours conducted by the General Society of Mayflower Descendants during its Congress held every three years in Plymouth.

J. A. Snow wrote and self-published a fictionalized account in five volumes of generations of Snow family members. The third volume, *Pilgrim Girl!* (2015) portrays Constance from 1623. Patricia Clapp wrote a fictionalized account for young adults, *Constance: A Story of Early Plymouth* (New York: Lothrop, Lee & Shepard Co., Inc., 1968). It was runner-up for the National Book Award for Children's Literature in 1969 and was reprinted most recently by Lizzie Skurnick Books in 2015.



## Ancestor Profile: Nicholas Snow ( -1676), cont'd

<sup>1</sup> Ancestry.com. *London, England, Baptisms, Marriages and Burials, 1538-1812*. Provo, UT: Ancestry.com Publishing Operations, Inc., 2010. Microfilm.

<sup>2</sup> Johnson, Caleb. "Nicholas Snow: Not from St. Leonard Shoreditch, London," *Mayflower Descendant*, 62: 1 (Spring 2013), 39 ff.

<sup>3</sup> "Passengers of the ships Anne and Little James 1623." *Wikipedia*, Wikimedia Foundation, 13 Aug 2023, <<[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Passengers\\_of\\_the\\_ships\\_Anne\\_and\\_Little\\_James\\_1623](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Passengers_of_the_ships_Anne_and_Little_James_1623)>>

<sup>4</sup> Anderson, Robert Charles. *The Great Migration Begins: Immigrants to New England, 1620-1633, Volume III, P-W*. Boston: New England Historic Genealogical Society, 1995. 1701, 1702, 1703, 1704. Print.

<sup>5</sup> Ibid.

<sup>6</sup> *The New England Historical and Genealogical Register*. Boston, MA: New England Historic Genealogical Society, 1847-. (Online database: AmericanAncestors.org, New England Historic Genealogical Society, 2001-2018.) <<<https://www.americanancestors.org/DB202/i/11582/73/23532018>>>

<sup>7</sup> Anderson. Ibid.

<sup>8</sup> Ibid.

<sup>9</sup> Stratton, Eugene Aubrey. *Plymouth Colony: Its History and People, 1620-1691*. Salt Lake City: Ancestry Publishing, 1986. 419.

<sup>10</sup> Anderson. Ibid.

<sup>11</sup> Ibid.

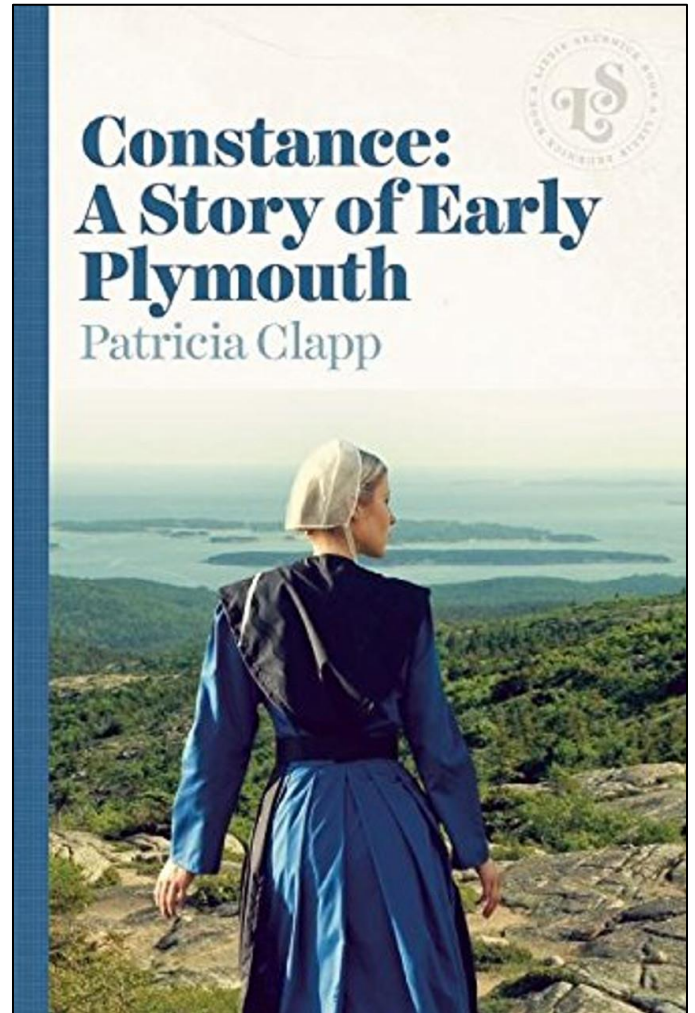
<sup>12</sup> Freeman, Frederick. *The History of Cape Cod: The Annals of the Thirteen Towns of Barnstable County, Vol. II*. Boston: Geo. C. Rand & Avery, 1862. 350. Print.

<sup>13</sup> Anderson. Ibid.

<sup>14</sup> Ibid.

<sup>15</sup> Ibid.

<sup>16</sup> Ibid.



# My Favorite Cromartie: Ruby (Johnson) Campen (1919-2015)

*Please let us know of your favorite Cromartie, from a sentence or two up to a full-length description, and we will publish it in this column. Email us at [campbell973@att.net](mailto:campbell973@att.net).*

## **“Aunt Ruby – A Quiet Life of Resounding Service”**

By Alan Johnson

The life of Ruby Campen, Aunt Ruby to me, qualifies as extraordinary from a number of points of view. And I believe her story from any of these points of view would make her worthy of “My Favorite Cromartie” status. The point of view of this particular thread of her story, my point of view, is colored by a bit of personal history that helps to frame her importance to me. I apologize for turning the focus briefly in my direction here at the start, but this is how her story has told itself to me. I’m not sure I can tell it properly starting anywhere else.

My first memory is of the assassination of President John F. Kennedy. Most people who know me don’t believe it when I say that, and I understand the doubt. I was just a little over two years old when it happened. Assuming, however, that I do, in fact, remember what I believe I do, the better question than if I remember it is why I remember it. At two years old, Kennedy wouldn’t have meant anything to me, but he certainly meant a lot to the adults that I remember being in the room with me when it happened. Their anger and grief are what anchor that memory so powerfully in my mind. And while I don’t remember whether my Aunt Ruby was one of the adults in that chaotic room with me, she certainly could have been. What I do know, having figured it out here at the other end of my own story, is just how much President Kennedy meant to her. But before I offer up my proofs of that, I should formally introduce you to Cromartie clan member Ruby (Johnson) Campen.

Ruby Johnson was born in June of 1919 to Douglas and Johnnie Johnson in a house near Elizabethtown, NC. within sight of Wesley Chapel Methodist Church, the same house in which her little brother—my father, James Douglas Johnson, Jr.—would be born eighteen years later. To properly ground this in Cromartie context, the connection tracks back through Douglas Sr. up the Cromartie family tree to Alexander Cromartie.

After high school, as the wheels of World War II and the industry that would fuel it were beginning to turn, she worked for the local rationing board for a while before enrolling in and then graduating from Worth Business college in Fayetteville. She soon landed a job doing clerical work in a variety of capacities at nearby Fort Bragg. She met Staff Sergeant Hal Grey Campen of the Army Air Force’s 321st Air Service Group during this time, and they were married in 1946.



From a personal/family viewpoint, Aunt Ruby had a powerful impact and influence on my life and on the lives of my sister and our many cousins as she became the de facto matriarch of the Johnson clan after my grandmother passed away. She assumed the duty of hosting many of the Johnson family holiday events from that point and served as a shining example for my generation of our family of the kind of human we all could and should be.

She had been widowed early, in 1967, and since she and Uncle Hal Grey hadn’t had any children, my parents began inviting her to spend Christmas Eve and Christmas day with us, making her a key part of many of the happiest days of my childhood. She was blessed with good health and a long life which allowed that Christmas tradition to stand long after my sister and I were grown and our father had passed away. Aunt Ruby was still cheerfully rolling out Martha Washington candy with us on Christmas Eve when she was 90 years old.

She shepherded over her community the same way that she watched over our family and for just as long. I remember in particular a group of women from her neighborhood that she looked after for years, ferrying them to and from doctor

## My Favorite Cromartie: Ruby (Johnson) Campen, cont'd

appointments, taking them to get groceries and occasionally even spiring them away on some adventure or other. She called them her "little old ladies," even though she was actually a decade older than any of them.

Aunt Ruby lived an exemplary life of service to her family, her community, and her church that left deep and abiding marks on many lives, and there are stories aplenty that document the significant impact of those branches of her life of service. The branch of her service that I want to focus on here, however, is that of her service to our country.

She proved to be a natural organizer and leader in the work she did at Fort Bragg. Her dedication and intelligence allowed her to move up through the civilian clerical ranks until she was asked in 1955 to become the secretary of the commanding general of the 18th Airborne Corps, the ranking general at Fort Bragg.

This is pretty much the extent of what I really knew—what most of her family knew—about her work. We knew it was important, and we were suitably impressed. But we didn't understand just how important her work was or how impressed we should have been with it. She never talked about it, never shared any significant details about her professional life at all. We assumed it was just her natural humility keeping attention focused away from herself, and

that was doubtless a factor. But it has become clear over time that she also didn't talk about her work because it was her duty to not talk about it. Aunt Ruby could keep a secret. And it turns out she had a lot of them to keep.

A couple of random encounters as I began to advance into my own maturity served to open my eyes to and stoke my curiosity about the substance of Aunt Ruby's work. The first came by way of a humorous anecdote told by my then brother-in-law Juan about meeting retired former Chief of Staff of the Army, General William Westmoreland, on a plane bound for South Korea sometime in the early 1990s. Juan was a sergeant in the 82nd Airborne at the time on his way to begin a dreaded hardship tour of duty there. He had been booked on a commercial flight to Seoul and was sitting in his seat on the plane in his uniform waiting for takeoff. The flight was apparently full except for the seat immediately beside Juan. His high hopes of getting to enjoy a very long flight with some extra elbow room suddenly turned into a nightmare as he watched a four-star general in uniform stride down the aisle in his direction. His diligent prayers asking that the general pass on by having not been answered, he gave the general a smart nod and a respectful, "Sir!" as the general sat down beside him. The general nodded in response and returned a business-like, "Soldier" reply.



## My Favorite Cromartie: Ruby (Johnson) Campen, cont'd

Eventually boredom drove the two men to chat a bit, but the natural tension between enlisted man and officer remained in force, until Juan happened to mention that his wife's aunt had served as the secretary to a general at Fort Bragg. The general asked Juan her name, and when Juan said Ruby Campen, it was like he'd uttered the magic "open sesame." The tension disappeared as General Westmoreland told Juan that he had, in fact, been one of the generals that his wife's aunt had worked for when he was commanding general at Fort Bragg. The beer that Juan had written off as a very bad idea to order in the presence of an officer elevated beyond the level any enlisted man should ever have to even imagine meeting suddenly appeared in front of him and on the general's tab. The general asked about Juan's work and upon finding out that his specialty was small arms maintenance, he proceeded to produce a match-grade .45 caliber Colt pistol from his briefcase to proudly show to Juan, much to the distress of other passengers on the flight. But as anyone around them who didn't already know it quickly learned, four-star generals can do pretty much whatever they want wherever they want.

Westmoreland stayed in touch with my Aunt Ruby for the rest of his life, and even in her retirement, any time he came to Fayetteville to visit Fort Bragg, he would by-pass protocol and those whose job it was to make local travel arrangements for military VIPs to have her make the arrangements for him. It was a sentimental duty that she was always happy to fulfill for him.

The second random encounter was of the first-hand variety. During a period when I was unemployed for a stretch sometime around 2010, I started breaking the monotony of sitting around the house by heading down to a local restaurant bar where I would spend the afternoons working on personal writing projects. I met a retired army colonel there one day breaking the monotony of his retirement in a similar fashion. Over a few weeks, we got to know each other a bit. He had been a captain serving in Vietnam as a strategy officer, flying over battles in helicopters and directing troop movements in the firefights below. He mentioned having been stationed at Fort Bragg during parts of the war which led me to bring up Aunt Ruby. A raised eyebrow accompanied his question, "That wouldn't have been Ruby Campen, would it?" When I answered in the affirmative, his face lit up. He told me with delight that he and the other young captains going in and out of the boss's office on a regular basis were a lot more afraid of my Aunt Ruby than they were of the general they were reporting to. His tone and demeanor when he spoke about her told me all I needed to know about the respect that she and her work had commanded.

After that, I began to look more closely at Aunt Ruby's professional accomplishments. I learned that she had held the position of secretary of the commanding general of the



18th Airborne Corps and Fort Bragg for 22 consecutive years, longer than any other secretary of a commanding officer at any U.S. military base before or since. The lieutenant generals (the three-star variety) came and went during this time: she served 14 of them during their command tenure at Fort Bragg. She was the constant in the command structure at the largest U.S. military base for over two decades of the Cold War, including the entirety of the Vietnam Conflict.

She was serving General Hamilton L. Howze in the position in October of 1961, a week or so before I was born, when Kennedy visited Fort Bragg to witness a demonstration of the capabilities of the 82nd and 101st Airborne Divisions and the U.S. Army Special Forces (Green Berets, named after the signature hats that were actually formally approved as official elements of the SF uniform by Kennedy on this trip) associated with those units. And she was in the position a year later while General Howze worked closely with President Kennedy to mobilize American armed forces to deal with the Cuban Missile Crisis, an event that incidentally played out over a two-week period in October of 1962 with my first birthday falling dead in the middle of it. Given what I know now of all these events, I imagine Aunt Ruby fielding calls from the White House during this time and establishing a personal, if passing, connection with our country's 35th president.



## My Favorite Cromartie: Ruby (Johnson) Campen, cont'd

When Aunt Ruby passed away on May 3, 2015 at the age of 95, the family gathered for her wake where we were all stunned to find a glass case displaying a medal she had been given by the Secretary of the Army when she retired in 1977, an honor it seems no one in the family had a clue about. It was the Meritorious Civilian Service Award, the second highest honor that can be bestowed upon a civilian by the U.S. Army, considered the civilian version of the Military Legion of Merit.

After Aunt Ruby's funeral service, the family gathered at her home to celebrate her life and to say goodbye to the earthly artifacts that had surrounded her and that we had all come to be familiar with over the years. A nephew from Uncle Hal Grey's side of the family who is a lawyer served as the executor of her estate. He told those of us in attendance that if there was anything in the house of particular importance to us to let him know and he would do his best to see that we would get it when the estate was settled. Some members of the family asked for figurines as remembrances, others framed pictures. My sister has a lovely chest of drawers that she had kept clothes in when she stayed with Aunt Ruby for a time after taking a job in Fayetteville. There was nothing specific I could think of that I wanted myself, though I did want something to remember her by. So I decided to see if I could uncover a clue to which of her possessions meant the most to her. I walked back through the house to her bedroom and sat down on the edge of her side of her bed and looked to the bedside table there to see what she might have been reading. The book closest to where she would have settled down every night, within easiest reach, was unsurprisingly her Bible. Immediately beside that Bible, I found a copy of the Warren Commission Report on the assassination of President Kennedy.

That historical record now occupies an honored spot within easy reach for me, and when something happens or someone says something that leads me to think about Aunt Ruby, I will often head for the special shelf where I keep that powerful reminder of her life of service to all of us, tucked in securely beside my father's and grandfather's Bibles. I'll pull it out and flip through its pages with a satisfaction that I'm sure it would never have been able to provide her.

Thanks to the following writers and articles for confirmation of dates and names and for details about JFK's visit to Fort Bragg and the Cuban Missile Crisis.

Jacobs, C. (2015). "Sunday Salute: Ruby Campen could keep a secret." *The Fayetteville Observer*. <<<https://www.fayobserver.com/story/news/2015/05/16/sunday-salute-ruby-campen-could/22257726007/>>>

Briscoe, C. (2018). "JFK Visits Fort Bragg A Photo Essay." *Veritas*, Vol. 14, No 2. <<[https://arsof-history.org/articles/v14n2\\_jfk\\_fort\\_bragg\\_visit\\_page\\_1.html](https://arsof-history.org/articles/v14n2_jfk_fort_bragg_visit_page_1.html)>

Brugioni, D. (2017). "The Invasion of Cuba." *Historynet*. <<<https://www.historynet.com/the-invasion-of-cuba/>>>



# Society News

*Please let us know of any Society News you may have.  
Email us at [campbell973@att.net](mailto:campbell973@att.net).*

By James Reed Campbell Jr.

For this year's Cromartie Family Reunion, we are blessed to hear from volunteer leaders of these two societies:

## **Cape Fear Scottish Immigration Memorial Fund**

The purpose of the Cape Fear Scottish Immigration Memorial Fund is to develop and promote Scottish heritage throughout the Cape Fear region and the State of North Carolina. Its initial objective is to sponsor and fund a Scottish Immigration Memorial in downtown Wilmington. Another objective is to promote the Brunswick Town Historic District and excavation site. Brunswick Town was the first successful European settlement in the Cape Fear region, a major British port in the 18th century, and home to two provincial governors. A further objective is to support the creation of a North Carolina Scottish Trek. This privately funded route would start at Brunswick Town/Fort Anderson State Historic Site and end at Grandfather Mountain.

To learn more about its objectives, visit [www.capefearscotsmemorial.org](http://www.capefearscotsmemorial.org).



## **Scottish Society of Wilmington**

The Scottish Society of Wilmington (SSOW) is a cornerstone of Scottish cultural heritage throughout the Lower Cape Fear region, with a mission to advance Scottish culture and history. Its annual activities include a Robert Burns Night Celebration, the Wilmington Bagpipe Festival (co-sponsored with UNC-W), the Commemoration of the Battle of Moore's Creek Bridge, Cèilidhs in the Spring and Fall, Kirkin' o' the Tartans, and St. Andrew's Day, along with participation in

various Highland Games and the Wilmington St. Patrick's Day Parade. The Society also encourages and supports the development of other Scottish groups such as pipe and drum bands, Scottish country dancing groups, and Highland dancing and music.

To learn more about its activities, visit [www.wilmingtonscots.org](http://www.wilmingtonscots.org).

At last year's Cromartie Family Reunion, we were fortunate to receive representative leaders from these three societies:

## **National Society of the Colonial Dames of America in the State of North Carolina**

Founded in 1894, the Colonial Dames of America is dedicated to furthering an appreciation of our national heritage through historic preservation, patriotic service, and educational projects. It also maintains active programs for scholarships and historic monuments, markers and plaques. In 1921, the National Society erected a massive granite portico over Plymouth Rock, which is now a part of the Pilgrim Memorial State Park in Plymouth, MA.

To learn more about its activities, visit [www.ncdames.org](http://www.ncdames.org).

## **North Carolina Genealogical Society**

The North Carolina Genealogical Society, chartered in 1974, is open to all who are interested in genealogical or historical research. Its goals are to: (a.) increase interest in and raise the standards of research and compilation by means of educational programs and publications; (b.) acquaint members with research sources and materials in North Carolina and elsewhere; (c.) serve as a medium of exchange of genealogical information; (d.) promote the collection, preservation, and utilization of manuscripts, documents, and other materials of genealogical and historical value.

To learn more about its goals, visit [www.ncgenealogy.org](http://www.ncgenealogy.org).

## **Society of Mayflower Descendants in the State of North Carolina**

This Society is a non-profit hereditary society dedicated to preserving the history and noble ideals of our Mayflower ancestors. Anyone who arrived in Plymouth as a passenger on the Mayflower is considered a Pilgrim, with no distinction being made on the basis of their original purposes for making the voyage. Proven lineage from a passenger, approved by a Historian General, qualifies one to be a member of the General Society of Mayflower Descendants. This Society is composed of six geographical Colonies throughout North Carolina, plus one virtual Colony. Its activities include meetings, publications, and education throughout the year.

To learn more about its activities, visit [www.mayflowernc.org](http://www.mayflowernc.org).

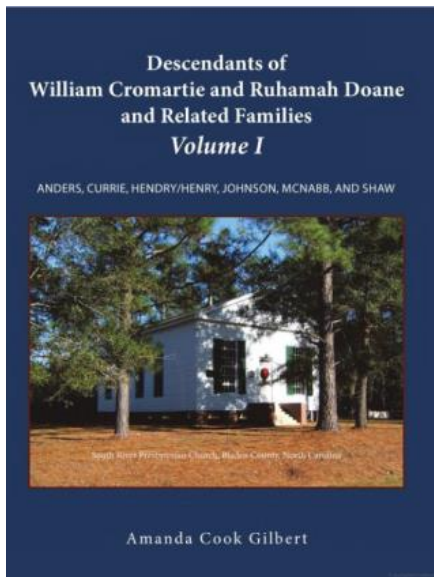
## Sharing Family Events

During our Reunion program, we announce notable family events: births, marriages, military service, and deaths of loved ones. As our family members are scattered across the U.S. and around the world, it is hard to know of these events without your help. If you have news to share, please contact us at [cromartiefamilyassociation@gmail.com](mailto:cromartiefamilyassociation@gmail.com).

## Ordering Cromartie Books

Our four-volume family history is available on Amazon.com. Visit [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com) and conduct a search for “Amanda Cook Gilbert” or “Descendants of William Cromartie and Ruhamah Doane.” You may also order the books directly from Westbow Press, a Division of Thomas Nelson, 1663 Liberty Drive, Bloomington, IN 47403 – online via [www.westbowpress.com](http://www.westbowpress.com), or by phone: 866.928.1240.

**PLEASE NOTE:** If you do not wish to order all four volumes, Amanda recommends that you order Volume I (with William Cromartie and Ruhamah Doane’s genealogy) AND the particular volume pertaining to your family.



## Viewing Our Websites

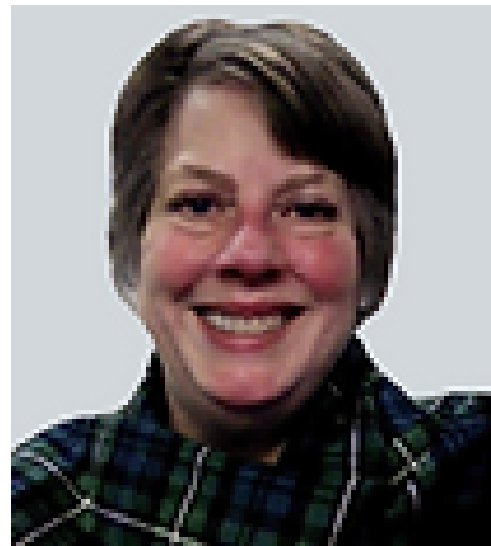
Check out all the information about our Association at our newly revised website, [www.cromartiefamilyassociation.com](http://www.cromartiefamilyassociation.com). Not a member? Join in a family proud of its heritage!

You may also wish to visit the blog of Dr. Sam Cromartie for his notes and interactions on researching Cromartie ancestors: <http://samcromartie.com/geneology>.

## Speaker Bios



**Robert “Bob” McLeod** is President of the Cape Fear Scottish Immigration Memorial Fund. This organization’s purpose is to develop and promote Scottish heritage throughout the Cape Fear region and the State of North Carolina. Their initial objective is to sponsor and fund a Scottish Immigration Memorial in the Cape Fear. McLeod will discuss Brunswick Town (1726–1776), the first successful European settlement in the Cape Fear region. He will also present their proposal for a privately funded “Scottish Trek” throughout North Carolina, from Brunswick Town to Grandfather Mountain.



**Catherine Fort** is President of the Scottish Society of Wilmington. This organization’s purpose is to keep alive and perpetuate Scottish heritage and customs. Through Cèilidhs, Dinners, Tartan Balls, etc., they promote such celebrations that emphasize days of Scottish significance, such as: Robert Burns' birthday, St. Andrews Day, Tartan Day, etc. Fort will discuss the general history of Scottish Highland games, along with the Port City Highland Games in Wilmington, plus the Grandfather Mountain Highland Games.

## Reunion Location



89<sup>th</sup> Cromartie Family Reunion, May 2019

The South River Presbyterian Church.

Built in 1857.

Located between Elizabethtown and Garland, North Carolina on the north side of State Highway 210, approximately one-and-a-half miles southeast of the intersection of U.S. Highway 701 and State Highway 210.

(Left to right) Sydney Haas, Granddaughter of David Cromartie, Bill Caudill (Presenter at the Reunion), Director of the Scottish Heritage Center, St. Andrews University, Laurinburg, NC, Colonel Wilkins Urquhart of Urquhart, 28th Chief of Clan Urquhart

## Membership Information

Membership in the Cromartie Family Association (CFA) is open to anyone interested in the family of Scotsman, William Cromartie and Scottish settlement in eastern North Carolina. It serves to strengthen the bond of kinship among Cromarties and others interested in the history and heritage of Bladen County. The CFA fosters continuing research documenting past history and genealogy for present and future generations. It also sponsors activities, informative lectures, events, and historical tours in an inclusive and sharing atmosphere.

The annual membership fee is \$25.00 per person (including children under 18 years). Lifetime membership is \$100.00 per adult. Dues are tax deductible. The Membership Form is located at:

[www.cromartiefamilyassociation.com/membership](http://www.cromartiefamilyassociation.com/membership)

**Membership Dues for the CFA are due to the Association annually by January 31st; however, you may pay your dues at the Reunion.**

