

Snidow Association Newsletter

8 pages

Spring, 2004

Vol. 27, No. 1

Pembroke Memorial Lutheran Church Closes

A service to celebrate the life of the Pembroke Memorial Lutheran Church was held January 3, 2004. Rev. Diane C. Jackson, pastor of Redeemer Lutheran Church in Pearisburg, led the final service. The building has been sold, closing 160 years of a history intertwined with that of many Snidow families. The Lutheran Cross, which heads the tombstone of Col. Christian Snidow, suggests that the Lutheran tradition was around much longer. It seems fitting that Snidows and Snidow descendants were present for the closing service.

(Pembroke Memorial Lutheran Church is shown on the right. Pictured below that are those who attended the closing: W. E. Snidow, Sallie Lucas, Wanda Hypes, Mary Morrison, Ellen Snidow..)

The Stony Creek Lutheran Church (later Pembroke Memorial) was the first Lutheran congregation in Giles County. Solomon Shaeffer organized the church in 1843 and became its first minister. Among the thirteen charter members were seven Snidows- **Christian and Sarah Turner Snidow, George and Elizabeth Snidow, George and Martha Walker Snidow, and Mrs. William Henry Snidow.** From these original members, the congregation quickly grew in numbers.

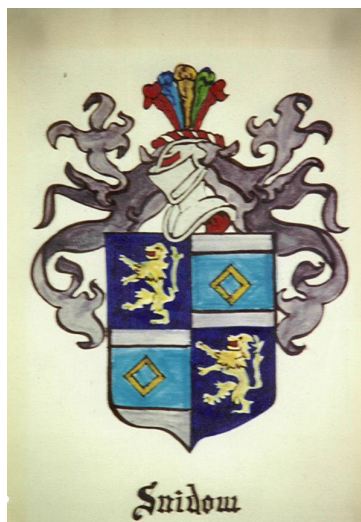
The first meetings were held in the "old Church", a log structure that was located across the road from the site of the present building. It is described as being on the corner "where Snidow land connected to Lybrook land". Meetings were held there until 1857 when the congregation moved to the new church. *(Below, right-An artist's concept of "Old Church" built in late 1700)*

The Stony Creek Lutheran Church was built by Marshall Rice and **George Snidow, Jr.** Over the years, the whole church was completely renovated with some interesting changes. The building front and seating direction was changed to the back, an African American gallery was removed, and later a Sunday School annex was added. Furniture made by Mr. W. H. Niday in the 1930's is still in the church.

George Snidow, Sr., George Snidow, Jr., and Christian Snidow were among the first Elders and Deacons. **George Snidow, Jr.**, and his daughter, **Elvira**, were the first music directors. **Elvira (Mrs. James W. Snidow)** held this position for seventy years. The first Women's Missionary Society was organized by **Mrs. Albert Snidow.** **Mrs. J.W. Snidow** was its first treasurer. Records from the church show that the Snidow membership continued to be strong all through the years with many well-known Snidow families being among the leadership in the congregation.



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Snidow Coat of Arms

Snidow Association Officers:

<i>President:</i>	<i>Betty Strauss</i>
<i>Vice President:</i>	<i>William Snidow</i>
<i>Secretary:</i>	<i>Doretta Collins</i>
<i>Treasurer:</i>	<i>Lucille Collins</i>

From the Compiler,

Thank you to those who contributed to the compilation of this newsletter; Nat Clark, Ruth Blevins, Jane Snidow, Wanda Hypes (editing), and Patricia Knowles.

The Snidow Newsletter can be a resource of family history that will benefit future generations. It is our hope that Snidow cousins will use this opportunity to write about their recent ancestors for the newsletter.. Information written now is more dependable than research done years later.

Articles may be sent at anytime but we begin to think seriously about the newsletter contents about the first of May. Mabel Peters



To Katherine Pebley O'Neal:

Katherine O'Neal is a fifth grade teacher, living in Colorado. She has written a series of children's books published under Aladdin paper backs by Simon & Schuster. Her books can be found in local book stores and on-line at Barnes & Noble and Amazon Books.

In her series of books, "The Stink Squad" attempts to rid the world of odors through ingenious methods. The author's play on words is fascinating in titles such as "The African Sniffari" and "The Fume of the Tomb".

Katherine is the daughter of Nancy and Frank Pebley.

To Lucille Collins:

Thanks for serving as the Association treasurer for fifteen years. She is giving up the job this year.

To Ruth Blevins:

We give accolades for her creativity in preparing table decorations for the annual reunion and for putting together the Snidow directory.

To Jane Snidow:

Jane maintains the Snidow family web site at:

www.snidow.org

The site is full of recent happenings, wonderful pictures from around Giles County, and archives of past news articles as well as links to other related locations. Check it out!. This may be a future means of delivering the newsletter.

Get Well: A get-well wish goes to Jean Snidow of Hardy, Virginia, who is recovering from extensive burns as a result of a gas grill explosion. She is the wife of John Snidow.

Christian Snidow Tombstone Dedicated

A tombstone dedication and wreath laying ceremony was held at the 2003 Reunion on August 3rd at Horseshoe Cemetery to honor Christian Snidow. Several years ago, a tree fell and crushed the original stone, which had been placed there by his son, William H. Snidow, 167 years ago. The old stone had a wonderful epitaph as follows:



Original stone of Col. Christian Snidow

*This Monument is erected in Memory of
Col. Christian Snidow
Who departed this life Sept. 17, 1836*

He was an officer of the American revolution & was distinguished through a long life for virtue & integrity & that nobility of soul which elevates man among his fellows as an Officer, legislator & magistrate. He acted his part with zeal & fidelity. He was not a man of profession, but no one was more true to his friends, none more devoted & kind in every domestic relation. His mansion was the seat of a generous hospitality & was adorned by the peculiar attraction of this wit, humor & kindness. He died lamented & beloved by all who knew him & left behind a name without reproach which he had earned by a life of stainless integrity.

Obviously, the cost to replicate this magnificent marker made it impossible to replace in kind; however, the old stone, which could not be repaired, will be preserved.

The new tombstone, which was provided by the United States Government, Department of Veteran's Affairs, is marked with a Lutheran Cross and bears the following inscription:



Christian Snidow

Lieut. VA Militia, Rev. War
Lieut. Col. 86th Reg., VA Militia, War 1812
May 15, 1760-Sept. 17, 1836

The DAR Marker placed by the George Pearis Chapter on May 19, 1980 and the SAR Marker placed by the New River Valley Chapter on August 15, 1999 was transferred to the new stone.

The dedication ceremony was conducted following a torrential thunderstorm. The colors were presented by the New River Valley Chapter, SAR Color Guard. **Ruth Blevins** gave "George Washington's Inaugural Prayer"; **Nat Clark**, 3rd Great Grandson, gave the dedicatory remarks. The stone was unveiled by a 6th Great Grandson, **Will Moses**, and the wreath was presented by **Jane Snidow**, a 4th Great Granddaughter.

(Picture at left: Jane Snidow, Nat Clark, Will Moses)

Berman "B. C." Snidow (1881-1987)

Berman "B.C." Snidow was born in Pembroke, Va. March 29, 1881, the son of the late William B. and Mary Virginia (Molly) Williams Snidow. B. C. lived to be 106 years young.

On October 3, 1903, he married Ida E. Blankenship and they were the parents of eight children: Robert Bender (deceased 1905), Mary Virginia Adams (deceased 2004), Mildred Boyd Caldwell (deceased 1995), Kathryn Corrine Sowers (deceased 1992), B. C. (Bud) Jr., of Mission, KS., Richard Fulton of De Land, FL., Betty Jane Ogden of Princeton, WV, and Patricia Anne Knowles of DeLand, FL.

He was a member of the First United Methodist Church in Princeton and the Princeton Old Guard. He was an active member of the Democratic Party and was known as "Mr. Democrat of Mercer County". He was considered by many to be one of southern West Virginia's outstanding checker players having won several times in competitions.

He retired in 1975 as a forester at Camp Creek State Forest and Park and was for many years the Mercer County's fire warden.



In his earlier years, he was known as one of the best painter and paperhangers in the area. His talents were varied and many as he did all the masonry work at the Athens high school and Concord College in Athens, WV.

He was very active in the Mercer County 4-H program as he gave programs to the youth at summer camp.

B. C. lived his early years in Pembroke and Newport News, VA. Then, after marriage, he moved to Beckley, Huntington, and Princeton, WV, but, Pembroke was always home. His most cherished outings were to his home place now owned by his nephew's wife, Mary, in Pembroke and attending the Snidow reunion. He did not miss a year from the beginning in Roanoke, VA, until he was over 100 years old and proudly got the prize each year for the oldest member.

He was a strong man, good providing husband, loving father, and an inspiration to many who knew him.

Submitted by Patricia Knowles, daughter of B.C. Snidow. She adds that Berman's home place in Pembroke is owned by Mrs. Joe (Mary) Snidow and is located on what is now Kowcamp Road.

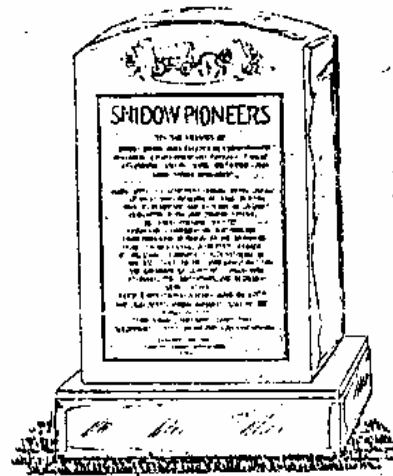
IN MEMORIAM

Dodd Linker
Husband of Martha Linker

Mildred Shepherd Snidow
Wife of William Easley Snidow, Jr.

Joan Graham Snidow
Wife of Marcus Snidow

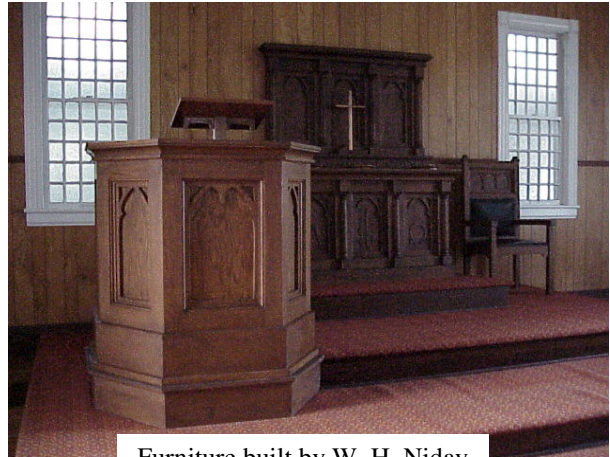
Mary Snidow Adams
Daughter of B. C. Snidow



Pembroke Lutheran Church –Continued

Lucille Snidow Collins remembers being in holiday pageants as a child where everyone in the program wore crepe paper dresses made by her sister, **Eileen Snidow Ward**. On one occasion, **Conley Snidow** invited the whole congregation for an all day outing at his property, Lake Shawnee, near Princeton, West Virginia.

In 1959, a large number of the membership transferred to the Redeemer Lutheran Church. This left a small but loyal congregation that met regularly until mid 1990's. In recent years, another denomination used the church.



Furniture built by W. H. Niday

Resources: Giles Co. Historical Center
The Snidow Story by G. Philip Snidow, "Stony Creek Lutheran Church"

Memorials

In memory of Hampton Vincent Snidow and Susan French
By Nancy and Vince Snidow

In memory of Walter D. and Tandy T. Shields
By Al and Nancy Havermann

In honor of Ruth and Bill Blevins
By Nat and Martha Clark

In memory of Mother, Anne S. Yarbrough
By James E. Yarbrough, Jr.

In memory of sister, Mary Snidow Adams
By Pat Knowles

In memory of husband, Frank Pebley
By Nancy Pebley

Donations

*V. Hazel Johnson
Thomas and Barbara Phlegar
Robert and Mary Wright
Robert and Rebecca Lucas
Mary Ann Atherton
Lucille Collins*

A special "thank you" goes to those who have made donations to the up-keep of the Horseshoe Cemetery or toward the expenses of the Association. Your support is essential to the operation of the organization. Operation includes purchase of meeting supplies, rental of the meeting place, and publication of the Snidow Association Newsletter. A hat (actually a cabin) is passed at the meeting for freewill donations.

A new treasurer is to be elected at the reunion this year. In the meantime, donations may be sent to **Lucille Collins, P.O. Box 612, Pembroke, Virginia 24136**

Mary-French Turner Boswell– A Tribute by Nat Clark

The Snidow Family Association was organized September 25, 1977, by Mary-French Turner Boswell of Roanoke, who is a seventh generation Snidow in Virginia. She was assisted by the late Jim and Twyla (Maddox) Snidow also of Roanoke. The 1977 and 1978 reunions were held at Preston Park, Roanoke and in 1979 moved to Castle Rock Recreation Club in Pembroke; thereafter, all of the other reunions have been held on original Snidow land.

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

As we approach our 28th Annual Snidow Reunion, it is a good time to reflect on our rich heritage and wonderful legacy. I wish to express my thanks to Mary-French and those who established our Snidow Association and the Snidow Newsletter for us to enjoy today.

2003 Reunion Recap

The reunion for 2003 brought Snidows, Snidow descendents, and families from many parts of the country including as far away as Oregon. Some were as young as baby, Owen Moore, who came with his grandmother, Kathy Snidow. Mary Allen Brown received the award for being the oldest– 92 years old. During the afternoon, it poured rain but that did not deter the children in their attempt to ride a pony brought by Ruth Blevins. Inside, the adults heard reports, viewed family displays, and received numerous door prizes. Nat Clark announced new Gordon Snidow posters for sale. Many of the Snidows and spouses were recognized as military veterans. All of this took place after repeated trips to fill plates from tables laden with delicious food. After a few moments at the Snidow monument, the group moved to the Horseshoe Cemetery for the tombstone rededication ceremony. One person was overheard to comment that perhaps the best part of the day was the opportunity to chat with cousins and compare tidbits of Snidow family history.



Mary Allen Brown– Oldest



Mike Snidow from Oregon



Nat Clark makes an announcement

Snidow Chapel Pictured

Snidow Chapel at Lynchburg College



Snidow Chapel

The Snidow Chapel is a focal point on the campus of Lynchburg College, Lynchburg, Virginia. The college is a Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) school. Designed in the Georgian style, the church is featured as part of the college logo. The building was completed in 1966 and includes the chapel, the Hebb Music Center, and the Helen Wood Recital Hall. The chapel, which has a seating capacity of nearly 500, is used for worship services, and is popular for weddings, concerts, and other college events. One unique structure of the chapel is the wall of the choir loft. It is constructed of a latticework covered with sculptured roses

The chapel was named for **Clifton L. Snidow, Sr.** While Mr. Snidow helped to jump-start the financing for the \$500,000 structure, it becomes obvious that financing was not the sole reason for giving the chapel his name. Mr. Snidow had a long history with the college as a supporter and a trustee going back to 1906 when it was a small college known as the Virginia Christian School.

He was considered to be a Christian gentleman as well as a leader and philanthropist. His portrait hangs in the Narthex of the chapel. Clifton L. Snidow, Jr., his only child, continues the family tradition as a trustee of the College.

A full biography of C. L. Snidow, Sr. is found in the book, "The Man Who Took God at His Word", published by Lynchburg College. Also a biography written by Mary French Boswell, 1980 Snidow Newsletter, Vol. 3, No. 2)



Above: Sculptured roses placed on latticework in the choir loft.



Right: View of the Sanctuary. The interior is white with red cushions in the pews. Tall windows are located on both sides.

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Snidow Association Reunion-August 7-8, 2004

Mark your calendar now with plans to attend the 28th annual Snidow Association Reunion. The date is set for August 8th to meet at the Community Building in Pembroke, Virginia. At 12:30 p.m., everyone will gather for a pot-luck luncheon followed by a program and business meeting. The word from the planning committee is that "We look forward to seeing all our "cousins" and partaking of the delicious food they bring."

To date, the program is still in the planning but promises to be something different and will appeal to all

ages. As usual, families are invited to bring family history memorabilia to show and share. A table will be provided for display of the items.

Saturday Buffet:

On August 7th, the traditional Saturday luncheon buffet will be held at the Mountain Lake Hotel near Newport, Virginia. The cost for the meal is \$11.50 which is payable there. To insure that there are ample plates, please let **Ruth Blevins** (540-921-3548), **Roma Collins** (540-626-7332), or **Mary Morrison** (540-626-3624) know by August 2nd if you plan to attend. Lunch will be served at noon.

*Make reservations for
Mountain Lake
luncheon by August 2.*

Missouri Trip

The Missouri trip is still on but postponed for this summer. Ruth Blevins, trip coordinator, apologized for the delay and explained that while there are many of the Snidow family who are interested in going, there are not enough to fill a bus. She is working with the head of the Abbott Bus Company to adjust the tour to include a visit to our Missouri cousins as well as add something different that will let the general public fill the vacant seats. The trip may be shorter than the previously planned 10 days. Further details will be available at the August meeting.