



THE SNIPES HUNTER

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE SNIPES FAMILY OF AMERICA
A 509 (a)(2) Organization

Volume XXV Number 1

January 2006

President's Message

by Bob Snipes, SFA 2

This message comes to you from Lake Wales, Florida, home of the Historic Bok Sanctuary, including its lovely bell tower and gardens -- the legacy of publisher Edward Bok. It is in this setting that I had the pleasure of reviewing the legacy of one of our own notables, Alfred Marshall Snipes, Jr., affectionately known as "Oklahoma Al." Al's legacy is recorded in a soon-to-be-published book entitled *Al Snipes: Founder, Fighter and Father*. Because of Al's contributions to his state, the volume will be published by the Oklahoma Heritage Association as part of their Oklahoma Trackmaker series. The book portrays a life that is impressive in both its scope and depth, including Al's humble yet noble childhood, his formative experiences in supporting his family after his father's premature death, his years as an athlete, and his evolution as a leader, businessman, politician, and philanthropist.

Because there are so many facets to Al's life, the book's coverage of his SFA involvement is brief. Here is the input I submitted: "I cherish Al as though he were a brother. I appreciate his deep love of family and family history. Fortunately for so many of us, Al has had a lifelong passion for making Snipes family connections around the country. Since the 1960's, in whatever cities he traveled, Al would look up and call any Snipes he could find. Hoping to engage these distant cousins, he sent out hundreds of family histories. Despite Al's earnestness and charm, few responded. However Al's persistence paid off "big time." His contacts led to the 1979 founding of an organization Al dubbed Snipes Family of America (SFA). Now aided by information technology, SFA has become quite adept at

what Al did so well on his own -- making social and historical connections among Snipes relations. SFA has over 600 members and continues to grow. We are indebted for all Al has given SFA: his example; leadership; generosity, and support. With over 600 members, numerous publications, annual meetings, two archival repositories, and a database containing almost 57,000 Snipes-related individuals, SFA is a significant part of Al's legacy. And what a legacy he has! Knowing himself well, Al has done a superb job of building on his strengths. He is tough yet warm, visionary yet practical. He is inclusive, genuine, creative, and sees no limits where others might. It's awesome -- Al just plain "goes for it." Yet Al carries this off in a way that is humble and downright lovable. I am glad SFA exists, if for no other reason than that more people can come to know a Snipes of historic stature: Al M. Snipes, Jr."

It is time to celebrate Al's legacy, for what he has contributed to Snipes Family of America, as well as what he's done for his city and state. Holding our SFA Board meeting in Oklahoma City will enable us to participate in the festivities surrounding publication of Al's commemorative biography on the occasion of his 85th birthday. SFA member Marshall Snipes, Al's son and co-author of the book, has graciously invited SFA members to the tribute he has created for Al on this occasion. I encourage you to attend this celebration of Al's legacy. You'll find details inside this newsletter. Hope to see you there.

Our prayers continue for member Wayne Allen, who is undergoing medical treatments, for his dear wife Peggy, and for the rest of the extended Allen family who are supporting him during this difficult time.

COME TO OKLAHOMA CITY TO CELEBRATE “OKLAHOMA AL” SNIPES April 21-23, 2006

by Bob Snipes, SFA 2

Al M. Snipes, Jr., SFA 3 cares deeply for Snipes Family of America, and we care deeply for Al. Won't you come and help celebrate this fine individual April 21-22 on the occasion of his 85th birthday and publication of his commemorative biography? I have been coordinating our members' involvement in this exciting weekend with Al's son, Marshall Snipes, SFA 96. Here is the complete schedule for the weekend as conveyed by a note from Marshall:

“We are getting excited about Dad's birthday party. As you can see from below it is shaping up to be quite a weekend that you don't want to miss... If you haven't RSVP'd please do so as soon as you can. We are expecting a big turnout and to accommodate hotel rooms and transportation to each event we need a head count soon. Thanks for your cooperation. The activities below are for the weekend of **April 21-23, 2006**.... some of the activities (like the tour Saturday afternoon are tentative - sorry no cemeteries)....the Friday night activities should be special and I encourage everyone to be here for those activities as well. All times are subject to change - but this should be close.”

Friday

Tribute to Al Snipes on the occasion of his 85th birthday, Earlywine YMCA
6:30 pm - Reception and book signing (The Oklahoma Heritage Association is publishing Al's biography, and it will be available that evening.)
7:30 pm - Dinner and Program (This will be attended by the Family and local community and political leaders and friends - we will have some surprises - several hundred people, etc.)



Saturday

8:00 am - SFA Board meeting in the Breakfast Room, AmeriSuites Hotel; (open to all members)
11:00 am - Brunch at the home of Marshall and Carla Snipes - We will have food, pictures, books and other archive items that will be of interest on display. We will have plenty of time to visit, relax and have fun.
12:00 noon - Family group picture
2:00 pm - Bus tour of Oklahoma City - including the major sites of OKC as well as historical stops relevant to Al's history.
7:00 pm - Birthday dinner for family, including SFA members, at the Quail Creek Country Club.

Local transportation will be provided. SFA members, along with other family members, will be staying at the AmeriSuites Hotel, 3201 West Memorial Road, Oklahoma City, OK 73134, phone (405) 749-1595. Rooms are \$79 plus about 14% tax. Those attending should make reservations for check-in Friday April 21 and check-out Sunday, April 23. Make your hotel reservations by April 7, 2006; identify yourself as part of the “Marshall Snipes group.”

RSVP: If you plan to attend, please contact Marshall Snipes's assistant Heather Hall by e-mail Heather.Hall@hallmarkmanagement.com or phone (405.728.5143). Include your flight plans for OKC arrival and departure so that pickup and drop-off can be arranged. Sending Bob Snipes a copy at snipes@principia.edu will help us keep track of our SFA contingent. Y'all come!

The Golden Cruise

A fiftieth wedding anniversary is a golden opportunity to have a family reunion. That's what Lory and Liz Snipes of Miami, FL, decided as their milestone anniversary approached last year. But with three children and four grandchildren scattered in two states, the question was how, when and where to get the family together.

Miami is a cruise ship capital, so Lory and Liz thought a cruise to the Bahama Islands would be an enjoyable event for all ages in their family and a happy setting for an anniversary celebration.

Invitations were sent, giving the family time to make plans for the cruise. And on July 21, all members convened at



Lory and Liz's home in South Miami.

Son Steve and his wife Mary, as residents of Miami, had only to drive across town. But son Tom and his son Scott flew in from Panama City, FL. And daughter Jennifer and husband Andy drove from Raleigh, NC, with their three children, Shannon, Greg and Brian.

The family boarded the Carnival ship, Fascination, on Friday, July 22, for a weekend trip to Nassau in the Bahamas. "It worked out beautifully for our three-generation family," said Lory. "Among the wide selection of activities aboard the ship, there was something for everyone in our group, including swimming, games, contests, Broadway shows and food, food, food."

When the ship docked at Nassau on Saturday, the Snipes family went to the famous Atlantis Hotel on Paradise Island. They toured The Dig, a simulation of ancient Atlantis, history's most legendary continent. It serves as a giant aquarium with views of sea life on all sides.

Later, some family members went to downtown Nassau for sightseeing and shopping before returning to the ship for the Golden Anniversary celebration in the dining room. "It was a festive occasion -- wine, gifts, singing and the warmth and love of a family circle," said Liz.

The family enjoyed the many pleasures of shipboard life on Sunday and returned to the Port of Miami on Monday. That evening, Steve and Mary hosted a party at their home in Miami. It was an opportunity to celebrate three family birthdays and to say goodbyes.

The next day, the family members dispersed to their various destinations. But Liz and Lory said they were left with "a golden glow."



This is a shot of our group on the good ship Fascination's golden staircase after the dinner where we celebrated our Golden Anniversary. It seemed an appropriate "port" after our 50-year cruise on the old sea of matrimony.

Lory & Liz

DIGGING FOR ROOTS? TRY FINDAGRAVE.COM

By Joan Snipes, SFA 5

One Internet site that is easy to use and a helpful resource for those interested in family history is

www.findagrave.com

Over 9.5 million people are listed on the site. Even if you don't own a computer, you can access it at your public library, where librarians will be glad to assist you.

We like this site because anyone can add information, and it is simple to do so. A great advantage to the findagrave site over various other cemetery databases on the Internet is that you can add a photo of the person, a photo of the cemetery stone, and a biography.

There are several ways to search for information on findagrave, including by last name, by county, and by cemetery. Although some cemeteries are quite complete with every grave listed, there are hundreds with only a few listings. In other words, if you are familiar with two or three cemeteries where a number of your ancestors are buried, there is a good chance they are not yet listed on findagrave.com.

If each of you reading this article would spend an hour or two adding the names of some of your ancestors to this site, SFA members would be helping to document accurate information that is easily accessible to researchers. As of January 2006, there are records for 222 ancestors with the last name of Snipes. There are many other Snipes descendants who have other last names. Among the Snipes on the site whose listings include photos of either the individual or the cemetery stone are Ben Snipes (famous cattle rancher buried in The Dalles, Oregon), Beulah Hartwell

Cook Snipes (buried in Douglassville, Texas), Charles Ricky Snipes (buried in Sioux Falls, South Dakota), Evelyn LaFoy Howell Snipes (buried in Newton County, Georgia), and June Belew Snipes (buried in Mount Vernon, Texas.)

The Snipes listings currently on findagrave, include cemeteries in South Carolina, North Carolina, Alabama, Alaska, Arkansas, California, Florida, Georgia, Indiana, Kansas, Kentucky, New Jersey, New York, Maryland, Mississippi, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, and Virginia. PFC Paul C. Snipes, who died October 4, 1944, is buried in Epinal American Cemetery and Memorial in Lorraine, France. He is one of several Snipes who served in World War II and is buried in France, according to findagrave. If you decide to enter information at findagrave, we encourage you to indicate that you are a member of Snipes Family of America in the submitter's "bio" section.

Headstone for **Martie Y (V?) Snipes**, spouse of Benjamin Tillman Snipes. They belong to the Young Snipes branch which is currently unmanaged. The following information is taken from www.findagrave.com

Birth: May. 9, 1903
Death: Jan. 20, 1983
Burial:Hillcrest Cemetery
Holly Springs Marshall County
Mississippi, USA
Record added: Sep 13 2005

By: michelle woodham

There is also a photo of Tillman's headstone, but it is not very legible.



Nannie R. Claunch, 90, (Southwest Times Record) of Greenwood, formerly of the Subiaco- Scranton area, died Monday, Nov. 7, 2005. She was a homemaker, mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, lifelong educator, hometown mayor, senior spelling bee champion, member of the United Methodist Church and church pianist. Preceding her in death: husband, Horrice C. "Cotton" Claunch; parents, James F. and Nannie E. (Harris) Snipes; sisters, Inez Harrellson and Ardis Snipes; brothers, Huey, Albert, Howard, Wilbur Lee, Eugene "Buddy," Fred and C.L. Snipes.

Funeral service Friday, Nov. 11, 2005, at Roller Chapel in Paris and burial at McKendree Cemetery in Subiaco.

She is survived by daughters and spouses, Zoe and Chris Epps of Lead Hill, Ruthie and Scott Griffith of Greenwood, and Jorianna and Joe Robinson of Harrison; son and spouse, H.B. "Bub" and Susan Claunch of Fayetteville; sisters-in-law, Nell Claunch of Albuquerque, N.M., Pearl Snipes of Truth or Consequences, N.M., Lorene Snipes of Scranton, and Mary Nell of Missouri; 20 grandchildren; and 34 great-grandchildren.

Pallbearers (grandchildren): Paul Green, Nathan Epps, Jake Kremer, Roger Kremer, Al Kremer, Lee Claunch, Eric Claunch, Chris Coan, Kevin Conkin, Paul McGarrah, Randy Arnett and Nathan Smith.

SFA HURRICANE REPORTS

Quite a few SFA members were affected by the record breaking hurricane season of 2005. Our roof shingles gave up in Katrina after being blasted by Ivan, Arlene, Cindy and Dennis.... They just refused any more of that pounding!

We have since gotten a metal roof so hopefully will have no more of those kind of problems.

If any members would like to add their hurricane stories for publication, please feel free to send them to me, at mavican@tds.net or if you do not have email access you may mail them to me at:

Janeen Miller, 1456 Allen Walker Road, Grove Hill, AL 36451

Dr. Fisher's report from New Orleans was encouraging for his family.

"Katrina really destroyed New Orleans after the levees breached in several places and Rita devastated Western Louisiana. We were blessed in my section of the city (Algiers). We did not get any flooding and my house was spared from any significant wind damage. Several trees and limbs were down in my back yard but I am mostly back to normal living. My daughter Patty and her husband Carlos had two homes in the City Park area that flood waters reached up to the edge of the first floor. Water came through the roof and flooded 2 rooms because of a hole in the roof from tree damage. They moved in with me and are still working to repair their homes and remove the toxic mold."

BITS AND PIECES

By Bill Snipes #344

The following Will was witnessed by Thomas Snipes in Person County, NC. I believe this Thomas was married to Elizabeth Hanks in 1806, about 4 years after the witnessing of the Will.

WILL OF SAMUEL MCMURRY

First line missing from my copy -----

of the County of Person and State of North Carolina, being on this _____ of Perfect Mind and Memory and Calling to mind my Mortality and that it is appointed for all men to die, and Whereas it has pleased God to Bless me with some worldly Property which I Do Dispose of the following Manner, (first of all I give and bequeath my Soul unto the Almighty God and my Body to the Dust to be Decently Bury'd at the Discretion of my Executor, nothing Doubting but what I Shall Receive the same again at the Resurrection.

Item, I give and bequeath to my well beloved Wife Elizabeth McMurry the third part of the tract of land whereon I live During her lifetime. Also the third part of the Profits of my Mills when finished During her natural lifetime.

Item, I also give and bequeath to my son James McMurry one Negroe Boy Jack which he has now in possession.

Item, I also give and bequeath to my Daughter Mary, wife of John Sarratt, one Negroe Boy called Abe, also one Negroe Girl by the name of Rachel, and her increase. The Boy is now in Possession of said John Sarratt. Rachel is to remain in the hands of my wife until she pleases.

Item, I give and bequeath to my son Charles McMurry one Negroe girl called Venus which he is now in Possession of, also one hundred Dollars to be had two years after my decease.

Item, I also give and bequeath to my son John McMurry one Negroe Boy called George which he is now in Possession of.

Item, I give and bequeath to my son William McMurry one Negroe Boy called Isaac which he is now in possession of, also I allow the

said Wm. one third part of my land and mills, him joining and finishing said mills and paying his part of all my just Debts with my son Samuel McMurry.

Item, I give and bequeath to my son Samuel McMurry one Negroe Boy called Solomon also the other third part of my land and mills whereon I live, which thirds to him Wm. I allow them to enjoy after my death, him _____ with William McMurry to pay all of my Just Debts and helping to finish said mills; also one horse with one hundred dollars, two milch cows, 1 feather bed and furniture. I also allow my two old Negroes Carolina and _____ to be maintained by Wm. McMurry and Samuel McMurry that they _____ become a Charge to the County. Also my wife's third after her death I _____ to be Divided Between my sons William and Samuel McMurry. I hereby also allow three Negroes to wit, Jude, young Carolina and Daniel and that part of my property to remain in the hands of my widdow during her natural life, then to be Equally Divided between our children.

Item, I give and bequeath to Thomas Wilson, my wife's brother, a certain tract of land joining the _____ and others containing Two Hundred Acres.

I also allow my children grain to be _____ they want, to be done free during their residence, now and then for their own use.

In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and affixed my Seal this 9th day of January 1802.

Samuel McMurry (Seal)

Test.

Benjamine Douglas

Thomas **Snipes**

Frances Douglas

Person County, June Term, 1802

The execution of this Will was duly Proved in open Court by the oath of Benj. Douglass, Thomas **Snipes**, and Frances Douglass subscribing witness thereunto and on motion ordered to be recorded.

INFORMATION ABOUT JOINING SNIPES FAMILY OF AMERICA

WHAT YOU WILL RECEIVE UPON JOINING

- An SFA membership certificate and coat-of-arms
- A history of SFA, early Snipes generations and a listing of how SFA members are connected.
- The name of the person who responds to queries and coordinates research for your branch
- A recent edition of our quarterly newsletter, The Snipes Hunter
- A membership booklet which includes an SFA Membership List, Membership Directory and Computer Tips and a list of books and other items for sale

WHAT YOU WILL RECEIVE ON AN ONGOING BASIS

- Assistance in searching your roots
- Access to SFA resources, including our database of almost 57,000 Snipes-related individuals
- Access to the members-only section of our official website
- A subscription to The Snipes Hunter

OUR OFFICIAL SFA WEBSITE, with additional information of interest, may be found at <http://jubico.com/sfa/>.

IF YOU WANT TO REPLY USING U.S. MAIL, print out this membership application form and send it along with your family information and a check for \$15 (for the year of application, \$10 renewals thereafter) made out to Snipes Family of America to: Bob Snipes, 1070 Willowdale Drive, Shepherdstown, WV 25443. Any additional amount you can add to defray expenses is appreciated.

IF YOU WANT TO REPLY USING E-MAIL (preferred method), If you received this form via e-mail, fill it out by editing the message, taking as much space as you need and send it to snipes@principia.edu. Take necessary steps to get us your family information as part of the form, as an attachment to the form, or via US Mail to the address below. Mail a check for \$15 made out to Snipes Family of America to: Bob Snipes, 1070 Willowdale Drive, Shepherdstown, WV 25443. Any additional amount you can donate to defray operating expenses is appreciated.

LIFETIME MEMBERSHIPS are now available. By paying \$250, you will be considered

a member in good standing from now on without having to pay the \$10 renewal fee every year.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM

(Fill out what you can)

- Current full name (first, middle and last):
Mailing address (street, city, state, zip code):
Telephone number:
E-mail Address:
Full name at birth (or maiden name):
Nickname, if any:
Your date and place of birth:
Current spouse's full name:
Date and place of your marriage:
Previous spouse's full name:
Date and place of your marriage:
Your father's full name:
Your mother's full maiden name:
Names of relatives who belong to SFA:
Anything else we should know about you:
How you heard about SFA:
Which edition of the newsletter would you prefer? (check one)
___ color edition delivered by email (default if email available)
___ monochromatic delivered by first class mail
Genealogy software you use, version:

INFORMATION WE WOULD LIKE FROM YOU:

- Typical "family group sheet" information (birth, death, burial, marriage dates and locations for all husbands, wives and associated children) and any interesting stories for:
- your immediate family: children, grandchildren, parents, siblings
 - two generations back on the direct line of your non-Snipes parent
 - as many generations as you have back and forward from your Snipes parent.
- <<If you have limited information, we'll take whatever you have.>> We'll help you put it together, if you want.

PLEASE INDICATE HOW YOU WILL SUBMIT THIS FAMILY INFORMATION:

- ___ Via email or floppy disk with a Family Tree Maker .FBC,FBK or GED file.
___ On family group sheets . A family group sheet form is provided below. Duplicate as many of these sheets as you need. (If sending via email just highlight and copy the blank sheet below a number of times.)

FAMILY GROUP SHEET

Fill out one of these forms for each family unit, including your immediate family, your

children, grandchildren, parents, and siblings. Go two generations back on the direct line of your non-Snipes parent; and as many generations as you have back and forward from your Snipes parent:

HUSBAND

- Birth date and location:
Marriage date and location:
Death & burial dates and locations:
Husband's father:
Husband's mother:
Husband's other wives:

WIFE

- Birth date and location:
Marriage date and location:
Death & burial dates and locations:
Wife's father:
Wife's mother:
Wife's other husbands:
List sources for all the above information and any interesting stories.

FOR EACH CHILD OF THIS HUSBAND AND WIFE:

- Name and gender:
Birth dates and locations:
Marriage dates and locations:
Death & burial dates and locations:



WEB SITES

SFA Family Tree Maker Site

<http://www.familytreemaker.com/users/s/n/i/Robert-T-Snipes/>

Snipes Genforum Site

<http://genforum.com/snipes/>

SNIPES FAMILY OF AMERICA PUBLICATIONS FOR SALE

The following volumes can be ordered by sending a check for the amount indicated and made out to

Snipes Family of America, Inc.
Mrs. Peggy Allen, Secretary
6317 Birling Drive
Columbus, GA 31909.

Sales proceeds for these books go to Snipes family research:

Ben Snipes: Northwest Cattle King, by Roscoe Sheller, Binford & Mort Publishing, Portland OR, 1957, 224 pages, softbound, \$12.00 postpaid. The only book in this list not published by Snipes Family of America, this is the fascinating story of a penniless youth who worked his way across half a continent to become the "king" of all Northwest cattlemen. Follow Ben as he drove cattle 800 miles to British Columbia from the Yakima Valley in Washington. The author's daughter, Dorothy Churchill, though not a Snipes descendant, became a member out of respect for Ben. She has provided these books to us at cost in order to raise revenue for SFA.

Immigration of the Snipe(s) Family from England to the Barbados, Carolinas, and Virginia by James W.

Fisher (SFA 7), 2004, 34 pages, softbound, \$12.00 postpaid. This volume contains 131 references and covers in detail the documentation available to support conjectures regarding the immigration of our earliest Snipes ancestors. A conjectural pedigree for the Snipe family of Yorkshire, England is included.

Snipes Family of South Carolina and Connections with the Early Virginia Colony, Barbados and England, 2nd Edition by James W. Fisher (SFA 7), 2004, 611 pages, softbound, \$35.00 postpaid. This document traces the Snipe(s) families immigrating to South Carolina from Yorkshire, England to the island of Barbados and then on to the Carolinas and Virginia. Thomas Snipe(s) (Will, St. Thomas Parish, Barbados, 1669) is conjectured to have immigrated from Yorkshire, England and is the progenitor of the Snipe(s) families of Barbados, the Carolinas and Virginia. William Snipes is conjectured to have immigrated from Barbados to the Ashley River area of South Carolina near Charleston around 1670. Robert Snipes is conjectured to have immigrated from Barbados to King William County, VA in the early 1700's and is probably the progenitor of the Snipes families of Virginia, North Carolina, and up-state South Carolina.

The Descendants & Ancestors of Young Snipes by Earl A. Truett (SFA 6), 1982, 255 pages, softbound, \$24.50 postpaid. Three chapters of this book are

devoted to eight generations of the descendants of Young Snipes, his father, William Snipes II, and William Snipes I. Four chapters cover the conjectural theory by Francis J. Dallett on the first four generations of Snipes in America and the five generations of the Snape, Snappe, Snipes family in England, the South Carolina branch of Snipes who settled from Barbados, and the study made by Dr. J. J. Snipes.

The Snipes Kin by James J. Snipes, MD (SFA 600), 1914 revised in 1951, 230 pages, softbound, \$25.00 postpaid. This is the final edition of the handwritten, unpublished classic work on Snipes research. Al Snipes has produced it from the original given to him by Dr. Snipes' family. Much subsequent research has utilized this work as a point of departure.

Snipes Family of America: 25+ Years of Making Connections, compiled by Robert T. Snipes (SFA 2), 2005, 44 pages, softbound, \$5.00 postpaid for members, \$10.00 for non-members. This volume provides a history of SFA, excerpts from *Immigration of the Snipe(s) Family from England to the Barbados, Carolinas, and Virginia* by James W. Fisher (SFA 7), and documents the ancestral lines of SFA members. This particular document may be ordered by sending a check made out to Robert T. Snipes, 1070 Willowdale Dr., Shepherdstown, WV 25443:



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THE NEWSLETTER OF THE SNIPES FAMILY OF AMERICA, INC.

A 509(a)(2) Organization

2302 Carver Dr Roswell, NM 88203

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