

BOOK REVIEWS

by Nancy Parks, Karen McKeown and Barbara Zanzig, SGS Members, June 2009

The Wrights of Southern Virginia, Robert N. Grant,
15 Campo Bello Court, Menlo Park, CA 94025

This series of books is part of the Seattle Genealogical Library's collection.

These 16 books are about *The Wrights of Southern Virginia*. The series begins with Part II, Vol. 1, of 4, followed by SOURCES and is dated 1 Jun 2004. Part III, with 3 volumes begins with the Wright family in 1809. Part IV is also in this series. These volumes are followed by SOURCES volumes. All are dated 31 Oct 2004.

Volumes 1 and 2 of Part V are dated 2005 and were revised as of 4 Jul 2005. Part VI, volumes 1, 2, 3, and a SOURCES book are dated 4 Jul 2006.

There is an Introduction, generally identical, to each of the parts, II, III, IV, and V. This introduces Part VI of the project. "*Sorting Some of the Wrights Of Southern Virginia* is a multipart project. Each part will discuss a separate Wright family, beginning with the oldest known ancestor of that line. . ."

"The material is organized in four sections. The first is the text, the second is the descendants charts, the third is the sources, and the fourth is a set of appendices." Each section is well documented and the significance of the documents is explained.

"Descendants charts are organized with the oldest ancestor in the first column and each descendant from that ancestor in the remaining columns, to the extent known." Basic information about births, marriages and deaths is given for each individual. The descendants charts include eight generations.

"The source list provides first a chronological listing of sources as they were found and second a listing by geographic area and type of source, such as birth records or death records." The author states some dissatisfaction over his coding methods but attributes it to his "early years in research."

The author has an identification system to help researchers keep individuals separate. He acknowledges help from many others and solicits additional informa-

tion if the researcher finds errors or has additional information about the people (ancestors) in his books.

Searching for Ichabod, His Eighteenth Century Diary Leads Me Home, by Julie Foster Van Camp, BookSurge Publishing, 2nd Edition, 2009.

Searching for Ichabod, His Eighteenth Century Diary Leads Me Home, is one of those pleasant and easy to read family stories that combines family history with local American history. The author traces the migration of one of her ancestors from Rhode Island to Vermont and finally, New York. She is hoping to find his final resting place, and uses his diary to guide her.

The author drives along the route her third great-grandfather, Ichabod Foster, (1740 -1813) would have taken (as much as she possibly can) through these states, at the same time of year that he made his final journey. As a novice genealogist and avid history student, I can appreciate the author's enthusiasm when she makes a connection with her ancestors. You can almost feel her joy at the idea of touching something tangible that was signed by, lived in, walked on, or built by one of her earlier family members. She blends the diary with mishaps or clues she finds along the way to New York; relying on her intuition, town clerks, local residents and others to help her fill in the gaps as much as possible.

Ichabod wore many hats; he was a farmer, medical practitioner and a shoemaker who followed his conscience in the matters of religion. He survived two wars with England and migrated to the Holland Land Purchase (Western New York) when he was 71 years old. He passed away, along with three other family members (in a span of two short weeks), a little over a year after he moved to New York. She sets out to solve the mystery of where Ichabod is actually buried and, perhaps, how he and his family members came to die so suddenly.

The author does a great job of bringing her relative to life, a goal many genealogists share. This book is highly recommended to anyone interested in American history or New England genealogy.