

Ed Deshields' interesting Ancestor stories

Introduction

While doing genealogy one will come up with some fantastic family stories, **I did**. In this document I am sharing 6 short stories about my discoveries.

Life provides some interesting tales as it is gone though, and it is my humble opinion that these stories are in the category of interesting and worth revealing.

I encourage you to investigate your background as I am sure you will find, as I did, some interesting stories in your ancestors' journey to your existence.

Enjoy – Ed Deshields

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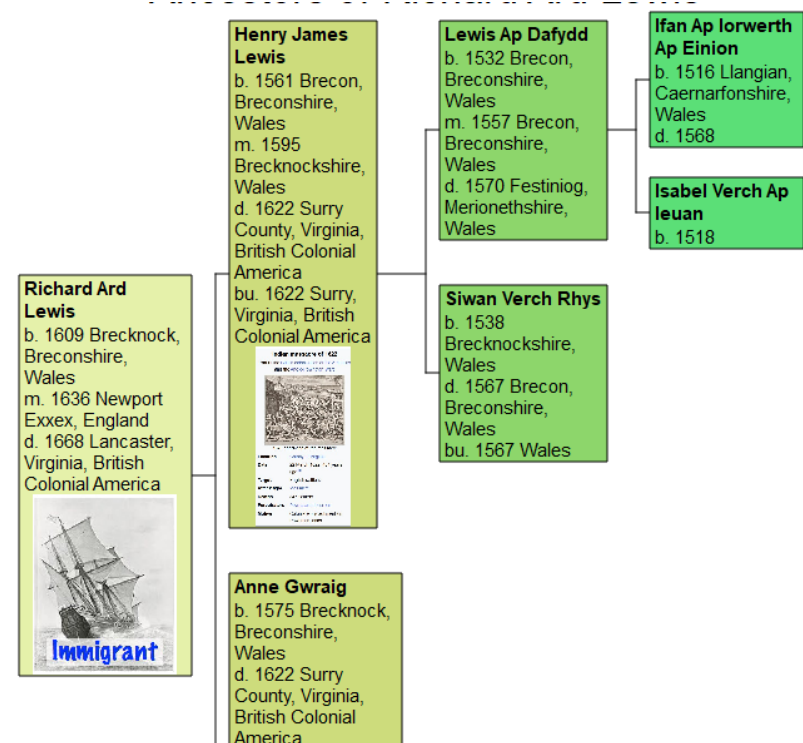
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Indian Massacre of 1622

My 9th Great Grandparents were **Henry James Lewis** and **Anne Gwraig** Lewis. They **were killed** in the **Indian Massacre of March 22, 1622**. They were a part of the 347 Settlers that were killed by the Powhatan Tribe in the Jamestown, Virginia surrounding area of what was a small British Colonial Colony. They had migrated from Wales. Luckily for me (I have an ancestor) their son Richard Ard Lewis did not migrate with his parents but moved to the Colony later.

The **Indian massacre of 1622** took place in the English Colony of Virginia on March 22, 1622. The English explorer John Smith, though he was not an eyewitness, wrote in his *History of Virginia* that warriors of the Powhatan "came unarmed into our houses with deer, turkeys, fish, fruits, and other provisions to sell us." They then grabbed any tools or weapons available and killed all the English settlers they found, including men, women, and children of all ages. Opechancanough, *Mamanatowick* (leader) of the Powhatan Confederacy, led a series of coordinated surprise attacks that ended up killing a total of 347 people, **a quarter of the population** of the British Colony of Virginia **at the time**.



Founded in 1607, Jamestown, Virginia, was the site of the **first successful English settlement** in North America and served as the capital of the Colony of Virginia. The town's tobacco economy, which quickly degraded the land and required new land, led to the settlers' constant expansion of habitation on Powhatan lands and provoked the Powhatan attack.

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1676 (Nathaniel) Bacon Rebellion

My 8th Great Grandfather **William Scarborough** (B: 1630 North

Walsham, Norfolk County England –

D: 16 March 1676 Jamestown, Virginia) was **hung** along with 22 other men by the Royal Governor for participating in the Bacon Rebellion. William Scarborough was first of the Scarborough family, in Surry County, VA (formed from James City in 1652) and was the 2nd Great Grandfather of my ancestor Revolutionary War Major James Scarborough.

William Scarborough
1630 - 1676



This quite complicated story started in Virginia in 1674, when a group of farming settlers demanded that natives roaming around the settlement be sent away or killed. They claimed that the natives disturbed the peace and productivity of their farming lands. Due to this, small conflicts occurred between the two parties.

It escalated when Doeg Indians stole pigs from Thomas Mathews, who failed to pay them for traded goods. The settlers then responded to this by killing several of the Doeg, who in turn killed Robert Hen, the Mathews' herdsman. Militia captains took action and killed a group of Indians; however, instead of the Doeg, they killed some from the peaceful tribe of Susquehannock. Of course, the Susquehannock's took revenge, and a long series of attacks were conducted both by both the settlers and the Susquehannock's. The conflict reached its peak when John Washington brought troops from Maryland to Virginia and killed the *Susquehannock's* chiefs and tribesmen.

Preventing more Deaths - To avoid further conflicts, William Berkeley, the governor of Virginia, passed a law that allowed the natives to stay in the colonial lands. This enraged a planter named Nathaniel Bacon, who gathered some settlers and planned against Berkeley. Bacon started his scheme by asking the *Orianecchi Indian* tribe to attack the Susquehannock, and he proceeded afterwards to kill whoever remained after the attack. On the other hand, Berkeley asked for the help of the *House of Burgesses* to enact various reforms, which include granting settlers the freedom to decide on what to do with their land.

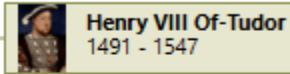
Bacon, on the other hand, led some men to Berkeley and the House of Burgesses, claiming that he should receive commission. After threatening to kill the Burgesses members, he was able to get what he wanted; however, while away, eight colonists in Henrico Country were killed.

The Rebellion Short-Lived - Further enraged, Bacon and his fellow colonists issued a "Declaration of the People of Virginia," which became the public document that made their rebellion "official". They accused Berkeley of irresponsibility and the failure to perform his duty as the governor of Virginia. They started by attacking the native tribe of Pamunkey, who were allies of the British. Afterwards, they stormed Jamestown and burned the Royal Governor and friends' homes in September of 1676. Berkeley was forced to retreat and refused to fight against this rebellion. Everything could have gone well, but Bacon died due to dysentery. *John Ingram* took over, but he could not keep the rebel forces intact. This became a chance for Berkeley to defeat them at *Chesapeake Bay*, eventually reclaiming his position when he returned to the burnt remains of Jamestown. Bacon's rebellion caused a stir among the British, who allowed Berkeley to stay on as a governor. Under his rule, he took the rebels' property and had 23 men hanged. However, after a thorough investigation, he was sent back to England and replaced. **Despite being insignificant, one important finding in this rebellion was the possibility that a group of people could unite under a single cause and overthrow small regimes,** something that the British became wary of 100 years before the American Revolution.

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Agnes Blewitt and King Henry VIII

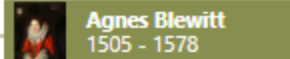
M/y 11th Great Grandmother **Agnes Blewitt** (a Kings Maid of Honor) was one of the mistresses of Henry VIII (he had 6 wives and several mistresses). This occurred while Henry VIII was married to Catherine Argon. Agnes mothered Henry's son Richard Blewith Edwards.



Henry VIII Of-Tudor
1491 - 1547

Henry VIII offered rewards to his friend William Thomas Edwardes to marry Agnes and raise Henry's only male son Richard Blewitt Edwardes my 10th Great Grandfather.

William →



Agnes Blewitt
1505 - 1578

William was the Kings friend and lived next to King Henry VIII's Hunting Lodge.



Richard Blewitt Edwardes was my 10th Great Grandfather. Agnes and William had 3 other children of their own (no relation to me). Richard, Henry VIII's illegitimate son, was afforded many favorable opportunities as a young man, including a post at Christ Church College in Oxford. Finally, he was included in the inner circle of the Royal Family, both during the lifetime and after the death of Henry VIII. This was the pattern of favoritism shown to the other known bastard children of Henry VIII.

Richard was an English composer and poet. He became Master of the Children of the Chapel Royal in 1561 and wrote two plays for them.

↓ Richard Blewitt Edwardes↓



Richard Blewitt Edwardes
1523 - 1566

King Henry VIII →



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A couple of ancestor participant Civil War Stories

With all my ancestors in Southeastern Virginia and Northeastern North Carolina at the time of the Civil War I had quite a few ancestors in the Civil War. The 2 below had interesting stories.

William Bryant Edwards my Great Grandfather lived in Edgecombe County, North Carolina.



William Bryant Edwards
1828 - 1900

B: May 1828, Edgecombe County, North Carolina, USA
D: 11 Oct 1900, Wilson, North Carolina, USA

He joined the Confederacy when the war broke out in 1861. In 1862 he got someone to take his place and went home to help take care of his first wife Alice Moore and their newly born 3rd son James.

William Bryant **rejoined** the Confederate Army in 1864 and served until the war was over – he was at Appomattox when Lee surrendered.

William served 3 years in the Civil War and with all those bullets and artillery shells flying his way he was not hurt. However, he was killed in 1900 when coming back from selling his tobacco his horse spoked in front of a train, proving that you ever know when and how your time is coming.

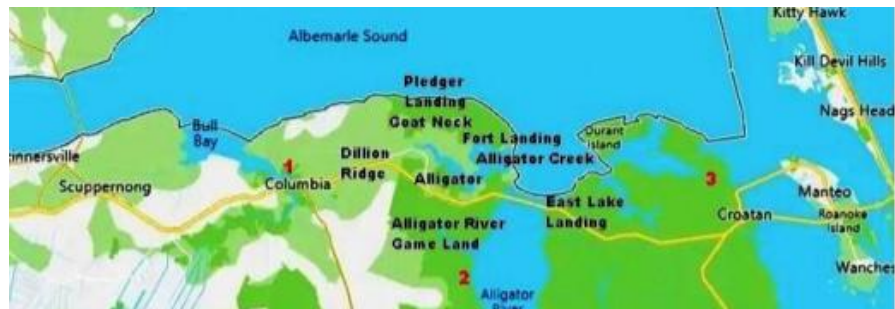
Run Over and Killed.

Thursday morning, W. B. Edwards, a white man about 70 years of age, who lived near Crisp, this county, while returning from Wilson, where he had been to do some trading, attempted to cross the railroad before an approaching train. His horse balked on the track, and before Mr. Edwards could jump, the train had killed him and the horse and wrecked the buggy. Mr. Edwards leaves a family.

Zephaniah Powell Alexander was my 2nd Great Grandfather and was **my only** Yankee soldier participant. He lived in Washington County in Northeastern North

Zephaniah Powell Alexander
1830 - 1900

Carolina, a coastal area controlled by the North early in the war. The story is that he was an able-bodied young man and **drafted** in the Union Army (draft at the time meant being offered a



choice by the controlling Northern Army of: 1- being shot or 2- joining the Union Army). Without that many ties to the rest of North Carolina (most of their trade was with the North via the waterways) his choice was to join the Northern Army (I am thankful he did as I wouldn't be here

if he didn't make that choice).

NAME OF SOLDIER:		Alexander, Zephaniah P.			(3-H-3)
NAME OF DEPENDENT:		Widow, Alexander, Nancy A.			
SERVICE:		61 10th Inf			
DATE OF FILING.	CLASS.	APPLICATION NO.	CERTIFICATE NO.	STATE FROM WHICH FILED.	
1882, Dec. 14.	Invalid.	466,278.	598,388	N.C.	
1900, Sept. 22.	Widow.	727,031	509,608	N.C.	

← Union Pension of Zephaniah Alexander

Ed Deshields' interesting Ancestor stories

Understanding my Revolutionary War participates roles

I have numerous Revolutionary War participants, 2 of which I went thru the lengthy approval process with the **SAR** (Sons of the American Revolution) organization. The 2 are: **Major James Scarborough** of North Carolina and **Colonel George Dashiell** of Maryland. The surprising thing about their participation is that it was more like a 2nd job, when the British or agents were in the area they served as a soldier and afterwards would return to being a farmer. Below is a brief overview of their participation.

George Dashiell my 4th Great Grandfather served as a Colonel in the Somerset County, Maryland Militia. He helped recruit, train, and equip local troops. He oversaw coastal defenses and internal security on Maryland's Eastern Shore. Unlike Continental Army officers who fought major northern campaigns, Militia Colonels like George Dashiell performed crucial but less glamorous work:

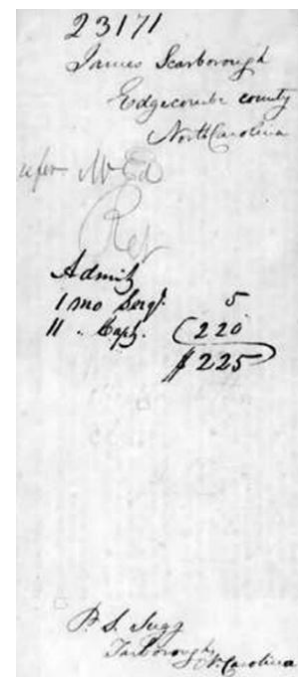
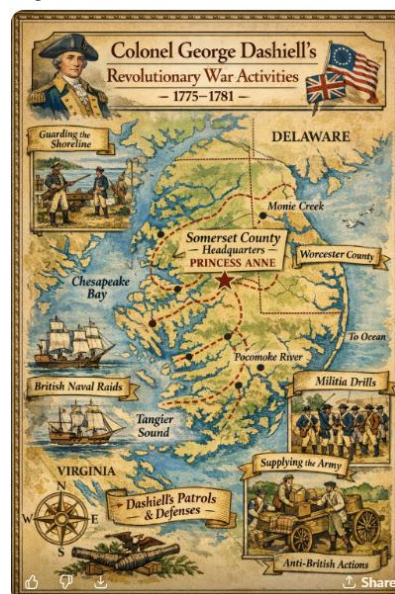
- 1) guarding against British naval raids in the Chesapeake Bay,
- 2) maintained order and suppressing Loyalist activity, and
- 3) providing manpower and supplies to Continental forces.

James Scarborough my 4th Great Grandfather entered the service of the United States as stated below.

- 1) He volunteered Under Colonel Henry Irwin and in the Company of Captain Jonas Johnston in the capacity of Sergeant, joining General Caswell at the time of the Scotch defeat at Moore's Bridge and served about 30 days.
- 2) His second term of service he volunteered as a Captain to go to the assistance of the Virginians at the Great Bridge at the time that the English led by Dunmore laid waste the country and burnt down the city of Norfolk. He did not arrive in time for the engagement. Afterwards he returned to North Carolina.

James' Revolutionary War Pension →

- 3) His 3rd term of service he volunteered as a Captain Commanded by Governor Caswell in July 1780 as appears from the commission. Field Officers General Allen Jonas, Colonel Henry Hart, Lieutenant Colonel Branch. He marched through different parts of this state and to a place on the border of South Carolina called New Providence where he joined the Continental Army under the command of Brigadier General Smallwood. He was then sent by General Smallwood to King's Mountain in South Carolina under Colonel William Richardson Davie to the assistance of General Williams at the time of Ferguson's (British) defeat at that place. He then returned to Smallwood's Head Quarters and in a few days, he was sent by General Smallwood after some corn in the possession of the Tories near a fort situated on Crane Creek, South Carolina and on his return from this expedition gave information of the weakness of the fort which soon after was taken by Colonel William Washington & Colonel Lee under Smallwood being the oldest Captain he received the temporary commission of Major, though he volunteered for 3 months he remained in the army at that time until January making about 5 months. He happened in no regular battle but one skirmish which was on his route to King's Mountain. He was discharged about the middle of January when he returned home.



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The de Chiels / Dashiell / Deshields / etc. story

I have been blessed to have access to research of a lot of people investigating the Deshields family. I am sharing with you some of their discoveries. My de Chiel line goes back to Vallebous De Chiel (B: 1025 / D:1085) my 29th Great Grandfather.

The **de Chiel family** is one of the **oldest documented noble families** connected with the area around Chazay-d'Azergues, France and the early history of **Château de Beaulieu**. Much of what survives about them comes from medieval ecclesiastical and local historical records rather than continuous family archives. Here is what historians know.



The de Chiel Family — Medieval Lords of Beaulieu

- 1) They appear in records as early as the 11th century, making them among the earliest noble lineages in the Lyonnais and Beaujolais regions.
- 2) The family's roots lie near Morancé, France.
- 3) A noble named Hugues (Hugo) de Chiel is recorded around 1040 in documents of the Church of Lyon.
- 4) The family held property inside the fortified settlement of Chazay and owed feudal allegiance to the powerful Abbey of Ainay in Lyon.
- 5) They were therefore not minor landowners, but part of the regional feudal elite tied closely to church authority and territorial defense.
- 6) I can get back to my 29th Great Grandfather Vallebous de Chiel (Born About 1025 D: 1085)

The de Chiel family did not disappear, the spelling of the name from de Chiel.to: Dashiell, Dashiell, Deshields, Dashiell, Dashiell, etc. The variation of the French name effectively survives only in America today.



11th–14th Century - The de Chiel Family - seigneurs of Beaulieu / established the original fortified estate / Closely tied to church authority in Lyon and regional feudal administration / Founded charitable institutions in nearby Chazay-d'Azergues / The estate leaves the de Chiel lineage likely through marriage inheritance or sale, common among medieval noble houses.

Late 14th / Early 15th Century - Family of Beaulieu / The domain begins appearing under the “de Beaulieu” name / The castle evolves from a defensive stronghold into a noble residence.

- Agricultural lands and vineyards expanded around the estate / (*Many French estates took the name of the land rather than the original founding family.*)

15th–16th Century - Hindret Family / Wealthy Lyonnais bourgeois family rising into nobility / Likely purchased or inherited Beaulieu during a period when urban elites acquired rural seigneuries / Architectural modernization began (Larger windows & Residential comforts replacing military features) - reflects the broader shift from medieval fortress to Renaissance manor.

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The de Chiels / Dashiell / Deshields / etc. story

Transition Out of France - A younger son **Jacques De Chiel** my 9th Great-grandfather left France during the late 16th century. He entered military or court service in **Scotland**, where French nobles were commonly welcomed due to the long-standing Franco-Scottish alliance known as the **Auld Alliance**. During this period, surnames often changed to fit local language and pronunciation. *de Chiel* gradually evolved phonetically into: **Chiel** → **Shiel** → **Dashiell** → **Dashiell**. This kind of linguistic shift is well documented among continental migrants to Britain.

The Scottish Generation (Edinburgh area)

By the early 1600s:

- A descendant bearing the name **Dashiell / Dashiell** appears in Scottish records.
- The family was no longer recognized as French nobility but as gentry or professional class. Unfortunately, surviving documentation linking the last French de Chiel directly to a named Scottish Dashiell individual is incomplete — one reason historians treat the connection cautiously.

Migration to Colonial America

The American line becomes historically solid when **James Dashiell (c.1630–1690)** my 7th Great Grandparents migrated to Maryland from Scotland about 1653 with his spouse Ann Cannon (1639-1698).

Documented facts:

- Emigrated to the English Colony of **Province of Maryland** in the 17th century.
- Settled on the Maryland Eastern Shore (Somerset/Worcester County area).
- Became a landowner and established a prominent Colonial family.

