



The Tipton Family Association of America Newsletter

The Tipton Family Association of America
3236 Forum Blvd. #1075
Fort Myers, FL 33905

Winter 2024

President Comments

Hello family! I hope everyone is doing well. We are a little behind on our newsletter but for good reason. Let me explain. Our wonderful editor and cousin Mr David Etter was pretty ill for quite some time and was unable to write. God has healed him and he's back on the job. He has recovered—thank God—and is in full swing. We wish David well. And welcome him back to Tipton Family Association of America Newsletter.

The 2023 Conference/Reunion in Shenandoah valley and Woodstock, Virginia was a pretty awesome place. To walk the grounds that our ancestors walked and lived on and farmed was absolutely amazing. We met new family members and fellowshipped a lot.

Our 2024 Conference/Reunion is scheduled to be held in Johnson City, Tennessee at the Tipton-Haynes Historic Site and Sinking Creek Baptist Church with hopes of spending Sunday at Sycamore Shoals Historic Site.

If you or someone you know are planning on attending this event, please email peachyrose56@gmail.com so we can include you. Welcome new members to the Tipton Family Association of America's group. We always enjoy meeting new family members.

Thank you.

Kathy Hoffmann, TFAA President

PS: Over the past several years many of us have discovered a ton of misinformation on websites, in family trees, and in some books. Make sure that you confirm information with document proof.

TFAA Committee

President - Kathy Hoffmann

Vice President – Cathy Tipton Lowe

Treasurer – Glenda Tipton Mollohan

Secretary – Gary Scott Tipton

Communications Director - Charles Tipton (aka Junior)

TFAA Tipton Research Director - Charlotte West Dade

Tipton Family DNA project Administrators - Bob Tipton and Bonnie Grant

Editor – David Etter

NOTES FROM OUR RESEARCH DIRECTOR

CHARLOTTE'S TIPTON GENIE TIP

Find-a-Grave

I'm sure that many of you have used Find-a-Grave. I, too, use it quite often. Find-a-Grave is useful for certain information, but other data found there may be misleading. I use NSDAR guidelines to record/prove the data in Find-a-Grave.

The information engraved on the tombstone or marker may be used as proof. Yes, I know that sometimes the dates may not be exactly correct. However, unless one can find a vital record such as a birth certificate or death certificate, the information on the tombstone or marker may be all that one has. If the photo of the tombstone or marker is provided in Find-a-Grave, one can use the name of the cemetery and its location as the burial site.

The information provided in Find-a-Grave by others, which I refer to as “user supplied information,” may not be used as proof for the lineage. However, that information is a source or clue for additional research.

Oftentimes, an obituary appears in Find-a-Grave. If the newspaper cites the name, place, and date of the newspaper, you may use the information in it. A copy should be made of the obit. However, I would caution that you might need to find the actual article in Newspapers.com which would be required by lineage societies.

So many entries in Find-a-Grave have photos of the deceased instead of a photo of the tombstone or marker. Those are nice, but without a photo of the

tombstone, no data can be used to prove the birth and death dates of the deceased.

I am including an example of how I record tombstones/markers for genealogical purposes. It is the TS of my 3rd great grandmother, Ann Elizabeth “aka Eliza” Bryant, wife of David P. Tipton, 1819-1864, who was the grandson of Maj. Jonathan Tipton and Keziah Robertson Sevier.

Charlotte West Dade
Director, Tipton Family Research
Administrator, Tipton Family Research Group on FB

TS PHOTO: ANN E TIPTON



**ANN E TIPTON
BORN
FEB 16, 1816
DIED
FEB 16, 1890**

**Tipton Griffith Cemetery
Relief, Mitchell Co, NC
Find-a-Grave Mem. #43534589**

ANNOUNCEMENTS



Tipton Family Association of America

Tipton Family Association of America Annual Conference and Reunion

July 12, 13, and 14, 2024

Tipton-Haynes Historic Site
2620 Roan St.
Johnson City, Tennessee 37601

SAVE THE DATE!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

HOTEL INFORMATION:

**HOLIDAY INN EXPRESS WOODSTOCK-2
ORR COURT, JOHNSON CITY, TN 37615**

Reservations By Phone: Please ask desk clerk for "Tipton Family (TFA) Group Special Rate" Call 888-465-4329 Front Desk 423-328-0500

**Standard King or 2 Queen-bed rooms.
Number of people per room: 1- 2 adults
Breakfast: Complimentary breakfast bar**

**Check in: July 12, 2024 (Friday)
Check out: July 15, 2024 (Monday)**

[Click here for online reservations using Tipton Family Group](#)

[Members may wish to copy the following press release to submit to their local news media.]

Press Release

The Tipton Family Association of America is seeking all who may be interested in the American history of the Tipton family name and their own potential connection to it. The annual family meeting/reunion/conference will be held this year on July 12, 13, and 14 in Johnson City, TN at the Tipton-Haynes Historic Site. The public is invited to join us for an exciting time of fellowship and learning. Those who would like to join the TFAA may do so by attending the reunion/conference or going online to tiptonfamilyassociationofamerica.com and pay the annual dues of \$25.00. More details about the reunion/conference can be found on our website.

The TFAA reunion/conference will begin with information about the Sinking Creek Baptist Church, the oldest church in Tennessee, and one associated with the Tipton family, followed by a BBQ supper and tall tales of Tipton relatives. Saturday will include a full tour of the Tipton-Haynes Historic Site led by the curators of the site, then talks on how the Civil War affected Tiptons on both sides of the fighting, followed by the evening banquet. On Sunday we will learn how to analyze our own genealogical evidence to connect us to the Tiptons and other family lines.

The purpose of the Tipton Family Association of America (TFAA) is to provide an organization whereby Tiptons and Tipton descendants can be connected to the family as a whole and each member individually through presenting our collective history and personal queries on members' individual genealogical quests. The Tipton family was instrumental in the early histories of Maryland, Virginia, North Carolina, Tennessee, Kentucky, Missouri, Pennsylvania, and Alabama. The Tipton Family Association of America was formed in 1987 and continues to grow today. All are invited to find out more about their Tipton connections.

Tipton Family Association Of America

President: Kathy Hoffmann

239-994-1246

Vice President: Cathy Tipton Lowe

Electronic Communications team:
Charles Tipton



Treasurer: Glenda Tipton Mollohan

Secretary: Gary Scott Tipton

Editor: David Etter

Hospitality Team: Donna Gregory /
Chandra Pickering

Meeting/Reunion 2024 Agenda

Date: Friday July 12, 2024

Location: Sinking Creek Baptist Church, 2313 Elizabethton Hwy, Johnson City, TN 37601

Meeting/Reunion 2024 Agenda

Time	Agenda Item	Presenter
3:00-4:00	Tipton family Southern Migration Webinar	<i>Laura Leffler</i>
	How to Analyze Your Evidence Webinar	<i>This will not be shown but instructions will be given on how to view it online</i>
4:00-4:15	Break	
4:15-5:15	Tip Of The Sword History of Watauga Settlement Sinking Creek Baptist Church	<i>Mr. Eddie Fields</i>
5:15-6:00	Prayer and BBQ Dinner	<i>Jim Miller</i>
6:00-6:45	Grave Site Etiquette	<i>Rocky DeMarco</i>
6:45-7:00	Break	
7:00- 8:00	Tipton Cousins Family Feud	<i>Kathy H / Reba</i>
<i>Questions please contact: Kathy Hoffmann 239-994-1246</i>		

Date: Saturday July 13, 2024

Location: Tipton-Haynes Historic Site, 2620 Roan St., Johnson City, TN 37601

Meeting/Reunion 2024 Agenda

Date: Sunday July 14, 2024

Time	Agenda Item	Presenter
9:00-9:45	Other Famous Tiptons	<i>David Etter</i>
9:45-10:00	Break	
10:00-12:00	Tipton – Haynes Historic Site Tour(s)	<i>Matthew/ Wes</i>
12:00-1:30	Lunch	
1:30 – 2:30	Civil War Raids Along The Blue Ridge	<i>Mr. Michael Hardy</i>
2:30-2:45	Break	
2:45- 3:45	“Farewell for a little season: The Mountain War in East Tennessee and Western North Carolina.”	<i>Melanie Storie, Ph.D.</i>
3:45-4:00	Break	
4:00-4:45	Tiptons Divided by War	<i>Laura Lefler</i>
5:30	Banquet Social Tipton Talent	<i>Location TBA</i>
<i>Questions please contact: Kathy Hoffmann 239-994-1246 peachyrose56@gmail.com</i>		

Location: Sycamore Shoals State Park, 1651 W. Elk Ave, Elizabethton, TN 37643

Time	Agenda Item	Presenter
8:00 -9:00	<i>Business Meeting</i>	<i>Board</i>
9:00 -9:15	Break	
9:15-10:00	Tipton YDNA update	<i>Bob Tipton</i>
10:15-10:30	Break	
10:30-	Sycamore Shoals State Park Tour	
<i>Questions please contact: Kathy Hoffmann 239-994-1246</i>		

NEWS

The Story of Trinity Grace Farm

[TFAA President Kathy Hoffman sent the following email to the TFAA membership:

Hello family, I hope this email finds you all very blessed and doing well. I wanted to share this email that I received from our cousin James (aka Jim) Miller (retired pastor) and his wife Mary. We all know kids and young adults who would benefit from such a project and program as this. If you are interested in learning more about this project or programs please contact Jim or Mary Miller 423-384-1776 <https://trinitygracefarm.org/about-us/>

“Our granddaughter, Trinity Grace, has an extra special place in our hearts. Trinity is a special needs child. She has Down syndrome. She was born with three holes in her heart, pulmonary lung disease, and feeding issues. She has had her heart patched up, her feeding issues have required procedures several times, and her lungs are always a worry. But with all of that, God gave her the biggest capacity for love I have ever experienced!

When my husband Jim wanted to buy some farmland, I didn't see how it could be a very good investment. But I trust him, so we bought it. Then one day, Jim said he was thinking of giving the farm away! He explained how Summit Leadership Foundation wanted to use it as an activity farm for special-needs children and adults and small group ministries. It was a totally different kind of investment all together!

The only thing I wanted to be sure of was that it be named after our granddaughter, so Trinity Grace Farm was born. However, just like our granddaughter's birth, it needs many 'operations and procedures' to live up to its potential. I feel that God had this 'different kind of investment' in mind all the time. I am in awe of how God weaves events, people, and circumstances together to make special investments into His Kingdom!” — Mary and James Miller

Tipton-Haynes
STATE HISTORIC SITE
2620 S. Roan St., Johnson City, TN

Tipton-Haynes Historical Association, Inc. Board Meeting

April 9 @ 6:00 pm - 9:00 pm

May 4 @ 6:00 pm - 9:00 pm

June 11 @ 6:00 - 9:00 p.m.

These meetings are open to the general public for attendance. Please contact the historic site for more information – tiptonhaynes@outlook.com or 423-926-3631.

Spring Overnight Camp

April 26 @ 4:00 pm - April 27 @ 4:00 pm

Campers age 6-14 will enjoy an overnight stay at the site. Parents can drop campers off after 4pm on Friday, March 29. A hot dog supper will be provided along with breakfast and a pizza lunch on Saturday, March 30. Campers will play time period games before being picked up by parents on Saturday before 4pm. Price is \$50 per camper.

Springtime in Haynesville: Civil War Reenactment

May 4 @ 9:00 am - May 5 @ 4:00 pm

Join us as we go back in time! Union and Confederate forces will be deciding the fate of East Tennessee at the home of Confederate Senator Landon Carter Haynes. Come watch to see which side triumphs over the other. The site and camps will be open each day from 9am to 4pm while the battle starts at 2:00pm each day. Admission is \$6 for adults and \$3 for children twelve and under. Tipton-Haynes members are free!

Summers Past History Program

June 3 @ 9:00 am - June 28 @ 2:00 pm

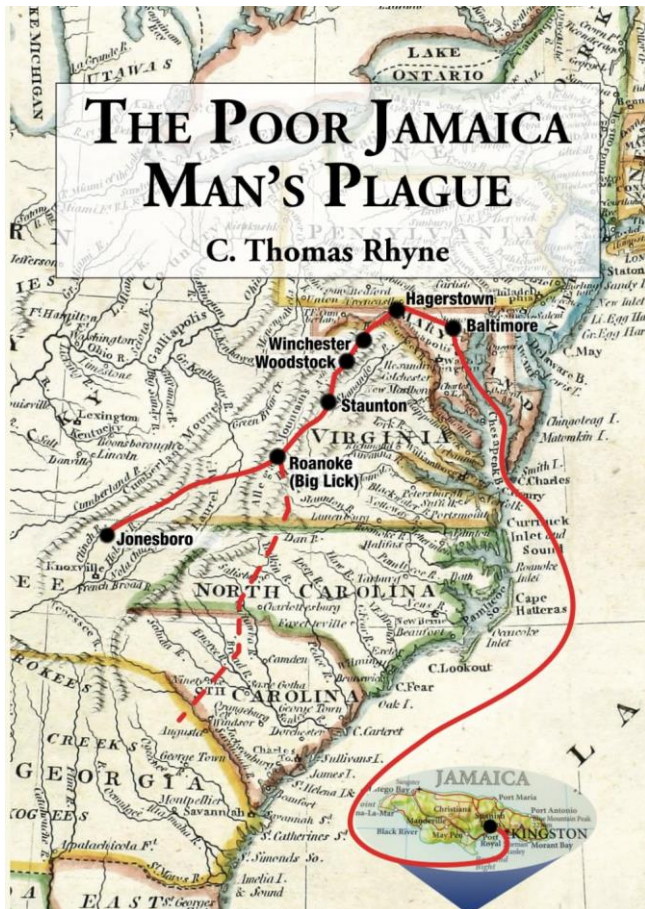
Participants age 6-14 learn about their local history through historic-based crafts, games, music, storytelling, nature & the cave. First week- Native American History, second week- Revolutionary History, third week- Civil War History, and the fourth week will focus on the early to mid-1900s. Each week is \$100 for non-members and \$90 for members. Sessions run 9am-2pm, Monday through Friday. Aftercare available. Applications are available in spring.

FEATURES

[I have just recently ordered and now have received my copy and started with a perusal of the entire tome. Wow! So informative; not only about the Tiptons but also the history of Maryland and Virginia through the American Revolution. -- ed.]

The Poor Jamaica Man's Plague: Mary Butler and John Tipton, Colonials in Transition 1747-1783

C. Thomas Rhyne, Ph.D., has just published a history of the Tipton family from their days in Maryland to their migration to Virginia then later to western North Carolina (Eastern Tennessee). The 783-page book is very detailed and thoroughly documented with 628 pages of text and more than 3,100 endnotes. It focuses primarily on the social, economic, political and religious dynamics that impacted the lifetimes of the married couple Mary Butler and John Tipton. Included is a selected bibliography and illustrations. *The Poor Jamaica Man's Plague: Mary Butler and John Tipton, Colonials in Transition 1747-1783* is being published as non-fiction and **marketed by Amazon.com**. Look under Books and search C. Thomas Rhyne.



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In this original history you will journey with Jamaica-born Jonathan Tipton I and his descendants, Jonathan Tipton II, and his grandson, John Tipton and wife Mary Butler, middling American colonial farmers in the Shenandoah Valley. As John passes through space and time over a period of 36 years, he unpredictably rises to important positions in the established Anglican Church, the Shenandoah County Court and militia, and the initial revolutionary Virginia government. During these years, he also endured violent death at the hands of warring Native Americans and the tragic demise of Mary Butler, the beloved mother of nine Tipton boys. The experiences of the Tiptons mirror those of thousands of colonials and early revolutionaries of the flourishing Shenandoah Valley in the last half of the eighteenth-century in Virginia. John Tipton was not held back by his successes in agriculture, the military, and politics in Virginia. After the Revolutionary War, in which he participated wholeheartedly and experienced the killing of one son and the severe wounding of another, he relocated to a less developed section of the early United States in western North Carolina where he pursued his active life in new and developing circumstances. By reading this book you will sense the struggle, the hardship, and the turmoil that forged late American colonials into citizens of a new country in uncertain times.

Praise for *The Poor Jamaica Man's Plague* from David Edwards:

There are several histories of the northern or Lower Shenandoah Valley of Virginia and central Maryland that adequately cover the colonial and Revolutionary War periods of our national story, but few capture the essence of the lives of the pioneers who settled both these regions as does the book, "The Poor Jamaica Man's Plague" by Dr. C. Thomas Rhyne. In recounting the story of his ancestors, primarily Mary Butler and John Tipton, their ancestors, and their extended families and neighbors, Dr. Rhyne has examined and researched nearly every aspect of colonial life in these regions to give his readers a real sense of their social, religious, and political aspects and the hardships, realities, joys, and fears that the Tipton and Butler families must have experienced in their lives during the tumultuous years of the settlement and founding of our nation.

The story begins with the 1670s settlement in colonial Maryland of Jonathan Tipton, John Tipton's grandfather, and the establishment after 1713 of his plantation, "The Poor Jamaica Man's Plague," the name most likely a reference to Jonathan Tipton's immigration to America from his native Jamaica. The adventure then concentrates on the mid-eighteenth-century settlement years of the Butler and Tipton families in Virginia's Lower Shenandoah Valley, and the book ends after 1783 when John Tipton and Martha, his second wife, relocate to western North Carolina, now East Tennessee.

Along the way we encounter land surveys, farming practices, trading opportunities, the establishment of churches and counties, Indian raids associated with the French and Indian and Revolutionary wars, political fights, court cases, marriages and funerals, family gatherings and entertainments, as well as the drudgery and delights of everyday life in a wilderness with few neighbors close at hand.

Tom Rhyne has produced a well-researched and very readable story about the Tiptons and Butlers, two middle-class colonial families, that were representative of hundreds of such settlers whose restless desire to improve their lives helped establish the sense of independence that led to the American Revolution and the founding of our nation.

David A. Edwards, a graduate of the University of Virginia and an avid lover of history, served 44 years as an architectural historian with the Virginia Department of Historic Resources. He retired from public service in 2022 and resides in Virginia.

About the Author:

C. Thomas Rhyne earned his Ph.D. in theology from Union Presbyterian Seminary in 1979 and served Presbyterian Churches in Blackstone and Front Royal, Virginia retiring in 2015. Rhyne has studied widely in Ancient, Medieval, and American Colonial history. He is married to Elizabeth Ann Geren and they have one daughter, Anna. The Rhynes currently reside in Northwestern Virginia.

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MEMORIES AND TALES

[Over the winter we received two submissions from our Tipton cousin Brad Tipton. --*ed.*]

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The “J Tipton” who carved his name on rocks both on Little Round Top and Devil’s Den was most likely John Tipton, a local stonecutter who worked in the area before the battle of Gettysburg. According to Gettysburg Licensed Battlefield Guide Tim Smith, who researched the rock carvings extensively, John Tipton was born in 1827 and died in 1891. He lived in the nearby town of Fairfield and was employed by the Gettysburg Granite and Marble Works. He also carved his name on other rocks in the vicinity, such as the “J Tipton 1854” on the west side of the Table Rock at Devil’s Den. Smith believes that John Tipton was not a soldier or a veteran, but simply a skilled craftsman who left his mark on the landscape.

Some people have speculated that “J Tipton” was a Confederate soldier who fought at Gettysburg, but there is no evidence to support this claim. The only Confederate soldier named Tipton who was present at the battle was James Tipton, a private in the 1st Tennessee Infantry Regiment. He was wounded and captured on July 1, 1863, and died in a Union hospital on July 4, 1863. He is buried in the National Cemetery at Gettysburg. There is no record of him being on Little Round Top or Devil’s Den, and it is unlikely that he had the time or the tools to carve his name on the rocks.

Therefore, the most plausible explanation for the “J Tipton” rock carvings is that they were made by John Tipton, the local stonecutter, before the battle of Gettysburg. He probably did not realize that his name would become a part of history and a source of curiosity for generations of visitors.

My comment: For a while I thought the carving at Devils Den might have been by one of Photographer William Tipton's sons named John. Tipton did have a photographic set-up there for years to accommodate tourists. Counter to that, or being a Confederate Soldier was the same inscription on top of Little Roundtop. This explanation makes sense to me. Plus, "J Tipton" inscribed rocks at other places he quarried. The attachment was written by my cousin Mike Tipton about our Grandfather Freeman Reist Tipton. We are rooted from the Tiptons that emigrated to Bedford County, PA during the very early times of Tiptons in the US, who were primarily around the Baltimore County area. Most emigres went in a southern direction as we are very aware of.

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Our Fathers, Robert and Jack, were born at Tips Inn, in addition to another brother, William, who did not survive. This was written by Mike, with assistance and advice from me, to advertise the naming of a vacation rental he inherited on Lake Anna, VA. The lake is very warm as the water is supplied by an outlet from a nuclear power plant. It is safe, believe me.

I am sharing this with you more to demonstrate the work ethic, drive, varied endeavors and innovation Freeman and our Grandmother, Leena, invested to create a good life during the Great Depression. The roller rink is now gone, having mysteriously burned down years ago. I vaguely remember touring the building about 65 years ago. All the other features are now gone, too.


Just to brag a bit, the thread of innovation continued with my Father, Robert Freeman Tipton. He was instrumental at an innovative approach for typesetting for books and magazines through using the increasing sophistication of computer technology, all the way through from receiving data by telephone wire to complete pages being produced, including pictures and illustrations. His innovation and knowledge were so great that his employer company supported him taking lecture trips across the United States, plus to Europe, South America and even Australia. He made many connections and friends on these trips. (They say news travels fast. In fact, the first flowers and condolences to appear at my Father's funeral were ordered by a friend in the Printing Industries of Australia.)

Let me know what you think. And will you be doing anything with this information? The ancestor tracks of the Tiptons can be easily traced from the Bedford area north and west online.

With great pride,

Brad Tipton

[Thank you, Brad. The Tiptons are certainly a hardy and inventive lot. --ed.]



The newsletter of the Tipton Family Association of America is a quarterly online publication that encourages submission from members to share results of their research into Tipton family lines, stories and pictures of ancestors, news of events that feature Tiptons or Tipton history, and other useful and interesting information about Tiptons.

The Tipton Family Association of America makes no claims of accuracy for submissions from members and others.