

2002 NAIL-RAY ANNUAL MEETING**VIRGINIA, HERE WE COME!**

The 2002 gathering of the Nail-Ray Association will be in Isle of Wight County, Virginia, where our Pearce and Bass ancestors lived before moving on to North Carolina and eventually Indiana. Planned activities include a get-together banquet and business meeting Friday evening, June 7, at Smithfield Station Marina; a private bus tour of Pearce and Bass lands and related historic sites on Saturday, June 8; and worship service at historic Antioch Christian Church on Sunday morning, June 9. Our home base will be in the historic community of Smithfield, Virginia.

Where To Stay

Smithfield Inn. This will be our "headquarters hotel." This eighteenth century inn in the center of the Smithfield historic district has been completely renovated and converted into a charming bed-and-breakfast. We have "block reserved" all eight guest rooms for June 7, 8, and 9. Call 757-357-1752 before May 23 to reserve your own room for the specific nights you will be staying. (Identify yourself as part of the Nail-Ray party.) All rooms include full breakfast. Options include ...

Suite in the main inn: queen bed, separate sitting room with sofa/daybed, private bath, \$125 + tax

Queen room in the garden house: queen bed, private bath, \$85 + tax

Four-person suite in garden house: king bed plus two twin beds in an adjoining bedroom, bath shared between the two bedrooms, \$150 + tax

EconoLodge, Smithfield/Carrollton (5 miles SE of downtown Smithfield). This is the closest chain motel to Smithfield. We have "block reserved" all of their available non-smoking rooms (five) for June 7, 8, and 9. Call 757-357-9057 before May 30 to reserve your own room for the specific nights you will be staying. (Identify yourself as part of the Nail-Ray party.) Options include ...

Standard double room: \$40.45 + tax

Queen room: \$44.05 + tax

Porches on the James. This is a charming new bed-and-breakfast inn built on a bluff overlooking the James River, 5 miles NE of downtown Smithfield. Queen room with private bath, \$125 + tax, includes full gourmet breakfast. 757-356-0602 (We have not "block reserved" any rooms, so call early.)

Comfort Inn, Suffolk (20 miles SE of downtown Smithfield). Double or queen room, \$70-80 + tax, includes continental breakfast. 757-539-3600 (We have not "block reserved" any rooms, so call early.)

Holiday Inn, Suffolk (20 miles SE of downtown Smithfield). Double or queen room, \$91 + tax. 757-934-2311 (We have not "block reserved" any rooms, so call early.)

Banquet and Business Meeting, Smithfield Station Marina, Friday Evening (6/7)

We have reserved a private dining room overlooking the yacht harbor on the scenic Pagan River for our get-together banquet and business meeting. Gather at 6:30; dinner served at 7:00. Cost: \$25 per person, all inclusive (includes gourmet three-course meal, tax, gratuity, and meeting room charge); alcoholic beverages extra. Send check with reservation to Dr. Rebecca Markel, Treasurer, Nail-Ray Association, 2442 W. Boggstown Rd., Shelbyville, IN 46176. We need a final count by Thursday, May 30..

After diligently sampling all the local delicacies, your reunion organizing committee (Janet & David Ross, Barbara Snow, Lynda & Tom Plymate) personally selected the following menu of fantastic regional cuisine for your enjoyment.

First course (choose one)

Crabcake bites

Scallops wrapped in bacon

Caesar Salad

Main course (choose one)

Salmon Smithfield (grilled Atlantic salmon with Smithfield ham, crabmeat, and béarnaise sauce)

Pork Shenandoah (pan fried pork medallions with apple-pecan glaze)

Chicken Isle of Wight (boneless chicken breast stuffed with Smithfield ham, Swiss cheese, and roasted Virginia peanuts)

Dessert (choose one)

Key lime pie

Hot fudge ice cream cake

Peachberry sundae

Bus Tour of Pearce and Bass Lands and Related Historic Sites, Saturday (6/8)

We have chartered a private motor coach for our tour of the Pearce and Bass lands in southern Virginia and northern North Carolina. David Ross will serve as our tour guide. The tour departs from the Smithfield Inn at 10:00 a.m. and will return by approximately 5:00 p.m. A lunch stop and two rest stops are planned. Highlights include ...

Basse's Choice: Site where Captain Nathaniel Basse settled in 1621. Nathaniel Basse was almost undoubtedly the ancestor of our Tabitha (Bass) Wray and Susannah (Ray) Bass.

St. Luke's Church (Benn's Church): Oldest surviving English church in North America, built circa 1632. Captain Nathaniel Basse was probably a founding member.

Boykin's Tavern and the "New" Isle of Wight County Courthouse. Just a brief stop to tell you the history of these sites. Some of you will want to come back to the Courthouse on your own to do research in the archives.

George Pearce's original land grant, northwest of Windsor, Virginia. George Pearce acquired 2100 acres in this location in 1671 and another 400 acres in 1684. George Pearce is the great-grandfather of our Elizabeth (Pearce) Ray.

Antioch Christian Church. Built in 1828 on the site of two earlier eighteenth century chapels. In 1746, John and Nathan Pearce, grandsons of George Pearce, donated 1 1/2 acres to the Newport Parish for the site of the second of those two chapels, so that church is referred to as Pearce's Chapel in some county records. This land was part of the original George Pearce land grant.

Beaverdam Swamp: George Pearce acquired 300 acres in this area in 1675.

Seacock Corner: George Pearce bought a parcel of land in this area in 1701 and deeded it to his son-in-law Philip Rayford in 1703

Nathan Pearce's Land, near Faison, Northampton County, North Carolina: Nathan Pearce owned 560 acres between Corduroy Swamp and Wildcat Swamp from 1754-1774. Nathan's daughter Elizabeth (Pearce) Ray was probably born here.

Worship Service, Antioch Christian Church, Sunday Morning (6/9)

We have been invited to join the congregation of this historic church for their 11:00 a.m. worship service. We will caravan in our private vehicles from Smithfield to the church, located 2 1/2 miles northwest of Windsor, Virginia. (This worship service is the final planned activity for the Nail-Ray weekend. Those members returning to Smithfield after the service are encouraged to consider the Sunday brunch at the Smithfield Inn, served until 3:00 p.m.)

Optional Nearby Activities

Smithfield is surrounded by significant historic sites and other interesting attractions. We hope you can plan to come a few days early, or stay a few days after our meeting, so you can soak up some of the history and culture of this fascinating area.

Jamestown Ferry: Fifteen minute auto ferry across the James River to Jamestown.

Jamestown Settlement: First English colony in America, 1607. Visitors' Center run by the National Park Service. Open every day.

Colonial Williamsburg: The Colonial capital of Virginia, Williamsburg is America's largest living history museum. Eighty-eight original and hundreds of reconstructed buildings are staffed by interpreters in period dress. A "must-see"; plan at least a full day. Open every day. Day pass: \$33.

Yorktown: Site of the last major battle of the American Revolution. Visitors' Center run by the National Park Service. Open every day.

James River Plantations: The Berkeley, Evelynton, Sherwood Forest, and Shirley Plantations, on the north bank of the James River between Williamsburg and Richmond, preserve plantation life of the seventeenth, eighteenth, and nineteenth centuries.

Bacon's Castle: One of the oldest brick houses in English North America, built in 1665. Hours—Tuesday through Saturday 10-4, Sunday 12-4.

Smithfield Historic District Walking Tour: Colonial, Federal, Georgian, and Victorian architecture from the 18th and 19th centuries. Tour pamphlet available from Visitors' Bureau, in the Old Courthouse.

Isle of Wight County Museum, downtown Smithfield: Displays illustrate the physical, Native American, Colonial, and Revolutionary history of the area. Detailed history of the Smithfield Ham industry, including the world's oldest ham. Hours—Tuesday through Saturday 10-4, Sunday 1-5.

Smithfield Shops: Antiques, gourmet foods, arts & handicrafts. Most shops are closed on Mondays.

Annual Chippokes Steam and Gas Engine Show (June 8 & 9) at Chippokes Plantation: One of the oldest working plantations in North America; farmed continuously since 1619. (Bob and Tom, we know where you'll be.)

Virginia Beach: A chance to get your toes wet in the Atlantic.