

JOHN B. VOIGHT FAMILY STORY



John B Voight

Birth Aug 1875 in Nansemond Co., VA

Death 21 Mar 1931 in Norfolk , VA

This chapter has been
revised and updated
February 2014.

Spouse & Children



Ethel Lee Pierce
1885 – 1974



2 unknown babies
– 1910



Elva Eunice Voight
1904 – 1976



stillborn twins
1912 – 1912



Morris Lee Voight
1914 – 1974



Raleigh Lee Voight Sr
1918 – 1992



Ruth Evelyn Voight
1921 – 2011



Doris E. Voight
1922 – 1986

JOHN B. VOIGHT FAMILY STORY

The stories of the last two children of John T. and Nancy J. Voight are intertwined in the documents from 1880 till 1910. These brothers, John B. Voight and Oscar Leroy Voight, grew up together beginning in the 1870s. Until Oscar died in 1912, they always lived close to each other and it seems that they also worked together according to the records. John B. (“Bunny”) Voight was the 12th of the 13 Voight siblings.

Name	Sex	Age
John J. Voight	W	48
Nancy J.	W	38
Leroy	W	2
Julia M.	W	16
Joseph	W	14
Jesse	W	12
Ella	W	9
Elizabeth	W	7
John	W	5

Name	Sex	Age	Marital Status	Occupation
John B. Voight	M	25	Single	Farmer
Nancy Jane Voight	F	55	Widowed	None
Oscar Leroy Voight	M	23	Married	Farm laborer
Alice Wilkins	F	22	Married	None
Annie	F	1	Never married	None

Voight, J. B.	5-1	Head	4 R.	W	25	Aug	1875	25
Nancy		brother		W	7	Nov	1845	55
Oscar		Brother		W	23	Oct	1878	22
Alice		Sister in l		W	7	Dec	1877	23
Annie		Daughter		W	7	Dec	1898	1

Above left: Nansmond County, VA, June 1880 census. “John” is five years old and “Leroy,” the youngest, is just two-years old.

Above right: The next record of them is the 1900 Nansmond County census, where they are grown men. John B. Voight is 25 and single. He’s head of the household that includes his widowed mother Nancy Jane Voight, his brother Oscar Leroy Voight, Oscar’s wife Alice Wilkins, and their first child Annie, who is one year old. John is a “farmer” and Oscar is a “farm laborer.” They probably lived all together on the family farm in Whaleyville after John T. Voight died in 1899.

Right: It’s not long before Oscar Leroy makes the news for his distillery operations. The courtroom drama surrounding the denial of his license to distill spirits in Suffolk made the Washington Post on April 8, 1905. The “young women” who “went to the judge’s bench and grasped his hand” sound as if they’re likely to be members of the Women’s Christian Temperance Union, leading the battle for Prohibition.

WHISKY LICENSE DENIED.

Refusal of Application Brings Congratulations to Judge at Suffolk.

Special to The Washington Post
Suffolk, Va April 7—The end of a bitter liquor fight at Harrell, Va., came in Nansmond Circuit Court this afternoon, when Judge Robert R Prentis denied the application of O L Voight for a license to distill whiskey and brandy. Several clergymen, about thirty young women, and a large crowd of witnesses packed the courtroom.

When Judge Prentis announced his decision there was subdued applause. Several young women went to the judge’s bench and grasped his hand. Fifteen licenses were granted in Suffolk, none being opposed.

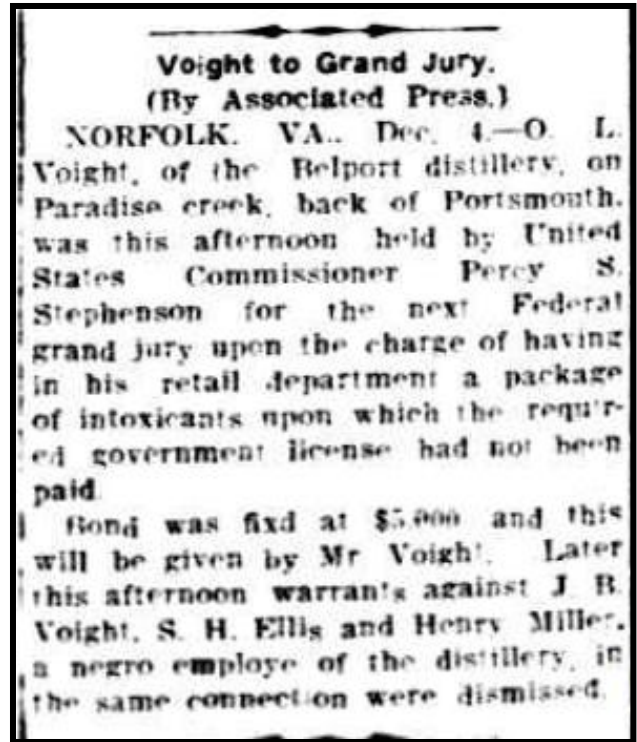
JOHN B. VOIGHT FAMILY STORY

Right: Newport News *Daily Press*,
December 5, 1908.

About 3 1/2 years later Oscar Leroy Voight was arrested for failure to pay tax on some of his spirits and he had to post a \$5000 bond. Later that same afternoon charges were dropped against his brother, John B. Voight, and two employees at the Belport distillery on Paradise Creek. We don't know the final disposition of the case.

Below: John B. Voight and Oscar Leroy Voight are next-door neighbors in the Western Branch District of Norfolk in the 1910 census. Undeterred by difficulties with the revenuers, each brother indicates his occupation is distiller of corn whiskey. Their mother Nancy Jane Voight is not mentioned now and is presumed deceased between 1900 and 1910.

John B. is 34 years old. He has married Ethel Lee Pierce, age 24. Ethel reports giving birth to three children but only one is still living, their daughter Elva who is 5 years old.



STATE		COUNTY		TOWNSHIP OR OTHER DIVISION & COUNTY		NAME OF INSTITUTION		NAME OF INCORPORATED PLACE		SUPERVISOR'S DISTRICT NO.		ENUMERATION DISTRICT NO.		WARD OF CITY																				
Virginia		Norfolk		Western Branch District						24		24		B																				
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR BUREAU OF THE CENSUS THIRTEENTH CENSUS OF THE UNITED STATES: 1910 - POPULATION																																		
<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th rowspan="2">SEX</th> <th rowspan="2">AGE</th> <th rowspan="2">NAME</th> <th rowspan="2">RELATION</th> <th rowspan="2">PERSONAL DESCRIPTION</th> <th colspan="3">NATIVITY</th> <th rowspan="2">OCCUPATION</th> <th rowspan="2">SCHEDULE</th> <th rowspan="2">PROPERTY</th> <th rowspan="2">SCHEDULE</th> <th rowspan="2">SCHEDULE</th> <th rowspan="2">SCHEDULE</th> <th rowspan="2">SCHEDULE</th> <th rowspan="2">SCHEDULE</th> </tr> <tr> <th>Foreign born</th> <th>Foreign born</th> <th>Foreign born</th> </tr> </thead> </table>																SEX	AGE	NAME	RELATION	PERSONAL DESCRIPTION	NATIVITY			OCCUPATION	SCHEDULE	PROPERTY	SCHEDULE	SCHEDULE	SCHEDULE	SCHEDULE	SCHEDULE	Foreign born	Foreign born	Foreign born
SEX	AGE	NAME	RELATION	PERSONAL DESCRIPTION	NATIVITY			OCCUPATION	SCHEDULE	PROPERTY	SCHEDULE	SCHEDULE	SCHEDULE	SCHEDULE	SCHEDULE																			
					Foreign born	Foreign born	Foreign born																											
47	M	John B. Voight	Head	White	34	M	7	6	2	2	Distiller	Corn whiskey																						
48	F	Ethel Lee Pierce	Wife	White	24	F	1	6	3	1	None																							
49	F	Elva G.	Daughter	White	5	F	0	0			None																							
50	M	Oscar L. Voight	Head	White	32	M	1	12			Distiller	Corn whiskey																						
51	F	Alice B.	Wife	White	34	F	1	12	6	5	None																							
52	F	Burtha M.	Daughter	White	11	F	0	0			None																							
53	M	John W.	Son	White	9	M	0	0			None																							
54	M	Dean E.	Son	White	6	M	0	0			None																							
55	M	Jesse J.	Son	White	4	M	0	0			None																							
56	M	Arthur F.	Son	White	1/2	M	0	0			None																							

JOHN B. VOIGHT FAMILY STORY

Oscar Leroy Voight died from appendicitis in 1912 and his widow moved back to Nansemond County. John's story continues without his brother Oscar. In the 1920 census John B. and Ethel Voight are living in Portsmouth City, which is a part of Norfolk, with 15 year old daughter Elva Eunice, and sons Morris and Raleigh, ages 5 years and 1 year 9 months. (Ruth Evelyn and Doris E are not born yet.) John says his occupation now is house painter. Prohibition began on January 17, 1920.

STATE Virginia		DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE—BUREAU OF THE CENSUS		1920		SUPERVISOR'S DISTRICT NO. 98702		SHEET NO. 140	
COUNTY Norfolk		FOURTEENTH CENSUS OF THE UNITED STATES: 1920—POPULATION		INCORPORATED PLACE Portsmouth		WARD OF CITY Portsmouth (Porter)		ENUMERATOR	
NAME OF INSTITUTION		NAME OF INCORPORATED PLACE		DATE OF INCORPORATION		DATE OF CENSUS		NAME OF ENUMERATOR	
PLACE OF BIRTH	AGE	RELATION	SEX	RACE	HEIGHT	WEIGHT	HAIR	EYES	OCCUPATION
Voight, John B.	42	Head	M	W	5	7	M	B	House painter
Ethel	37	Wife	F	W	5	3	M	B	None
Eunice	15	Daughter	F	W	5	0	M	B	None
Morris	5	Son	M	W	5	0	M	B	None
Raleigh	1	Son	M	W	1	9	M	B	None

In the 1924 City Directory for Portsmouth, John B. is listed by as "J. Bunny Voight."

Voight J. Bunny, huckster h 116 S Elm

John B. was known to Oscar Leroy Voight's children as "Uncle Bunny." Was "Bunny" a nickname (with some sort of interesting story behind it) or was that really his middle name?

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OFFICE PHONE 2248 126 GRANBY STREET RESIDENCE PHONE 2641

JOHN B. VOIGHT FAMILY STORY

NAME	RELATION	BIRTH DATE	MARRIAGE	SEX	RACE	MARITAL STATUS	EDUCATION		SPEAKS ENGLISH	SPEAKS OTHER LANGUAGE	RENT PAID	RENT VALUE	RENT PAID AS PERCENTAGE OF RENT VALUE	RENT VALUE AS PERCENTAGE OF RENT PAID	RENT VALUE AS PERCENTAGE OF RENT PAID	RENT VALUE AS PERCENTAGE OF RENT PAID	RENT VALUE AS PERCENTAGE OF RENT PAID	RENT VALUE AS PERCENTAGE OF RENT PAID	RENT VALUE AS PERCENTAGE OF RENT PAID	RENT VALUE AS PERCENTAGE OF RENT PAID	
							YEARS	MONTHS													
John B. Voight	Head	1875	1900	M	White	Married	12	0	Yes	None	10	10	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Ethel Voight	Wife	1887	1912	F	White	Married	12	0	Yes	None	10	10	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Morris Voight	Son	1915		M	White	Single	12	0	Yes	None	10	10	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Raleigh Voight	Son	1912		M	White	Single	12	0	Yes	None	10	10	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Ruth Evelyn Voight	Daughter	1908		F	White	Single	12	0	Yes	None	10	10	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Doris Voight	Daughter	1906		F	White	Single	12	0	Yes	None	10	10	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

In the 1930 Census (above) we find 4 children at home: Morris (15), Raleigh (12), Ruth Evelyn (8) and Doris (6). John B. is 57 and Ethel Voight is 44. (Elva Eunice has married and moved out.) They pay \$10/month rent and do not have a radio set. The family is living in the Tanners Creek Section of Norfolk where John's late brother Joseph once had a truck farm. Joseph Voight told his children that he was in the pickle canning business and here John B. indicates his occupation is "salesman" in the "pickle" industry. This is still the middle of Prohibition. With the family's long history of making distilled spirits, one might wonder whether "pickles" was family code for Hooch. See "About Pickles" in the Addenda at the end of this chapter.

John B. Voight, of Virginia Beach Boulevard, died suddenly in Berkley, Saturday morning March 21, 1931 at 10 o'clock. John B. Voight was a native of Suffolk; son of John and Mrs. Nancy Rodgers Voight, and husband of Mrs. Ethel E. Pierce Voight, aged 58 years. The *Virginian-Pilot*, Sunday, March 22, 1931.

This *Virginian-Pilot* obit was published on March 22, 1931. Ergo, the stone is wrong about the day John died. It was March "21" not "31." They couldn't publish his obit ten days before he died! "31" was the year, however - was the stone mason intoxicated or just not paying attention? Additionally, both the 1880 and 1900 census records are strong evidence that John B. was actually born in 1875, not 1873. So he was more like 55 years old, not 58. The family should get their money back for this stone.



JOHN B. VOIGHT FAMILY STORY

The newspaper story recounts the events behind John B. Voight's tragic and untimely death.

BROAD CREEK ROAD MAN IS KILLED IN FALL OF TEN FEET

John B. Voight, Weighing Nearly 300 Pounds, Plunges Down Elevator Shaft

John B. Voight, aged 58, of Broad Creek road, was killed, apparently instantly, yesterday morning about 10 o'clock when he fell 10 feet to the bottom of an elevator shaft in the Allenham Apartment Building, 509 West Berkley avenue. While none saw him fall, it is believed that he mistook the door to the elevator shaft for a door similarly situated that led into a grocery store.

Mr. Voight, who was in the pickle business, drove his wagon to the rear of the apartment building in which is located Driver's Grocery Store. He left the wagon in charge of his son, Raleigh Voight, aged 13, and went into the building. That was the last his son saw of him until, alarmed at his long absence, he set in motion the search that revealed his father lying dead at the bottom of the elevator shaft.

Detective Leon Nowitzky, coroner's investigator, said he believed Mr. Voight had mistaken the door to the elevator shaft on left for the door that led to the grocery store. Mr. Voight had only one hand, and it was Nowitzky's belief that he opened the door and stepped in, discovering his plight too late to release the door and catch himself with his lone hand.

Apparently, Detective Nowitzky said, Mr. Voight, who, he said, weighed nearly 300 pounds, fell directly on his head and succumbed instantly.

An inquest was ordered by Dr. C. D. J. Macdonald, city coroner, to be held at 2 p. m., Tuesday, March 31. The body was taken to the funeral home of Graham & Sykes. Mr. Voight, besides his wife, Mrs. Ethel Voight, leaves two sons, Morris Voight and Raleigh Voight, and three daughters, Mrs. Eunice Ward, of Portsmouth, and Miss Evelyn and Dor Voight.

The death certificate confirms that the cause of death was a fractured skull resulting from a fall down an elevator shaft. The mystery of his middle name is not revealed.

1 PLACE OF DEATH				CERTIFICATE OF DEATH COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA		7554	469
COUNTY OF <u>NORFOLK</u>				DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH BUREAU OF VITAL STATISTICS			
REGISTRARIAL DISTRICT OF _____		CITY OF <u>NORFOLK</u>		REGISTRATION DISTRICT No. _____ REGISTERED No. _____			
INC. TOWN OF _____		OR <u>ALLINGHAM APTS.</u>		(TO BE INSERTED BY REGISTRAR) (FOR USE OF LOCAL REGISTRAR)			
OR _____		(If death occurred in a hospital or other institution, give its NAME instead of street and number)		ST. _____ WARD _____			
Length of residence in city or town where death occurred <u>28</u> yrs. _____ mos. _____ ds.		How long in U. S., if of foreign birth: _____ yrs. _____ mos. _____ ds.					
2 FULL NAME <u>JOHN VOIGHT</u>							
(A) RESIDENCE No. <u>RFD #2</u>		ST. _____ WARD _____		(If nonresident give city or town and State)			
PERSONAL AND STATISTICAL PARTICULARS				MEDICAL CERTIFICATE OF DEATH			
3. SEX <u>MALE</u>	4. COLOR OR RACE <u>WHITE</u>	5. SINGLE, MARRIED, WIDOWED, OR DIVORCED <u>MARRIED</u>	21. DATE OF DEATH (month, day, and year) <u>MARCH 21 1931</u>				
5A. IF MARRIED, WIDOWED, OR DIVORCED HUSBAND OF _____ WIFE OF <u>ETHEL E PIERCE</u>			22. I HEREBY CERTIFY, THAT I ATTENDED DECEASED FROM _____ 1, To _____ 1				
6. DATE OF BIRTH (month, day, and year) <u>DEC 11 1872</u>			I LAST SAW H. _____ ALIVE ON _____ 1, DEATH IS SAID TO HAVE OCCURRED ON THE DATE STATED ABOVE, AT <u>10 AM</u> M.				
7. AGE Years <u>58</u> Months <u>3</u> Days <u>10</u> IF LESS THAN 1 DAY, _____ HRS. OR _____ MIN.			THE PRINCIPAL CAUSE OF DEATH AND RELATED CAUSES OF IMPORTANCE IN ORDER OF ONSET WERE AS FOLLOWS:				
8. TRADE, PROFESSION, OR PARTICULAR KIND OF WORK DONE, AS SPINNER, SAWYER, BOOKKEEPER, ETC. <u>MERCHANT</u>			<i>Fractured skull</i> Date of issue <u>7/21/31</u>				
9. INDUSTRY OR BUSINESS IN WHICH WORK WAS DONE, AS SILK MILL, SAW MILL, BAKERY, ETC.							
10. DATE DECEASED LAST WORKED AT THIS OCCUPATION (month and year) _____			CONTRIBUTORY CAUSES OF IMPORTANCE NOT RELATED TO PRINCIPAL CAUSE:				
11. TOTAL TIME (YEARS) SPENT IN THIS OCCUPATION _____			<u>203</u> <i>Fracture of skull</i> Date of issue <u>7/21/31</u>				
12. BIRTHPLACE (city or town) <u>SUFFOLK VA.</u>							
13. NAME <u>JOHN VOIGHT</u>			NAME OF OPERATION <u>None</u> DATE OF _____				
14. BIRTHPLACE (city or town) <u>VA.</u>			WHAT TEST CONFIRMED DIAGNOSIS? _____ WAS THERE AN AUTOPSY? _____				
15. MAIDEN NAME <u>NANCY RODGERS</u>			23. IF DEATH WAS DUE TO EXTERNAL CAUSES (VIOLENCE) FILL IN ALSO THE ACCIDENT, SHOOTING, OR HOMICIDE DATE OF _____ 19 <u>31</u>				
16. BIRTHPLACE (city or town) <u>VA.</u>			WHERE DID INJURY OCCUR? (Specify city or town, county, and State) <u>fall in shaft of elevator</u>				
17. INFORMANT <u>MRS. JOHN VOIGHT</u>			SPECIFY WHETHER OCCURRED IN INDUSTRY, IN HOME, OR IN PUBLIC PLACE. <u>In shaft of elevator</u>				
(Address) <u>RFD #2</u>			MANNER OF INJURY <u>As above</u>				
18. BURIAL, CREMATION, OR REMOVAL PLACE <u>RIVERSIDE</u> DATE <u>MARCH 22 1931</u>			NATURE OF INJURY <u>As above</u>				
19. UNDERTAKER <u>GRAHAM & SYKES</u>			24. WAS DISEASE OR INJURY IN ANY WAY RELATED TO OCCUPATION OF DECEASED? <u>Apple which fell on head</u>				
(Address) <u>NORFOLK VA.</u>			IF SO, SPECIFY <u>shaft of elevator</u>				
20. FILED <u>7/21/31</u>			(SIGNED) <u>J. Macdonald</u> M. D.				
			(ADDRESS) _____				

JOHN B. VOIGHT FAMILY STORY

This funeral report appeared in the papers the day after he was buried:

Virginian-Pilot and *The Norfolk Landmark*, (Norfolk, VA) Monday, March 23, 1931

John B. Voight – Funeral services for Mr. Voight, who died suddenly Saturday morning, were conducted yesterday afternoon at 4 o'clock from the funeral home of Graham & Sykes, 124 East Berkley Avenue. The Rev. O. D. Poythress officiated. During the services Mr. Poythress sang "Sometime We'll Understand." Pallbearers were Fred C. Abbott, C. N. Bailey, J. E. Speight,; E. F. Ward, J. E. Stokes and T. A. Roberts. Burial was in Riverside Cemetery.

In the 1934 Norfolk City Directory, right, Ethel Voight, the widow of John B., is living at 831 Maltby; the minor children in the home would not be listed by name, but Morris is listed because he would have been 18 already in 1933.

<p>VOIGHT " Edna bkpr Smith & Welton Inc r2726 Ballentine blvd " Edwin F asst classification officer Fifth Naval Dist h1712 Hampton blvd apt 16 " Ethel (wid John B) h831 Maltby av " Lillian C (wid Jos) h717 Maury av " Morris B r831 Maltby av " Paul E (Elsie J) mech VaE&PCo r2006 Maryland av (E Fairmont Pk) " R Steadman clk Fenner & Beane h623 Fairfax av apt 3 " Wm ship clk r2726 Ballentine blvd</p>

<p>Voight A W slsmn U S Peanut Co r2726 Ballentine blvd " A W slsmn r738 Duke " Albert S city firemn r3029 Vimy Ridge av " Annie L r623 Fairfax av apt 3 " Chas L (Mattie M) genl agt Philadelphia & Nfk Steamship Co h266 S Blake rd " Edna sten S&Winc r342 Fairfax av " Ethel (wid Bunny) h825 Maltby av " Hugh lubricant mgr Meekins Mtr Co r266 S Blake av " Jos chauf Cudahy Pkg Co r3224 Dunkirk av " Lillian C (wid Jos) h3224 Dunkirk av " Lillian L slswn WGSCo r3224 Dunkirk av " Morris L (Edith) chauf Southgate Trucking Co h811 Marshall av " Paul E garage formn VaE&PCo r2006 Maryland av " R Stedman (Mary P) h623 Fairfax av apt 3 " Raleigh L clk VaE&PCo r325 Maltby av " Sarah (wid Wm H) r3000 Springfield av (Ford Pk) " Wm J (Eugenia) asst bkpr Sou Salt Co h3212 Brest av</p>

In the 1939 Norfolk City Directory Ethel is now living at 825 Maltby; her son Raleigh works as a clerk for the Virginia Electric & Power Co. He's about 21 now. Ethel is listed here as the widow of "Bunny" Voight. Morris Voight has married Edith Pallette from Princess Anne County and they are living at 811 Marshall Av. Morris works as a "chauf" for the Southgate Trucking Co.

JOHN B. VOIGHT FAMILY STORY

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE - BUREAU OF THE CENSUS
SIXTEENTH CENSUS OF THE UNITED STATES: 1940
POPULATION SCHEDULE

State: Virginia Incorporated place: Norfolk Ward of city: Unincorporated place
County: Norfolk Division of county: Block No. 3, 28th Enumeration: 114-12 Sheet No. 6B

HOUSEHOLD INDEX	PERSON INDEX	HOUSEHOLD DATA		NAME	RELATION	SEX	AGE	MARRIAGE	EDUCATION	PLACE OF BIRTH	INDUSTRY, APRIL 1, 1940		OCCUPATION, APRIL 1, 1940		SPECIAL FEATURES		SPECIAL FEATURES		
		HEAD	OTHER								MANUFACTURING	AGRICULTURE	TRANSPORTATION	COMMUNICATIONS	CONSTRUCTION	RETAIL TRADE	FINANCE	PROFESSION	UNEMPLOYED
122	122	1	1	John B. Voight	head	M	53	1	5	Virginia									
				Ethel Voight	wife	F	20	1	5	Virginia									
				Raleigh Voight	son	M	22	1	12	Virginia									
				Evelyn Voight	daughter	F	19	1	3	Virginia									
				Doris Voight	daughter	F	16	1	1	Virginia									
				Morris Voight	son	M	25	1	7	Virginia									
				Edith Voight	wife	F	21	1	2	Virginia									
				Barbara Voight	daughter	F	1	1	0	Virginia									

20 mo	Voight, Ethel	head	F	W	53	sch	no	5	5									
	, Raleigh	son	M	W	22	S	no	12	12						Bookkeeper	V.E.P. Co.	PU	210
	, Evelyn	daughter	F	W	19	S	no	3	3						clerk	peanut shop	PU	220
	, Doris	daughter	F	W	16	S	no	1	1									
5 mo	Voight, Morris	head	M	W	25	M	no	7	7						Truck Driver	storage Co	PU	420
	, Edith	wife	F	W	21	M	no	2	2									
	, Barbara	daughter	F	W	1	S	no	0	0									

NAME	RELATION	SEX	AGE	MARRIAGE	EDUCATION	PLACE OF BIRTH	INDUSTRY	OCCUPATION	SPECIAL FEATURES
Voight, Ethel	wife	F	20	1	5	Virginia			
Voight, Raleigh	son	M	22	1	12	Virginia			
Voight, Evelyn	daughter	F	19	1	3	Virginia			
Voight, Doris	daughter	F	16	1	1	Virginia			
Voight, Morris	son	M	25	1	7	Virginia			
Voight, Edith	wife	F	21	1	2	Virginia			
Voight, Barbara	daughter	F	1	1	0	Virginia			

Above, the 1940 census record shows that John B.'s widow Ethel Voight (53) finished 5 years of school. Raleigh (22) finished high school; Ruth Evelyn (19) finished 3 years of high school; and Doris (16) has finished 1 year of high school. They share a 2-family house with the oldest son Morris Voight and his family at 731 Maltby in Norfolk. Raleigh works as a bookkeeper now for the VA E & P Co and Evelyn is a clerk in a peanut shop. Morris (25) finished 7 years of school and his wife Edith (21) had 2 years of high school. They have a one year old daughter Barbara. Morris still works as a truck driver for a storage company. It looks like Ethel pays \$20 towards the rent and Morris pays \$5/month for his share.



Above, the Voight home at 731 Maltby (from Google Maps)

JOHN B. VOIGHT FAMILY STORY

Elva Eunice Voight

Birth 5 Aug 1904 in Virginia

Death 23 Feb 1976 in Portsmouth, VA

Elva Eunice married Guthrie "Gus" Ward in Pasquotank County North Carolina in 1923. They had three daughters, Elva J. (Brown), Frances W. (Harper) and Sandra W. (Backus); and one son, William L. Ward.

In the 1930 census, below, the young Ward family was living at 708 Douglas Avenue in Portsmouth. Guthrie's name was written "Godfrey" in error; he worked as a fireman for the railroad.

Spouse & Children ▼



Guthrie Lawrence Ward
1901 – 1988



Elva J Ward
1924 – 2011



William L Ward
1927 –



Frances H Ward
1928 –



Edward Theodore "Teddy" Ward
1930 – 1980



Sandra Ward
1940 –

State		Incorporated place		Ward of city		Unincorporated place		Institution		Enumerated by		Sheet No.
Virginia		Portsmouth City		Washington						George F. Plaster		3 B
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE—BUREAU OF THE CENSUS FIFTEENTH CENSUS OF THE UNITED STATES: 1930 POPULATION SCHEDULE												
PLACE OF BIRTH	NAME	RELATION	HOME DATA	PERSONAL DESCRIPTION	EDUCATION	PLACE OF BIRTH	MOTHER TONGUE OR NATIVE LANGUAGE OF PERSON BORN	CITIZENSHIP, ETC.	OCCUPATION AND INDUSTRY	EMPLOYMENT	REMARKS	
Virginia	Ward Godfrey L	Head			R	20	no m	W	28	M	20	fireman Railroad
Virginia	Ward Elva Eunice	Wife					F	W	25	M	17	none
Virginia	Ward Elva J	daughter					F	W	5	S		none
Virginia	Ward William	son					M	W	3	S		none
Virginia	Ward Francis H	daughter					F	W	2	S		none

JOHN B. VOIGHT FAMILY STORY



Google maps places 708 Douglas Avenue here, near the intersection with Hartford St. in Portsmouth. Elva's cousin Romie White moved very close by, to 725 Douglas between 1930 and 1940.

The 1940 census finds the Ward family still in Portsmouth, but they have moved just around the corner to 740 Franklin Circle, an address that does not show up on Google Maps in 2012. The Wards paid \$25/month rent. Guthrie and Eunice each report finishing 7 years of school.

There are two new children, Edward T. and Sandra R. All the children, except baby Sandra, are still in school.

In 1940 Guthrie elaborates on his work; he is a locomotive fireman. He was born in North Carolina.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE—BUREAU OF THE CENSUS
SIXTEENTH CENSUS OF THE UNITED STATES: 1940
POPULATION SCHEDULE

State: *Virginia* Incorporated place: *Portsmouth City* Ward of city: *Ward 1*
County: *Norfolk* Block No.: _____ Enumeration District No.: _____

Enumerated by me on: *April 5*, 1940. Sheet No.: *3 A*

NAME	RELATION	SEX	AGE	PLACE OF BIRTH	EDUCATION	INDUSTRY
Ward Guthrie L	Head	M	38	M	7	North Carolina
— Eunice E	wife	F	35	M	7	Virginia
— Elva	daughter	F	16	S	10	Virginia
— William L	son	M	14	S	11	Virginia
— Frances H	daughter	F	12	S	7	Virginia
— Edward J	son	M	9	S	4	Virginia
— Sandra R	daughter	F	0/12	S	0	Virginia

SUPPLEMENTARY

NAME	RELATION	SEX	AGE	PLACE OF BIRTH	INDUSTRY	
Betty S	wife	F	45	M	7	North Carolina
Milford	son	M	21	S	7	Virginia
Charles	son	M	17	S	7	Virginia
Walter Walker	Head	M	38	M	7	North Carolina
Allen	son	M	14	S	7	North Carolina
Robert	son	M	12	S	7	North Carolina
James	son	M	10	S	7	North Carolina
Ward Guthrie L	Head	M	38	M	7	North Carolina
Eunice E	wife	F	35	M	7	Virginia
Elva	daughter	F	16	S	10	Virginia
William L	son	M	14	S	11	Virginia
Frances H	daughter	F	12	S	7	Virginia
Edward J	son	M	9	S	4	Virginia
Sandra R	daughter	F	0/12	S	0	Virginia
Robert	son	M	14	S	7	North Carolina
James	son	M	10	S	7	North Carolina
Samuel	son	M	14	S	7	North Carolina
David	son	M	12	S	7	North Carolina
William J	Head	M	42	M	6	North Carolina

JOHN B. VOIGHT FAMILY STORY



Clockwise from the far left:
 Elva Eunice Voight Ward.
 Eunice's daughter Frances Ward Harper,
 Grandma Ethel Lee Pierce Voight
 and Eunice's youngest daughter Sandra Ward
 (the future Sandra Backus. Sandra was deaf).

Mrs. Eunice E. Ward

PORTSMOUTH—Mrs. Eunice E. Ward, 71, of 12 Sunset Lane, the wife of Guthrie Lawrence Ward and a native of Whaleyville, died Monday afternoon in a hospital. She attended Port Norfolk Baptist Church.

Other survivors include three daughters, Mrs. Elva J. Brown and Mrs. Sandra W. Backus of Portsmouth, and Mrs. Francis B. Harper of Houston, Tex.; two sons, William Lawrence Ward and Edward T. Ward of Portsmouth; two sisters, Mrs. Vernon Kuhl of Chesapeake and Mrs. Lester Hobbs of Portsmouth; a brother, Raleigh L. Voight of Norfolk; 13 grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren.

A funeral service will be held Wednesday at 12:30 p.m. in Snellings Funeral Home by Dr. R. Clayton Pitts. Burial will be in Olive Branch Cemetery.

Photo courtesy of Sharon Hobbs Thompson
 Right: Eunice's February 1976, obituary.
 Below, a transcript of Guthrie's 1988 obit:
 The *Virginian-Pilot*, Friday, January 22, 1988
 Chesapeake – **Guthrie Lawrence “Gus” Ward**, 86, of the 700 block of Draughon Road, a retired engineer, died Jan. 21, 1988, in a hospital. Mr. Ward, a native of Chowan County, N.C., had retired from Norfolk & Portsmouth Belt Line Railroad. He was the widower of Eunice Voight Ward and a member of Port Norfolk Baptist Church. He was general chairman of Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers, a member of Western Branch Masonic Lodge 189, Portsmouth Scottish Rite Bodies and Khedive Temple of the Shrine. Survivors include three daughters, Frances W. Harper of Houston, Texas, Sandra W. Backus and Elva J. Brown, both of Portsmouth; a son, William L. Ward, a sister, Rosetta W. Foy; a brother, M. E. Ward, all of Portsmouth; 13 grandchildren; and 14 great-grandchildren. The graveside service will be conducted at 11 am Saturday in Olive Branch Cemetery by the Rev. Kenneth E. King.



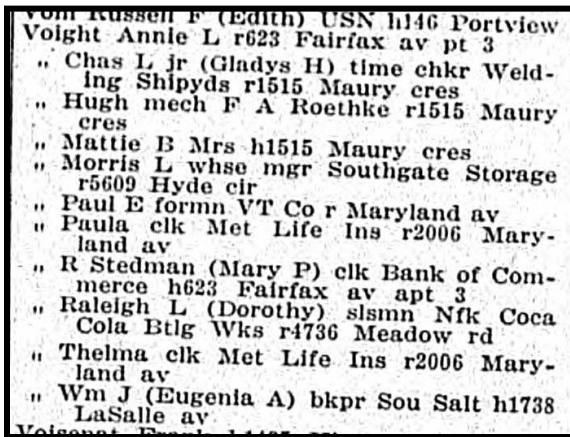
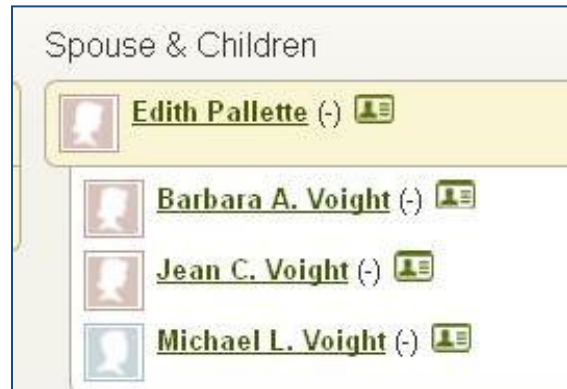
JOHN B. VOIGHT FAMILY STORY

Morris Lee Voight

Birth 30 July 1914 in Virginia

Death 14 Jan 1974 in Virginia Beach, VA

Morris Lee and Edith Palette Voight had three children: Barbara, Jean and Michael L. Voight.



In the 1949 Norfolk City Directory, right, Morris is living at 5609 Hyde Circle & working as a warehouse manager for Southgate Storage. His mother Ethel is not listed in the Norfolk city Directory so she might be living with another of her children in different city in the Tidewater area. (Notice that brother Raleigh is listed here as a salesman for Coca Cola Bottling Works; he & Dorothy live at 4736 Meadow Rd. in Norfolk.)

The Virginian-Pilot

Wednesday, January 16, 1974

Morris Lee Voight, Virginia Beach –

Morris Lee Voight, 59, of 5400 Hatteras Road, the husband of Mrs. Edith Palette Voight, died Monday in a hospital. A native of Portsmouth, he lived here all of his life. He was superintendent of the D. D. Jones Warehouse and a member of Portsmouth Christian Church.

Besides his widow, survivors include two daughters, Mrs. Barbara A. LaCasse of Kansas City, Mo., and Mrs. Jean C. White of Virginia Beach; and a son, Michael L. Voight of Virginia Beach.

A funeral service will be held Thursday at 3 p.m. in Smith and Williams Funeral Home by Dr. Lawton W. Posey. Burial will be in Forest Lawn Cemetery.

Edith Voight

July 7, 1918 - December 11, 2011
Edith was buried beside Morris in the Forest Lawn Cemetery in Norfolk.



JOHN B. VOIGHT FAMILY STORY

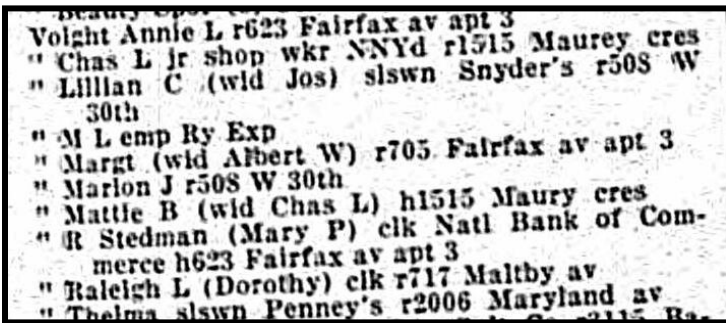
Raleigh Lee Voight Sr.

Birth 6 Mar 1918 in Virginia

Death 4 Aug 1992 in Norfolk, Virginia

Raleigh Lee Voight, Sr. and his wife Dorothy Wilkins had six children: Diane, Dorothy, John A, Raleigh Lee Jr., Robert and Michael Ray.

Raleigh Lee Sr. enlisted in the Army as a private in November 1942, at age 24. His enlistment record shows he was 5' 9" and weighed 146 pounds. It also states that he finished 4 years of high school. He served until Sept 1945, earning a Purple Heart and the rank of staff sergeant.



Virginian-Pilot, The (Norfolk, VA)

August 6, 1992

Raleigh L. Voight

“Raleigh Lee Voight Sr., 74, of the 2900 block of Kilbride Drive, a retired warehouseman, died Aug. 4, 1992, in a Norfolk hospital.

Mr. Voight was born in Whaleyville, Va. He was an Army veteran of World War II. Survivors include two daughters, Dorothy Colley of Hampton and Diane Pierce of Aydlett, N.C.; four sons, Raleigh Voight Jr. of Fayetteville, N.C., John A. Voight of Alexandria, Robert A. Voight of Lake Charles, La., and Michael R. Voight of Chesapeake; a sister, Evelyn Hollowell of Portsmouth; and nine grandchildren.

The graveside service will be at 11 a.m. Friday in Hampton National Cemetery. Friends may join the family from 7 to 8 p.m. today in Francis A. Gay Funeral Home, South Norfolk Chapel.”

Dorothy was not mentioned among Raleigh’s survivors. Were they divorced? At some point Dorothy married again. In 2007 her obituary she was living at the same address as Raleigh in his 1992 obit:

“**Dorothy M. Wrightson**, 81, of the 2900 block of Kilbride Drive passed away Aug. 28, 2007, in Chesapeake.

Born in Norfolk County, she was the daughter of the late John R. and India B. Wilkins. She was predeceased by her husband, Francis J. Wrightson. Dorothy will be remembered as a loving, devoted wife and mother who found greatest joy in providing and caring for others. She will be missed by those who knew and loved her. She is survived by six children, Raleigh Voight, John Voight, Diane Pierce, Robert Voight, Michael Voight and Dorothy Colley; as well as many beloved grandchildren and great-grandchildren. A graveside service will be conducted at 10 a.m. Saturday in Forest Lawn Cemetery, Norfolk. The Rev. Tom Mercer will officiate. The viewing will begin Friday with the family receiving friends from 7 to 8:30 p.m. at the Great Bridge Chapel of Oman Funeral Home & Crematory, 653 Cedar Road, Chesapeake.” *The Virginian-Pilot*, published Thursday, August 30, 2007.

Spouse & Children	
	Dorothy M Wilkins (1926-2007)
	Diane M Voight (-)
	Dorothy L Voight (-)
	John A Voight (-)
	Raleigh Lee Voight Jr (-)
	Robert A Voight (-)
	Michael Ray Voight (1954-2012)

In the 1946 Norfolk city Directory, left, Raleigh is home from the war. He and Dorothy live in the old neighborhood at 717 Maltby and he works as a “clerk.” Again, his widowed mother Ethel was not listed in the Norfolk City Directory in 1946.



JOHN B. VOIGHT FAMILY STORY

Raleigh's youngest child, Michael R. Voight, earned a measure of fame as a star athlete, only to die too young at age 58. Like his second cousin, Oscar Leroy's grandson John W. Voight Jr., Michael was a track and football star in college who became a highly respected high school football coach. Michael's obituary below was published in the *Virginian-Pilot* on May 25, 2012.

Michael R. Voight

Chesapeake -Michael Ray Voight, nearly a life-long resident of Chesapeake, died on Tuesday, May 22, 2012. He was born in Norfolk on February 28, 1954, the son of Raleigh L. Voight, Sr. and Dorothy M. Voight (Wrightson). Known mostly for his athletic skills in his younger years, he did have an impact on the many lives through his work in coaching both football as well as track and field, as a teacher, friend, brother and uncle.

Mike was a 1973 graduate of Indian River high school. He went on to the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill to graduate with a Bachelor of Arts degree in physical education in 1977. During his high school years at Indian River, Mike was well known for his sports abilities on the football field and running hurdles for the track and field team. He set many records, including the Virginia high school League Record for hurdles in 1973.

As a Tar Heel, Mike, No. 44, made his name as "one of the greatest football running tailbacks in North Carolina and ACC history." Mike was one of the few Tar Heel football players to have competed in two sports while at Carolina. He noted himself as a track person who played football. After his freshman year as a Tar Heel, he determined his focus should be on football, but only after being named the 1974 ACC Indoor hurdle Champion. Mike was awarded in holding numerous other records in football at UNC, including 254 career points off 42 touchdowns, ranking him third in that category. He was named ACC player of the Year in both 1975 and 1976, all while at Chapel Hill. Additionally, he played in many Bowl games during his college career, most notably in the 1976 peach Bowl. Mike still ranks 6th in the ACC for rushing yards.

Playing well-known songs from the 70s by the Steve Miller Band over and over in his dorm, his suitemates at Carolina dubbed him the name "space Cowboy." The name stuck. Tar Heel teammates said he was the "spark plug that made everything work" on the field. Mike was also known for 'tipping his wings' toward the opposing team's cheering section after making it to the end zone in a play. One of the most famous photos of Mike displays his famous stance in his No. 44 Carolina jersey in a game against Wake Forest in 1975.

The space Cowboy had a bright future as he was drafted by the NFL Cincinnati Bengals. "Although he never played a regular season game, he was picked up by the Houston Oilers. Mike became a regular on special teams as a rookie." His NFL career ended before he ever got a chance to show off his talent. On the way back home in 1977, Mike was in accident that took away his playing career.

In the late 80s, Mike became more involved with local coaching, and then took a position with Chesapeake City public schools in 1994. He was a faculty member at Oscar Smith High School and helped coach a few track stars with high national rankings in his career.

Even after the end of his football career at Carolina, he was presented many accolades. His number, 44, was one of those honored by being placed on the facade of the Kennan Memorial Football Stadium on the Carolina campus in 1994. In 2011, he was bestowed a Legends of Honor award by the Chesapeake Sports Club for his sports contributions at Indian River and for his accomplishments while at UNC.

Mike was predeceased by both his parents, Raleigh L. Voight, sr. in 1996 and Dorothy M. Wrightson in 2007. he is survived by three brothers, Raleigh L. Voight, Jr. and wife Eleanor of Forked River, N.J., John A. Voight of Winter park, Fla., Robert A. Voight and wife Cindy of Lake Charles, La.; two sisters,

JOHN B. VOIGHT FAMILY STORY

Diane M. Pierce, of Grandy, N.C., and Dorothy L. Colley and husband Phillip, of Hampton, Va. Mike was an uncle to four nephews, five nieces, and great-uncle to two grand-nieces and one grand-nephew. A dog-lover, Mike found unbridled love from his pug, Maggie. Mike will be missed deeply by the many family members, friends, colleagues, teammates and student lives that he touched. His spirit will live on in the celebration of his life.

A memorial service to celebrate Mike's life will be held at 6 p.m., Saturday, May 26 at the Great Bridge Chapel of Oman Funeral home & Crematory, 653 Cedar Road, Chesapeake, Va. The family will receive friends prior to the service from 4 to 6pm at the funeral home. In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made to the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, P.O. Box 309, Chapel hill, NC, 275140309 or at www.giving.unc.edu/gift.

Friends are invited to send condolences and to sign the online guest book at www.omanfh.com.



Ruth Evelyn Voight

Birth 9 Dec 1920 in Virginia

Death 8 May 2011 in Chesapeake,VA

Ruth Evelyn Voight was married and widowed three times. Both of her first two husbands were WW II Army veterans, both corporals, both of whom also worked in The Norfolk Naval Shipyards. Ruth Evelyn's children were Ruth Audrey Kuhl Hansen and Vernon Linwood Kuhl Jr., whose nickname was "Dynamite."

Spouse & Children

Vernon Linwood Kuhl
1921 – 1978

Ruth Audrey Kuhl
–

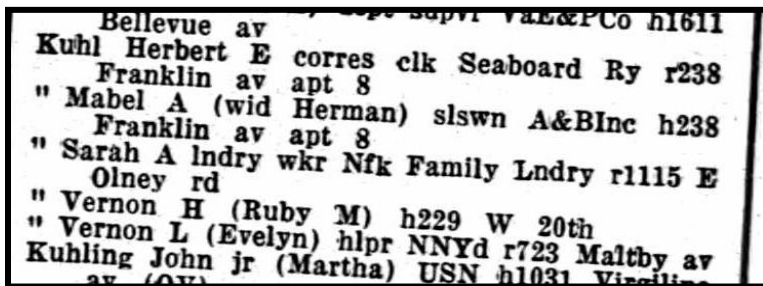
Vernon Linwood Kuhl Jr
1943 – 2011

Spouse & Children

James W Hollowell
1921 – 1990

Spouse & Children

Joseph West
–



In the 1941 Norfolk City Directory, left, the newlyweds Vernon and Evelyn Voight Kuhl live at 723 Maltby, just a few doors away from 731 Maltby, where the Ethel Voight and her younger children were living and where Raleigh settled after WWII. Like so many Voights, Ruth Evelyn didn't move far from home when she married.

JOHN B. VOIGHT FAMILY STORY

By 1949, Vernon is no longer in Norfolk. He is listed now in the Portsmouth Directory, right, residing at 756 DeKalb.

Kuhl Vernon L emp NNSYd r756 KeKalb

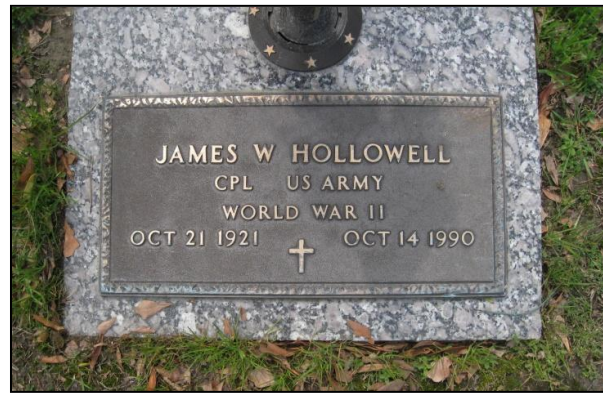
He is employed at the Norfolk Naval Shipyard. There's no mention of the wife (Evelyn) in this Portsmouth Directory. The Portsmouth directories sometimes failed to list the wife's name.

After Vernon Kuhl died in 1978 at the age of 57, Evelyn remarried. She and James W Hollowell lived together in her home at 4204 Coffman Blvd in Chesapeake until James died in 1990.

Then Evelyn was married once more, to Joseph West.



Ruth Evelyn Voight Kuhl-Hollowell-West buried her first two husbands at Greenlawn Memorial Park in Chesapeake. (We don't know where Joseph West was buried.) When Evelyn died May 8, 2011, she was also buried in Greenlawn.



Published in The *Virginian-Pilot* on May 10, 2011

Evelyn West CHESAPEAKE - Ruth Evelyn West, 90, passed away Sunday, May 8, 2011. She was a cashier at Kirshmyers and Overton's Market. She was predeceased by her husband, Joseph West; her first husband and father of her children, Vernon L. Kuhl Sr. and her daughter, Ruth Audrey Hansen. She is survived by her son, Vernon Kuhl Jr. of Florida; special friends and care takers, Randy and Cindy Hingerty and Martin Beasley. A very special thanks to the staff of Lillian's Loving Care for the care and love they showed Evelyn. A graveside service will be held at 3 p.m. today, May 10, at Greenlawn Memorial Gardens by the Rev. Gene Primm. Sturtevant Funeral Home, Portsmouth Blvd. Chapel, is handling arrangements.

The Social Security Death Index tells us that Evelyn's son Vernon Kuhl Jr. died a few months later, September 30, 2011, in St. Petersburg, FL.

JOHN B. VOIGHT FAMILY STORY

Doris E. Voight

Birth 23 Dec 1922 in Virginia

Death 15 Sep 1986 in Portsmouth, VA

In the 1942 Norfolk City Directory, below, Doris has married Allen J. Witcher Jr. They are about 19 years old. Doris is still living at home with the Voight family at 731 Maltby. Her in-laws live at 1251 W 44th St., but her husband, the elusive Allen J Witcher Jr., is not listed at either address. He does not enlist in the army until March of 1943 when his status is "married." So where was he when they canvassed for this city directory? Doris is a saleswoman at Woolworth's. Doris and Allen Witcher

Spouse & Children	
	Allen J Witcher Jr 1923 –
	Allen W. Witcher 1943 –

Spouse & Children	
	Lester Brown Hobbs 1922 – 1998
	Sharon R. Hobbs –

Witcher Allen J (Lena) sta fremn Standard Oil
 Co of NJ h1251 W 44th
 " Doris V slswn Woolworth's r731 Maltby av
 " Jane E health baths 119 W 11th h do
 " Vincent H (Annie B) formn NOB h906-12 Bran-
 don av apt 2

HOBBS
 " Ira E (Gwendolyn) sht mtl wkr NNSYd h826
 4th
 " Johnnie (c: Evelyn) USN h101 Carver Homes
 apt 426d
 " L D (c: Mattie) lab Dixie Veneer h66 Carver
 Homes apt 229d
 " Leonard A (Clair B) live stock 558 Broad h do
 " Leonard A jr studt r558 Broad
 " Lester B emp NNSYd r164 Barclay av
 " Lois J clk Gleason's Drug Store r734 Mt Ver-
 non av

were divorced in the 1940's. Family lore has it that she then married a man named Smith; they moved to Utah where Smith was killed in a construction accident. Doris returned to Virginia and married Lester B. Hobbs in November 1949.

Left, in 1951 Lester B ("Buster") Hobbs is listed in the Portsmouth City Directory, left, without mention of Doris. (Once again the Portsmouth Directory omitted a wife's name for no obvious reason.) Lester is working at the Norfolk Naval Shipyards and he's living at 164 Barclay Av. Lester was also on active duty with the US Navy 1945 – 1949.

Like her sister Evelyn, there is considerably

more information available in public records about the husband than there is about the wife until her obituary was published in 1986.

The *Virginian-Pilot* (Norfolk, VA)
 Wednesday, September 17, 1986

Doris V. Hobbs

Portsmouth – Doris E. Voight Hobbs, 61, of the 300 block of Kay Road died Sept. 15, 1986, in a hospital. Mrs. Hobbs, a Portsmouth native, was a member of St. Andrew United Methodist Church.

Survivors include her husband, Lester "Buster" Hobbs; a daughter, Sharon H. Thompson of Portsmouth; a son, Allen W. Witcher of Jacksonville, Fla.; a brother, Raleigh Voight of Norfolk; and two grandchildren.

A graveside service will be conducted at 11 a.m. Thursday in Greenlawn Memorial Gardens by the Rev. David J. Palmer. The family will be at Sturtevant Funeral Home from 7 to 8 p.m. today.

Lester Hobbs was buried beside Doris when he died in 1998.



JOHN B. VOIGHT FAMILY STORY

Ethel Lee Pierce Voight

1885 - 1974

"I remember my grandma was petite, kind, and very particular. She always looked like she was going out - every hair in place and always had lipstick on. She was very loving and we had a good relationship."

Sharon Thompson, a granddaughter by Doris Hobbs January 27, 2013

When John B. Voight's widow Ethel died in 1974, she was not buried beside John, not even in the same cemetery. Her children decided to bury her at Greenlawn in Chesapeake where daughters Evelyn and Doris and their husbands had plots.

The Virginian-Pilot
Monday, December 9, 1974

Mrs. Ethel L. Voight

Chesapeake – Mrs. Ethel Lee Voight, 88, of 4204 Coffman Blvd., died Sunday in Virginia Beach.

A native of Whaleyville, she was a housewife and a member of Hope Chapel Interdenominational Church, Norfolk.

Survivors include three daughters, Mrs. Ruth Evelyn Kuhl of Chesapeake, Mrs. Eunice Ward and Mrs. Doris E. Hobbs, both of Portsmouth; a son, Raleigh Lee Voight of Norfolk; 14 grandchildren; and 19 great-grandchildren. A funeral service will be held Tuesday at 12:30 p.m. in Snellings Funeral Home, by the Rev. Emory E. Byrum.

Burial will be in Greenlawn Memorial Gardens, Chesapeake, The family will be at 4204 Coffman Blvd. Chesapeake.

(NOTE: Coffman Blvd was Evelyn's address. Sharon Hobbs Thompson shared that "Grandma Ethel was living with Doris, Raleigh, Morris and Evelyn for a month at a time. She was living with Evelyn at the time of her death. If Ethel died in Virginia Beach as the obit reports, perhaps she was visiting someone there at the time of her death.")



JOHN B. VOIGHT FAMILY STORY

ADDENDUM

ABOUT PICKLES



The Voight Brothers had a reputation as “movers and shakers” in Norfolk before Prohibition.

In a conversation with William Henry Voight’s grandson Melvin Liles in March 2013, he shared a story that for many years the Voight brothers permanently kept a suite on the top floor of the Monticello Hotel in downtown Norfolk for parties and business entertaining.

This photo of the hotel copied from the Sargeant Memorial Collection at the Norfolk Public Library.

The Monticello Hotel.

The Monticello opened in 1898, and burned on New Year's Day 1918. It was rebuilt, with two additional stories, a year later. The building was demolished in 1976 to make way for the new Federal Building.

Mel added that the Voights sold whiskey wholesale in 55 gallon barrels for which they had a wagon specially made to haul the whiskey to town. (Mel's grandfather Charles Liles drove the wagon for the Voights and that's how he met Mel's grandmother Emma Voight.) Jesse T. Voight, John B. Voight and Oscar Leroy Voight, were known distillers from the turn of the Century until (and, no doubt, well into) Prohibition. Grandchildren of the brothers William Henry Voight, John B. Voight and Joseph Voight remember hearing about the Voight pickle business. I've searched without success to find any record of it. I found Nineteenth Century newspaper ads for Voight brand flour, but nothing about pickles. Seems like “pickles” was what they told the children and the revenueurs about the family business. Most of the evidence suggests that the family business was corn whiskey. I suppose their products could have produced some pretty pickled people.

Mel Liles also reported that 3 of the Voight brothers together weighted 1,000 pounds. That would be John B. and Oscar Leroy, but who was the third? Maybe the third 300 pound sibling was the sister Emily. Photos of these three are available in their individual chapters of our Voight Roots.

JOHN B. VOIGHT FAMILY STORY



Above, in November 2012:

On the right, Sharon Hobbs Thompson, granddaughter of Ethel and John B. Voight, daughter of Doris Voight Hobbs. With Sharon, left to right, Kay Hollowell Barker (great-granddaughter of Emily Julia Voight Mathias) and Jackie Ballance (granddaughter of Joseph Voight).