

# JOHN T. VOIGHT AND NANCY JANE ROGERS FAMILY STORY

## John T. Voight

Birth **1832** in [Nansemond County, Virginia, USA](#)  
Death **1899** in [Nansemond County, Virginia, USA](#)

## Nancy Jane Rogers

Birth **1839** in [Nansemond County, Virginia, USA](#)  
Death **before 1910**

John T. Voight and Nancy Jane Rogers are at the heart of this family history. Other chapters explore their families of origin and sketch the stories of eight of their children. This chapter is their own story. (This document has been revised and updated February 2014)

John and Nancy were married in Nansemond County, Virginia on March 15, 1855. Nancy was about 16, John was about 23. Like most people in the world at that time, their business was agriculture, and they called their home Cherry Grove Farm. They had at least these thirteen children that we know of. There may have been others who died in early childhood, between the census records, that weren't documented in sources available online.

### Children

<a href="#">William Henry Voight (1856-1927)</a>
<a href="#">Mills R Voight (1857-1858)</a>
<a href="#">Laura G Voight (1858-1859)</a>
<a href="#">Leroah Frances Voight (1859-)</a>
<a href="#">James M Voight (1861-1880)</a>
<a href="#">Emily Julia Voight (1864-1935)</a>
<a href="#">Joseph Voight Sr (1865-1929)</a>
<a href="#">Jesse Voight (1868-)</a>
<a href="#">Virginia C Voight (1869-1880)</a>
<a href="#">Ella M Voight (1870-1939)</a>
<a href="#">Sarah Elizabeth Voight (1872-1952)</a>
<a href="#">John B Voight (1875-1931)</a>
<a href="#">Oscar Leroy Voight (1878-1912)</a>

It is documented, however, that they lost two children prior to their first census record as a couple.

An infant son Mills (a first name shared with Nancy's brother, grandfather and great-grandfather) died in April 1858, at the age of four months.

Baby girl Leora was born in 1858 and died in February 9, 1859, age one year.

Virginia, Deaths and Burials Index, 1853-1917 about Mills Voight	
Name:	<b>Mills Voight</b>
Birth Date:	abt 1857
Birth Place:	Nansemond County, Virginia
Death Date:	Apr 1858
Death Place:	Nansemond, County, Virginia
Death Age:	4 Months
Race:	White
Gender:	Male
Father Name:	Jno. Voight
Mother Name:	Nancy Voight
FHL Film Number:	2048578

Virginia, Deaths and Burials Index, 1853-1917 about Leora Voight	
Name:	<b>Leora Voight</b>
Birth Date:	abt 1858
Birth Place:	Nansemond County, Virginia
Death Date:	9 Feb 1859
Death Place:	Nansemond, County, Virginia
Death Age:	1
Race:	White
Gender:	Female
Father Name:	J... T. Voight
Mother Name:	Nancy Voight
FHL Film Number:	2048578

JOHN T. VOIGHT AND NANCY JANE ROGERS FAMILY STORY

It was a challenge to find John and Nancy in the 1860 census. But this entry from the Nansemond County Upper Parish fits their family. John is a 27 year old farmer. "Ann E." was probably how the census taker heard "Nannie." We know from other sources that Nancy was called "Nannie," so it was most likely a very simple misunderstanding.

John and Nancy have two living children in August of 1860.

1860

Page No. 63

SCHEDULE 1—Free Inhabitants in the Upper Parish in the County of Nansemond State of Virginia enumerated by me, on the 18 day of August 1860. J. M. Holland Ass't Marshal.

Post Office Suffolk Virginia

1	2	3	Description			Value of Estate Owned		10	11	12	13	14
			4	5	6	8	9					
The name of every person whose usual place of abode on the first day of June, 1860, was in this family												
Whether male or female												
Whether deaf and dumb, blind, insane, idiotic, pauper, or convict												
			Henry Peta	27	Ma							
187	452		Abraham Harrell	40	Ma	Farmer	1000	1300	Virginia			
			Esther Harrell	26	Ma							
			Martha	2	Ma							

The eldest child William is 4, making his birthday in 1855/1856.

The daughter Frances is one year old.

Their real estate is valued at \$1,000 and personal property at \$1,200.

John T. Voight	27	Ma	Farmer	1000	1200	N.C.
Ann E. Voight	21	Ma				Virginia
William "	4	Ma				
Frances "	1	Ma				N.C.

14			Jerry	3	Ma							
15			Bibacca Harrell	18	Ma							
16	442	442	Letsy White	55	Ma	Farmer	200	150	Virginia			
17			Ray G. White	22	Ma	Carpenter	100					
18			James "	25	Ma							
19			Heming "	20	Ma							
20			Anna "	11	Ma							
21			Kullanda "	8	Ma							
22	443	443	Robt. T. Harrell	26	Ma	Carpenter	300	400	Virginia			
23			Olivia Harrell	31	Ma							
24			Conelia Harrell	14	Ma							
25	444	444	Stephanus Rowntree	44	Ma	Farmer	450	200	Virginia			
26			Elizabeth Rowntree	36	Ma							
27			Leopold "	10	Ma							
28			William "	9	Ma							
29			John "	6	Ma							
30			Henrietta "	4	Ma							
31			Leige "	1	Ma							
32			John Crockett	64	Ma							
33	445	445	John T. Voight	27	Ma	Farmer	1000	1200	N.C.			
34			Ann E. Voight	21	Ma				Virginia			
35			William "	4	Ma							
36			Frances "	1	Ma							
37	446	446	Boyanth Mitchell	32	Ma	Farmer	200	100	N.C.			
38			Martha Mitchell	30	Ma							
39			David "	2	Ma				Virginia			
40												
No. white males, 17							No. colored males, 3		No. foreign born, _____		No. blind, _____	
No. white females, 11							No. colored females, 5		No. deaf and dumb, _____		No. insane, _____	
							3,950		3,600		No. idiotic, _____	
											No. pauper, _____	
											No. convict, _____	

John T. Voight gives his place of birth as "NC." In earlier records his birthplace is recorded as Nansemond County, so "NC" could mean Nansemond County, but it probably means North Carolina. It has also been documented that "at one point the border between VA and North Carolina was 'realigned,'" which is the best explanation for the confusion around John's birth place.

Nancy was born in Virginia.

A casual browse through the 1860 Upper Parish census shows a lot of family lived nearby. John and Nancy were family #445. John's mother and brother James were #533. Nancy's father was #516, her brother Richard was #514, and her brother Mills was the closest at #449. The Upper Parish was on the north end of Nansemond County. Apparently John and Nancy lived here in the Upper Parish before they moved to the Cherry Grove Farm in Cyprus Chapel Township, which is in the south end of the county.

JOHN T. VOIGHT AND NANCY JANE ROGERS FAMILY STORY

(CONFEDERATE.)

U | 59 Militia. | Va.

John T. Voight

Rt. I., Capt. Frederick W. Hunter's Co.,  
59 Reg't Virginia Militia.

Age ----- years.

Appears on  
Company Muster-in Roll  
of the organization named above, from Nansmond County.

Roll dated Suffolk Va.  
Feb. 19, 1862.

Muster-in to date Feb. 19, 1862.

Joined for duty and enrolled:  
When Feb. 19, 1862.  
Where Suffolk Va.  
By whom Capt. W. L. Riddick  
Period Six months

Remarks: -----  
-----  
-----  
-----

The 59th Regiment Virginia Militia was called into service by order of Brig. Gen. Blanchard, dated February 18, 1862. The number of men who reported for duty appears to have been sufficient to form only three or four companies. The Regiment was evidently disbanded in May, 1862, and the men who were subject to conscription assigned to other organizations.

Book mark: J. J. Jacobs

(652) Copyist.

The Civil War began with the Rebels firing on Ft. Sumter in Charleston Harbor in April, 1861.

The record on the left shows that in February 1862 John T. Voight was enrolled in the 59<sup>th</sup> Regiment of the Virginia Militia (AKA Hunter's Militia) to serve for a period of six months.

(Confederate.)

J | 14 | Va.

John T. Voight

Co. I, 14 Reg't Virginia Infantry.

Appears on  
Company Muster Roll  
of the organization named above,  
for May & June, 1862.  
dated June 30, 1862

Enlisted:  
When -----, 1862.

Where -----  
By whom -----  
Period -----

Last paid:  
By whom -----  
To what time -----, 1862.

Present or absent -----

Remarks: Assigned by draft from 59 Reg't Va Militia to Co. I, 14 Reg't Va Inf at Suffolk Va by order of Brig Gen Armistead dated 6 May 1862. Never reported for duty and was not taken up upon Co roll.

The 14th Regiment Virginia Infantry was organized May 23, 1861, and accepted into the service of the Confederate States July 1, 1861, with ten companies, A to K. (1st) Company G was transferred to the 1st Regiment Virginia Artillery, as (3d) Company G, about May 1, 1862. (2d) Company G was formerly (1st) Company I, 28th Regiment Virginia Infantry, and it was transferred to this regiment by S. O. No. 148, A. & I. G. O., dated June 27, 1862.

Book mark: J. B. Hyatt

(642) Copyist.

The next record, right, states that John was "Assigned by draft from 59 Regt Va Militia to Co I, 14<sup>th</sup> Reg Va (Infantry) at Suffolk Va by order of Brig Gen Armistead dated 6 May 1862 Never reported for duty and was not taken up upon Co roll." How did he get away with that? We do know from the regimental history that the 14<sup>th</sup> VA Infantry fought at Suffolk, Virginia, on April 24, May 2 and June 16 in 1863.





JOHN T. VOIGHT AND NANCY JANE ROGERS FAMILY STORY

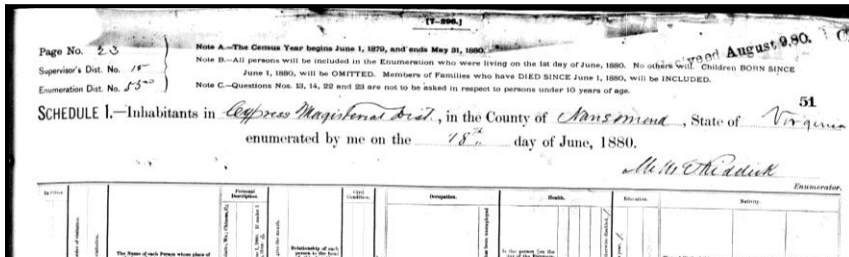
Nancy Voight is mentioned in the Suffolk birth records, in the May 1871 report of the birth of baby boy John Baines to Amos and Mary Baines. The record reads

“Birth reported by Nancy Voight, friend”

So Nancy Jane Voight was a bonafide, documented friend to Mary Baines in the midst of war and reconstruction and raising her own large family. Country women always needed each other for friendship and assistance. (Amos Baines, incidentally, was a brother-in-law of John T. Voight’s sister Nancy Ann Voight Baines. Everybody seems related somehow.)

The 1880 Cypress Magisterial District census is the last known public record for John T. Voight. His headstone in a family cemetery gives his dates as “b. 2 Apr 1832, d. 12 Mar 1899.”

1880



Name	Sex	Age	Relationship	Occupation	Value of Real Estate	Value of Personal Estate	Color	Married	Single	Married	Single	Married	Single	Married	Single	Married	Single	Married	Single
John J. Voight	W	48							1										Farmer
Nancy J.	W	38	wife																Keep House
Leroah J.	W	20	Daughter																Keep House
Julia M.	W	16	Daughter																K. House
Joseph	W	14	Son																F. Hand
Jesse	W	12	Son																F. Hand
Ella	W	9	Daughter																
Elizabeth	W	7	Daughter																
Leroy	W	5	Son																
Leroy	W	2	Son																

177-179 Samuel White  
 178-180 Miller Savage  
 179-181 John J. Voight  
 180-182 Oliver Bunn

The daughter Virginia is not listed here. She would have been 11 and is presumed deceased between 1870 and 1880.

James is not listed either. He would have been 19. His grave is in the same cemetery where his father would eventually be buried. The stone for James M Voight reads “b. 1 Apr 1861, d. 10 Apr 1880,” so he died just two months prior to this June census; he was only 19 years old.

24 year old William Henry has left the family nest and is counted elsewhere.

Leroah is 20 and Julia is 16; they help Nancy with the work of keeping house. Joseph is 14 and Jesse is 12; they are farm hands.

The four youngest children are  
 Ella age 9, born 1870/71,  
 Elizabeth age 7, born 1872/73,  
 John age 5, born 1874/75,  
 and Leroy age 2, born 1877/78.

JOHN T. VOIGHT AND NANCY JANE ROGERS FAMILY STORY

The census records for 1890 were destroyed by a fire in 1921 so the next available Cypress Magisterial District census is 1900. It is the last record we have for Nancy Jane Voight. (She should be about 61 years old, not 55.) She is a widow living with her sons John B. and Oscar Leroy and Oscar's young family. John B. Voight is listed as the head of the household. Nancy presumably died between 1900 & 1910.

1900

TWELFTH CENSUS OF THE UNITED STATES.  
SCHEDULE No. 1.—POPULATION.

State Texas Supervisor's District No. 70 Sheet No. A  
 County Washington Enumeration District No. 22  
 Township or other division of county Cypress Magisterial District (part of) Name of Institution  
 Name of incorporated city, town, or village, within the above named division  
 Enumerated by me on the 15 day of June, 1900, James G. Baker Enumerator.

LOCATION	NAME	RELATION	PERSONAL DESCRIPTION	SEX AND COLOR			MARRIAGE	OCCUPATION, TRADE OR BUSINESS	EDUCATION	SPEED & BLK.
				MALE	FEMALE	OTHER				
	<u>Voight, J. B.</u>	<u>Head</u>	<u>W. M.</u>							
	<u>Nancy</u>	<u>Wife</u>	<u>W. F.</u>							
	<u>Oscar</u>	<u>Brother</u>	<u>W. M.</u>							
	<u>Alia</u>	<u>Sister in L</u>	<u>W. F.</u>							
	<u>Assie</u>	<u>Sister</u>	<u>W. F.</u>							

<u>Voight, J. B.</u>	<u>5-1</u>	<u>Head</u>	<u>W. M.</u>	<u>Gr</u>	<u>Mr</u>	<u>Aug</u>	<u>1875</u>	<u>25</u>
<u>Nancy</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>Wife</u>	<u>W. F.</u>	<u>Gr</u>	<u>Mr</u>	<u>Nov</u>	<u>1848</u>	<u>55</u>
<u>Oscar</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>Brother</u>	<u>W. M.</u>	<u>Gr</u>	<u>Mr</u>	<u>Oct</u>	<u>1878</u>	<u>22</u>
<u>Alia</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>Sister in L</u>	<u>W. F.</u>	<u>Gr</u>	<u>Mr</u>	<u>Dec</u>	<u>1872</u>	<u>28</u>
<u>Assie</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>Sister</u>	<u>W. F.</u>	<u>Gr</u>	<u>Mr</u>	<u>Dec</u>	<u>1895</u>	<u>1</u>

Nancy doesn't answer the questions about how many children she gave birth to and how many are still living (the record says "1" and "1"), but we have found thirteen Voight children documented in the available records.

- Four died young, between the ages of 4 months and 19 years: Mills, Laura, Virginia and James. None of these children ever married or had children.
- Eight of the Voight offspring can be traced into the Twentieth Century: William Henry, Leona Frances, Emily Julia, Joseph, Ella M., Sarah Elizabeth, John B. and Oscar Leroy. They all married and had children, giving John and Nancy Voight 54 known grandchildren. Each of these eight Voight siblings has an individual chapter about their lives and their families in the Voight Family Roots saga.
- What happened to Jesse T. Voight? We don't know where his story led, but there are hints of him in turn-of-the-century Norfolk city directories.



JOHN T. VOIGHT AND NANCY JANE ROGERS FAMILY STORY

In the 1901 Norfolk city directory there is a Jesse T. Voight living at 601 West Brambleton. He is a grocer and he has an ad for his business in the commercial listings of the directory under "Grocers.". Notice that the only other Voight listed in Norfolk in 1901 is Robert P. Voight, the son of John T. Voight's brother Andrew. Perhaps Robert helped his country cousins get a start in the grocery business.

<p><b>The Life Insurance Company of Virginia</b> is a REGULARLY ORGANIZED LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY, OPERATING UNDER A SPECIAL CHARTER FROM THE STATE OF VIRGINIA.          HOME OFFICE, NINTH and MAIN STREETS, RICHMOND, VIRGINIA.          VIRGINIA (474) WADDILL</p> <p><b>JAMES BARKLEY &amp; Co., HORSE SHOERS.</b>          Special Attention to all Diseases of the Feet.</p> <p><b>VIRGINIAN AND PILOT PUBLISHING CO.</b>, publishers <i>Virginia-Pilot</i> 39 City-Hall ave A H Grady pres W S Wilkinson treas  <b>VIRGINIAN PRINTING CO.</b>, printers binders and blankbook makers 48-48 Randolph Burke &amp; Gregory propos</p>	<p><b>WHITE'S BLACK LINIMENT FOR FAMILY USE.</b> All Rheumatism will Kill a Pain. Also Rheumatism for the...          GROCERS (557) GROCERS</p>	
<p><b>Church</b>  <b>Voight Jesse T, grocer 397 Church h 601 w Brambleton ave</b>  <b>Voight Robert P, who grocer 184-186 Water and vice-pres The Bank of Commerce h 222 Bute</b></p>		<p>Stanton &amp; Ayers, 779 Church          Stavro Jane E Mrs, 607 e Brambleton ave          Steinberg Jacob, 304 Princess Anne ave          Steiner Wm, 455 Cumberland          Stern Leopold L, 458 Main          Stiff Bros, Lambert's Point          *Wells Jno, 71 Chapel extd, Barboursville          West Ephraim C, Chapel cor Prosscher          Westheimer Emanuel, 244 Fenchurch          White Edward J, 129 James          White Patrick Mrs, 572-576 Church          White Wm C, 419 e Brambleton ave          White &amp; Bonney, 104 s Park ave          White &amp; Horton, 216 Chapel and 313 Church          Whitehead Bros, 738 Church          Whitehurst C N &amp; Bro, 342 Church          Whitehurst Cornelius S, 224 s Park ave          WHITEHURST J L &amp; BRO, 33 Charlotte          Whitehurst Obed H, 333-335 Chapel          Wicks Chas E, 16-18 Campbell's whf          Williams Samuel, 600 w Brambleton ave          *WILLIAMS WHITMORE T, Wilson ave cor Goff, Barboursville          Williamson Thos L, Ballentine Arcade          Wilson Henry C, 292 Chapel          Winfree Chas A, 278 Queen          *Winstow Chas W, Avenue C cor O'Keefe, Huntersville          Wood A J &amp; Co, 11 Bank          Wood, Beckham &amp; Co, 418 Main          Wood Bros, 371-373 Duke</p>
<p>Virginia Steam Dye Works, 66 Loyal's la Matthew Goodrich propr          Virginia Supply Co (The), rm 407 Columbia Bldg Frank T Washington genl mngr          Virginia, Tennessee and Georgia Air Line Transportation Co, 25 Granby          Baltimore whf ft Water and N &amp; W Ky frt depot e end Main N M Osborne genl agt          Virginia Transfer Co, 171 Main and 74-78 Plame Geo F J Storminger mgr          Virginia Volunteers 4th Regiment, headquarters and adjutant of city mkt bldg  <b>VIRGINIAN-PILOT</b>, 39 City-Hall ave A H Grady managing editor and business mngr &amp; E Turner supt and adv mgr, Southern States-phones bus off 457 editorial 465 (see adv p 16)</p> <p>Voigt Adolph, 809 Johns h 575 New church          Von Nerta Geo O, sup construction U S court-house and p o bldg h 114 College pl          Von Nyvenheim Alfred          Crosby &amp; Co h 101 O          Voorhies W Thompson          201 Granby          Vose Rosa Miss, h 417 Bute          Vossellino Vascelis, fireman rms 127 Main          *Vost Chas J, barber h 97 St Paul</p> <p><b>W</b>          Waddill Chas C, salesman off 184 Water bds 137 College pl</p>		<p><b>Voight Jesse T, 397 Church</b></p> <p>Twiddy Tully A, 780 Church          Twiford Jno E, 100 e Avenue A, Atlantic</p> <p>Voight Jesse T, 397 Church          Walke Jno L, 218 s Park ave          Walters Jno, 700 w Brambleton ave          Ward Alfred C, 83 Market pl          Ward Ida E Mrs, 741 w Brambleton ave          Ward Lilton T, 600 Main          Weaver Alex C, Broad Creek rd nr Park ave          Wellman Michael, St Avon</p> <p>Wyatt Miriam L Mrs, 606 Main          Zipler Celia Mrs, 349 Church  <b>Grocers—Wholesale.</b>          (See also Commission Merchants.)          BARRETT G &amp; R, 203-205 Water          Brinkley A &amp; Co, 12 Nivison          Britt L R &amp; Co, 12 Nivison          Brooke W L &amp; Co, 81 Roanoke ave</p> <p><b>SLATE</b> (INCORPORATED)          UNION MINING AND ROOFING COMPANY.</p>

In 1902 Jesse is at the same home address but he's become a distiller. (Miss Annie L. Voight is a daughter of Robert P. Voight who became old enough to have her own listing.)

<p><b>THE LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY OF VIRGINIA</b> Issues All The Most Approved Forms of Life Insurance Contracts from \$500 to \$10,000 with Premiums Payable Quarterly, Semi-Annually and Annually.          VIRGINIA (486) VIRGINIA  <b>The Berkley Coal and Ice Co., SAM'L C. PHILLIPS,</b>          UP-TO-DATE          FURNITURE and CARPET HOUSE</p>	<p><b>COAL!</b> The Nottingham &amp; Wrenn Co., <b>COAL!</b>          VIRGINIA (607) VOIGHT  <b>STIEFF</b>  <b>PIANOS</b>  <b>METROPOLITAN MARKET.</b>          WHERE GROCERIES ARE RETAILED AT WHOLESALE PRICES.          114-116 FINE ST. STREET, PHONE TO 48-45</p>
<p><b>Voight Annie L Miss, h 222 Bute</b>  <b>Voight Jesse T, distiller h 601 w Brambleton av</b>  <b>Voight R P &amp; Co (Robt P Voight and Chas T Ingram), who grocers 184-186 Water</b></p>	
<p>John Roofing and Cornice Co. Slaters, Tiles, Tin, Sheet and Asphalt. Manufacturers and Dealers in...          VIRGINIA HORSE SHOEING CO., 37 Union, M E Walker propr          Virginia Hosiery Mills (The), Lambert's Point, Augustus M Bowling pres; Fred M Killiam v-pres; Bert E Ritter sec; Wm F Bowling treas and mgr  <b>WILLIAM FREEMAN,</b>          The Leading  <b>PHOTOGRAPHER,</b>          346 Main St. New 'Phone 53.          We make all kinds of Picture Frames.</p>	<p>Virginia Lumber and Improvement Co, 22 Bank, Herman L. Page sec-treas          Virginia Land and Lumber Co, 12 City Hall av, Edward Schilder pres; Milton P Jones sec; Jno Seip treas          Virginia Mutual Bldg and Loan Assn, 303 Taylor Bldg, Andrew F Armstrong mgr  <b>DR. W. W. FREEMAN,</b>          ALBANY DENTAL PARLORS.          FIRST-CLASS DENTAL WORK OF ALL KINDS.          Palace Extension of York with Vitallized Air.          374 MAIN STREET.</p> <p>Virginia State Ins Co of Richmond, 261 Main          *Virginia Steam Dye Works, 66 Loyal's la, Malque Bridgers mgr          Virginia Steamship Line, 21 Halden-ton Bldg, Furness, Witby &amp; Co (Ld) agts          * &amp; Co local agts          Voight Annie L Miss, h 222 Bute          Voight Jesse T, distiller h 601 w Brambleton av          Voight R P &amp; Co (Robt P Voight and Chas T Ingram), who grocers 184-186 Water          PHONES: 80, BELL (LONG DISTANCE) 1222, 281, 282.  <b>S. HETH TYLER</b>          Attorney at Law and Notary Public          Room 11 Lombard Building, NORFOLK, VA.</p> <p><b>JEFFRIES &amp; LAWLESS,</b>          ATTORNEYS AT LAW,          ROOM 2100,          CITEENS BANK BUILDING.</p> <p><b>City National Bank,</b>          OF NORFOLK, VIRGINIA.          A. S. EDGE, President          JOHN L. KYLE, Vice President          S. W. LEE, Cashier          P. A. PORTER, Assistant Cashier</p>





## JOHN T. VOIGHT AND NANCY JANE ROGERS FAMILY STORY



John T. Voight's headstone, left, is in the family plot on John and Nancy's former Cherry Grove Farm in Whaleyville, VA. While we don't know for certain where Nancy was buried, she may be in one of the unmarked graves there. More information and photos are located in the Cherry Grove Farm folder on the Voight Family Roots CD, within the folder for John T. Voight and Nancy J. Rogers Family.

Below: descendents of John T. Voight and Nancy Jane Rogers visit the cemetery in Whaleyville VA and pay their respects in November, 2012.

These graves are in this cemetery:

Oscar L. Voight (1876-1912)  
Alice U. Voight (1875-1942)  
W. K. Voight (1907-1909)  
James M. Voight (1861-1880)  
John T. Voight (1832-1899)  
And two more graves with missing headstones.



Aerial view of the Voight family cemetery, in Suffolk County, Virginia, off Greenway Road (AKA County Road 673) near Cherry Grove Road and the North Carolina state line.



## JOHN T. VOIGHT AND NANCY JANE ROGERS FAMILY STORY

In the Twentieth Century all the Voight sons left the country for life in the cities of Norfolk and Portsmouth, a world away from the Cherry Grove Farm, Gates County and the Great Dismal Swamp. They were part of the farm-to-city migration of the Industrial Revolution. Large country families were running out of land. Cherry Grove Farm supported John and Nancy and their children. But they had 54 grandchildren (at last count) and that many people would make a small village. It was also time to widen the gene pool, since by 1900 most of the neighbors in Nansemond County and Gates County were some kind of cousins. Even if some of the Voight boys married women from close to home, the next generation would choose their mates from a larger gene pool.

Jesse T. Voight, John B. Voight and Oscar Leroy Voight were known distillers from the turn of the Century until (and into) Prohibition. Joseph Voight kept a low profile regarding his occupation, telling his children that he “made pickles.” Grandchildren of William Henry Voight and John B. Voight and grandchildren of Joseph Voight’s sister-in-law Ollie Morris also heard about the Voight pickle business, but I’ve searched without success to find any record of it. I found ads for Voight brand flour, but no pickles.

The Voight brothers had a reputation as “movers and shakers” in Norfolk before Prohibition. In a 2013 conversation with William Henry Voight’s grandson Melvin Liles, 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 is 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 Liles also reported that three of the Voight brothers together weighted 1,000 pounds. That would be Oscar and John, who were big men. But who was the third heavyweight? Maybe the third 300 pound sibling was the sister Emily. Their photos are available in their chapters of the Voight Roots.

Mel added that the Voights sold whiskey wholesale in 55 gallon barrels for which they had a wagon specially made to haul the whiskey into town. Mel's grandfather Charles Liles drove the wagon for the Voights and that's how he met Mel's grandmother Emma Voight.

Finally Mel mentioned hearing that the Voight brothers had a pickle business. 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 produce some pickled people.



JOHN T. VOIGHT AND NANCY JANE ROGERS FAMILY STORY

DESCENDENTS OF JOHN AND NANCY VOIGHT GATHERED IN NOVEMBER 2012



THE WHITE POST FARM, CORAPEAKE, GATES COUNTY, NC



OUR VEHICLES HAD A PARTY IN THE DRIVEWAY



**SHARON THOMPSON**, Granddaughter of John B Voight

**STEVE ANDREWS**, Husband of Vicki Winborne Andrews, G-G Grandson-In-Law of Sallie Voight White

**JOHN WINBORNE**, Great Grandson of Sallie Voight White

**LYNETTE WHITE**, Our Gracious Hostess and the Great-Granddaughter of Sallie Voight White

Lynette's Daughter **LAUREN**, Great-Great Granddaughter of Sallie Voight White



JOHN T. VOIGHT AND NANCY JANE ROGERS FAMILY STORY



**GAYLE WINBORNE**, Wife of John Winborne & Great-Granddaughter-In-Law of Sallie Voight White  
**VICKI WINBORNE ANDREWS**, Great-Granddaughter of Sallie Voight White  
**JUDY WINBORNE WHITE**, Great-Granddaughter of Sallie Voight White  
**THOMAS PAUL WHITE**, Grandson of Sallie Voight White



**KAYE HOLLOWELL BARKER**, Great-Granddaughter of Emily Julia Voight Mathias  
**BETTY EVANS**, Great-Granddaughter of Sallie Voight White  
**JACKIE BALLANCE**, Granddaughter of Joseph Voight  
**JANIE EVANS**, Great-Granddaughter-In-Law of Sallie Voight White  
**GENE VOIGHT**, Grandson of Oscar Leroy Voight

JOHN T. VOIGHT AND NANCY JANE ROGERS FAMILY STORY



Calling on William J and Nell Hollowell: Back Row – **BETTY EVANS, LYNETTE WHITE & KAYE BARKER**  
Front Row- (Four Second Cousins) **THOMAS P WHITE, JACKIE BALLANCE, WILLIAM J HOLLOWELL & GENE VOIGHT.** William Hollowell is a grandson of Emily Julia Voight Mathias.



Calling on **BILL HENRY**, grandson of William Henry Voight, and his wife **CAROL** at their home in Chesapeake VA, Nov 10, 2012.



Calling on **FITZHUGH LEE CORBITT JR** & his wife **PATRICIA** at home in Portsmouth, VA, Nov 11, 2012; **FITZHUGH** is the grandson of Ella Voight Corbitt.