Spouse & Children

Lillian Caroline Morris (1883-1949)

Jessie Marie Voight (1909-1992) III

Martha Ellen Voight (1913-1927)

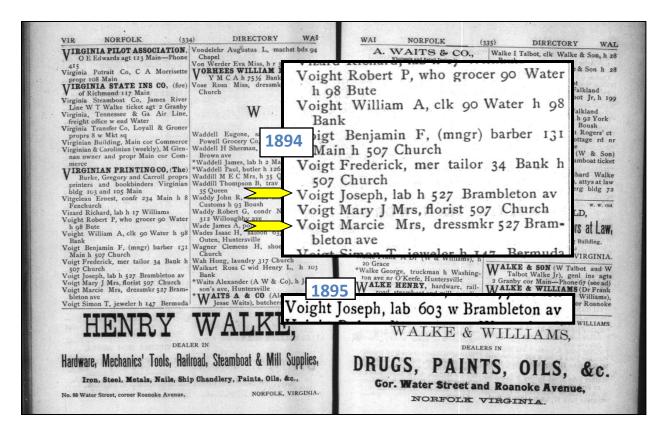
Joseph Voight Sr

Death 31 May 1929 in Norfolk, VA

Birth 1 May 1865 in Nansemond County, VA

Spouse & Children

Margie (1868-1907)	Joseph Voight Jr (1916-1942) 💵
Louise Voight (1900-191	8) Lillian Louise Voight (1919-1974) 🗷
This chapter has been updated February 2	2014. Marion Jane Voight (1922-1968)
Moi fit felien I B8 M M Sammer Saway & 31 & M Kinking house - Milliam & 14 14 M Morks on farm - Leara & 11 & M - James M 9 M M - Cincily & Y & M - James M 9 M M - James M 9 M M - James M 9 M M - Line & J M M - James M J M M	Left: In July 1870 "Josephus" Voight is 5 years old, the fifth child of the seven living children of John T. and Nancy J. Voight. He was actually the seventh baby born of 13 total known children – truly the Middle Child in the family.
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led and Reduct 18 10 m lander from	John J Yought Wm 48
	Rancy J. W + 38
	Leroah 71 VV > 30
	Inlin m W + 16
Right:	Joseph Wm/4
In the census of 1880,	Desse Wm 12
Joseph is 14 years old and the eldest son	Edla Wit 9
still at home.	Elizabeth No. 7
	0.0
	John Why 5
	derry VV To 2

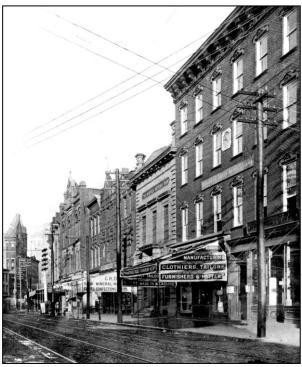


In 1894 Joseph had turned 29 years old, moved to Norfolk and married. He & his wife "Marcie" lived at 527 West Brambleton. We find that he was a "laborer" & she was a dressmaker.

Apparently Marcie (aka "Margie") got her own listing because she was an entrepreneur who had a sewing business in their home. Joseph and his wife lived not far from two of Joseph's first cousins – the brothers Robert P. Voight, a successful wholesale grocer, and Wm A. Voight, a clerk for the grocery business. Robert and William Voight are sons of Joseph's Uncle Andrew Voight.

In the 1895 Norfolk city directory Joseph is listed, but not his wife, and he is at a new address, 603 W Brambleton.

Right: Main St. in Norfolk in 1895, the very same time that Joseph and Margie were living in downtown Norfolk.



Somehow Joseph and Margie escaped the census of 1900 and Joseph disappears from the city directories for more than a decade. We know that their daughter Louise was born around 1900, so the girl was only about seven years old when her mother died in 1907. Margie Voight is

buried in the Elmwood Cemetery in Norfolk and her grave is the only one in the family plot with a stone, now very worn and hard to read:

MARGIE
Wife of
Jos. Voight
Died Dec ?? 1907
Aged 39 Years

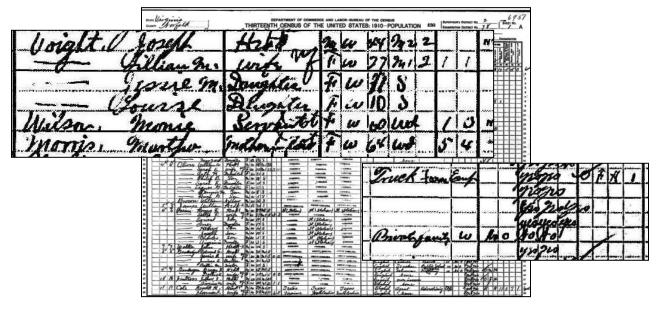
Not long after Margie died, the 42 year old widower sought a step-mother for his young daughter and within a few months he chose 21 year old Lillian Caroline Morris from Princess Anne County. Records show that they were married in NC in 1908. According to a great niece from Lillian's extended Morris family, Marian Martin of Asheville, NC, Lillian's mother and sisters thought that Lillian had made a good catch. Joseph Voight was a settled man with money, farmland and a home he owned free and clear. Lillian could expect a comfortable life. Marian Martin's mother told a story of dining at the Voights and being impressed when they were served white asparagus! – something considered very fancy and, obviously, memorable.

The census of April 1910 finds Joseph and Lillian living in the Tanners Creek section of Norfolk with the now-ten-year-old daughter Louise, Lillian's sixty-four year old widowed mother Martha Morris, and a new baby, 10 month old Jessie Marie. There is also a servant, Marie Wilson, living in the home. Joseph gives his occupation as "truck farmer." (Did he grow that white asparagus?)





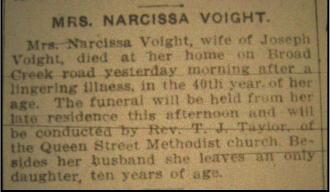
Lillian C. Morris Voight, 1909



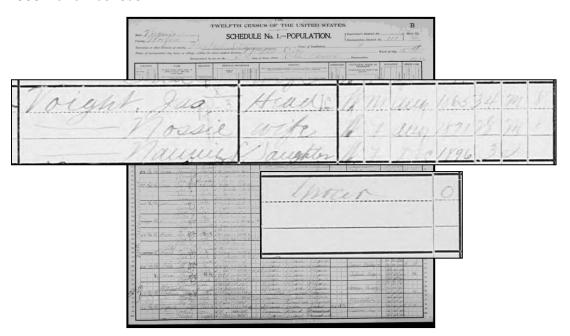
More information about Joseph Voight's first wife surfaced in 2013. Our cousin-in-law and genealogy maven, Janie Evans from Chesapeake VA, found this December, 2007, death notice

for Mrs. Narcissa Voight in the Norfolk *Virginian-Pilot* archives.

Mrs. Narcissa Voight must be the same person as "Margie" Voight, the first wife who has a headstone in the family plot at Elmwood cemetery in Norfolk. Even though the cemetery has interment cards under both names, Margie and Narcissa, it is highly unlikely that they are not the same person. Each woman was the "wife of Joseph Voight." They were the same age



and both died in December 1907. Records show each left a ten year old daughter and no other known survivors beyond the husband Joseph and the one child. It's got to be the same person. Consider the name "Narcissa," and remember that she was "Marcie" in the 1894 Norfolk City Directory. If she used a nickname like "Narcie," spoken with a proper Southern drawl, it could sound like "Marcie" and morph into "Margie." It could even sound like "Nossie" – as found in the 1900 Norfolk census.



If this census record belongs to our Joseph Voight and Narcissa/Nossie, then the daughter "Nannie" is close to the right age to be Louise. We don't know Louise's middle name – it could have been "Nancy" after her grandmother Nancy Voight (who was nicknamed "Nannie"). There are many instances in this family where a person used one name in early childhood and switched names as they grew. There's a good chance this census record is Joseph, Narcissa and Nannie-Louise. It's far from 100% sure, but I think it's definitely a very strong possibility.

There were only 323 families in Tanners Creek in the 1910 census and there are no street names or numbers given. It was in Norfolk, but it was rural. Tanners Creek is known today as the Lafayette River, "a placid tributary of the Elizabeth River." In 1854, a local paper described it as a "deep and beautiful branch of the Elizabeth, extending through thousands of acres of timbered land; while along its picturesque margin are some handsome and well cultivated farms." The waterway has had a



colorful history since the days when the Chesopian Indians hunted and fished along its banks. There's a short and interesting "Tanners Creek History" in Joseph's folder on the Voight Family Roots CD. Photo of Tanners Creek circa 1915, in the era when the Voights had a farm there.

Below right: A clipping from the January 5, 1909, Newport News *Daily Press:* Joseph's daughter Louise made the social pages of the paper when she returned from a visit to Lillian Voight's sister Mrs. Claud Wood, (AKA Mattie Morris Wood.) Ada Wilson might be related to the servant Marie Wilson. Someone had to go along as an escort for the young Louise. The Claud

and Mattie Wood family lived across the Hampton Roads waters in Newport News. Did Louise and Ada take the ferry between Norfolk and Old Point Comfort?

Misses Ada Wilson and Louise Voight, who have been visiting at the home of Mrs. Claude Wood returned to their homes in Norfolk.

have Cottage, Ocean View. during Diggs's week are: the past Richmond; Mr. and Mrs. S. Norfolk; R. A. Mann, Miss H. M. Bryant, Richmond; Dr. and Mrs. C. Fries, Norfolk; Oscar Miskend, New York; Fred H. Craig, Edwin F. Diggs, Richmond; C. F. Harris, Miss Estelle Fuller, Coronaca, S. C.; Mr. and Mrs. T. G. Hayes, Gatesville, N. C.; E. H. Hughes, Staunton; Mr. and Mrs. R. B. Wilson, Miss Mary Burnley Wilson, Chas. T. Williams, Nort Richmond; Talbott >Mr. and Mrs. Voight, Miss Louise Volght, Mrs. Martha Morris, Norfolk; Mr. and Mrs.

Left: another entry in the social pages, this time in the Richmond *Times-Dispatch*, on Monday, July 4, 1910: Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Voight, Miss Louise Voight and Mrs. Martha Morris vacationed at Ocean View on the Fourth of July. How long did they stay? Did they leave the baby Jessie at home or just not mention her?



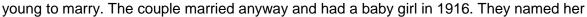
Right: Louise Voight, 1909

Right: Jessie Marie Voight, approx. age 2, circa 1911

Photo courtesy of the Lassiter family

The Norfolk City Directories from 1911 through 1918 list Joseph Voight once at 428 East 26th Street, then at 221 East 26th Street, in the Park Place neighborhood, maybe a mile from the banks of Tanners Creek. From 1911 to 1915 Joseph gives his occupation as "lumber"- indicating that he had some work or business related to the lumber industry. No occupation is given in 1916. In 1917 and 1918 he's a "farmer" again. His brothers were distillers.

Around 1915 Joseph's first child, the daughter Louise, wed Clarence Porter Wright. Family lore has it that Joseph objected to the match because he thought she was too





Margaret, probably after Clarence's mother. Louise died October 13, 1918, in the famous influenza pandemic that killed healthy young adults in disproportionate numbers. She died in her father's home so we know they did not become permanently estranged after she married "against his will." (Father Joseph was the "Informant" on her death certificate, not husband Clarence.) Perhaps Louise and Clarence had even made their home under the Voight roof. It was common for young couples to live with parents then. Or perhaps Louise came back home to get care for herself and the baby when she was so sick. Clarence could have been extremely ill, too.

Louise's baby, Margaret Wright, was next seen living with her father's sister, her aunt Effie Wright Williamson in the 1920 census, right.

Williamson	Custis	Hedd 1
	Effic	Wife
	, Dorthy	Daughter
Wright	, mangret	hiere

Clarence Wright was found in Roanoke in 1920, first as a boarder with the Hall family in the January 1920 census where he's a spinner in a silk mill and he calls himself "single."

tunght	Clarence	Brande		m w	26	5
	Spine	Lil	k 1	mil	AL	/

Then Clarence married Richetta Cole in time to be listed as a couple in the 1920 Roanoke City Directory. He got a new job as a brakeman for the railroad. Little Margaret probably joined her father and stepmother when they got settled.

Wright Clarence P (Richetta), brakeman h 115 Denniston av, Va Hts

In the 1930 census Margaret was living in Victoria, VA with her father, her step-mother, and 2 half-brothers, Clarence P. Jr. and Thomas C. Her middle initial is "N" – for Narcissa? or Nannie?

Wright Clarence P	Head	0	3500	R	no	M	W	34	M	24	No
- Righetta C.	Wife-H				V	F	W	34	M	14	no
margaret n	Dangeliter				V	F	W	13	S		you
Claime P. fr	Don				1	M	W	9	S		THE
- Phomas C.	Han				V	M	W	9	3		yes

Margaret was missing from the Wright family group in the 1940 census.

A family member of Margaret's nephew, Clarence Porter Wright III, reports that their Aunt Margaret Wright became a school teacher and lived in Newport News. She never married and she died "around 1990." She remained close to her half-brothers and their children. They never knew about her Voight family history. Perhaps she didn't know much, either. (See addendum.)

Getting back to Joseph - In the 1920 census Joseph and Lillian Voight are counted again in the Tanners Creek section of Norfolk (did they ever really leave?) with their children and some new extended family members. Daughter Jessie is age 10 and three more children are recorded:

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		١	IAME	OF INSTITUTION[Insert name of insti	tution, if any, and indicate	the li	ales on	which	the enti	iles are n	nade. S
	LACE O	F ABO	DE.	NAME	RELATION.	TE	NURE.	1	ERSONAL	DESCRIPT	DON.
itreet, avenne, road, etc.	Monae number or farth, etc. (See Instruc- tions.)	Num- ber of dwell- ing house in order of vis- tintion.	Num- ber of family in order of vis- liation.	of each person whose place of abode on January 1, 1920, was in this family. Eater surname first, then the given name and middle initial, if any. Include every person living on January 1, 1920. Omit children born since January 1, 1920.	Relationship of this person to the head of the family.	Home owned or rented.	If owned, free or mortgaged.	Ser.	Color or race.	Age at last birth.	Single, married, widowed, or di- vorced.
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Martha age 7, Joseph Jr. age 4, and Lillian age 10 months. The sister-in-law listed, the widow of R.H. Russell, is Lillian C. Voight's sister Nancy Olivia (Morris) Russell. Audrey Russell is her daughter. Olivia's husband had also died in the "Spanish Flu" epidemic of 1918. The 18 year-old nephew John Voight ("J. W"") is the son of Joseph's late brother Oscar Leroy & his wife Alice. It's a

full house! Mother-in-law Martha Morris is gone. She died in 1917. Once again, Joseph Voight calls himself a "truck farmer" and the nephew's occupation is "farm laborer." Their street address looks like "Ingle Siding." ("Ingleside" later becomes an unincorporated place in the Tanners Creek District where Joseph's brother John B. Voight lived at the time of the 1930 census.) Did Joseph ever sell the farm in the years he lived in the Park Place neighborhood? Or did he keep an address "in town" for business purposes? Maybe the family moved back and forth? Could it even be the same place but the name was changed?

Right: Jessie Voight was chosen "Queen of the May" sometime in the 1920's.

A curious and unique entry in the 1923 Norfolk City Directory lists Joseph Voight's address as Broad Creek Road and his occupation as "v-pres Abbott Gwaltney Co," which was a wholesale hay, grain and feed business. By 1925 the Voights moved to their home at 632 Redgate Avenue in the fashionable Ghent neighborhood and Joseph's occupation was "packer." (Packer of what? Grain and feed? Grain alcohol?) In the 1927 city directory Joseph does not list any occupation but for the first time his wife Lillian's name is listed, too. In 1928 he's a "farmer" again.



Joseph's daughter Lillian-Louise told her children that her father



had a successful pickle-canning business, and in the 1930 census Joseph's younger brother John B. Voight indicates his occupation is "pickle salesman." John B. Voight also had a long history of distilling corn whiskey and it's possible that he was a bootlegger during Prohibition. It can make a person wonder if "pickles" was family code for "hooch." Maybe Joseph was a go-between for the family bankers and the family bootleggers. One's imagination can play with the possibilities. Left: 632 Redgate Avenue in Norfolk, the Joseph Voight family home from 1924 – 1929.

Tragedies began to plague the Voight family during the 1920's. The youngest girl Marion Jane, born in1922, was mentally disabled. In 1927 fifteen-year-old Martha died at home from tuberculosis. Joseph himself died in 1929, on the eve of the Great Depression which also hit the family hard. Here's young Martha's obituary:

From the Virginian-Pilot and The Norfolk Landmark, Friday, May 13 1927:

Miss Martha E. Voight, aged 15 died yesterday morning at 8:30 o'clock at the residence of her parents, Joseph and Mrs. Lillian M. Voight, 632 Redgate Avenue. Funeral services will be held tomorrow afternoon at 2:30 o'clock at the residence, with the Rev. Sparks W. Melton, pastor of Freemason Street Baptist Church, officiating.

Miss Voight was born in Norfolk and was a pupil at Blair Junior High School. In addition to her parents, she is survived by three sisters, Misses Jessie, Lillian and Marion Voight; and one brother, Joseph Voight, Jr.

One other memory of her father that daughter Lillian-Louise shared concerns Joseph's incredible powers of concentration. She said that she could play in the same room, right at his feet, but if he was reading his newspaper, nothing she did could distract him. Men of his generation still left all the business of child-rearing entirely up to the wives and other women in the family. So, was he really concentrating on the paper? Maybe he was hard of hearing? Or was he possibly just

ignoring his daughter? As she described the scene, it sounded benign, as if she were happy just to be playing in the same room as her daddy.

Jessie Marie Voight was an honors graduate from Maury High School

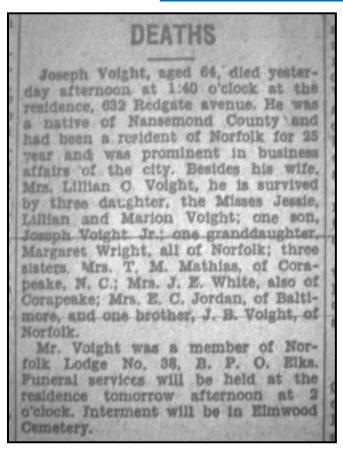
JESSIE MARIE VOIGHT

"Jessie"

"My mind to me a kingdom is."

Jessie's mind is a kingdom that is very rich in the gems of knowledge that many Mauryites do not possess. She is very generous with her jewels, too, and willingly gives them to some of us who are poor in the way that she is wealthy. No wonder Jessie never looks worried—she does not need to worry about lessons.

with a 93 average. These clippings are from the 1926 yearbook, the "Commodore." Jessie went on to attend James Madison College in Harrisonburg, VA.



Joseph Voight died in May 1929. His obituary describes him as "prominent in business affairs of the city." Really? Who knew he was a member of the Elks? That association was significant enough to be mentioned in the obit. We don't really know just what he did besides farming in Tanners Creek. He once admitted to being vice-president of a wholesale feed company. His death certificate reports he was a "manufacturer" and a "merchant." We don't know if, when, why or how he came to sell his farm in Tanners Creek since he still called himself a farmer after the move to Redgate Ave. in urban Norfolk.

Joseph Voight had lung cancer and probably knew that he was dying, so he had some time to make financial plans for his family. It was the Roaring Twenties. He must have thought the stock market was a safe way to provide for them so he invested. Between Joseph's death in May of 1929 and the Great Crash five months later, his 46 year old widow and

the surviving children were left to rely on their own resources in hard times. The oldest daughter Jessie had to leave college to go to work. Joseph Jr., Lillian-Louise and Marion Jane were all still in school.

Before the 1930 census, Lillian and her children moved from their house to an apartment nearby on Westover Av., where they paid \$60/month rent. They owned a radio. Jessie worked as a clerk (at the James Monroe public school and in 1931 in the Registrar's office for the Norfolk campus of the College of William and Mary). She was the only family member with an income, though they got financial help from taking in a roomer. Lillian Derry was a music teacher for the

ight delean c	Head	R FLa	210	7	w.	44	-	none.	School
- Jusi m_	daughter		_ X	12	W	30	0	home	V 373V-V
- Joseph Jr	1000		<u> </u>	1/2	w	14	-	none.	-
- delland	laughter		- - V	17	W	9	8	none	
Jerry Lillian m	Reman		V	7	w	22	5	Learney	School

In 1930 and 1931 Lillian Derry, Jessie's best friend from their school days, lived with the Voight family. She must have provided emotional support as well as financial help for the Voights. Miss Derry had lost her own mother when she was only a baby and Lillian C. Voight had been a surrogate mother to her while she was growing up. Just imagine, three Lillians living in one household!

Lillian C. Voight and her brood moved a lot during the Depression.

From the city directories we find the following addresses recorded:

1930 423 Westover Avenue apt 2

1931 1321 Rockbridge Ave

1933 624 W Princess Anne Rd

1934 717 Maury Av

1936 3224 Dunkirk Av Jos is a lugger for Armour & Co

1937 3224 Dunkirk Jos is a chauf for Armour & Co

1938 3224 Dunkirk Jos is a shipper for Armour & Co

1939 3224 Dunkirk Jos is a chauf for Cudahy Pkg Co

& Lillian L is a slswn @ WGSCo.

In 1933 Jessie and her new husband Cornelius Lassiter shared a home with Lillian C. Voight and the family. In 1933 Jessie also gave birth to her own first child, daughter Cornelia. Certainly Jessie



3224 Dunkirk Av, Norfolk

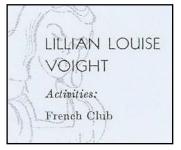
and Neil were emotionally and financially helpful, too. The 1936 listing shows Joseph Jr. was finished with school and had a job. And in 1939 we see that Lillian-Louise was also working.

Daughter Lillian-Louise graduated from Maury High School in 1937. Then she worked as

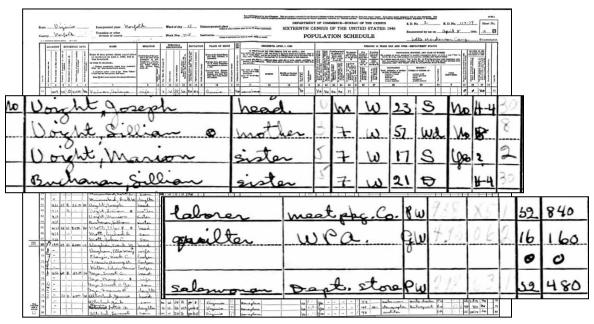


Photo from the 1937 "Commodore"

a saleswoman at the W.G. Schwartz Co., a department store where Lillian Derry's brother was a manager - coincidence? About 1939 Lillian-Louise married a sailor named Buchanan. She used her maiden name in the 1939 and 1941 City Directories, indicating that the marriage was very, very brief. Lillian-Louise was divorced already in the 1940 Census. She had moved back home with her mother



and soon resumed using her maiden name. She also enrolled in a business college program. After she learned typing, shorthand and bookkeeping she got an office job in Norfolk.



In the 1940 census 23 year old Joseph Jr. has been promoted to Head of Household. The family lives at 431 W 20th Street where they pay \$20/month rent for quarters in a 2-family house owned by the other occupant, a widow named Ethel Mott. Joseph has finished 4 years of high school. Though he's not listed in the Maury High "Commodore" after his junior year, he might have finished in an alternative program for working men, like a night school. Lillian C Voight had 8 years of schooling and Lillian Buchanan, the 21 year old divorcee, finished high school. The census indicates that 17 year old Marion is still in school, though that looks like a question mark in the column for number of years of school actually completed. Joseph is listed as a laborer for Cudahy meat packers. He reports earning \$840 in 1939. His mother Lillian C Voight is a quilter for the WPA and she earned \$160 in 1939. Lillian "Buchanan" works as a saleswoman in a department store where she earned \$480 in 1939.

Voight Albert sismn r418 W Olney rd

"Albert S city firemn r1301 Brambleton av
"Annie L r623 Fairfax av apt 3
"Chas L (Mattie M) genl agt Philadelphia & Nfk
SS Co h1515 Maury Crescent
"Chas L ir cl lab NNYd r131 Greenwood (N)

"Ethel L (wid John B) h731 Maltby av
"Hugh A clk r1515 Maury Crescent
Jos yd brkmn N&WRy r431 W 20th
Lillian C (wid Jos) h431 W 20th
Lillian L slswn W G Swartz Co r431 W 20th
"Morris L (Edith M) chauf Southgate Trucking
Co r731 Maltby av
"Paul E (Elsie J) formn VaE&PCo h2006 Maryland av (EFPk)
"R Stedman (Mary P) h623 Fairfax av apt 3
"Raleigh L clk VaE&PCo r731 Maltby av
"Wm J (Eugenia A) bkpr Southern Salt Co h3212
Brest av

In the 1941 Norfolk city directory Joseph Voight, Lillian C. and Lillian L. are all listed at 431 W 20th Street. Joseph is now a yard brakeman for the Norfolk & Western Railway. Lillian L Voight is still a saleswoman for WG Schwartz Co. Working in the railroad yards was probably more lucrative and glamorous work for Joe than working for meat packers. But rail yards were very dangerous places and the brakeman's job was an especially

dangerous occupation. In February 1942 Joseph Voight Jr. was crushed to death in a freak accident at work. He was only 25 years old.

There are no surviving photos of Joseph Voight Junior. But we have a hint of his appearance in the following email and photo from Joseph Voight's Lassiter granddaughters.

"Thursday, March 3, 2011 11:18 AM

From: Martha Farmer To: Jackie Ballance

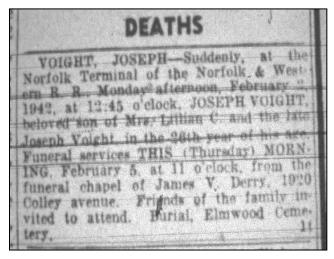
Dear Jackie:

I just talked to Connie and we both agreed that we have very few memories of Uncle Joe. Connie said that she thought he looked like George Clooney. I am sorry that I can't remember that. The best Connie can remember is that he died in the early 1940s. She would have been 8 to 10 years old. She remembers reading his obit in the paper. Maybe you can get information from the paper. Marion was occasionally at Grandmother Voight's when we visited. She was not there every time. She had some mental handicap. She was not pretty like Lillian and Jessie. We have no photos."



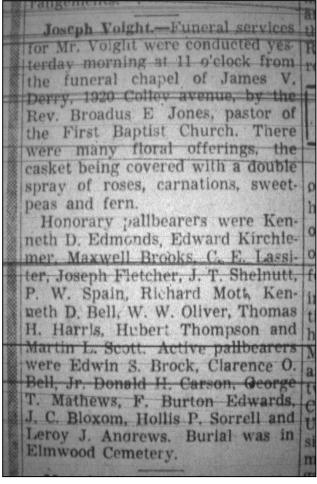
Jackie, Fred and Bruce Rickabaugh, circa 1960

Connie found this picture in the fall of 2011. She said that in this photo Bruce bears a strong resemblance to her memory of our Uncle Joseph Voight Jr. Close enough to George Clooney???



Joseph Junior's death meant the end of the Voight name in Joseph Voight's line. His death was also another deeply personal loss as well as a financial hardship for Lillian C. Voight. As the only son he had been admired and adored by his sisters, too. Joe's tragic death seems like a final blow that fractured the family spirit.

Soon after Joe Junior's death Lillian C. Voight started working outside the home for the very first time at age 59. She found a job in the yard goods department of Snyder's Department Store.





The youngest daughter Marion spent most of the 1940's in The Colony, a state facility "for the feeble-minded" in Lynchburg, where she was sterilized because of her "mental deficiency" although there's evidence that she was able to read and write. It is not clear by today's diagnostic standards exactly what was "wrong" with Marion. She visited her mother in Norfolk frequently enough that Lillian C. Voight kept Marion's name listed at home with her in the Norfolk City directories throughout the decade. We have some interesting correspondence concerning Marion, copied from her medical records at The Colony, including letters from her mother. They are in Marion's folder (inside Joseph's folder) on the CD.

Lillian C. Voight moved just once more. Sometime during WW II she relocated to 506 West 30th Street in Norfolk. She had the upstairs apartment in a two-family house within easy walking distance of a couple nieces and a nephew from the family of Joseph Voight Senior's sister Sallie White. Lillian-Louise lived with her mother until she married another sailor, Jack M. Rickabaugh from Altoona, Pennsylvania. Lillian Rickabaugh still lived with her mother until 1946 while Jack served in the Pacific Theater of the war and the occupation of Japan. Marion came home from The Colony for regular visits. Lillian C. Voight continued to work at Snyder's selling yard goods.

Jessie Marie and
Lillian-Louise with their
children at the Lassiter
home in Rich Square, North
Carolina, circa 1947. Left to
right: baby Bruce
Rickabaugh held by
Cornelia Lassiter, Jessie
Marie Voight Lassiter, and
Lillian-Louise Voight
Rickabaugh with Jackie
Rickabaugh in her arms.







Her Rickabaugh grandchildren called Lillian C. Voight "Meemaw." This 1947 snapshot, far left, is the only picture of Lillian C Voight we have besides the 1909 photo. Here she's hiding in the shadows trying to avoid having her picture taken. The little girl sitting in front is her granddaughter Jackie Rickabaugh. The shadow on the edge of the photo is Jack Rickabaugh bending over his camera. The photograph was enhanced, near left, to get the close up of Lillian C. Voight pointing her finger at her son-in-law. What was she telling him?

In November 1949 Marion Voight was discharged from The Colony home to her mother as "improved." Only a few weeks later, on Christmas Eve, Lillian C. Voight died suddenly at home, probably from a heart attack or stroke. It's hard to imagine Marion's emotional reaction after finally being released from the institution, after nine long years there, and returning home to her nurturing mother, only to lose her mother and her home so soon and so unexpectedly.

Mrs. Lillian Caroline Voight, 67, died suddenly at her residence, 508 West 30th Street, Saturday afternoon at 1:30, December 24, 1949.

She is survived by three daughters, Miss Marion Voight of Norfolk; Mrs. Lillian Voight Rickabaugh, of Portsmouth; Mrs. Jessie Voight Lassiter, of Rich Square, N.C., and five grandchildren.

Mrs. Voight was a native of Princess Anne County and had resided in Norfolk for the past 44 years. She was a clerk in the L. Snyder Department Store for the past eight years.

Funeral services will be conducted in the James V. Derry Funeral Chapel Monday morning at 11 o'clock. Burial will be in Elmwood Cemetery.

Lillian Voight's death notice, left, and her funeral report, below.

From The Norfolk Virginian-Pilot, Dec 27, 1949: Lillian Caroline Voight

Funeral services for Mrs. Voight, who died Saturday, were conducted at the James V. Derry Funeral Chapel yesterday at 11 a.m. by the Rev. C. H. Strong, pastor of the Central Church of the Nazarene. Pallbearers were E. H. Harrell, P. H. Holland, Roger Holland, William Henry, Chester Powell and Ralph M. Brown. Burial was in Elmwood Cemetery.

Note on the pallbearers: E.H. Harrell, the two Holland men and Chester Powell are all from the family of Joseph's sister Sallie White. William Henry is the son of Joseph's oldest brother William. Ralph Brown is the husband of Lillian Derry Brown, who, as already mentioned, was like another daughter in the family. The funeral director, James V. Derry, was Lillian Derry's father.

Marion disappeared from family memories after her mother's death. She didn't go to live with either of her sisters. Perhaps at 27 she wanted her independence. Records show that Marion was married to Walter D. Williamson in Norfolk in 1951. Curiously Walter Williamson's uncle Curtis was married to the sister of Clarence Wright, the same Clarence Wright whom Louise Voight had married 35 years earlier. See little Margaret Wright with Effie Wright Williamson and her husband Curtis in the1920 Norfolk census on the sixth page of this chapter. The man Marion married was a nephew of that same Curtis Williamson.

One of Walter's nieces, Connie Williamson Hoff, remembers that Walter and Marion were already separated and were getting a divorce when he died in a motorbike accident in 1955. Walter Williamson was Connie Hoff's favorite uncle. She described him as quiet, kind and gentle. However, Connie described Walter's mother, Annie Heck Williamson, as "domineering." Another relative, Jean Stokes of Norfolk, says that Annie Williamson was "a very mean woman." Years earlier Marion's own mother had described Marion's behavior as out of control. So there was a mean and domineering mother-in-law (Annie) under the same roof as a willful and "uncontrollable" daughter-in-law (Marion.) Poor, quiet, gentle Walter was caught in the middle. It's not a surprise that the marriage didn't work out.

Marion appears with her maiden name in the Lynchburg, VA city directories for 1953 and 1955.

Voigst Marion r317 Harrison Voight Marion B r809 Cabell

So Marion did go "back to Lynchburg," as some family members recall hearing, but she went back to the city, not to the institution. Her sister Lillian Rickabaugh used to send Marion a small

allowance every month, but no one besides the sisters Jessie and Lillian knew what finally happened to Marion, where she went or how she supported herself, until this project. Marion's landlady in 1955 was Mrs. Cecile Dillon, a nurse from the former Colony which was then called the "Lynchburg Training School & Hospital." Maybe she befriended Marion.

Dillon --Cecile H Mrs nurse Lubg Training Sch & Hosp h809 Cabell

	477
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HAME OF PUNERAL WHITTEN FUNERAL HOME, INC.

Marion stayed on in Lynchburg. It was probably a kinder community than Norfolk for someone who was "different."

In February 1962 the "widow" Marion Voight Williamson was married again, to William Thomas Wilson. He was a "dishwasher" and she was a "babysitter." They were married by a minister at the Munford Baptist Church. Inset: William's listing in the 1960 Lynchburg city directory.

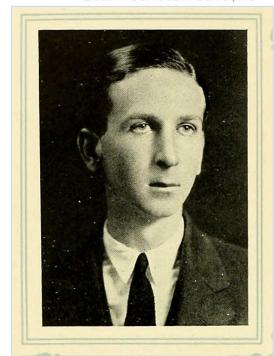
Marion's death certificate shows that she died in the Lynchburg General Hospital on Jan 5, 1968, just 2 days after being admitted with "Sarcoma, original site not determined but with widespread metastases." She had a friend Jack Wooldridge who provided her personal information, but he apparently did not know Marion's parents' names.

She was buried in an unmarked grave in the Tyreeanna Methodist Church Cemetery in Lynchburg. She was only 45 years old.

At least she had nearly twenty years of living independently outside the institution and a chance to live life on her own terms. She knew freedom – with all its joys and pain.

Jessie Marie Voight

Birth 2 Jul 1909 in Norfolk, VA Death 4 Oct 1992 in Garner, NC



CORNELIUS EVERETT LASSITER
Rich Square, N. C.

Degree: B.S., Commerce

L ASSITER often seeks the solitude where he can undisturbedly philosophize on the whys and wherefores of this indeterminate life. He applies himself to his studies with the vim of an Hercules, and never has time for extended conversations.

He is a good student, a good sport and, withal, a good fellow to know. It has been our privilege to meet and know him doing our sojourn here and we rejoice in his acquaintance.

May the fates deal kindly with him, and all good things and marvelous opportunities cross the threshold of his door in the days to come.



Jessie Voight married C.E. Lassiter from Rich Square, NC in 1931. They were intellectual equals and he was that rare man who respected his wife's intelligence. They were well matched and raised their two daughters in a warm and loving home where education was highly valued.

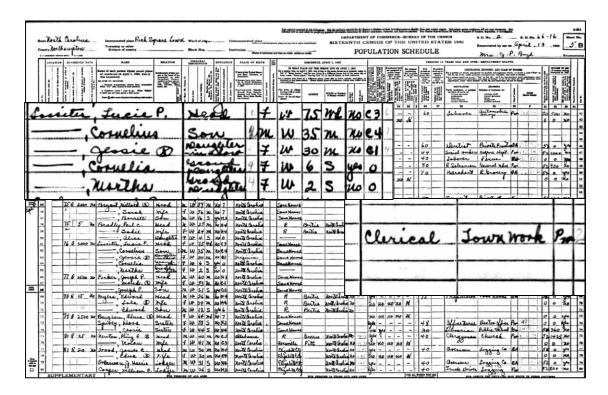
(Clipping left from the 1925 UNC Chapel Hill annual, the Yackety Yack.)



When Jessie saw this picture she said
"I wish I'd mowed the lawn first."

Jessie and Neil met in Norfolk. He lived in her neighborhood after he finished college and went to

work as a clerk for the Seaboard Air Line Railroad. Coincidentally Lillian Derry's future husband Ralph M Brown also worked at the Seaboard Air Line Railroad. (This employment information is found in various city directories.) Jessie Voight and Lillian Derry had been best girlfriends for years. Did the two men who worked together ever double-date with the two Best Friends before both couples were wed in the 30's? Who dated first? Who introduced who to whom? The details of their shared romance are a mystery to muse over.



By 1940 Jessie and Neil have two girls, Cornelia and Martha. The family has moved back to Neil's home in Rich Square NC where they live with his 75 year old widowed mother Tucie



Lassiter who owns her home valued at \$2000. Arathusa "Tucie" Parker Lassiter finished 3 years of college, Cornelius, 4 years and Jessie, one year. Cornelia and Martha will go on to graduate from UNC at Chapel Hill. In 1940 Neil is working as a clerk for the town. He will eventually have his own successful business selling fire, theft and collision insurance in Rich Square.

In 1940 Neil's mother Tucie (photo left taken circa 1914) claimed Head of

Household status in the census record, contrary to the usual custom of listing the eldest male over 18 as the default Head of Household. Tucie was a woman to be reckoned with!

Cornelia "Connie" Lassiter King and Martha Caroline Lassiter Farmer have written a few of their memories of life growing up in Rich Square. All their memoirs are in the Lassiter subfolder of the Joseph Voight folder on the CD. Two of the most colorful stories just happen to involve convicts. These stories are scanned onto the next two pages.

Connie remembers a "surprise visit."

SURPRISE VISIT

Mama, Martha and I had gone to Norfolk, Virginia, to visit my Grandmother Voight for several days. When we got back to Rich Square, Daddy said that the cat had gotten into the house and messed up the carpet. Over the next few days we discovered that Martha's Piggybank of pennies was missing. Gone also were two suits, two shirts and two ties of Daddy's. We also found two striped prison uniforms in the little shed house. Later we were told about two convicts who came through the woods from Tillery, saw our house first, so decided to help themselves. Daddy was downtown playing Checkers and we never locked our doors in those days! The convicts also went downtown to the old hotel in Rich Square, broke in and had their supper, then made a fast getaway in the REA (Rural Electric Association) pickup truck!

And Martha added these words.

Five or 6 years later I was doing homework and Connie came in to read her story she had written for English. In it she told the story of the convicts taking dad's two suits. She also mentioned the 508 pennies missing from her sisters bank. That was the first time I heard of that. Mom and Dad had replaced the 508 pennies . I am sure the convicts loved counting out pennies every time they bought something.

The Lassiter family in Rich Square circa 1950 - left to right, Connie, Cornelius, Martha and Jessie.

Jessie channeled much of her creativity into her sewing. She made nearly all the clothes for herself and the girls.



Martha tells this story that reveals Jessie's strong will and personal power.

I was about 9 years old on a hot summer day when my mother, Jessie called to me.

"Martha, come here!" I immediately ran to her in the front yard of our house in Rich Square, N. C. She was talking to a prison guard in the front yard which was directly across the street from the state highway maintenance shed.

In the small drainage ditch between our house and the next door neighbor, there were about 12-15 prisoners in their black and white striped coveralls. They had started to "clean" or as Jessie said "enlarge" the ditch. It was about 4:30 PM and the prisoners usually stopped work at 5:00 PM. It was something to do and it kept the prisoners busy. Jessie had another thought about the ditch. She did not want it enlarged. It was private property and she did not mince words. "Get off this lot now". The guard was not going to stand down to a young woman in front of the prisoners. He said "continue." Jessie yelled "stop." I had never known anyone to test my mother's will and did not know it could be done.

The reason she had called me was to bring the water hose to her and turn the water on full tilt, which I did. I was scared to death because the guard had a loaded rifle. Jessie tried to wet the guard but he moved away but she hosed down the prisoners rather well and it did slow down their "cleaning/enlargement" of the ditch. Brave little me, I hopped on my bike and went to tell Daddy to go home while I went to a safe place at my grandmother's.

Needless to say, the ditch was not much enlarged and the prisoners who were hot enjoyed the sprinkling.





Rich Square

Lassiter, Cornelia
A.B. IN HISTORY. YWCA (3, 4); Splash Club (3).





In the Fifties the Lassiter girls went to college, starting at the Women's College of UNC in Greensboro, finishing their degrees

at the Chapel Hill campus. Before the decade was over, they were both married.

Eventually all four Lassiters lived in Raleigh, first Martha, then Connie, finally Jessie and Neil.





When Neil finally retired from his insurance business in the early Seventies, he and Jessie moved to the Raleigh area where both Connie and Martha were already living with their families. This circa 1968 photo shows them with the first 3 of their four grandchildren:

Connie's daughter Lynn and Martha's boys Joe and Jim.

(Martha's youngest, her daughter Caroline, was born later.)



Cornelius Lassiter died October 8, 1982.



always enjoyed a rich, full life of the mind so it seemed especially tragic when she was stricken with Alzheimer's dementia. In truth it is always a cruel disease no matter whom it strikes. (Every 68 seconds someone in the U.S. develops Alzheimer's disease. By 2050, an estimated 16 million Americans will be living with Alzheimer's. The staggering projections for the growth of Alzheimer's disease are good reason for concern. Funding for Alzheimer's care, support and research is vital to keep pace with this devastating disease.)

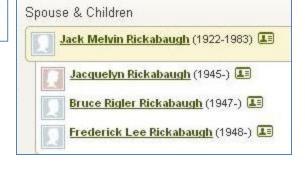
Jessie Voight Lassiter had such a fine intellect and

Jessie Voight Lassiter died October 4, 1992.

JESSIE V. LASSITER. 83, 1101 Heartwell St., Garner, Oct. 4. Arrangements by Bryan Lee Funeral Home.

Lillian Louise Voight

Birth 17 Apr 1919 in Norfolk, VA Death 21 Oct 1974 in Elwood, IN





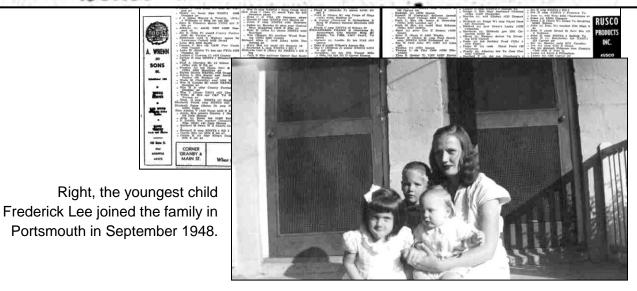


Lillian-Louise had her portrait taken at the Avedon Studios in Norfolk. While Jack Rickabaugh was on duty flying blimps for the Navy out of Weeksville, NC in 1944, he saw her picture at the home of a mutual friend and asked to meet that beautiful woman. They were introduced and before he was shipped out to the Pacific Theater of the War, Jack and Lillian eloped to Camden County, North Carolina. They moved to Oklahoma for a short time while Jack took additional training there. When he finally went overseas, Lillian moved back to Norfolk with her mother. Her daughter was born in November 1945 at the Naval Hospital there. The little girl was named Jacquelyn after her absent father who was in Japan with the Occupation forces.

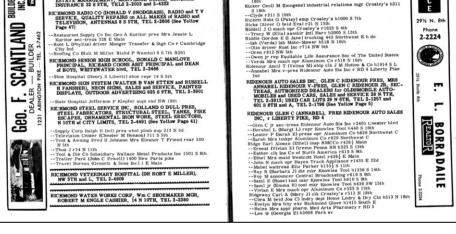
When Jack returned to the States he was stationed briefly at the Naval Air Station in Lakehurst, NJ before his discharge. The Rickabaughs lived in Toms River, NJ then, for the first time. After his discharge, Jack and Lillian moved to Altoona, PA, where they lived with his parents for a while. Jack worked with his male relatives at the Pennsylvania Railroad shops and for the Altoona *Mirror* newspaper. The second child Bruce Rigler was born in Altoona in January 1947. Then Jack and Lillian moved back to Virginia again where Jack went into the casualty insurance business which continued to move the family around. The Rickabaughs eventually lived in 7 different states and 11 different cities.



Rickabaugh Jack M (Lillian V) agt All State Ins r3439 Westminister dr







In 1955 a new job opportunity that offered more opportunity for advancement took the family from Suffolk to Richmond, IN where they lived until 1960. In Richmond Lillian added Cub Scout Den Mother to her own list of accomplishments.



Left, Jack and Lillian in Richmond, Indiana Easter Sunday, 1957

The family left Richmond in June 1960 for Park Forest, IL, a suburb of Chicago. Then business took them to suburban Akron and Cleveland from February 1962 till August 1963. There was little time for photographs between 1960 and 1963. Making 4 moves in just over 3 years, Lillian was too busy packing and unpacking to pose for a snapshot.

Finally Jack and Lillian moved back to Indiana in August 1963, to a country town called Elwood, where they finally settled down until Lillian died in 1974 after a long battle with breast cancer. In Elwood Lillian was lucky to finally have a chance to make close women friends just at the time when her kids were leaving the nest. Jackie was a National Merit Scholar at Michigan State and Fred won an appointment to the Naval Academy in Annapolis. Bruce was a Vietnam era Navy vet who postponed his own college education for nearly three decades. Lillian also got her dream house in Elwood, a rambling Victorian era home with a working fireplace!



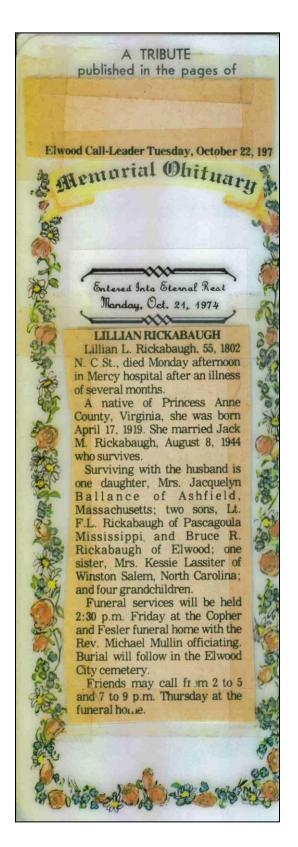


Lillian was only 55 when she died. Elwood, circa 1964, in the back yard with Buddy.

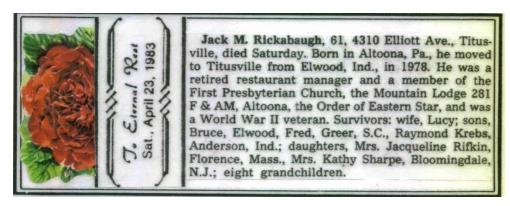


Lillian In front of her fireplace in Elwood with Fred on his Prom Night, 1966.





After Lillian's death Jack Rickabaugh remarried and retired to Titusville, FL, where he died in 1983.



ADDENDA

About those Pickles

Joseph Voight's brothers - 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. 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. 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.

It would seem that "pickles" was what the Voights told their children and the revenuers about the family business. Most of the evidence suggests that the family business was corn whiskey. I suppose their products could have produced some pickled people.

Marion Voight's Last Chapter

In April 1967
Marion was
sent to the
Lynchburg
General
Hospital ER
from the city
clinic for
pneumonia
symptoms. She
had no
insurance and
the inpatient
rate was
\$26/day.

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HENDRICKS. MI	R ANDREW JAC	K	29391-5	PHOS	IK.	EVEN IN MILITARY SERVICE	SOC. SEC. NO.
ELATIONSHIP	618 PEA		LYNCHBURG	OTY	201 211	98/2 Frits	ZIF CODE

While she was there she was diagnosed with cancer, probably lymphoma. She was accompanied by Jack Hendricks with whom she had been living as husband and wife though they were not legally married. After two divorces, and unable to have children, maybe she didn't see any reason for another marriage. Jack had worked as a shipping clerk for Kern's Bakery for the previous 7 months.

It was financially fortunate that their union wasn't legal, however, because Jack – who objected to taking welfare - was therefore unable to stop the hospital's billing department from referring Marion's account for public funding. Marion's religion of record was Methodist.

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Because Jack also objected to sending Marion to the University Hospital in Charlottesville for a more complete workup, she received both outpatient care and inpatient radiation therapy for the cancer in Lynchburg.

Marion's final hospitalization reveals new information. Marion and Jack moved from Pearl Street to Federal Street in the last 6 months of her life. The hospital now knows that they are not married. Instead of calling herself a "housewife" Marion's occupation is "Domestic" and she does "domestic work...for Mr. Jack Hendricks when well." There's a neighbor's phone number given to use to contact Jack. Marion now gives her religion as Baptist, and the minister of the Thomas Road Baptist Church is a person to notify. Marion was basically given comfort care and she died 2 ½ days after admission. Marion's information from the Whitten Funeral Home info tells us that Mr. Jack Hendricks took responsibility for her final arrangements. She got a wooden

The Superior	234-0044 - Laura
	Telephone 847-4069
	INFORMATION SHEET – Whitten Funeral Homes, Inc.
20 June Wester	Name in full of Deceased Mass Mass Place of death Miss Name of death Mass Place of death Mass Place of death how long State Mass Community how long State Mass Community how long Color Mass Single Married Widowed Divorced Birthplace Mass Mass Name of employer. Occupation Mass Name of employer. Nature of work.
	No. years engaged in work or profession
	Social Security NoVeteran?War?
	Husband or wife of William Wilson
	Name of father. QNANOWN
	Maiden name of mother
	Hour of death 6:30 P. M. Date 1-5-68 Physician Dr. Growder
	Duration of sickness 6 MONThs
	Return Clothes to FamilyXesNo
	Certificate made. For Doctor's Signature. Permit Secured. Member of Baptist Control Location.
	Officiating pastor(s) Red. Verry Falwell
	Funeral service at Whitten Funcial Home Date Nov. 1-3-68. Hour 3:30. Interment Tyreson was Meth. Church.
	Who will make cemetery arrangements? Vault. NEODEN
	Who attended first call?
	Insurance
	Suit or Dress
	Shall we furnish other clothing?
	Charge to Mr. A.J. Hendricks
	Address 523 Federal St., Lynchburg, Va 245012
	Door spray at Rt. 2 at Home Miss Loura Headhicks
	Member of what organizations?
	In this case notify whom?
	Names of Surviving Relatives:
	Father Deceg sed Address
	Mother
	Children: Addresses: Brothers and Sisters: Addresses:
	Mo EE bassiter, Rich Sq. M.C.
	"J.M. Kichabangh Elwood, Ind.

box and a service at the mortuary with Reverend Jerry Falwell (!) officiating. Fifty programs were printed. The names of her sisters are recorded but her parents are "unknown" and "deceased." A door spray of flowers was sent to the home of Miss Laura Hendricks, suggesting that Jack went to stay with his sister in the days immediately following Marion's death. It's comforting to know that Marion did not die alone or unloved in her last days. Even though Jerry Falwell officiated at her funeral service, Marion was buried elsewhere, at the Tyreeanna United Methodist Church, shown here, near Lynchburg, VA.







The Tyreeanna United Methodist cemetery is the final resting place of both Marion Jane Voight and her companion Andrew Jackson "Jack" Hendricks, who died in 1972.

Later in 1968, a few months after Marion died, Marion's sister Lillian Rickabaugh made a visit to the sister Jessie Lassiter in Rich Square, NC. It would be the last time the two surviving Voight siblings would be together. As we already saw, Lillian died in Indiana in 1974 and Jessie died in Raleigh in 1992.

Louise Voight's Daughter Margaret Wright

Remember Joseph Voight's first child Louise? Louise was the daughter by Joseph's first wife Margie/Narcissa. Louise died in the flu of 1918 leaving a baby girl named Margaret Wright. Here's Margaret's 1993 obituary. Margaret Wright married Robert Henry about 1958 when she was around 46 years old. It's no surprise that she didn't have children. She died in 1992.

Daily Press (Newport News, VA) - January 1, 1993

Deceased Name: MARGARET WRIGHT HENRY

NEWPORT NEWS - Margaret W. Henry, 76, [widow of Robert M. Henry and] a Peninsula resident most of her life, died Wednesday, Dec. 30.

A native of Victoria, she retired as a primary school teacher after 38 years with Newport News schools. Mrs. Henry was a former member of the Alice Applewhite Garden Club and the James River Country Club and was a member of the American Association of University Women.

She was a member of St. Andrews Episcopal Church.

Survived by a brother, Tommy C. Wright of Victoria.

Visitation from 7 to 8 tonight at Peninsula Funeral Home. Graveside service 11 a.m. Saturday in Peninsula Memorial Park by the Rev. Isabel F. Steilberg.

Joseph Voight's other grandchild, MARGARET WRIGHT HENRY, 1916 – 1993, Photos from St. Andrew's Episcopal Church membership directories, Newport News VA

1982

1971



MR. & MRS. R. M. HENRY



Mr. & Mrs. Robert M. Henry (Margaret)

1988



HENRY, MARGARET

I was so delighted to bee their pictures of margaret and Robert in the first three pictorise directory - I think they are wery good. Thought you Could make a copy and other wend them black. They were week mice people and has glad Luc Mucre meighbors. Hype all is reme with you are these picture heep mit your project. Betty Stages

These photos of Margaret came to us from Betty Hayes, a former acrossthe-street neighbor and friend of Margaret and Robert Henry. Betty and her husband also attended St. Andrew's Episcopal Church when the Henrys were members there.

Betty remembers Margaret and Robert as "lovely people, warm and outgoing," though Robert was a bit quieter. He was a Virginia Tech grad and an engineer in the lab at the Newport News Shipbuilding Co.

Betty fondly remembers one spring when Margaret told her how glad she was that strawberries were finally in, because Robert made the best strawberry shortcake – from scratch.

Naturally Margaret grieved after Robert died December 15, 1984. Margaret told Betty, "I hate to have to take his Christmas presents back..." Her neighbors made a point of looking after Margaret following Robert's death.

Look at these two photos of Cousin Margaret and Aunt Louise, side-by-side.



On the left, a natural and unmade-up looking Margaret Henry in her mid-fifties, from the 1971 church directory. On the right is a photo of Margaret's mother, Louise Voight, in 1909, age ten to twelve. Do you see the resemblance that I think I see??? Eyes, nose and mouth, forehead and chin? Margaret had her mother's face, don't you think? Putting these two pictures together feels like a chance to re-unite Mother and Daughter, even if it's just on paper.