



The Groseclose Family – Pioneering Spirits in America since 1750

Groseclose Family Newsletter

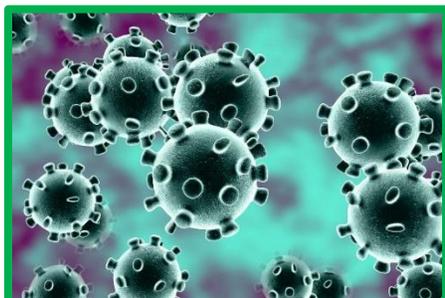
July 2020

The Pandemic & Transformative Times

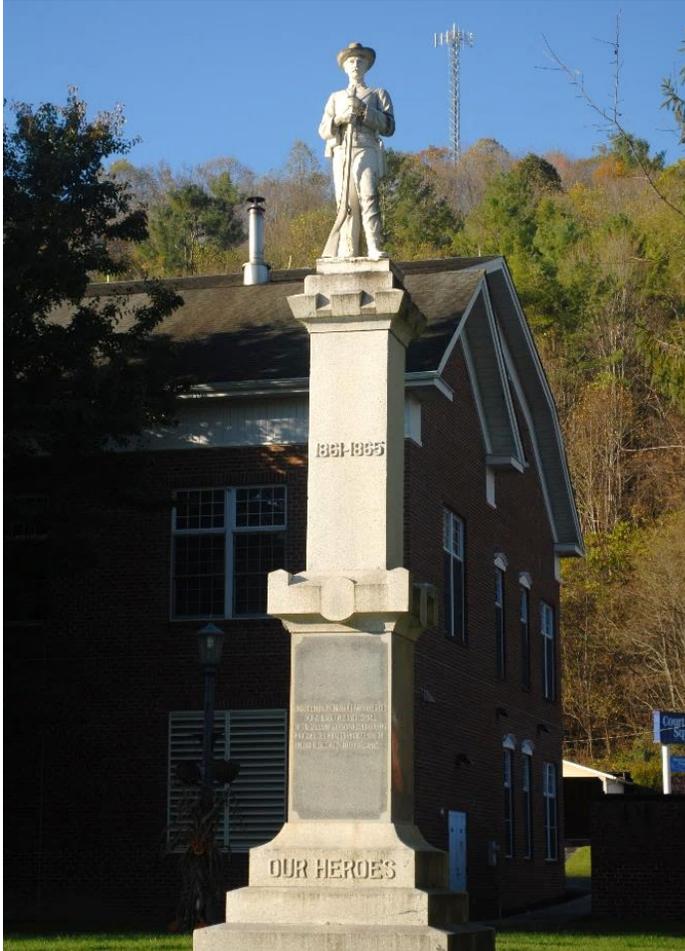
The current year began with bright beginnings: a new year, a new decade, a healthy, growing economy providing ample opportunities for all citizens across the United States to thrive and prosper. Our pursuit of happiness, however, was soon cut short by the still ongoing “China Pandemic,” a truly global attack on human health not experienced since the deadly Spanish Flu a century ago. Reports of Groseclose family members stricken by the covid-19 virus have not reached us. However, some family members are first responders whose service to their local communities and our nation are gratefully acknowledged. In these trying times, whose end will hopefully come before the next Groseclose Family Reunion, June 18-20, 2021, we sincerely pray everyone will remain safe from this scourge. so that we might once again gather to share and discuss our common and individual Groseclose family histories and experiences, beginning principally in Virginia but extending across the country: to Kentucky, Ohio and Indiana; to Arkansas, Oklahoma and Texas; to California, Idaho, and Washington; and to even Alaska and Hawaii.

Also, 2020 seems also to have accelerated “transformative times” in our nation, sadly triggered by the unfortunate police shootings of black citizens, raising allegations of systemic racial discrimination and fomenting social unrest, in the form of not only peaceful protests but also wanton looting and the desecration and destruction of historic Confederate monuments around the country, most notably in Virginia. Nestled in the Rich Valley of SW Virginia, Ceres is the homeplace of the Groseclose Family. And truly, many of our ancestors fought for the Confederacy during the Civil War. But also, other of our ancestors fought to preserve the Union Army (Groseclose cousins against Groseclose cousins!). After the war, Groseclose veterans and descendants on both sides of the Mason-Dixon Line erected memorials to remember the sacrifices of that bloody, heart-wrenching war. For instance, Groseclose family members in Indiana likely contributed to the Union Memorial standing today in Hilldale Cemetery in Martinsville, IN. And, on the Bland County Court House grounds in Bland, VA, just a short distance from Ceres, VA, stands a Confederate monument erected by the local chapter of the United Daughters of the Confederacy in 1911, to honor the companies of ordinary Confederate soldiers mustered from the area, which included many Groseclose sons in the Rich Valley. As documented by the Bland County Historical Society, Mary Jane Hays Kegley (1872-1958) spearheaded the UDC drive to fund and erect the monument, imported from Italy.

To date, there have been no reports of desecration or vandalism against Bland County Confederate monument, nor announced plans to remove it to another location. Still, if you plan to attend the 2021 Groseclose Family Reunion, you might visit Bland to view the monument and its inscriptions (highlighted on the following page). If the present “transformative times” continue a pace, there are no guarantees the Confederate monument will remain a lasting memorial at the Bland County Court House or elsewhere nearby, for public viewing, remembrance, and homage.



Bland County Court House Confederate Monument to the Common Soldier



1861-1865

**Erected by Bland Chapter U.D.C.
As A Lasting Memorial
To the Galent Sons of Bland County
Who Gave Their Lives In Defense Of
Their Beloved Southland
Our Heros**

**Co. F. 51st VA Inf.
Co. G. 36th VA Inf.
Co. F. 45th VA Inf.**

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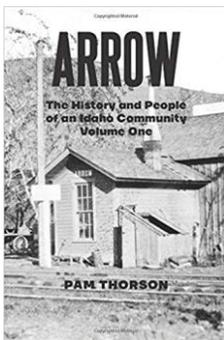
**Co. B. 47th VA Bat.
Co. F. 8th VA Cav.
Fate Denied Them Victory
But Crowned Them With
Glorious Immortality**

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Transitions and Other Family Notes



In Memoriam. With sadness, we note the passing of some beloved Groseclose family members: Jerry M. Stout (pictured at left) on July 9, 2019, age 65, Fort Smith, AR; Benjamin W.M. Groseclose on July 23, 2019, age 49, Phoenix, AZ; William T. Groseclose on November 16, 2019, age 82, Zelenople, MD; and Thomas K. Groseclose on May 21, 2020, age 86, Clarkston, WA. To the families of these and other family members not reported, we extend our sincere condolences.



Arrow: The History and People of an Idaho Community. This book, published in June 2019 by Pam Thorson, is about the small and almost forgotten community of Arrow, ID. It features several photos and stories about the Groseclose family and other families from Bland County, VA, who settled at then Arrow Junction, ID, at the beginning of the last century. The book may be purchased online from Amazon, in paperback or Kindle digital form (<https://amzn.to/3hv91hH>).



Raymond M. Groseclose will be organizing the next Groseclose Family Reunion, June 18-20, 2021 (see back page for more reunion information). Raymond and his wife Terry live in Asheboro, NC, and are blessed with two sons, a grandson, and another grandchild on the way. Raymond is a descendant of Peter Groseclose, Jr. (1757-1805) and has been attending Groseclose family reunions since the mid-1990s. At the 2018 family reunion, he was among the program participants, focusing his remarks on the life of his great grandfather, the Rev. D.B. Groseclose (1855-1932). In the coming months, Raymond welcomes suggestions and any assistance as he crafts plans for the 2021 reunion. You may contact Raymond by email at scimanrg@yahoo.com.



Daughters of the American Revolution. If you are interested in joining DAR, contact Sara Reuning (sawacore@gmail.com, 423 646-4672). She can advise you what documents to gather and how to file an application citing your lineage descended from DAR patriots Peter Groseclose or his son Peter Jr.

Email & Postal Address Changes. Please keep us informed of any changes in your email or other contact information. Also, we encourage you to join the *Groseclose Family* on facebook – now nearly 500 strong!

Groseclose Family Newsletter communications may be sent to Dean DeRosa, 2115 North Hollister Street, Arlington, Virginia 22205 (dderosa.va@gmail.com, 703 532-4210).

Groseclose-Related Web Sites of Interest

[Groseclose Family on facebook.com](https://www.facebook.com/GrosecloseFamily) (nearly 350 strong!)
www.VirginiaLens.com/OldCeresImages.htm
www.CeresVA.org | www.DeansCorner.net | www.BlandCountyHistSoc.org



2021 GROSECLOSE FAMILY REUNION
Help Celebrate Three Decades of Groseclose Family Gatherings!

Start making your plans to attend the 2021 Groseclose Family Reunion, June 18-20, 2021! Covid-19 virus permitting, we will again assemble at Pipestem Resort State Park, WV (www.pipestemresort.com), to meet one another from points across the country, and to learn about, explore, and share our common family history and heritage. You will also have the opportunity on Sunday, June 20, to visit and tour the 18th century home of Henry Groseclose (1771-1836) in nearby Ceres, VA, the family's home place in the Rich Valley of SW Virginia. Additionally, you can worship at the historic Sharon Lutheran Church in Ceres, view the graves of our ancestors in the church cemetery, and visit the Henry C. Groseclose FFA Museum, all before enjoying a farewell luncheon at the community center adjacent to the museum. You might also consider participating in the 2021 family reunion by making a presentation on some aspect of Groseclose family history, reporting on a regional family gathering, or simply sharing an interesting or funny family story or two.

So again, start making your plans to attend the 2021 family reunion. You can book your accommodations at Pipestem Resort State Park early--several rooms and a limited number of suites are being held exclusively through early 2021 for reservations by family members to attend the gathering! Of course, more information about the reunion program and activities will be coming your way during the next year as we count down together to June 18-20, 2021!

SHARON CHURCH COMMUNITY CEMETERY FUND

Please help with the upkeep and repair of the Groseclose family gravestones at the Sharon Lutheran Church Community Cemetery in Ceres, Virginia -- and with the general upkeep of the cemetery itself. You can make your donations directly to the Sharon Church Cemetery Association. Your checks should be made out to the *Sharon Cemetery Association* and mailed to Mrs. Evelyn H. Groseclose, Treasurer, Sharon Cemetery Association, 860 W. Blue Grass Trail, Ceres, VA 24318-3499.

Please address any questions or comments about the 2021 Groseclose Family Reunion or Newsletter to Raymond Groseclose (scimanrg@yahoo.com) or Dean DeRosa (dderosa.va@gmail.com)