

Transcript of Discussion Concerning Jeptha Lewis Goff (1823-1883)
 Attended by: Allen S. Goff, Doug Cooper, Raymond H. Goff, Jr., John L. Goff, Jr., and
 David N. Goff
 Wednesday, October 23, 2002
 Lynchburg, VA

Dave	Welcome to all and thanks for coming!
Al	Please transcribe your notes and furnish copies to everybody here.
Dave	<p>Our branch of the Goff family has never had any type of written history compiled. Until Ray located the picture of Jeptha and Sallie, we didn't even own a family ancestral picture. To my knowledge, we still don't have a single family "relic" that actually belonged to Jeptha or Sallie. Given the large size of the Goff family and due to the fact that our branch of the family left VA and settled in NC, we wouldn't have had access to the day-to-day interactions of the VA portion of the family.</p> <p>What I would like for us to do, realizing that we represent several different branches of the Goff family tree, is to focus on Jeptha Lewis Goff (ed. – hereafter JLG) only, realizing that we know very little about his parents, so anything that would spill over into previous generations would be appreciated as well (Joseph and Patience Parker, or later to the Wilbur Walker Goff generation). (Dave shared copies of the Jeptha Lewis Goff timeline that he had prepared).</p> <p>Question One: What about the missing decades of his life? What about his actual birth date? Doug, as resident expert on Goffs in Bedford and Campbell Counties, where can you direct us to look?</p>
Ray	In the 1850 census, Jeptha is gone, but it does show Joseph, Patience, and a brother and sister (to Jeptha) living in Bedford County. I have been unable to access the 1850 Campbell Co. census to track JLG and his address. The 1860 and 1870 censuses show 12 th Street and his age, but not his date of birth.
Dave	Is anything known about JLG prior to his 12/14/1848 marriage to Catherine McCary?
Al	The marriage record in the Bedford Co. Courthouse says 1849. Is this incorrect?
Ray	The local newspaper from Jones (Memorial Library) shows 12/14/1848. It was reported in the 1/8/1849 edition of the Lynchburg Virginian, page 3, column 3.
Dave	We passed Jones this morning. Do they have everything indexed?
Ray	Yes, but I found it to be limited.
Doug	They have extracted all of the death notices and marriages and indexed them. They are very helpful.
Dave	In the past, we have encountered problems with the Gough spellings in census indexes.
Ray	Birth records in Bedford Co. are non-existent until around 1850.
Doug	Birth and death records, and no records were kept during the Civil War from 1860-1865, they didn't start again until 1867-68, no marriage records either. Concerning the exact birth date for JWG, I have never seen it.
Dave	If we move back a generation earlier to Joseph and Patience Parker, is there more info. available with that being Bedford Co. as opposed to Lynchburg/Campbell Co.?
Doug	Bedford would have limited records.
Ray	Joseph (Goff, Jeptha's father) was a farmer in the 1850 census, having been willed land from John, Jr., his father, with records in Bedford Co. about when Joseph died

	that Patience, JLG, Susan and Landon (JLG's sister and brother) divided up Joseph's land. The land was on Elk Creek. The Waugh Account Book mentions Joseph and Jeptha in places and that's all I have.
Dave	Question Two: Where was JLG born specifically? (No answer)
Dave	Question Three: Where was Joseph and Patience Parker's farm, other than on Elk Creek? (No answer)
Doug	Did JLG have any children names James?
Dave	Not with either wife, according to my records.
Doug	Grandchildren?
Dave	The only branch of the family that I have records on descends from Jeptha through Wilbur Walker Goff, my great-grandfather.
Doug	According to the Lynchburg newspaper, James S. Goff married Molly Austin in 1874.
Al	In 1863, Jeptha was married to Sallie E. Howard by H.W. Dodge.
Doug	I show Sallie F.
Dave	We have the marriage application showing Sallie E. Howard.
Ray	I have asked several people familiar with the script of that period and they say that it is an "E."
Al	Was it Jeptha L.?
Dave	Yes, the L stood for Lewis, even though we saw it written in the back of the Fisher Bible on a handwritten note, probably written by Nora Viola Fisher, "Here is a picture of your grandfather, Jeptha Louis." Most of what we find is J.L. or Jeptha L. On his Confederate Service Record, we think he spells his last name "Goof."
Ray	Could he have been illiterate? In as much for 3 consecutive censuses it was "Gough" where for all records of his father, it was "Goff?" Did the census taker not make this information available to JLG and his family that it was spelled this way? Did they say "Gough" and he may have said "Yes?"
Doug	I think that happened so many times. As you say, they were illiterate or partially literate and the census taker would tell them something and it would be fine, OK. My Goff is spelled one year in the census "Gawf" and I accidentally found her. I missed that for a year or two before I finally ran across it. It was indexed "Gawf" and I had never looked in the index.
Al.	I have a marriage record on an aunt married in 1905. Her last name was spelled "Gaw."
Ray	Have you seen this? This is Sallie's mother and dad's marriage bond. Thomas Howard. This was a guarantee that they were going to get married and sent this to the governor. A marriage bond, but I have also seen it as "ban." I have seen it both ways.
Al	"Ban" sounds like Quaker.
Ray	I found this in the Campbell Co. Courthouse and on the back her mother wrote that this was certified that she was the lawful age and so forth.
Al	My ancestor was not John, Jr. but Ambrose. He had a heck of a lot of kids, also. His oldest son was John W. Goff – died in Roanoke and his sister died over in Botetourt Co. and left a lot and her husband had died. That John W. Goff wrote to Joseph Goff, it doesn't say what the relationship is, in Bedford Co. to go over and take over this lot for his sister. I don't know if this is the same Joseph.
Ray	There were lots of Josephs and Johns.
Al	There was also an Archibald Goff out in KY, but our Archibald was the son of John

	Goff, Jr. and he married Polly Harrison.
Dave	Question Four: Where did JLG and Sallie Howard set up housekeeping? Doug/Ray, in any of your research, are there property records, were there city and state land taxes that would say that JLG owes money on his property at such and such a place that we could look for?
Al	No real property taxes, they had personal property taxes.
Doug	Tax lists – he's too late for tax lists, isn't he? We wouldn't have tax lists for him in Bedford County. We know two things: we assume he was living near Waugh Ferry because he bought those things at Waugh Ferry. It seems that was about the time that he moved to Lynchburg.
Ray	My guess is that he may have been living at home up in ... with Joseph.
Dave	1860 census is Campbell Co. is showing him.
Doug	Land transfer – he bought land in Lynchburg, 7/27/1857. Was he already living there when he bought it? I don't know the answer to that.
Al	Jeptha was the son of Joseph and Patience. Joseph died in 1855, Bedford. I would assume he gave his land to JLG and others, right?
Doug	Grantee receives the land, right? Grantor is who sells it?
Al	Yes
Doug	So he bought this place in 1857, Campbell Co. Real Estate Records. Here's the book, Grantees A-K, 1782-1896. Let me warn you of something here. Campbell Co. and Lynchburg were one body and I don't know what year it split, but this is in the Lynchburg Courthouse up until they split and that's where I found this.
Ray	Have you researched the Campbell Co. Courthouse?
Doug	Very little. I think the earliest Campbell Co. records are in the Lynchburg Courthouse.
Al	I don't think we have too much info. on Campbell Co., I mean the Association.
Doug	I guess I have been in the true, current Campbell Co. Courthouse two times in my life. In Rustburg.
Ray	1860 census showed JLG and Catherine, with real estate valued at \$1800, personal property of \$300. So he owned property.
Al	\$1800, that would be a considerable amount of land, I would think.
Doug	I believe there are some other records there. When I went to the Lynchburg Courthouse looking for Goff info, there were several real estate transactions.
Al	I haven't researched the JLG line, but you're saying that JLG is the son of Joseph and Patience, and that Joseph died in 1855. Did he have a will?
Ray	He must have, based on the way the land was divided and sold.
Al	Did you find where his wife, Patience, died?
Ray	Still looking for that.
Al	So she was still living when he died?
Dave	She lived 4 years beyond him (Patience' death date was 12/15/1859).
Al	The reason I'm asking the question is that if he had a will, then she may have had a will, but you have to be careful because if she used her maiden name, someone may have written it under Parker instead of Goff.
Al	Ezra Parker married Jincey Goff in 1806 – she was the daughter of John Goff. You've got relationships going way back on the Parkers.

Ray	We've got three Parker tie-ins.
Al	Minerva Parker marrying Joel Goff.
Ray	The Parkers and the Goffs must have liked each other.
Al	No, that's not the case. What the case is is they lived within a smokestack. Courting distance theory!
Ray	On Jephtha and Sallie's marriage license, his occupation is listed as "grocer." There may have been a period of time when there might be a record in Lynchburg or Campbell Co. to see if there might be a business license that would give us a clue if he operated a grocery store of some sort. Was it a business that he lived upstairs over on 12 th Street? Also want to dig up paperwork on Goff-Stump Meat Market on 12 th and Main. When my granddad and Mike Stump ran a slaughterhouse in Amherst Co., they were the sole providers of Kosher beef. That's why the Goffs were always close to the Jewish community in Lynchburg. Always have been.
Doug	The reason you have to bless the beef is because in the Jewish religion they can only eat the front half of the cow.
Ray	I would like to find anything that would connect Wilbur Walker Goff to the business because as you know, he killed himself at a right young age.
Dave	Dad and I walked the home place property yesterday (in Madison Heights). It's now been abandoned and the house is gutted. When you mentioned the fact that the abattoir had been behind the house, we tried to find a depression where the brine pit had been. No luck.
Ray	The extension of Colony Road, which goes to Lynchburg Training Center, cut through lands where those big banks are. They put a roadway through connecting to old 29 that bisected part of that operation and then a Gillespie family lived back there and built a home years later on the other part. It all sort of disappeared.
Dave	The name of the road beside the homeplace is Golf Street. That's the name on the green sign.
Doug	Which index is this from? It says Jephtha S.
Al	Whoever copied that...
Doug	Amherst Co. index.
Ray	Now, Benjamin...
Al	Parents or guardian of wife. Benjamin McCary was Catherine McCary's father apparently. They had a son named Benjamin, too, right?
Dave	I don't know the McCary's.
Doug	Where was Jephtha married? Where did he marry her?
Ray	According to the paper, it says "of Amherst County." It doesn't say in what county the marriage took place.
Doug	Waugh's Ferry Store was on the Amherst Co. side of the James.
Dave	The minister says Campbell Co., VA. Husband's birth – Bedford Co.; wife's birth – Campbell; husband's residence – Lynchburg; wife's residence – Campbell.
Al	Is that 10/30/1848? Marriage between JLG and Catherine, father Benjamin, security was Leroy Wilmore, whoever that was.
Dave	We show the marriage date as being 12/14/1848.
Al	I'm suggesting you check Buchanan, Botetourt Co., Fincastle, off of 220. These two families were together here, both, and you've got similar names. John W. had a son, John, another son, Joel, and another one named Nelson.

Ray	Do you realize how close Botetourt is to Goff Mountain? Right there at it.
Al	Buchanan, I think, was the principal town and that's also very close. And then you've got Roanoke Co. and the courthouse in Fincastle, Botetourt Co. They're very helpful people there. You talk about how far away it is to walk these distances and whatever, of course they were going horseback most of the time I would suggest, but those people really got around.
Ray	Rockbridge Co. is another place we probably ought to be doing some looking.
Al	It was carved out of Augusta Co.
Ray	Rockbridge, Botetourt, and Amherst all come together right behind Goff Mtn.
Al	If you'll feel any better, Botetourt Co., when it was formed, claimed all the land west to the Mississippi.
Dave	Let's jump off on another something. Jephtha was shown in different records as being everything from a laborer, to a grocer, to a cook on his Civil War paperwork, and a "waggon driver" and one of his sons also. If you try to place yourself in Lynchburg in 1840, 1850, prior to the war years, and you look at the similarities between someone being a wagon driver who says he is hauling goods for someone else and one day says, "I'll double my load and open a little store on 12 th Street, or I've got a grocery store with these supplies there, my wife is cooking for x number of folks, let's go ahead and open an inn or a tavern or a pub. My question: Are there business licenses from anybody's research? Is there something in Lynchburg we could look at? I'm trying to avoid the bordello discussion!
Ray	I've never looked. I've never been in those kinds of records. Only Doug that I know of has done that kind of research.
Doug	All I have is this. I believe that this place he bought was shown as being a tavern in this record, and that's all I can remember on that. Remember I said there were several records in there. There may be 2 different page numbers.
Al	What would you think a tavern was at that time?
Dave	Well it may have been just a tavern, a bar.
Al	It could also have been a house, an ordinary, like a bed and breakfast kind of thing.
Doug	They may have those kinds of records.
Al	You may also want to look at court records, in case anything went wrong. Arnold who was connected to the Goffs in Orange county – his right to have an ordinary was taken away from him for violating whatever.
Doug	That would have been a court order, wouldn't it?
Al	Yes, that's what I mean. You might find....
Doug	The problem with Bedford Co. is they aren't indexed. They've got shelves and shelves of court orders but they aren't indexed.
Al	You go by the year. If there was a co-ownership of a Parker and a Goff, and the Parker is showing first, that may be the first name you come across.
Dave	Do we know if the John Goff and the John Goff, Jr. from their wills were involved in farming, and for JLG to be shown...
Doug	What year was he shown as a farmer?
Dave	In 1860 he was shown as a laborer and there were 3 other adults: a 25 year old w.f. with a different last name, and 2 older teenage boys also shown as laborers. One of the sons is shown as working in a tobacco factory. With JLG being in town, I don't know if there was an agricultural pursuit there. We just don't know what the laborer

	was. In Civil War Lynchburg, JLG was 40 when the war broke out, how did he escape being drafted or volunteering? How did he miss the Civil War until 13 months before Lee's surrender? Were there deferments? Was he involved? A guess: When you click on historic Lynchburg on the Internet, you come up with documentation concerning all of the Civil War hospitals. The fact that you had 3 railroad lines converging in Lynchburg, many of the Confederate wounded ended up in Lynchburg.
Doug	Have you read the book on the Civil War hospitals in Lynchburg? It's for sale in the Amherst Co. Courthouse. Also in Givens Bookstore on 221 like you were going to Forest. Not far from Jones Memorial.
Dave	An interesting aside – a kinperson of JLG's company commander, Kirkwood Otey, organized a Lynchburg Women's Relief Hospital because she was appalled at the conditions of the existing hospitals.
John	Could JLG as a wagon driver have brought wounded to the hospital from the train depots?
Doug	Could have.
Al	One thing you're not mentioning is that the Confederate Army was decimated by then and were pulling any and everyone in, even boys.
John	The boys from VMI even defended Lynchburg in the later days.
Doug	If he (JLG) was running a grocery in those years, he could have had a deferment because he was supplying food for the Confederate Army.
Dave	Could the cook connection have kept him out? There's no proof of any of this, but I just wonder if he was cooking for the hospitals?
Ray	When I saw this "driving a waggon," there are two things that really stick out. It was a boom time in Big Island and the tobacco warehouses in Lynchburg on the river became huge about the same era you are looking at. With all the movement of tobacco, he could have been hauling tobacco, something he was familiar with from what his dad did, and his grandfather did up in Big Island. Something somewhere I read kind of gives me a clue that it is related to tobacco.
Dave	If he was 50 at the outbreak of the war, he would certainly be considered an old man. I could understand them taking the 16-18-20 year olds, but to be 41... he certainly had family responsibilities, but so did everyone else. The basic question is did anybody get a deferment?
John	Was there a draft?
Ray	Confederates were conscripted. My guess is that they said if you're young enough at 41 to marry a 17 year old, put a rifle to your shoulder and come join us!
Al	Remember back then people knew who was in the neighborhood, they knew who was not in the service of their country, and I would suggest you might also find women who were dressed up as boys. It's amazing to me that he has a Confederate uniform (in his photograph with Sallie) because I would suggest most of them didn't have them.
Dave	With him being in Lynchburg with a huge concentration of dead and wounded, you don't know where that uniform may have come from.
Al	I see you have JLG reporting to Camp Lee – that's right out of Petersburg. I was at Camp Lee myself.
John	My boot camp was in Williamsburg – old Camp Perry. Went to Bainbridge from there and that took a day and then back to Norfolk from there and that took another

	day.
Dave	Ray, we went to Spring Hill and couldn't locate your 1996 handwritten notes as to where JLG is buried in the McCary plot. Do you remember the name on an adjoining headstone?
Ray	The lady there is Dorothy Hartless. She is the treasurer of the cemetery. Catherine's father bought the plot, Plot M, even though Goffs were the first ones planted there.
Doug	All those records are at Jones.
Ray	Jones referred me on to Diuguid's to get beyond what they had. Diuguid had the larger file. They hadn't finished cataloging them last year.
Doug	The bad thing about the Diuguid records is that they weren't indexed. You had to give them an approximate time and they'd give you a roll of microfilm. Some of it is almost impossible to read. I hope they are going to index them. I sat and looked at them for hours just hunting for people that I would have known. It tells who paid for the funerals – that could be helpful information.
Ray	They even have copies of obituaries. I wanted to find my grandfather, Wilbur Walker Goff's, obituary that I have not found yet. I couldn't find a copy of it at Uncle Wilbur's. I thought it might talk about his business, both in Lynchburg and in Madison Heights if I could find it.
Doug	I just found my note. That was Amherst Co., Jephtha S. Goff, 10/30/1848, p. 408
John	In Bea's Bible, we saw Jephtha Louis – Ray, have you ever seen that?
Dave	Ray, what's your recollection as to why there are this many Goffs buried in Spring Hill and not a single marker of any kind?
Ray	As you know from what I've told you before, Ray and Jane are going to resolve this matter because we're going to put a little monument in remembrance of the Goff family in Section M. It needs something.
John	Let us help with that. I could organize our whole clan.
Ray	This nice lady at the cemetery, I have her business card, worked with me on that. She said she could do something appropriate in a gray granite that would not be a budget buster. Recollections – Nobody ever talked about my grandfather – I guess maybe 'cause he killed himself. Whatever the reason was – 'cause he was the son of Jephtha. Whatever it was, he was never talked about. Don't know anything beyond the uncles – don't even know enough to wonder why we weren't talking about the others. Somebody told me once when I was a kid, we were at the new baseball stadium, but I was quite young with a group of adults. I don't remember who all I was with. At a game and they said, "This fellow coming up to bat, big left-handed batter, must have been a good ballplayer, if he hits it far enough he might hit a baseball close to one of your ancestors." I didn't even know the cemetery, Spring Hill, was across the street from beyond the right field fence and across the street. If you look at Section M.... That was told to me – I don't know what it meant, it didn't ring a bell. Later, when I found out that he's (JLG) buried there. I was just getting involved with this and found it was a bunch of people buried there with no headstones. And according to the lady in the office, there was never a headstone or anything there in Section M.
John	Footnote on that: I wanted to ask you where the old baseball park was. One summer when we were in Madison Heights – my Dad was a minister in the Christian Church – I didn't do anything on Sunday except go to church and Sunday School – never went to a ballgame and never went to a movie until I went to college. Uncle Charlie and I

	got on the bus on Sunday afternoon and went to a ballgame. Now, how they ever permitted that, I'll never know, but I'll never forget it. He drank beer all afternoon.
Ray	Were the stands built?
John	I remember like a wooden grandstand. I can't remember anything else significant.
Ray	Back in the day when your Dad and my Dad and the others played a lot of semi-pro baseball, Miller Park was the site of the games and they had some stands of sorts because that's where baseball was played prior to the building of the city stadium.
John	OK, Where would Lynchburg College have played baseball in those days?
Doug	They may have played at Miller Park. They called it "the Old Fairgrounds" years ago.
Ray	That was where baseball of any significance was played. That was the major ballpark before they built that stadium.
John	'Cause all four of these guys played baseball. My Dad played over in the coalfields in West Virginia.
Al	Did you say your Dad was a Baptist minister?
John	Christian, Disciples of Christ.
Al	Mine was a Baptist minister, as I understand at one time back around 1920 something.
Ray	Did Uncle Johnny ask you folks individually if you thought that maybe the ministry may be for you? Encouraged that maybe you ought to go there? Uncle Johnny talked to me about this and you know he was a graduate of Lynchburg College which was supported by the church and he said, "Ray, if you do it, I can make sure that most of your tuition would be taken care of by the church, etc." But he had a real heart-to-heart talk with me during one of the periods he came up and visited several days.
John	I bet that was because of the proximity to his alma mater. See, I don't ever remember us having that kind of discussion. But we had figured at one time that the 5 of us... I was going to be the preacher and my next sister was going to be the organist, and the next brother was going to be an undertaker and so on down the line. I mean somebody had this designed.
Ray	He may have seen y'all so much day by day that he said, "Hope is lost." (Laughing) I did start at Lynchburg College, ran out of tuition money, and joined the Army to get the GI Bill to finish school. When the mandatory classes in your freshman year had a Bible study, I kept thinking about it. I said, "Wonder why, other than the fact that this was a cheap way to get an education, was he talking to me about that," but at any rate....
John	You remember that he actually finished his high school at Lynchburg College. See, he went to work in the meat market at age 14 after Wilbur Walker committed suicide.
Ray	All the Goffs had to go to work to support the family. That's what I heard, but I didn't know that he worked in the meat market.
John	He rode a horse wagon down to the City Market from Madison Heights is the story we had and he was involved in this somewhat.
Dave	And then at some point rode the train from here to Petersburg and then Hopewell and there was a family meat market that was opened up maybe a day a week there. He, as a 14 year old, told some stories about Hopewell being a very dangerous place and he remembered people living in trees covered in canvas. He had to literally sleep locked in the "cages" of the meat market, with a gun under his pillow.
John	There was a munitions operation around Petersburg during the WWI period.
Dave	And it exploded at some point, according to Aunt Jane.

Doug	The index we discussed a while ago, Amherst Co., remember we said that was a re-written index. We ran across the original page out of Amherst Co.
Al	An original copy!
Dave	That is clearly a "J.S.," isn't it?
Doug	But there again, you don't know where they came from. P. 490 in original book, marriage licenses I would think.
John	What order? Looks like bond, license, then marriage.
Dave	Then all the kids followed. Ray, do you have any recollection of a tintype of Robert E. Lee that was prominently displayed in Wilbur Walker Goff's home?
Ray	I thought you folks might have that. I thought it went to NC.
Dave	We grilled Aunt Bea yesterday. We asked her three different times about when Mrs. Goff (Nora Fisher) died in 1945 (Dad was on a ship in the Navy and was not even able to attend the funeral), plus again, with our branch of the Goffs being out of touch down in NC in New Bern at the coast further away. Her son, your Uncle Charlie, was still living there, so the home place was still lived in by Uncle Charlie as a bachelor. At some point after that he got married and left. That household and its furnishings were dissolved.
Ray	Good question. I assumed a lot of it may have gone down to Tiny (Charlie's wife), wasn't that her name, who lived on the James River. Her family had a grocery store as you cross over. I figure all of the possessions from the house must have gone to Uncle Charlie's wife. Nothing I can remember seeing around our house ever came from the old home place.
John	I don't remember anything ending up at our house.
Ray	I think Uncle Charlie was left with everything, lock stock and barrel, because he lived by himself.
John	Yesterday, Bea mentioned Grace and Jimmy and Doug (Baldock) even as maybe having some of these things yet. Does that sound reasonable?
Ray	I'm wondering if Jimmy might have the little trunk that we spoke of?
John	Now, you're saying Jimmy Goff?
Ray	Jimmy Goff
Dave	Dad suggested calling Madge again. Bea was so emphatic that she didn't have or know about a trunk. We found one thing that belonged to Nora Viola Goff. That was a metal saltbox hanging on the wall over her stove that Bea said was Mrs. Goff's. She has that and she has the Fisher Bible, with the JLG photo and others in the back.
Ray	My wife and sisters were with me the day that we met with Uncle Wilbur and Aunt Bea. We were on a trip down from up where we live and we came in from Richmond and we all got together and visited there when this came up. So I'm going to jog their memory. Uncle Wilbur was so taken back with the old.... He was the only one in the family that ever had anything to say about, and not until that time period did I ever hear him talk about our ancestors and that's when he told me about Jephtha.
Dave	They were so young when Wilbur Walker died. John L., Sr. was 14 at the time of the suicide and the rest of them stair-stepped down. I doubt your Dad even had a memory of his father to have even asked. Now Aunt Bea said she has a chest of drawers from the homeplace, but then she later said that Jimmy had bought that for her. I'm not worried about furniture, but let me skip to the Goff family Bible. We had heard that Aunt Bea had a Goff family Bible, but what she produced yesterday was a pre-Civil

	<p>War-era Fisher family Bible belonging to the family of her mother-in-law, Nora Fisher Goff, plus a Farmer/Jackson family Bible. She also has the original picture of JLG and Sallie, which is the only heirloom we have that actually belonged to him. We don't have guns, we don't have shoes, nothing else.</p> <p>One last thing concerning this city license to apply to sell hard liquor that Doug and I have been in telephone conversation over the last few weeks about.</p>
Ray	Initially I heard this from Doug and then I passed this along to you about Jephtha's being a possible proprietor of a bordello, after talking to this lady at Jones Memorial Library. I had really wanted to get back and dig through any kind of records the city had to indicate whether he had a license to do this, that, and the other, and I haven't yet. I did want to do some follow-ups with this lady because she had promised to give me some more precise info she knew about Jephtha and his girls at the bawdy house.
Dave	Didn't you say that this was headed toward a book?
Ray	Yes.
Doug	She gave me this – some of it's in that brochure but there's some more info. That is a list of the Goff girls that were at the bordello, plus the times they were in court for various things. I met her probably 5 years ago so she's done this brochure since then.
John	The two Goffs listed here are both shown as mulattos.
Dave	And they aren't listed that way on the 1860 census. They are both listed as white. Dad "discovered" them in the microfilm census records on our first genealogy trip to the archives in Raleigh. Their color probably isn't as significant as their profession. Back to the original question, has anybody seen this city license application to sell hard liquor?
Doug	If I have, I don't remember it specifically, but I'm telling you there are several records in Lynchburg Courthouse that remind me of that. I think if you go there and dig around, you're going to find some stuff on Jephtha.
Dave	Tell me from a VA death records standpoint, do we know the cause of death of the first wife? What happened to Catherine McCary to cause her death in 1862? Were there death records kept, Doug?
Doug	Where did she die?
Ray	Lynchburg
Dave	She was between children at that time.
Ray	The lady at the Spring Hill Cemetery had a supposition. She looked at the number of deaths during the time Catherine McCary Goff passed away, both adults and especially children, and she seemed to think that maybe there was an influenza outbreak in town that took out a lot of people and she probably was a victim of it. Don't run with that and make it gospel – she said she could only do that by patterns and we do know she passed away at a time when there was a known epidemic in the area.
Dave	Let's move to 1883 when JLG passed and Sallie Howard Goff was 37 with 3-5 children still at home, how would we trace her?
Ray	Census. The good thing is that they list names. I have to get census films through the Church of Latter Day Saints from Salt Lake. It would be easier to come down to this area. Jones Memorial Library has all the tapes. In addition to 1850 to see what Jephtha's household looked like, I've got notes to check later census to see if she was living with any of the kids.

Dave	There was also a picture in this Fisher Bible of " Sallie Goff and the twins." We don't show twins on our lineage anywhere.
Ray	The picture has Natural Bridge on the back.
Dave	Who are those twins? We looked at the facial features of Sallie in the picture and she looks to be far enough removed from those girls to be their grandmother, so possibly they were the children of one of Wilbur Walker's siblings, and not directly in our line at all.
Ray	We also need to check at Duiguids to check burial records on Sallie, where she was residing. There was real estate to be disposed of because Jephtha owned property. Something happened. I wanted to follow up on that to see where it was leading me.
Dave	But the fact that the picture was Sallie in her later years and it still said "Sallie Goff" so maybe she didn't remarry. Well, that finishes my list of "Jephtha" questions. We have our work cut out for us!
John	Good, these guys are talking about breaking for lunch!
Dave	I do have several "Ray" questions – when did you leave Lynchburg?
Ray	1974
John	What is your date of birth?
Ray	6/1/34, I'm 68 years old.
Al	What creek were you talking about by Goff Mountain?
Ray	You've got Battery Creek and Hunting Creek.
Al	Leonard Goff was on Elk Creek, Gruggett Hollow.
Ray	He was further down, Gruggett's Hollow, that's a strong clue. I tried to find out which Goff of the brothers that came over from Amherst County would be the ones living in that picture this guy was kind enough to show us that is on, right up at the very top of Goff Mountain. I'm going to give the name of the creek – Cabin Creek up from Waugh. That's where the property was – I bet anything.
Doug	You've read the book, <u>Up Cabin Creek</u> , haven't you?
Ray	There's another book that's interesting called <u>Around the Bend</u> .
Doug	You should buy both of those, Dave.
Ray	Up Gruggett's Hollow contains approximately 3,000 acres and was the home of the families named Hawks, Marshall, Cye, Goff, Reynolds, Wilmer, Taylor, Downey, Shepherd, Hudson, Day, and many others according to <u>Up Cabin Creek</u> by Helen Hawks. Now I know a Jerry Goff, he's a young guy and a contractor living on some of the original Goff property on Gruggett's Hollow and that's next on the list to visit.
Doug	Well, I've got a new name up there at Big Island, too, to go see. Maybe we'll finally get some of these people to talk to us.
Ray	I've got some people ready to talk. Violet Goff is 95 years old.
Doug	This is the one that Al and I went to see and they stood us up.
Ray	Next to the American Legion?
Doug	Right, but it wasn't her fault. I know it was her daughter that didn't want to talk.
Ray	The gentleman who was kind enough to pack my wife and myself in his farm truck and drive us all over Goff Mountain showing us everything there was – he even made trails. He said, "You've got to see these fields, because these fields look today like they did when your early ancestors raised tobacco up there. They took every stone, removed every stone, in these fields, gradual sloping fields from the top of the mountain going down the eastern slope and they made walls out of them. They piled

	them up here, they piled them up there, but it's the most amazing thing that we still crop it every year since with something." They make hay, they grow whatever up there because it's just a smooth as this tabletop. So I got out and walked in it to look to see – not a stone. But at any rate, he put me onto some people he says, there's about 3 people acquainted with your people beyond my family that could talk a lot about the Goffs and I've got names. Let me see if I can dig them out.
Doug	He didn't give you one living in Natural Bridge, did he? I've got one living in Natural Bridge to go see. Boy, I need to get some of this stuff done.
Al	Well, now that you're retired, you have all the time in the world.
Ray	What's the name in Natural Bridge?
Doug	I believe it's a Wood. Last name Wood or Woods.
Ray	I believe I've got it written down. It's not Natural Bridge, it's just out of Glasgow. I've got her name.
Doug	I wrote her son a note and told him, because when you're dealing with old people, you have to be real careful the family knows what you're doing. I told him I wanted to come talk to her and I would call him on the phone and that's been several months ago and I haven't done it yet.
Ray	Betty Spinks is Violet Goff's daughter and she knows of our quest for this info. With the help of the Manly family, they are going to tell it all to a recorder and we're going to talk about old times. Here's the name you need – Elvin Hinsley – currently in his 70's and he lives right up there close to where Violet Goff lives. Yes, his name is in our history someplace. He lives on Hinsley Hollow Road. But he is where we'll probably get the most info about Goffs from anybody in Big Island. But he says pack a lunch and go early, because he won't let you go. He will talk you to death from early in the morning until when he wants to go to bed at night. He just doesn't want to let you go. That's the kind of person. And it's not just hearsay, he's got the good stuff. Now Jerry Goff is the man who lives up Gruggett Hollow which I'm trying to work out an appointment with and his wife's family is doing a study of the Goffs, so I carried a package – everything I had that might be of volume, hoping that this might also be a little leverage to get our foot in the door. So I'm looking for a phone call. I left that package up there for them Sunday. Are you familiar with Eldon Tanner? Right well off individual. He owns a lot of farmland. He's a teacher. He's the guy who furnished me with the list from the (Hunting Creek Baptist Church) cemetery. I got his name from Mr. Turpin, chairman of the Board of Deacons. He was kind enough to put me in touch with Mr. Tanner who is a young man. He's ready to do yeoman's work to help us in gaining more info about the area. So we've got a foothold. Now all we've got to do is nurse it a little bit.
Al	You know the Turpins were here with the Goffs. They were also in Madison Co. where one of the Turpins married Moses Goff and moved on to Missouri.
Dave	Ray, who lived in the log house in the picture (of Goff Mtn.)?
Ray	Someone from John Goff, Jr.'s generation, either he or his brothers. Now my neighbor, Mr. Reynolds, has family in Bedford Co. and they own farmland all around the Goffs. He thinks what happened was that they sold the land off. What I heard was that the Goffs owned large chunks of acreage, grew tobacco, as generations went on, they sold land off, and they farmed what little land they had left, and they just became "poor dirt farmers." He said it was a lot of generations from the time they were there

