

Preface

"Life" is a gift to you. We never have forever, we only have right now. The way you live your life is your gift to those around you and those who come after. The name of this Bio "Give Lefty a Call" are the words that Flavian Yost used when the Edwards AFB Target Acquisition and Data Collection System suffered a catastrophic failure that completely stopped Flight Testing at Edwards AFB .

I like to think that it gives a special purpose to your life when others see you as someone to go to when trouble comes. I had been retired for two years at that time. The full story is included further on in this Bio.

Up front here. I'm gonna apologize for a lack of good grammer, picture perfect or literary expertise, but you gotta understand, that's me. The picturs don't always match the narrative ,but I wanted them included. Wonderful memories.

Introduction:

There's a number of ways to write a Biography, but I'd like mine to be meaningful for those that follow me . I'm writing this because I've seen too often, others dying; without leaving anything, but wonderful memories and though they are precious for loved ones they are lost in a generation .

The Good Lord Blessed me with talents that were hidden to me ,but ones that I often desired . I was missing part of a finger that I felt prevented me from ever playing guitar music that I loved and I never had the opportunity to take typing in school, so writing a book was out of the question.

Wrong! The Lord works in the strangest ways, his miracles to perform. At 35 yrs old he showed me a message about playing the

guitar. At 71 when brother Bobby died, he gave me another message. No, the Lord didn't speak to me from out of the clouds or visit me in a dream. He was there all the time and kept bringing the same thought to my mind to do what Bobby always wanted to do. Leave our story of early childhood for our descendents and then one night Fran got me started writing books. I had thrown a book on the floor that I had just bought and said, "Dang it, I could write a better story than this, This idiot don't know anything about horses."

She turned from her computer game and said, " Well! Why don't you?" I did! Now she say's, " Is there any thing that you didn't or couldn't do that you wanted to?" "Now, I reckon, That's true of a few things ." Because in reflection i quit one very important thing when I joined the Marines. I quit thinking " I can't" and began knowing that "I could and I will!" Writing a book or playing guitar was still something that I thought was outta reach for me. This manuscript is a narrative that I put together in what I hope is an enjoyable read which includes my life incidents and stories that are interesting or humerous.

Today, I just wish that I had put aside procrastination a lot sooner in life and done a better job. You never live long enough to finish everything so I'm gonna put my Good Bye here in front. I've dedicated this work to the love of

my life . My very best friend and consoling partner that's always been there for me sharing every loss, job failure, poverty, the many health life threatening issues and the many, many, many, good times; my wonderful wife Fran.

She and my Family knows that death holds no fear for me . My Soul is already spoken for and there will be no physical remains “ Ashes to ashes – Dust to dust.” I hope that I leave pleasure, knowledge, and most of all entertainment or comforting assurance behind in my music and writing.

I've always thought that if you tried to live your life in Christ while you are here , then you have reached a Heaven here on earth and automatically qualify for that heavenly home after death. Think of it as retirement at it's best! You don't retire from your life in Christ. Some folks insist there is no life after death and my answer has to be. “ You're welcome to your beliefs but a life in Christ while I am here is the very best and most enjoyable experience possible for me and all of those around me. So what do i count for loss when i have enjoyed the best?”

There's always someone close to you that's struggling trying to make it. If they're trying to help themselves then so will I, but if they want to continue waiting for a hand out. I'll wait with holding a hand out. If you need a

job, go looking. It's very seldom that a job comes looking for you. Don't go praying for a job. Pray for help in finding one. I feel the same way about medical conditions. Don't expect a healing miracle, but ask for help in correcting or dealing with it.

A copy of the following poem was found in the pocket of a dead Soldier and pretty well says it all for me. He probably didn't write it and it appears in no written collection, which would give it Author Copywriter ownership but it's been around comforting loved ones for decades. It's commonly used in the public Domain, so I include it here.

Miss Me, But Let Me Go.

**When I come to the end of the road,
And the sun has set for me,
I want no rites in gloom-filled rooms,
Why cry for a soul set free?**

**Miss me a little--but not too long,
And not with your head bowed low;
Remember the love that once we shared
Miss me--but let me go.**

**For this is a journey that we all must take,
And each must go alone.
It's all a part of the Master's plan,
A step on the road to home.**

**When you are lonely and sick at heart,
Go to the friends we know,
And bury your sorrows in doing good deeds.
Miss me - but let me go.**



19 years old



A Beautiful reminder of the girl that I married



Hey now ,we're finally gittin somewhere

Acknowledgements

Thanks to my dear wife Fran and friend, Lauretta Barnett for kicking me along towards completing this work before it's Too Late. I may not make it to it's conclusion, but come to think about it . When it's finished ---I may be also !!

Forward:

I thought I might explain the format I've used in explaining my Bio. I've already covered a lot of bio ground in my other bio- books on Gold Mining, so I've omitted those details in this writing. I jumped back to the origin of my Family in America to show a little background

and give the family, if interested ; a starting point for their research.

Take pride in your Heritage, but most of all take pride in yourself and remember the most important part. “What you do for others in this life is the only thing that really matters.”



Lee



Lyndy



Loi



Loreea

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Chapter 1: Family Forefathers

**Family Forefathers by Line of Decent-
Father to son, to myself. It's ironic that the first
Leftwich born in the New World was named
Thomas.**

**Ralph de Leftwich --- 1625 --1712
emigrated to america 1650 3rd son of the Earl
of Leftwich Cheshire in England**

**Appears as the first Leftwich emigrant to
the New Colonies Ralph patented lands on
branches of the Peanketank River in New Kent**

County Virginia on August 10, 1658. 320 acres. This land awarded due to fees paid by Ralph for transportation of six persons into the Colony. One of which was his wife Ellinor Mainwaring, Richard Ingram, John Glenn, WM Watson and possibly John Wise. – Very little Kent County documentation remains as county records were destroyed by the burning practices of the Federal Armies during the Civil War.

Thomas Leftwich sr. 1660 --- 1730
Records of his life , marriage etc are incomplete as to his full life story. His son Augustine fathered a host of sons and daughters.

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Augustine Leftwich Sr. 1712 --- 1795

Fought under George Washington during War of Independence. Considered the founding Father of America's Leftwich Family had numerous children "Colonel Thomas Leftwich commanded the rear guard of Gen. Gates' Div. at the battle of Camden. His brother, Captain Augustine Leftwich, Jr., served in Col. Wm. Trigg's reg. of VA. They were the brothers of Gen. Joel leftwich & Col. Wm. Leftwich, all of them sons of Augustine Leftwich Sr.

^

Col. William Leftwich 1737 --- 1820
eldest son of Augustine and also fought in the
War of Independance

^

Rev. William Leftwich 1768 --- 1848 A
Preacher known as Black Headed Billy

^

Maj. William Ballard Leftwich 1795 ---
OCT. 25, 1867 CSA Fought with distinction
during the Civil War – died shortly thereafter in
poor health due to lingering war earned
injuries.

^

Dr. Thomas Whitfield Leftwich 1826 ---
JULY 14, 1901 CSA Corpsman or medic during
Civil War

^

Robert Marshall Leftwich 1855 --- 1933
(?) Plantation owner probably buried in
Bedford Va. Cemetery – married to my
Grandmother “Maggie” Margaret Stone – She
told me that Grand Pa died shortly after seeing

me as a new born. “ Probably couldn’t stand the shock!”

^

Marshall Chesterfield Leftwich 1900 --- 1964 (?) Found dead on a roadside coming out of Roanoke Va. he was a highly successful tobacco Auctioneer that became an alcoholic and lost all of the Leftwich properties left him by his Mother Margaret (Maggie) Stone Leftwich. (see Note) In his thirties ,he was a very good tap dancer. He entertained at a number of Bars in Roanoke. A number of stories were told of his drunken escapades. While I was in Korea, Mom sent me a clipping from the Roanoke newspaper which quoted a Judge relating this story. “Chester Leftwich came before me charged with being drunk and disorderly walking down the middle of Roanoke Blvd at midnight.

His plea was Guilty with extenuating circumstances. He asked permission to represent himself . I granted his request as I knew he was a small time Attorney that had represented a number of the Drinking Fraternity of Roanoke in the past. Most recently he proved that one of his lady clients could not possibly have been drunk and

disorderly as charged on such and such a date as she was already in jail on a similar charge on that date! I had to dismiss the charge.

I told him to proceed. He said, as you are aware , I am among other things a small time contractor. A German war bride hired me to build her a new hen house and as a saving measure, she wanted me to use as much as possible the material from the old hen house to build the new one. I agreed that this was a reasonable and frugal procedure. The problem , your Honor was , she wanted the new one built before I tore down the old one! I just had to have a drink and think about how to go about it. Chester was acquitted!"

Note; Margaret(Maggie) Stone Leftwich was a decendent of Thomas Stone whom assisted in the writing and signed the Declaration of Independence. She was named after Thomas's wife Margaret. I think she was 78 in 1941. I wish that I had paid more attention to what she told us boys about her early life and marriage to my Granfather, Robert Marshall Leftwich, but an eight year old, out to recess kid, can't be expected to remember anything.



Mom, Lillie riding Firewall

About 1967

