

This item from the  
MANASSAS JOURNAL  
February 13, 1913

BIBLE OF VIRGINIA WEIRS

Taken From the Abandoned Home of  
Gen. Eppa Hunton at Brentsville, in 1862.

John Carigan, of 422 Hobert Avenue, Atlantic City, N.J., has in his possession a Bible which he took from an abandoned house near Richmond in 1862, "during the Seven Days' Battle in and around Richmond." The sacred book contains a record of births, deaths and marriages of a family by the name of Weir.

The Bible story is well known in newspaper offices. Usually the holy book was picked from the vest pocket of a dead soldier on a Southern battlefield by a combatant of the opposing side, and the one that has the Bible is anxious to restore it to the dead hero's family. The circumstances vary, but the plot is much the same. Upon investigation, the average Bible story turns out to be good romantic fiction.

In the case of Mr. Carigan, however, there appears to be a real Bible and a real desire to restore it to the Virginia family of Weirs to whom it belongs. The Richmond city directory contains no such name, but it is possible that there are descendants who will be glad to recover the family records. In the hope of discovering some descendant of the Weir family, to whose care this valuable record should be committed, the following letter, received by the Acting Postmaster Southard, is reprinted:

"Postmaster, Richmond, Va.

Dear Sir: I have in my possession a Bible that I found during the spring of 1862 (it was during the Seven Days battle in and around Richmond), in a house about eight miles from Richmond on the road from Richmond to Bristow station."

"This Bible contains a record of the births, marriages and deaths which took place in family by the name of Weir, starting with the birth of James Weir on December 21, 1752, and ending with the death of Robert Weir, who was born October 20, 1784, and who died October 1, 1842. On the flyleaf of the Bible it has the following inscription: 'Presented to Miss Bettie Weir by her mother.'"

"Thanking you in advance for any information that you may give me, I am, very truly yours, John Carigan, 422 Hobert Ave., Atlantic City, N.J." - Richmond Times-Dispatch.

The Bible referred to belonged to Miss Bettie Weir, the daughter of the late Robert Weir of Hartford, Prince William county, who was the father of General Eppa Hunton's wife - the mother of Hon. Eppa Hunton, Jr., of Richmond. The first name recorded in this Bible, Jas. Weir, was the grandfather of the late Robert C. and Edgar V. Weir and others of Manassas.

The house referred to from which the Bible was taken was evidently, the home of General Hunton, in Brentsville, which had been abandoned in the flight of the family on the eve of the approach of the Federal troops in the Brentsville neighborhood.

Miss Bettie Weir, being a sister of Gen. Hunton's wife, resided with him, which accounts for the presence of the Weir family Bible in the Hunton home.

The statement should have located the abandoned home at 80 miles instead of 8 miles from Richmond on the Richmond and Bristow road, which is the distance from Richmond to Brentsville.

In the spring of 1862 the Confederate troops having evacuated this section of the state, General Hunton's family, which included Mrs. Hunton's sister, Miss Bettie Weir and Eppa Hunton, Jr., who was a small boy, fled from their home at an early hour in the morning, with the fear of the invading host terrorizing them, leaving behind everything in the way of furniture and bric-a-brac and taking with them only a few articles of clothing and their servants. Mrs. Hunton was ill at the time and had to be removed on a feather bed. She had no idea of where to locate her husband for the purpose of advising with him as to her proper movements, he being with his command at the front. When the Federal troops reached the Hunton home, they dismantled it of its furnishings, and after destroying the same with axes, they had what they termed a "Rebel mahogany-bonfire."