PIKE COUNTY ARCHIVES & HISTORY SOCIETY

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PCAHS MEETING TIME

The Pike County Archives and History Society meets the first Thursday night of each month from 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. in the Murfreesboro Municipal Building. The 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. time period is set aside for members and guests to discuss and exchange ideas on history, genealogy and effective ways to do research. Business meeting is held from 7:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. Annual membership dues are $10.00. Lifetime membership dues are $100.00. The Pike County Archives and History Society was founded in 1986 and is a non-profit organization. It is located on the third floor of the Pike County Courthouse in Murfreesboro, Arkansas and the Heritage Room at the Library in Murfreesboro. Library hours Tuesday-Friday, 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.. The PCAHS courthouse hours Monday-Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. If Court is not in session call first: Harrison Gilmer (870) 285-3187 or Linda Wilson (870) 379-2471 or Dorothy Partain (870) 285-3528. Helpful telephone numbers: Pike County Clerk's Office (870) 285-2231; County Judge Courthouse (870) 285-2414; Mayor's Office for Library (870) 285-3732.

The Gems of Pike County, Arkansas is a publication of the Pike County Archives and History Society

WASHINGTON G.O. MELSON
Washington Green Orr Melson was born in Pike, then Clark County, Arkansas in 1825 a son of James Guinn Melson and Rosanna Ballew. His father's plantation was situated in Township 9, South of Range 23, West, in Section 18 near the Little Missouri River. The Melsons settled here in 1816. James Guinn Melson and Rosanna Ballew's known children included:

Mary Ann Melson born 1809 near Natchez, Jefferson County, Mississippi; married Francis Bittick on February 7, 1833 in Clark, now Pike County, Arkansas; died November 15, 1898 at Ardmore, Indian Territory, now Oklahoma.

Rebecca Melson born about 1812 in Missouri; married Thomas Milson about 1826 in Clark, now Pike County, Arkansas; died before June 1857 in Hempstead County, Arkansas.

Solomon Melson born December 15, 1815 in Missouri married Jane Elvira Ward on October 18, 1842 in Hempstead County, Arkansas; died April 15, 1892 in Nevada County, Arkansas and buried in Ebenezer Cemetery.

Lucinda Melson born in Clark, now Pike County, Arkansas; married Chesley Hughes Rogers about 1836 in Pike County, Arkansas.

Rosanna Melson born 1823 in Clark, now Pike County, Arkansas; married Bazil Brashears on January 27, 1842 in Hempstead County, Arkansas.

Washington Green Orr Melson born 1825 in Clark, now Pike County, Arkansas; married Mary Jane Wingfield on February 8, 1849 in Hempstead County, Arkansas; died 1860 in Hempstead County, Arkansas.

A daughter Melson married a Johnson according to the affidavit of Mary Ann (Melson) Bittick made on September 21, 1898. Entry 606 Mississippi Choctaw Applications, Commission to the Five Civilized Tribes, Ardmore, Indian Territory.

Emily Brunetta Melson born 1831 in Clark, now Pike County, Arkansas; married John Vivan Ward on February 8, 1849 in Hempstead County, Arkansas.

Rosanna Melson was born in Clark, now Pike County, Arkansas; married a cousin John Jackson Wingfield about 1865 in Pike County, Arkansas.

Mary Jane Wingfield was born on April 26, 1834 in Clark County, Arkansas and died April 18, 1920. Her father William Marchbank Wingfield was born February 26, 1810 in then St. Clair County, Illinois a son of William Wingfield and Sophia Holcomb. His parents came to Arkansas from Madison County, Illinois in 1817. He married Eliza Caroline Ward on February 21, 1833 in Clark County, Arkansas. She was born March 11, 1816 in Ouachita Parish, Louisiana a daughter of Isaac Ward and Mary McMahan. Her father served as county clerk of Clark County, Arkansas from 1830 until his death in 1835. They had ten children: Mary Jane Wingfield; Isaac Ward Wingfield born December 19, 1836 married Sarah Narcissa McKinley on February 4, 1858 died August 7, 1904; Joel H. Wingfield born 1840 died during the Civil War; William H. Wingfield born 1843 married John W. Weatherspoon; Nancy E. Wingfield born 1845; John F. Wingfield born March 7, 1848 married Elizabeth Harrison on November 28, 1867 died March 19, 1899; Eliza Sophia Wingfield born October 1852 married Calvin Thomas Renfro on August 11, 1870; Ellen Emily Wingfield born November 1854 married William David Stockton on August 17, 1870 died August 12, 1918; and James Washington Wingfield born May 10, 1857 married first Mary Melvina Stockton second Malinda Caroline

We once lived about a half mile from where Wash Melson drowned. We boys went swimming there many times. My mother Tempe (Graham) Payne is Smith Graham's daughter. My mother and my grandmother Sarah (Melson) Graham told me the story many times that my great grandfather, Sarah's father, drowned in the river. That made such an impression on me that I never forgot the story.

The story was that Wash Melson, Sarah's father, lived in Clark (actually Pike) County, Arkansas and were going to town from where they lived to Prescott (likely Washington), Arkansas for their six month's groceries and supplies. They were in a wagon crossing the river and the river was rising up. This crossing was the regular crossing and the water was deeper than they thought. The wagon bed floated off of the wagon. They jumped out & swam out. Wash Melson had his overcoat laying in the spring seat so they ran down the river a short way to a bend in the river and the wagon bed came close to the bank. Wash Melson, as he jumped to jump in the wagon bed, the wagon bed moved. He landed across the wagon bed's side boards and was hurt. He said to hand him a line or pole and "I will hold on to it and you pull me out." As they looked to get a pole they heard Wash, looked back, and he was gone.

Nine days later they found Wash Melson about a mile down the river. The overcoat had $500 in one of the pockets.

ARNOLD PAYNE

Mary Jane Wingfield was born on April 26, 1834 in Clark County, Arkansas and died April 18, 1920. Her father William Marchbank Wingfield was born February 26, 1810 in then St. Clair County, Illinois a son of William Wingfield and Sophia Holcomb. His parents came to Arkansas from Madison County, Illinois in 1817. He married Eliza Caroline Ward on February 21, 1833 in Clark County, Arkansas. She was born March 11, 1816 in Ouachita Parish, Louisiana a daughter of Isaac Ward and Mary McMahan. Her father served as county clerk of Clark County, Arkansas from 1830 until his death in 1835. They had ten children: Mary Jane Wingfield; Isaac Ward Wingfield born December 19, 1836 married Sarah Narcissa McKinley on February 4, 1858 died August 7, 1904; Joel H. Wingfield born 1840 died during the Civil War; William H. Wingfield born 1843 married John W. Weatherspoon; Nancy E. Wingfield born 1845; John F. Wingfield born March 7, 1848 married Elizabeth Harrison on November 28, 1867 died March 19, 1899; Eliza Sophia Wingfield born October 1852 married Calvin Thomas Renfro on August 11, 1870; Ellen Emily Wingfield born November 1854 married William David Stockton on August 17, 1870 died August 12, 1918; and James Washington Wingfield born May 10, 1857 married first Mary Melvina Stockton second Malinda Caroline
Cornelius third Nancy Jane (Stockton) Harris died November 30, 1946.

William Marchbank Wingfield died on November 20, 1868 and is buried in the Bethel Cemetery in Hempstead County, Arkansas. Eliza Caroline Ward Wingfield died November 11, 1898 and is buried in the Missionary Grove Cemetery in Nevada County, Arkansas.

John Jackson (Jack) Wingfield second husband of Mary Jane (Wingfield) Melson was born September 12, 1844 in Clark County, Arkansas and died March 15, 1905. His father James Wingfield was born on January 18, 1817 in Warren County, Kentucky a son of Jacob Wingfield and Sarah (Sally) Hanes and died March 19, 1889. His mother Seleta Askey was born December 28, 1822 in Texas and died January 19, 1896.

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Estate of Washington Green O. Melson

PIKE COUNTY PROBATE COURT

In Vacation. June 26th 1860.

Jeff Cottingham states and represents that he has taken letters of Administration on the estate of W.G.O. Melson who lately departed this life in Hempstead county, Arkansas intestate. That there is a considerable amount of personal estate &c. and prays for an order to sell said personal estate: facts verified by affidavit. The Court grants the petitioner's prayer.

July Term 1860.

Administrator presents bond for $7000 and the same is approved.

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January 30th 1861.

Mary Jane Melson widow of Washington G.O. Melson deceased petitions by her attorney for Dower and Jeff Cottingham administrator of decedent and Rosannah C. and Sarah J. Melson minors and only heirs of deceased by William J. Kelley their guardian ad litem are defendants. Petitioner states &c. that the said Washington G.O. Melson died seized and possessed of the following lands in Pike County, Arkansas, to wit: Lot 2 in the Southwest 1/4 of the Northwest 1/4 and a fraction on the Northwest side of the Little Missouri River in the Northwest 1/4 of the Southwest 1/4 containing 54 acres 51 poles; Lot 3 in the Northeast 1/4 of the Northwest 1/4 containing 40 acres 1 rod and 39 poles; Lot 4 in the Southeast 1/4 of the Northwest quarter: a fraction in the North side of the River and a fraction in the Northeast 1/4 of the Southwest 1/4 in the Northeast side of the River containing 55 acres 3 rods and 3 poles; Lot 5 in the Northwest 1/4 of the Northeast 1/4 containing 40 acres; Lot 6 in the Southwest 1/4 of the Northeast 1/4 and the Northwest fraction 1/4 of the Southeast 1/4 on the North side of the River containing 71 acres 6 poles; also Lot 7 a fraction of the Northwest 2 of the East 2 of the Northeast 1/4 it being the portion lying in Pike County, Arkansas containing 36 acres 1 rod 14 poles: containing in all 297 acres 3 rods 33 poles all being in Section 16, Township 9, Range 23; also the West 2 of Section 10, Township 9, Range 23 containing 320 acres; also Lot No. 1 of the Northwest 1/4 of the Northeast 1/4, Section 16, Township, Range 23 containing 40 acres 1 rod 39 poles: containing in the aggregate 658 acres 1 rod 32 poles; and praying that commissioners may be appointed to set aside to her, her reasonable dower, and that said assignment shall include the mansion house of said decedent and where this complainant now resides and also a sufficient amount of cleared and improved land &c. to enable her to support herself and family and also that she may be permitted to select the same &c. The Court grants the petitioner's prayer and appoints Elijah Kelley senior, Nathaniel Gray senior, and Samuel H. Wingfield as commissioners to mark, lay off &c. complainant's dower 1/3 interest in said lands &c. and to report at the next term of this Court.

April 23, 1861.

Commissioners filed their report &c. and that they did lay off and set aside the following described tracts or lots of land as her dower interest: 1/3 in Lot 7 containing 36 acres 1 rod 14 poles; in Lot 6 containing 76 acres 36 poles; in Lot 5 containing 40 acres; in Lot 4 containing 35 acres 3 rods 3 poles; in Lot 3 sixteen acres off the East side making in all 219 acres 1 rod 13 poles containing the dwelling of said Washington Melson deceased, being 1/3 of all the land the said deceased died in possession of "said land is in Section 16, Township 9, Range 23 West."
July Term 1863.

Thomas Ferrill administrator of Jeff Cottingham deceased who was administrator of W.G.O. Melson deceased, comes and makes settlement with the said estate of the said Melson as administrator of the Estate of the said Cottingham. He exhibits assets of said estate &c. and asks to be discharged as well as his intestate Cottingham. The Court grants petitioner's prayer and he to deliver &c. when called upon by this Court &c. all the said assets, the notes and papers belonging to said estate.

Now this day it having been represented to this Court that Jefferson Cottingham administrator of the Estate of W.G.O. Melson deceased had departed this life. Whereupon the Court appoints John M. Davis public administrator de bonis non of Estate of said Melson deceased.

January Term 1868.

Bond of J.J. Wingfield administrator of the estate of W.G.O. Melson deceased in the sum of $2200 presented and the Court approves the same.

July 26th 1870.

J.J. Wingfield administrator de bonis non makes his final account and settlement and asks to be discharged. The same is in all things approved by the Court and orders that said administrator be discharged from any further responsibility in said administration.

Abstract of Title Book Prior to 1890, Probate Court, page 303. Abstracts from original Probate Book 1, pages 503, 506; Probate Book 2, page 83; and Probate Book B, pages 4, 144, 179, 420, 557.

ISAAC WARD

Isaac Ward was born in 1795 and married Mary or Polly McMahan on November 13, 1813 in Ouachita Parish, Louisiana. Mary McMahan was born in 1795 and with her father James McMahan and mother Jane, maiden name unknown, and sister Elizabeth arrived at Ouachita Post, Louisiana from Louisville, Kentucky on April 19, 1797. During their journey from Louisville they were detained one month in New Madrid waiting for transportation. In February 1797 they left New Madrid for Natchez before arriving at Ouachita Post in April. James McMahan and Jane, his wife, had five children: Elizabth McMahan born 1793 married George Stewart; Mary McMahan born 1795 married Isaac Ward died 1834; Narcissa McMahan married Thomas Mathingly on January 17, 1817 in Ouachita Parish, Louisiana; John McMahan married Mary Arnold on March 23, 1825 in Ouachita Parish, Louisiana; and Rebecca McMahan married Viven Beck on July 4, 1825 in Ouachita Parish, Louisiana. James McMahan born 1772 died on November 4, 1814. Jane, his wife, was born in 1774, date of death unknown. The identified children of Isaac Ward and Mary McMahan were:

James Stephen Ward married Mary (or Polly) Smith (step daughter of James Galbreath) on September 8, 1835 in Clark County, Arkansas.

Eliza Caroline Ward born March 11, 1816; married William Marchbank Wingfield on February 21, 1833 in Clark County, Arkansas; died November 11, 1898.

Jane Elvira Ward born January 26, 1821; married Solomon Melson on October 18, 1842 in Hempstead County, Arkansas; died March 11, 1886.

Nancy Rebecca Ward born February 19, 1823; married John Wesley Wingfield.

John Viven Ward married Emily Brunetta Melson on February 8, 1849 in Hempstead County, Arkansas.

Benjamin Franklin Ward married Leona A. Bittick on June 7, 1851 in Clark County, Arkansas.

Henry McMahan Ward; no other information.

The census records suggest there were two more children, male, born in this family about 1818 and 1827 and apparently died young or in infancy. There is no mention of them in subsequent probate records. Isaac Ward died at Greenville, Clark County, Arkansas on April 21, 1835. Mary McMahan Ward died at Greenville in 1834. Their obituaries appeared in the Arkansas Gazette newspaper.

DIED.

At his residence, in Greenville, Clark county, on the 21st ultimo, of pleurisy, Isaac Ward, Esq., Clerk of that county, aged about 40 years. Mr. Ward was an
able and efficient Clerk, and discharged the duties of his office in an exemplary and satisfactory manner. The citizens of the county deeply mourn his loss, and sympathize with his afflicted family and friends.

Arkansas Gazette, May 5, 1835: obituary of Isaac Ward.

DIED.

In Clark county, of bilious fever, attended by paralysis, after an illness of three weeks, in the 39th year of her age, Mrs. Mary Ward, consort of Isaac Ward, Esq., Clerk of the Circuit Court of that county.

Mrs. Ward was a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church, a truly Christian matron, she discharged the duties of wife, mother, friend, and all the social offices of life, in a really affectionate, and highly exemplary manner.

By her death society has sustained no ordinary loss, her husband and children one which is indeed irreparable.

But her friends may console themselves with the affliction, that their infinite loss is her abundant gain. She has cast off the burden of life; she has taken her departure from a world of cares, and has entered into a more glorious state of existence to enjoy the reward of a life well spent.

Arkansas Gazette, July 15, 1834: obituary of Mary Ward.

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

AN ACT entitled an act to authorize the Administrator of the estate of Isaac Ward, deceased, to sell Real Estate.

Sec. 1. Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the Territory of Arkansas, That the Administrator of the estate of Isaac Ward, deceased, late of Clark county, be, and he is hereby, authorized to make sale of all the real estate of the said Isaac Ward, deceased, of which he died possessed, in the town of Greenville, in said county, in such way and manner as he shall think fit: Provided, however, that said sale shall be at public vendue, at the court house door, in said town of Greenville, on the first or second day of some term of the circuit court for said county, thirty days previous notice having been given of said sale, by at least three advertisements, put up at the most public place in each township in said county.

Sec. 2. Be it further enacted, That the said administrator shall have full power and authority to make deeds of conveyance, conveying all the right and title which the said Isaac Ward, deceased, had in and to the said real estate, to purchasers thereof, and that the said administrator shall, at the first term of the county court, for said county, after making said sale, file in said court, a bill of the sales of said real estate, and be charged with the amount thereof; and he is hereby authorized and required to dispose of, and account for the same, in the same way and manner that he by law is required to do, with the proceeds of the sales of the personal property of said estate.

Sec. 3. Be it further enacted, That the administrator aforesaid, shall be authorized to give such credits on the sale of said real estate, as he may think fit, and best calculated to advance the interest of said estate, not exceeding twelve months.

Sec. 4. And be it further enacted, That this act shall take effect, and be in force, from and after its passage.

JOHN WILSON, Speaker of the House of Representatives.

CHARLES CALDWELL, President of the Legislative Council.

Approved: October 19, 1835.

WM. S. FULTON

MARRIAGE RECORD

Be it known, that I, Oliver J. Morgan, Parish Judge in and for the Parish of Ouachita, Do by these presents dispence with the publication of the marriage now about to take place between Isaac Ward & Polly McMahan, minors, residents of this Parish, by privilege of the Statutes in such cased presented. Given under my hand this 13th day of November.

OLIVER J. MORGAN
P. Judge
State of Louisiana,
Parish of Ouachita.

By virtue of the foregoing proceedings before me, Oliver J. Morgan, the Judge aforesaid, duly authorized by law to Celebrate marriages, personally came Isaac Ward and Polly McMahan, minors, residents of the parish aforesaid: Whereupon, Be it Known that I have Celebrated the Rites of Matrimony Between Isaac Ward and Polly McMahan according to the Solemnities required by law in the presence of James McMahan, Jane McMahan, Elizabeth Steward & George Steward, the friends of the said Polly McMahan, and David Powell, Abr. Dehart, John Morrison, the friends and witnesses of the said Isaac Ward, who have attained the age of Majority.

In Testimony Whereof, the parties, friends, and witnesses in my presence have signed the present & I, the said parish Judge, hereto subscribed my name and affixed my seal of office this 13th day of November 1813.

ISAAC WARD
POLLY (her x mark) McMAHAN
JAMES (his x mark) McMAHAN
JANE (her x mark) McMAHAN
ELIZABETH (her x mark) STEWARD
GEORGE (his x mark) STEWARD

Witnesses:
DAVID POWELL
ABR. DEHART
JOHN MORRISON

Ouachita Parish, Louisiana Deed Book C, page 15.

VIVEN BECK

Viven Beck came to Clark County, Arkansas from Ouachita Parish, Louisiana where he previously married Rebecca McMahan daughter of James and Jane McMahan on July 4, 1825. Prior 1830 he settled in the Caddo Township of Clark County. Rebecca McMahan Beck evidently died by 1831 and Viven Beck second married Sarah (Mobley) McDonald the widow of Micajah McDonald in Clark County on October 16, 1831. Sarah Mobley McDonald was the mother of three children by her marriage to Micajah McDonald: Levisa McDonald, John McDonald, and Zachariah McDonald. She died in Clark County, Arkansas on May 22, 1842.

Viven Beck was born in Virginia in 1791 and served in the War of 1812. He enlisted for the term of five years in the military as a private at Clarksburg, Virginia on June 4, 1812. He served in Captain T. Posts and Brevet Major White Young's Companies, 12th and 8th Regiments. The 12th became the 8th Regiment after May 17, 1815 at the conclusion of the war. His service included the taking of Fort George and in the battle on the river at St. Lawrence where General Covington was killed. He remained in U.S. military service until June 4, 1817 when he was discharged. By his second marriage to Sarah (Mobley) McDonald he had the following children:

Jonathan Beck a twin born 1832 in Clark County, Arkansas; married E.C. Hendrix in 1850.

David Beck a twin born 1832 in Clark County, Arkansas.

Sarah Beck born 1835 in Clark County, Arkansas; married first Gross Lamb in 1855; married second Moses Bates in 1866.

Jacob Preston Beck born 1837 in Clark County, Arkansas; married Nancy L. Anderson in 1867 died 1911.

James Sloan Beck born 1839 in Clark County, Arkansas married Lucy Minerva Cox in 1866 and died in 1922.

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN.

Know Ye, That Viven Beck a private of Captain White Young's Company eighth Regiment of United States Infantry who was enlisted on the fourth day of June one thousand eight hundred and twelve to serve five years is hereby Honorably Discharged from the Army of the United States.

Said, Viven Beck, was born in Lowden (Loudoun) county in the state of Virginia, is twenty one years of age, five feet, five inches high, fair complexion, blue eyes, brown hair, and by occupation was enlisted a Joiner.

Given at Pass Christian, this fourth day of June, 1817.

(?) KENNERLY, Lt.
8th Inftry. Commdr.

Office of the Pay Master of the 8th Inft.
Pass of Christian

I certify that the within named Viven Beck has been settled with and all (?) due him from the United States paid by me this 11th June 1817.

(?) WRIGHT
P.M. 8th Inft.

I wish my land Warrant issued on the within Hon. discharge & handed to the Commissioner of the Gen'l Land Office & my land located in the Territory of Illinois & my patent forwarded to the care of Benjamin Kitchen, Esq'r., Alexandria, Red River, Louisiana.

Apl. 17th 1819.

VIVEN BECK

DECLARATION OF SURVIVING SOLDIER FOR PENSION.

Act of February 14, 1871.

State of Arkansas,

Montgomery County.

On this 10th day of April, A.D. one thousand eight hundred and seventy one personally appeared before me Zora L. Cotten, Clerk of the Circuit Court, a court of record within and for the County and State aforesaid, Viven Beck, aged 80 years, a resident of (the) County of Montgomery, and State of Arkansas, who, being duly sworn according to law, declares that he (was) married; that his wife's name was Sarah McDonald to whom he was married in Clark County, State aforesaid, (in) September 1831; that he served the full period of sixty days in the military service of the United States in the War of 1812; that he is the identical Viven Beck who enlisted in Captain Willoughby Morgan(s) Company at Clarksburg in the State of Virginia (in) June 1812, and was honorably discharged at (?) of Christian (in) June 1817; that he served in the regular military service as an infantry man; was at the taking of Fort George, was in the Battle on the River St. Lawrence where Genl. Covington was killed; received a Land Warrant, the No. not remembered, Land was located between the Miss. River & the Missouri; that he at no time, during the late rebellion against the authority of the United States, adhered to the cause of the enemies of the Government, giving them aid and comfort, or exercised the functions of any office whatever under any authority or pretended authority in hostility to the United States; and that he will support the Constitution of the United States; that he is not in receipt of a pension under any previous act; that he makes this declaration for the purpose of being placed on the pension roll of the United States under the provisions of the Act of February 14, 1871; and he hereby constitutes and appoints, with full power of substitution and revocation, Charles C. Tucker, of Washington, D.C. his true and lawful Attorney to prosecute his claim and obtain the pension certificate that may be issued; that his post office is at Mt. Ida, County of Montgomery, State of Arkansas, and that his domicil or place of abode is Montgomery County.

VIVEN (his x mark) BECK

Attest:

William Reeves
William Perrin

Also personally appeared William Reeves and William Perrin (of) the County of Montgomery, and State of Arkansas, persons whom I certify to be respectable and entitled to credit; and who, being by me duly sworn, say: That they were present and saw Viven Beck, the claimant, make his mark to the foregoing declaration; that they have every reason to believe, from the appearance of said claimant and their acquaintance with him, that he is the identical person he represents himself to be; that at no time during the late rebellion against the authority of the United States died he adhere to the cause of the enemies of the Government, giving them aid and comfort; and that they have no interest in the prosecution of this claim.

WILLIAM REEVES
WILLIAM PERRIN

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Sworn to and subscribed before me, this 10 day of April A.D. 1871; and I hereby certify that the contents of the above declaration, &c., were fully made known and explained to the applicant and witnesses before swearing; and that I have no interest, direct or indirect, in the prosecution of this claim.

ZORA L. COTTEN, Clerk.


WAR OF 1812

Act February 14, 1871

Brief of Claim for a Survivor's Pension in the case of Viven Beck of Captain Post's and Major Young's Company's, 12th and 8th Infantry.

Residence: Montgomery County, Arkansas.

Enlisted 4th June, 1812, discharged 4th June, 1817.

Declaration and identification in due form, filed April 28, 1871.

Service for Sixty Days Shown as Follows:

The Adjutant General reports that Viven Beck served in Captain Post's and Bvt. Maj. White Young's Cos. 12th and 8th Regts. Infantry from 4th June 1812 to 4th June 1817.

Length of service: 5 years.

Claimant declares he is not a pensioner under any previous act. Name not on list of pensioners.

Loyalty, claimant's averment and testimony of, Wm. Reeves and Wm. Perrin; W.A.M. Garrett, P.M. Mt. Ida, Ark. vouches for their veracity.

Oath to support the Constitution of the United States subscribed.

Admitted Sept. 2, 1872 to a pension of eight dollars per month, from February 14, 1871.

T.D. YEAGER, Ex'r.
W.W. HAY, Review'r.
C.C. TUCKER, Present.

MARRIAGE RECORD

Vivan Beck with Rebecca McMahan

Bond Marriage

Know all men by these presents: that Vivan Beck as principal and John Harmanson as security are held and firmly bound unto Henry Johnson, Governor of the State of Louisiana and his successors in office, for the time being in the sum of Two hundred dollars, to the payment whereof we bind ourselves, our heirs &c., firmly by these presents dated this 4th of July in the year 1825; the condition of the above obligation is such that: whereas a Marriage is about to take place between the said Vivan Beck and Rebecca McMahan. Now if there exists no legal impediment to the said intended Marriage, the this bond to be void, else to remain in full force and virtue.

VIVAN BECK
JOHN H. HARMANSON

State of Louisiana, Parish of Ouachita.

Be it Remembered, that I, Oliver J. Morgan, Parish Judge in and for the Parish aforesaid, have this day solemnized a Marriage between Mr. Vivan Beck and Rebecca McMahan both of said Parish, according to the solemnities required by Law.

VIVAN BECK
REBECCA McMAHAN

JOHN H. HARMANSON
B.H. JOHNSON
G.W. (?)ELLER

OLIVER J. MORGAN
Parish Judge

Ouachita Parish, Louisiana Deed Book F, page 434.
A SHORT GENEALOGY OF THE MELSON AND MARTIN FAMILIES

This is a short genealogy of the Melson and Martin family, my mother and father's family, of which I don't know too far back. Wish I could write it better and had the history farther back.

My father was born in Arkansas the son of Solomon and Jane Melson. My mother was born in Louisiana the daughter of Nancy and John Wingfield. My father was of German descent on his father's side. My mother was of Indian descent on her father's side. My mother Mary Ellen Wingfield was born in 1847 died in 1928. My father Leander Elmore Melson was born in 1843 died February 3, 1890. They were the parents of 10 children, 4 boys and 6 girls. The oldest was Rufus Edmond called Eddie. He died at the age of four and of course I never saw him as I am next to the youngest child.

The second child was a girl named Nancy Jane, always called Nannie. She grew into a beautiful woman, married at the age of 18 to a man by the name of William B. White, called Will. She was the mother of Snow, Elmore called Buck, Lawrence, Marshal, Elbie, and Beatrice. She died just as she was going into labor with her seventh child.

My oldest brother, the third child was named John Solomon. Being 17 years older than I, he seemed more like a father than a brother to me since I can't remember my father. John was always so good and kind to me. He married a girl by the name of Keturah Blevins. I adored her. They were the parents of five children, 2 girls and 3 boys. The oldest were twins. Their names were Birdie and Bertrand. Then Joel, called Joe. The next was Blevins, always called Nig. Their baby was a little girl named Mary Lou. They are all dead now. John's wife died when Mary Lou was six months old. He never remarried.

The next one in line was Susana, called Sue. She was the mother of three children, the first 2 by her first married to Dosh Bishop. He died at an early age. After a time, she married a man named Nicewarner and she died at the birth of their child, which she named Arlisy before she died, for our brother Arlis. The two older children were Lucille and Lex Bishop. Lucille still writes me once in a while.

The next brother was named Elmore. We always called him Elmer but his wife always called him Elmore. Her name was Dolly. She thought anything Elmore said or did was A-OK. I loved them both dearly. He was always a kind of a dreamer and loved to dream about the finer things of life. He was a hard worker and an upright, honest man. He died a tragic death. He was a farmer as was all of my brothers, and my father. He and his boys were cleaning up brush and fallen (limbs and) trees in a new ground field. They were burning the limbs that had fallen and trees. He sat down to rest and was reading in a little Bible he carried in his pocket. A dead tree was on fire which he didn't notice and it fell on him and crushed him so badly he died. It was before we had ambulances in that part of the country and the neighbor men made a stretcher and walked in the night and carried him 5 miles to Haworth to a doctor, as he was so badly hurt, he couldn't bear the jolt of the wagon. He was still conscious though, when they got there. My mother and older brother lived there. The last thing he said we knew of, was, "Boys you have done a good job of it." Elmer and Dolly were the parents of seven children, two girls and five boys. The girls were Keturah and Sue. The boys were Lance, Lake, Orie, Arlindy, and Gale. The girls are both death. Lance is the oldest boy. He was the same age as my son and they lived not so far from us when they were growing up and visited in our home more often than the others and know me better. He lived with us for a while too. He lives in Illinois and he writes me about twice a year, which I appreciate.

The next one in line of my brothers and sisters was a little girl named Amanda. She died at the age of 2 months.

The next was my brother Arlis, we were nearer the same age and were playmates. He died in 1966 out in California. He had been living in Oregon and California for several years before his death. There
was only the two of us left at the time of his (last) visit. He married a minister's daughter. To them was born five children: Lucy, "Little" John, Isaac, May Lou, and Elmore, called Skeezix. His wife died before their children were grown with T.B. Though three of the children "Little John", Lucy, and Skeezix are dead, they didn't die with T.B. Isaac lives in Oregon. May Lou in California. They write to me occasionally.

The next in line was myself. I will just say that though all my grown sisters died at childbirth, I am the mother of four and they were never anything but normal births. My three girls, "Little" Jewel, Hazel, and Nannie Lee are all strong and very good and thoughtful of my needs. My son Rufus died at the age of 30 in 1937.

Then next was my baby sister that was born 4 months after our father's death. She grew into a darling, lovable woman whom everyone loved. Though sorry to say, she had an unhappy marriage. Her husband was a jealous fanatic without any cause. She died in childbirth too. Her baby was already dead and had to be taken and she died the next day, which was really merciful, which is hard to say. We all loved her so much, but she could never have had any peace of mind or happiness had she lived.

I forgot to mention that a mule kicked "Little John," oldest boy of Arlis and caused his death. Elmore's oldest little girl burned to death. Both deaths were hard for them to become reconciled to.

I don't know much about my husband's family. His mother was born Martha Ann Ferrell. She had one own brother. We knew him as Uncle Billy Ferrell and I have visited in his home a few times. She had three half sisters and their married names were: Aunt Sallie Tribble, Aunt Hettie James the mother of Everett James, I think Jewel remembers him, and Aunt Josie Busby. Martha Ann Ferrell was married twice. The first time to David Daniels and to this union two boys were born, Charlie, Clara's father, and Hardy who was married twice. He and his first wife had no children. She died quite young. He lived in our home until he remarried which was when Jewel was about two years old. They had several children. Mozelle and Henry lived to be grown and are living at this writing.

Martha Ann Ferrell Daniels was left a widow and after a time married a man by the name of John Martin. To this union were born 7 children: my husband, Ed Warren, his twin brother, Rufus Garland who died at the age of 18 months. Then there was Jessie, Paul, Jett, Mattie who died when just a little girl, and Pierce. As I said, Martha Ann Ferrell Daniels had two children, Charlie and Hardy. John Martin had 5 children nearly grown, four girls and a boy. The girls were Millie, Anna, Laura, Fanny, and the boy Alanzo called Lon. I have seen all of them, but Millie and Laura, and for just a very short time. Harris Gatlin who lived in Marlow was Laura's son.

That is about all I know of the Martin's people. All of my husband's sisters and brothers have gone on except Jessie, as have all of mine, except me. I am trying to understand what the Lord had for me to do yet, but perhaps it is something. My mother knew Martha Ann (Ferrell) Martin when they were young girls and said she was a pretty little thing and Martha Ann told me she used to see my mother and father come into church when they were young and had two or three little children and she thought they were the prettiest whole family she had ever seen. My mother didn't know anything about John Martin's people. We have always been church going families and I hope it will always be that way.

Paul Martin had just one son, Joseph Paul. He lives in Washington, D.C. and works in the Pentagon.

Jett Martin had 7 children and a host of fine looking grandchildren. I saw them last year at his funeral. Jessie has five daughters. She lives in Pasadena, California with one of her daughters who doesn't have any children. Pierce Martin died at the age of 21. He was overcome by gas in the bathroom. They all seemed to love me and treated me like an own sister and I have always thought the same way about them.

I never saw either of my grandmothers and just one grandfather. Grandpa Melson lived in my mother's home when he died. I was about 5 years old when he died, but I remember him. My husband never knew any grandparents at all.

Well, this is the finish. I hope my grandchildren, great grandchildren, and one great great grandchild will remember me kindly. Written 1972.

ROSIE ELLEN MELSON MARTIN
P.S. I never knew any of my aunts and uncles except Uncle Joel Wingfield, he visited with his four boys when we lived on the farm, and my mother's oldest brother, Uncle Will Wingfield. He was a Methodist minister. She had a brother killed in the Civil War. I don't remember seeing my father's brother, Uncle Mink Melson, but he was Lucy and Lottie's father. That family has all passed on too. I loved Lucy and Lottie, they were twins. Lucy died about two years ago. Lottie died just before Christmas in 1971.

A Short Genealogy of the Melson and Martin Families by Rosie Ellen Martin, 1972, courtesy of Janette Smoot, Roseburg, Oregon.

JOHN WESLEY WINGFIELD

John Wesley Wingfield the fourth son of William Wingfield and Sophia Holcomb(e) was born March 14, 1821 (there are sources that say near Arkadelphia, Clark County, Arkansas) and died the 12th of January, 1879 at Pisgah, Pike County, Arkansas. In the obituary of his oldest son William Franklin Wingfield, age 85, in a Magnolia, Arkansas newspaper dated February 25, 1927 was written: "His father was John Wingfield born in Hempstead County in 1820 where Hope is now located. John Wingfield carried the mail from Washington, Arkansas to Nachitoches, Louisiana in 1836 and 1837 on horseback making a round trip every two weeks."

It was on these trips that he stopped over and became acquainted with the owner of the Simms Plantation at Old Shongaloo, Louisiana which was then in Clairborne Parish. This acquaintance led to him accepting a job as overseer of the Plantation which he held for a long time.

As a coincidence of this relationship, a descendant of this Simms, A.F. Simms, in the 1920's married John Wesley Wingfield's great granddaughter, Annie Dee Wingfield, daughter of Sidney Wingfield of Emerson, Arkansas. They lived at Old Shongaloo until his death. She now (1983) resides at Springhill, Louisiana.

It would no doubt be of great satisfaction to us to know more about this man who as a boy of 16 exemplified the adventurous spirit by braving the elements and the environment of those pioneer days alone on horseback and to know more about his performance as overseer of a Pre-Civil War southern plantation. But unless others have more information about his life he may be another of the common people overlooked by historians.

David Kelley of Houston, Texas wrote an informative paper (1978) on John Wesley Wingfield with citations of sources, but I think enough space would not be available to reproduce it here.

John Wesley Wingfield married Nancy Rebecca Ward daughter of Isaac Ward. She was born February 19, 1823 and died February 10, 1859. They had the following children:

William Franklin Wingfield born August 6, 1841 in Hempstead County, Arkansas. He married Margaret Lucinia Johnson daughter of William Henry and Lucinia Johnson from Georgia on July 7, 1859. He died February 22, 1927 in Emerson, Arkansas.

Isaac L. Wingfield born in Hempstead County, Arkansas and never married (and) died young.

Mary Ellen Wingfield born in Claiborne Parish, Louisiana married (Leander) Elmore Melson on July 17, 1864. She died on January 26, 1928.

Thomas H. Wingfield born in Claiborne Parish, Louisiana and never married.

Joel Saunders Wingfield born November 16, 1854 in Claiborne Parish, Louisiana married Nancy Emoline Kelley on December 16, 1875. He died August 6, 1942.


John Wesley Wingfield second married Elizabeth (Butler) Davenport. They had one child Elmore B. Wingfield born in 1870 in Pike County, Arkansas. He married Martha Anne Kelley on October 31, 1889. They had no children. Elmore Wingfield died in 1951.

Great Grandpa Rev. William Franklin Wingfield often said that he had a brother and a half meaning Joel Saunders Wingfield and his half-brother Elmore B. Wingfield. He lived next door to us in Emerson, Arkansas and many nights by the fireplace he and my
mother's brother talked at length about the Civil War and other events. I was too young to remember all of their stories. But I do remember him saying that on a forced march he became very sick and they left him in the woods to die. After several days he recovered and walked ahead until he found his Company. He volunteered for the Army the 1st of May 1862 and received a $50 bonus for a three year enlistment. At Vicksburg he hid on a bridge before dawn to signal to his Company the deployment of the Union Troops at daylight, but then took a bullet through the sides of his mouth, and another one shot off his shoulder blade. Under a barrage from the Rebels, volunteers pulled him to safety. When the battle was lost he and other wounded were left behind and I am told that when General Grant rode by them he stopped and emptied his knapsack of food and gave it to them. William F. Wingfield said that was when he decided to become a preacher. He preached for over 50 years and was the President of the Arkansas Conference of the Methodist Protestant Church for five years. He was a Corporal in Company E, 31st Regiment of Louisiana Infantry and was in a prisoner exchange on March 29, 1864.

There is more about William Franklin Wingfield in a sketch of John Monroe Wingfield, his son, in the Centennial History of Arkansas on page 126. There is also an article in this same history about my father, William Dufur Wingfield, who was the son of John Monroe Wingfield.

CECIL WINGFIELD

John Wesley Wingfield by Cecil G. Wingfield, Fremont, California, 1983.

LEWIS GARRETT WINGFIELD

Lewis Garrett Wingfield was born June 2, 1823 in Clark County, Arkansas son of William and Sophia (Holcomb) Wingfield. He married Elizabeth Brashear daughter of Basil and Nancy (Middleton) Brashear on April 10, 1845 in Hempstead County, Arkansas. Their known children were: Nancy born 1846, Laura B. born 1850, Arcances B. born 1854, Thomas B. born 1858, and Mary born 1862. This list is compiled from census records and the personal knowledge of Mrs. A.W. Vernon a granddaughter of Lewis Garrett Wingfield. She states further that Elizabeth Brashear Wingfield died while her mother Arcances was still at home. This was on November 18, 1872 in Bell County, Texas. She was born November 16, 1828 in Crawford County, Illinois.

It is unknown who the daughters Nancy, Laura, and Mary married. Thomas was an accomplished violinist according to Mrs. Vernon and was in great demand at all the weddings and social gatherings. He attended one large outdoor affair at which he contracted pneumonia and died at the age of seventeen, unmarried.

Arcances Wingfield married Edmund Newton May in 1873 in Bell County, Texas. They had eleven daughters and two sons, none of whom are now living to help with information about the Wingfields. Mrs. Vernon did believe Nancy or Laura married a Thompson, but this is conjecture.

Lewis Garrett Wingfield came to Lavaca County, Texas in late December of 1854 when daughter Arcances was but six weeks old. They came from the corner of Tex-Ark-La so close to the line of Arkansas that the bedroom where Arcances was born was in that state where the rest of the house was in Louisiana, hence her unusual name. L.G. Wingfield became postmaster of Morales, Texas a small community just north of Edna in Jackson County, Texas on October 21, 1859 until July 17, 1860 and then again on June 16, 1868 until January 3, 1871. He owned a little place of 50 acres or less where the one room school house was located. This information obtained from Mr. Maurice Shelby, Secretary of the Jackson County (Texas) Historical Society. Mr. Shelby also recalled the history of that area stating it was a very wild and unruly town, several frequent killings. One of the ones that was killed was a Mr. Jim Wingfield by a man named "Osgood." This event happened on a Christmas day, year unknown. In the 1860 census there is a James Osgood living in the household of Joel Wingfield. Mr. Shelby checked the probate records of Jackson County and could not find any mention of a Wingfield leaving a Will. He did find several deeds of trust in the county clerk's office at Edna where Wingfields had sold various pieces of property. One in particular was J.H. Wingfield sold some 300 acres of land in 1899 to a Mr. J.F. Whittington. This land included the (Lewis) Garrett Wingfield place and the school house near Morales. He asked several old-timers around town and they stated this J.H. Wingfield moved to Gonzales County.
There is also residing with Joel Wingfield in 1860 and 1870 people by the name of Wilbanks. A Thomas Wilbanks was a postmaster just prior to L.G. Wingfield in 1859. Mr. Shelby said he was the father of Mrs. Simms who taught school on the L.G. Wingfield place.

Lewis Garrett Wingfield died on March 2, 1873 in Bell County, Texas.

DONNA LONON


William Marchbanks Wingfield

The following list of descendants of William Marchbanks Wingfield was received from Jim Porter. Jim maintains an Internet web page at http://members.aol.com/JPdmnts/index.arkansasgenealogies.html, and can be contacted at 975 2 Lucile Ave., Los Angeles, CA 90026-1511; e-mail <JPofTX@aol.com>

At the top of his family history information on his web page, Jim says: Please use the information you find here as a guide. I have tried to be as accurate as possible, but there are probably many errors in names, dates, and relationships. Much of the information here has come from other researchers who have generously provided their genealogy. I have been able to verify some but not all of the data in these pages. If you have any questions, suggestions, or corrections, please feel free to contact me.

1-- William Marchbanks WINGFIELD (1810-1868)
   sp-Eliza Caroline WARD (1816-1898)
   2-- Elizabeth WINGFIELD
      sp-Manan HULEN
   2-- Mary Jane WINGFIELD (1834-1920)
      sp-John Jackson WINGFIELD (1844-1905)
   3-- Eliza M. WINGFIELD (1866)
      sp-Barry WARD
      sp-Richmond L. CANTER (1866-1925)
      sp-Walter CANTER
      sp-Dick GARNER
   3-- James William WINGFIELD (1867-1957)
      sp-Ada Belle CALHOUN (1872-1966)
   4-- Jack WINGFIELD ( -1908)
   4-- Wiley Thomas WINGFIELD (1888-1968)
      sp-Flora Ann HENDRIX (1895-1971)
   4-- Lula Katherine WINGFIELD (1890)
      sp-Owen Benson HENDRIX (1881-1955)
   4-- Rener Alice WINGFIELD (1894-1898)
   4-- Effie Ofallon WINGFIELD (1898-1900)
   4-- James Bert WINGFIELD (1901)
      sp-Eva HAMMONDS ( -1978)
   4-- Clyde Albert WINGFIELD (1907)
      sp-Mattie Margurite MORRIS
   4-- Joe WINGFIELD (1910)
      sp-Geneva MORRIS
   3-- Leona WINGFIELD (1869)
      sp-Dick GARNER
   3-- Alice M. WINGFIELD (1871-1956)
      sp-John CANTER (1868-1939)
   4-- Ernie CANTER
   4-- Etter CANTER
   4-- Connie CANTER
   3-- Joel Thomas WINGFIELD (1873-1958)
      sp-Addie SPEARS (1877-1940)
   4-- Brooksie WINGFIELD
   4-- Eula WINGFIELD (1895-1982)
      sp-Theron NASH (1892-1966)
   4-- Maggie WINGFIELD (1897-1985)
      sp-Clyde Carroll LAMB (1895-1951)
   4-- Josie BROWN
   3-- Loula M. WINGFIELD (1875-1904)
      sp-Richmond L. CANTER (1866-1925)
      sp-Washington Green Orr MELSON (1825-1860)
   3-- Rosannah C. MELSON
   3-- Sarah Jane MELSON (1850)
      sp-Smith GRAHAM (1857-1920)
   4-- Tempe GRAHAM (1885-1960)
      sp-Marion Franklin PAYNE
   4-- Donnie GRAHAM (1887)
      sp-Oscar MCCARGO
   4-- John Wilburn GRAHAM (1899-1976)
      sp-Lutishia FULLERTON
   4-- Birk GRAHAM (1894-1983)
      sp-Willie Octavia PITTMAN
   4-- Thomas Cole GRAHAM (1897-1955)
      sp-Nora Lee HOLT
      sp-Jake POWERS
   2-- Isaac Ward WINGFIELD (1836-1904)
      sp-Sarah Narcisses MCKINLEY (1840-1908)
   3-- William Jacob WINGFIELD (1859)
      sp-Amanda Jane MUSSER
   4-- Mary Etta WINGFIELD (1906)
      sp-Henry Harvey PILCHER
      sp-Sarah COBB
   4-- Ozella WILLIAMS
   3-- Emily C. WINGFIELD (1861)
      sp-Daniel BUNCH
   3-- Daniel O. WINGFIELD (1863-1863)
   3-- Mary Jane WINGFIELD (1866)
   3-- Isaac Ward WINGFIELD (1868-1868)
   3-- Laura Ann WINGFIELD (1870)
      sp-Archibald CAMERON
   3-- Indiana Josephine WINGFIELD (1872)
      sp-A. A. PEARCE
   3-- Kendrick Edward WINGFIELD (1874-1949)
      sp-Sarah Lou BUNCH
   4-- Bonnie WINGFIELD
      sp-Unknown HALL
   4-- Connie WINGFIELD

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4-- Watson T PORTER
   sp-Mary Ruth EVANS
   sp-Colleen ADERHOLT
4-- Wilma Faye PORTER
   sp-Homer William GREEN
3-- James 'Jimmie' WINGFIELD (1891)
   sp-Maggie MAIVILL (1893)
4-- Otis WINGFIELD (1914)
4-- Ellis O. WINGFIELD (1914)
4-- Sadie M. WINGFIELD (1918)
4-- Flora M. WINGFIELD (1919)
3-- Dovie Isabelle WINGFIELD (1894-1975)
   sp-Henry Thurston STUART (1891-1966)
4-- Jamie Mae STUART (1914-1998)
4-- Henry Thurston STUART (1916)
4-- Verna Mae ROWE (1917-1964)
4-- Ruby UNKNOWN (1924-1994)
4-- Alice Marie STUART (1919)
sp-Barham RIDGELL
4-- Dessie Joyce STUART (1921)
sp-Kyle ANDREWS
4-- Ruby Faydra STUART (1929)
sp-Thomas FONTAINE
sp-Ray COLLINS (-1956)
sp-Joe HUNTLEY
3-- Rosa Ann WINGFIELD (1897-1978)
   sp-Fredrick Fraknlin GROVES (1894-1946)
4-- Orpha Viola GROVES (1916)
4-- Richard DICKEY
4-- George Alfred BOSSONS
4-- Helen Virginia GROVES (1919-1984)
sp-William Durwood BURNETT
sp-M. W. "Pete" HOOVER
4-- Clara Lucile GROVES (1919)
sp-James Edward GARRETT
4-- Cyril Lowry GROVES (1926)
sp-Thomas GARRETT
sp-Edward STEWART
sp-Ray COLLINS (-1956)
sp-Nancy Jane STOCKTON (1856)
sp-Mary Malvina STOCKTON (1856)
3-- Erasmus Wilson WINGFIELD (1858-1892)
   sp-Anna Mae "Jennie" PEARSON (1883-1902)
4-- William Wirt WINGFIELD (1899-1975)
sp-Georgia HOOVER

STUART GENEALOGY

John Stuart and Sarah Fulkinson were married in Virginia. They moved to North Carolina and then to Kentucky. John Stuart was captured by Indians while hunting with Daniel Boone and others, but they managed to escape. He was killed by Indians many years later in 1769. The children of John Stuart and Sarah Fulkinson were: Abraham, James M., Elijah, William, and Hulda. After the death of her husband, Sarah Fulkinson Stuart lived with her son Abraham. Abraham Stuart moved with his family, mother and brothers, to Hempstead County, Arkansas from Kentucky and settled at Mound Prairie about 1818. Sarah Fulkinson Stuart lived to be more than one hundred years old. She died near Columbia, Arkansas on December 2, 1835. She was buried in Section 16, Township 11, Range 26, West.

Abraham Stuart married Mary Kuykendall. He served as one of the first grand jurors in Washington, Arkansas in the first court held there. Abraham Stuart died August 5, 1836. Mary Kuykendall Stuart died August 5, 1833. Their children were: Joe Stuart married Mildred Hopson; Lucinda Stuart born August 9, 1799 in Kentucky and died August 24, 1850 married Samuel Hopson born March 16, 1792 in North Carolina and died July 29, 1847; Lucetta Stuart born 1801 and died 1884 married first Edward Johnson and second Dr. Walker; John Stuart married Katie Grayson; Lunettie Stuart married Judge William Trimble; Rebecca Stuart married Rev. William Ward; Lunicie Stuart married John S. Cannon and died in Little Rock, Arkansas in advanced years; George Washington Stuart born March 12, 1812 died November 23, 1887 married August 14, 1832 to Elizabeth Dicie Carr born August 8, 1814 died November 28, 1865 married second to Mrs Anne Murrell who died March 21, 1908; James Monroe Stuart born May 25, 1817 in Christian County, Kentucky married first Mrs. Matthews of Louisiana married second Mrs. Henrietta Walker Johnson born 1826 married July 3, 1857; and Lucretia Stuart.

James M. Stuart, unmarried, was the first County Clerk of Hempstead County, Arkansas.

Elijah Stuart helped lay off the town of Washington, Arkansas and married a Dobbins and had children, Nin, Tilford, Matt, Hop, Augustus, George, Sally married George Conway, and Emily married Henry Conway.

William Stuart married a Kuykendall, sister of Mary Kuykendall, and had children: Cicero, Polly, and Terry.

Hulda Stuart married Benjamin Clark and had children: John kidnapped when small and was found years later in New Orleans, Anthony Clark married
Martha White, and Stuart Clark married Ann White sister of Martha, both of Pike County, Arkansas.


Clark County Arkansas Marriages
Part 1 of Book A: 1821-1825

I, Henry L. Biscoe, a Justice of the Peace in the Caddo Township do certify that Jesse Dean and Betsey Hull were married on the 22nd of March A.D. 1821 by me.

HENRY L. BISCOE, J. Peace

I do certify that the above is a true copy of the original received and recorded this 1st of April A.D. 1821.

HENRY L. BISCOE, Clk.

Territory of Arkansas, County of Clark.

I, Henry L. Biscoe, a Justice of the Peace in the Caddo Township do certify that John McDaniel and Easter (Esther) Williams were married on the 8th day of May A.D. 1821 by me.

HENRY L. BISCOE, J. Peace

I do certify that the above is a true copy of the original received and recorded this 20th of August 1821.

HENRY L. BISCOE, Clk.

Arkansas Territory, Clark County, Caddo Township.

A marriage was solemnized between David Fish and Nancy Hemphill on the 2nd of October A.D. 1821. The ceremony was performed by me.

JACOB STROOPE, J.P.

I do certify that the above is a true copy of the original received and recorded this 12th October A.D. 1821.

HENRY L. BISCOE, Clk.
Caddo Township.

A marriage was solemnized between Elijah H. Barton and Precilla Tyler on the 11th November A.D. 1821. The ceremony was performed by me.

JACOB STROOPE, J. Peace

I do certify that the above is a true copy of the original received and recorded this 13th November 1821.

HENRY L. BISCOE, Clk.

Arkansas Territory,
Clark County,
Caddo Township.

A marriage was solemnized between Iseral (Israel) Johnson and Mary Moro on the 27th of February A.D. 1822. The ceremony was performed by me.

JACOB STROOPE, J. Peace

I do certify that the above is a true copy of the original received and recorded this 1st March 1822.

HENRY L. BISCOE, Clk.

Arkansas Territory,
Clark County,
Caddo Township.

A marriage was solemnized between John Clover and Catherine Sorrells (Sorrels) (nee McDonald) on the 10th of April A.D. 1822. The ceremony was performed by me.

JACOB STROOPE, J. Peace

I do certify that the above is a true copy of the original received and recorded this 1st of May A.D. 1822.

HENRY L. BISCOE, Clk.

Arkansas Territory,
Clark County,
Caddo Township.

A marriage was solemnized between Charles Prewit and Elizabeth Crow on the 28th of August A.D. 1822. The ceremony was performed by me.

JACOB STROOPE, J. Peace

I do certify that the above is a true copy of the original received and recorded 1st September A.D. 1822.

HENRY L. BISCOE, Clk.

Arkansas Territory,
Clark County,
Caddo Township.

A marriage was solemnized between John Forbus (Forbes) and Betsey (Elizabeth) Calloway (Calloway) on the 6th of January A.D. 1823. The ceremony was performed by me.

JACOB STROOPE, J. Peace

I do certify that the foregoing is a true copy of the original received and recorded this 1st February A.D. 1823.

HENRY L. BISCOE, Clk.

Arkansas Territory,
Clark County,
Caddo Township.

A marriage was solemnized between Andrew Hemphill and Margret (Margaret) Welsh on the 7th of February A.D. 1823. The ceremony was performed by me.

JACOB STROOPE, J. Peace

I do certify that the above is a true copy of the original received and recorded this 1st of March A.D. 1823.

HENRY L. BISCOE, Clk.

Arkansas Territory,
Clark County,
Caddo Township.

I, Henry L. Biscoe, a Justice of the Peace for the Caddo Township, Clark County, do certify that on the 31st of July A.D. 1823 Edward Davis was married to Betsey Sorrells (Sorrels) by me.
HENRY L. BISCOE, J. Peace

I do certify that the above is a true copy of the original received and recorded this 1st of August A.D. 1823.

HENRY L. BISCOE, Clk.

I, Henry L. Biscoe, a Justice of the Peace for the Caddo Township, County of Clark, do certify that on the 14th day of August A.D. 1823 Micajah McDanniel (McDonald) was married to Sarah Mobley by me.

HENRY L. BISCOE, J. Peace

I do certify that the above is a true copy of the original received and recorded this 16th of August A.D. 1823.

HENRY L. BISCOE, Clk.

I, Henry L. Biscoe, a Justice of the Peace for the Caddo Township, Clark County, do certify that on the 1st day of September A.D. 1823 Andrew Beof was married to Susan Clover by me.

HENRY L. BISCOE, J. Peace

I do certify that the above is a true copy of the original received and recorded this 6th of September 1823.

HENRY L. BISCOE, Clk.

Arkansas Territory,
Clark County,
Caddo Township.

A marriage was solemnized between John H. Peake and Visa (Lavisa or Levisa) Davis on the second day of January eighteen hundred & twenty five. The ceremony was performed by me.

JACOB STROOPE, J. Peace

I certify the above to be a true copy of the original which was received & recorded by me this 3rd Jan'y 1825.

T.S. DREW, Clerk.

T.S. DREW, Clerk.

I do certify that I solemnized the rites of Matrimony between Jesse Holly and Levina Smith on the 19th June 1825.

CHARLES BRANDON, an ordained preacher.

I certify the above to be a true copy of the original recorded this 2nd December 1825.

T.S. DREW, Clerk.

I do certify that I solemnized the rites of Matrimony between Edward Davis and Nancy Barr (Bear) on the 9th October 1825.

CHARLES BRANDON, an Ordained Minister.

I certify the above to be a true copy of the original recorded this 2nd December 1825.

T.S. DREW, Clerk.

I do certify that I solemnized the rites of Matrimony between William Clover and Nancy Freeman on the 13th October 1825.

CHARLES BRANDON, an Ordained minister.
I certify the above to be a true copy of the original recorded this 2nd Decr. 1825.

T.S. DREW, Clerk.

I do certify the Rite of Matrimony between Andrew Cowin and Elizabeth Pruitt (Prewitt) on the 11 day of August 1825. Certified this 12 day of November 1825.

MOSES MOORE, Justice of the Peace.

I certify the above to be a true copy of the Original which I rec'd and recorded this 2nd day of December 1825.

T.S. DREW, Clerk.

Married on the 10th of November 1825 Jonathan Calaway (Callaway) to Emily Fish (nee Hemphill widow of Thomas Fish) both of Clark County by me.

T.S. DREW, Justice of the Peace.

I certify the above to be a true copy of the Original recorded this 7th day of January 1826.

T.S. DREW, Clerk.

ETHEL TAYLOR C GUEST WRITER

We are pleased to print these articles written by Ethel Taylor. Her Pike County family connections and reasons for tracing her family history are explained in the articles. When I commented to Ethel that she painted a beautiful picture of Christmas rather than the bleak Christmas I always envisioned as the lot of early settlers, she replied:

Many Christmases were bleak, but they did the best [they could] with what they had, which is what I tried to say. This Christmas was described from many old books I read, and stories from my parents and grandparents about early family Christmases that they could remember, and an active imagination. So it's just a conglomeration of many sources rolled into one. Even in the really early days, as the people began to migrate west from the Atlantic Coast line, they carried precious mementos with them, so there's the imagination!

Ethel maintains an Internet web page that is Ainked@ to the Pike County web page. The first article, Rendezvous With Yesterday, is the introduction to her web page. Her many awards for excellence on the Internet are also shown. Ethel Taylor can be contacted at P.O. Box 1263, Bandon, OR 97411, or through the Internet at her E-mail address, <bandony@ucinet.com>. To view her web page go to:

http://www.geocities.com/Heartland/Plains/4231/

I hope you enjoy Ethel's story telling as much as I do.

Cindy Scott, Editor

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RENDEZVOUS WITH YESTERDAY
by Ethel Taylor

Have you ever wished there was a doorway to the past? One you could step through and follow a particular family through the events of history in our country? Experience the struggles, the travels, the hardships, heartbreaks, and the victories of our pioneer past? Wouldn't it be an experience to travel by raft with the family as they left North Carolina, rafting the French Broad River to the Tennessee River? How about climbing in the wagon as they set out over mountains and valleys to a place they have never seen?

When you begin tracing your roots back, you begin a history lesson that will teach you much about our country. In finding out about the periods of history your family lived through, it gives flesh and blood to bare facts, names and dates. What would it have been like to live through the Revolutionary War, the Civil War? I have come to not care too much for the term, AGenealogy.@To me it is Family History. You need to know the influences on your family that caused them to decide what they did. What possessed them to pack up and move to a whole new area, completely unknown? What was going on where they lived, that forced this decision? Perhaps there had been a drought that had lasted for a few years, crops failed, even gardens suffered. Their stock may have contracted an illness and died, or death came because
grazing lands had dried and died. Or maybe, they just
had an itchy foot@and needed to see what was beyond
the valley or hills where they lived. Maybe they couldn't live with the politics of their area.

Some of my distant family was in the Revolutionary War. A few chose the wrong side, they were Tories and got their lands in North Carolina confiscated, moving on into South Carolina before 1800, then into Georgia and began drifting west from there. The west was wide open. There were Indians to contend with, and the colonies/states stretched to the Mississippi River. Others fought for the Continental Army, receiving land grants and pensions for their service.

I have found 13 Civil War veterans in my family, brothers, cousins, brothers-in-law to my grandparents. The War took its toll on my families as it did thousands of other families. Some did not make it back home alive, one disappeared after he was exchanged in 1862 for Yankee soldiers in Mississippi. He probably is in some unknown grave in some unknown skirmish or battle field. Another was taken prisoner at the battle of Helena, Arkansas July 4, 1863 and spent the rest of the war as a prisoner. Others were POWs that were exchanged in the early years of the War. Some fought all the way through, came home, married and went on with their lives, others came home to wives and children. The ones that came home were well or crippled from wounds.

Reconstruction after the War was rough on the Southerners. The military governors, riffraff, carpet baggers, extracted heavy penalties from them. Many left their homes, traveling on westward seeking a better place for their families. One of my family trying to leave Tennessee with his family, was set upon in the Cumberlands, robbed, beaten and dragged off into the woods, never to be seen again.

In following my families back through history for three hundred fifty years, I read United States history, histories of Virginia, North and South Carolina, Georgia, Alabama, Tennessee, Arkansas and points west. Several descendents of these families have helped with family facts and information about their areas.

Many Historical Societies, countless Court and County Clerks across the country, gave me valuable insight into the histories of their states and counties, and provided documents when available containing valuable information. In particular, John Ferguson, Arkansas History Commission, Ms. Dorothy Kennedy Partain, Pike County Archives and History Society, and Bonnie Franklin and staff, Clark County Arkansas Courthouse. Also, the numerous people who have written histories of our country and the wars that tore us apart, then brought us back together.

I have been lucky in finding cousins that generously assisted me in my quest and thirst for knowledge of my families. They are the BEST!!! I have been lucky to find Ashley cousins in AR, OK, TN and AL; Crisp cousins in AR, OK, TX, CA, NM, AZ; Prince cousins in AR, OK, TX, NY, and Howertons in AR, AZ. Through the Surname lists I have been able to find cousins of my distant past families. I am now working on my Cherokee families. Using history has helped me to know where to look. If you know the histories connected with the areas your families were in and came from, it can sometimes point you to clues as to where to look for information on them.

Come along with me and step through this door way to the past. We have a

RENDEZVOUS WITH YESTERDAY

If man is to vanish from the earth, let him vanish in the moment of creation, when he is creating something new, opening a path to the tomorrow he may never see. It is man's nature to reach out to grasp for the tangible on the way to the intangible.

THE LONESOME GODS
By Louis L'Amour

A BIT OF HISTORY
by Ethel Taylor

As we are researching our families, it is good to remember the history of our country in the times and places our ancestors lived through. Remembering the history can, at times, give us new clues, perhaps to the hurdle we are trying to overcome, and as everyone knows, some ancestors just don't make it easy for us to find them. By opening your mind to what was happening, how they would have lived, how they had to do things then with no corner market or super mall
to get what they needed, we can learn to appreciate how hard it was just to get us here. In some cases, perhaps they didn’t have time to leave us viable clues in Archives, courthouses and church records. But, by having an idea of what they went through, when we do find that record, we can imagine that they finally had time to drop just a brief note of their existence on earth.

Our families that lived in Pike County, Arkansas came from somewhere else, and before they were born, the family came from still another place. Their lives are a history lesson for all of us. This information is excerpted from a book I am currently involved with, to show my children and grand-children how we came to be.

Some early settlers traveled areas that wagons could not go. They traveled the buffalo paths, game trails, Indian trails, creeks and rivers to find a place for their new homes. Onto the pack horses and mules they loaded the family clothing, some blankets and a few other bedclothes, with bed ticks to be filled with grass or hair, a large pot, a pair of pot hooks, an oven with a lid, a skillet and frying pan, a hand mill to grind grain, a wooden trencher in which to make bread, a few pewter plates, spoons, and other dishes, some axes and hoes, the iron parts of a plow, a broad ax, a froe, a saw, and an auger. Added to these were supplies of seeds for fields and vegetable crops, and a few fruit tree saplings.

When their destination was reached, they cut trees and built a log house, split boards with the froe and made a roof which was held on by weight poles, no nails being available. Puncheons were made by splitting logs and having the flat side smooth for floors and door shutters. Some chimneys were made of split sticks covered on the inside with a heavy coating of clay; but usually stones were used for this purpose as they were plentiful. The space between the log walls were filled with mortar called chinks and dobbins.

The horses and cattle were turned into the woods to eat grass in the summer and cane in the winter, being enticed home at night by a small bait of salt or grain. The small trees and bushes were cut and their roots grubbed up, while larger trees were girdled and left to die and become leafless. Rails were made and the clearing fenced in, the brush piled and burned, the land plowed and planted. It was work from daylight to dark, to get the cabins built, a wood supply cut and split, before winter came on.

The first settlers in the Cumberlands, like first settlers elsewhere, invented nothing, and most certainly not democracy. They pioneered no new system of government, religion or agriculture. The successful pioneer was a master hand at adapting old learnings to a new environment, as seen in aspects of his life - log house learned from the Swede; whiskey from the Scotch; corn, moccasins, popular dugout from the Indians. This is also seen in the patterns of agriculture, trade, industry, education and speech.

The new log house in the new ground field was new to the man who cleared the land, but behind him other men on older borders to the east had built cabins and cleared fields. The Cumberland pioneer was merely re-creating a way of life known to other men, the pattern shaped and changed by the land, the climate, the rivers and the Indians. All these influenced the pattern of his life, but it was not a new pattern.

After the first year, a larger cabin would be built, leaving the original to become the barn. Other smaller sheds were built to house the corn and grain raised for the family food and the animals. All this time the families had to contend with bands of Indians; some friendly, some resenting the infringement of the white man on their way of life. They were being pushed over and closed in by the white men that came to their lands.

The end of the 18th century and the early 1800's brought Indian wars along the western boundaries of the states. Settlers were moving in and pushing the Indians farther west. Forts were built on the frontier. In 1803, Jefferson purchased Louisiana from France effectively doubling the size of the United States.

Life on the frontier was not an easy one. There were no stores to buy clothes and other needs. These frontier people made what they had to have. They used the skins of the animals they hunted for food to make the clothes they wore. The hides were tanned into leather, the leather made into clothes. Cloth was spun on the spinning wheels by the wives and mothers from natural fibers for clothes that could not be made from leather.

The men and boys wore moccasins, short pantaloons, and leather leggins, which were usually dressed deer
skins. The hunting shirts were cut like modern shirts, open the entire length in front, and fastened with a belt. In this belt they carried a small hatchet and a long sharp hunting knife. They wore caps of mink or coon with the tail hanging down as a tassel. The rifles they carried were long muzzle loading flintlocks, and in a pouch hung over one shoulder was carried gun wipes, tow, patching, bullets, and flints, while fastened to the strap was a horn for powder. When they were not working in the fields, they were out hunting for game. The women and girls wore sunbonnets as a rule, and had little time for tucks and ruffles. There was no place at which to buy things, except at the store of the Indian traders, and they had very few things that white people wanted.

Gradually, forts were built in the wilderness. This gave the settlers a small measure of safety from the roving bands of Indians that did not like this intrusion into their forests and land. Usually the forts had a store, where goods were brought in by wagon, raft, or pack train. These provided some glimpse of the "civilization" these settlers had left behind when they moved to the frontier. The storekeepers usually carried clothe goods, powder, tobacco, metal parts for farm tools, barrels of salt, beans, flour and candles. They traded their goods for furs, perhaps fresh eggs, any number of items the settlers could come up with, as money was a scarce item. At that time, most states issued their own money, as well as banks and towns.

These hardy people fought the elements, Indians, ruffians and life in general to bring about the settling of this vast country, to marry and raise their families.

In those early days, schools were virtually non-existent. The educational aspect was very poor. Only a very few were privileged to get an education. If one of their parents was lucky enough to have learned to read, they taught their children. Nearly every family had a bible, so this became the book their reading lessons came from. They learned to write and their numbers, using charcoal on wood slabs. There were no schools close, only in the big towns far away.

Christmas to these pioneers was celebrated much the same as today, with family and friends, except they didn't have huge malls and toy stores to visit. Their gifts to each other were homemade, and some would take weeks to make. The children's toys were made by the parents and grandparents. Dolls for the girls were made of cloth, with button eyes, yarn hair, the body and head stuffed with what was available. Stitches outlined other facial features. Their clothes were made from scraps of other projects. Sleds and wagons were carved and put together in secret for that happy day. Money was scarce, so these toys were made of whatever was available.

As Christmas drew closer, the men and boys, sometimes the entire family, went out into the woods to search for that perfect tree. These excursions could take all day, so sometimes a picnic lunch was packed along on the pack mule that would bring the absolutely best Christmas tree home. When one was found they all agreed was the most beautiful ever, it was chopped down and hauled home, to be set up in this cabin in the wilderness.

Decorations also were homemade. Popcorn was strung, pine cones and such used for ornaments. Sometimes, some of the families had ornaments for the trees handed down from another lifetime. These few hand-blown glass ornaments may have come from Europe, carefully packed and carried, when their grandparents, great-grandparents came to this new country. These were very precious, as they represented not only the family, but Christmas past that had happened in other places and other times. The children made the other ornaments for the tree. If paper was available, they would cut stars, snowmen, paper rings to decorate. Each year was the most beautiful tree ever, because the items changed as the availability changed, the special glass ornaments always had a place of honor on the tree. These were reminders of how far the family had come.

On Christmas morning the children would charge to the tree to see what Santa had brought. There were squeals of glee as the dolls, sled, and wagons were discovered. The grownups presents were just as precious, as they were hand made, too. Perhaps dad had a new shirt, made from the finest, softest deerskin, carefully tanned, cut and put together with loving care. Mom may have gotten a new rocking chair, carefully carved for hours upon hours, and kept hidden in the barn until that day, to be placed near the fireplace for her. In this chair she could rest from the days work, rock a baby to sleep with a lullaby, or hold a sick child to comfort.
Then the bustle would begin for the day. Dad and the boys had gone hunting. There was a wild turkey to be cooked, pies from the fruit of their own trees brought so carefully to this wilderness place. Bread to be baked in the fireplace. Then, family members making the trip from their homes to this home for the occasion, bringing their own contributions to the feast, and the musical instruments to add to the singing. The excitement of love shared that day would help to make up for hardships suffered during the past year. For a while these pioneer families could relax and forget their everyday problems. They could remember and talk of the Christmases of their childhood, the Christmases yet to come, when they are old, and their grandchildren are sharing this day with them.

As the pioneers pushed through the mountains ever westward, at times they came upon rivers that were flowing the direction they were headed. The men decided the fastest and easiest way to go would be by raft. Trees were cut, the branches stripped off and the logs laid close together to be lashed with ropes. A short rail was built around the sides, and pegs set to lash their belongings in place. Onto the rafts, they loaded their household goods, stocks of food, seeds and saplings of fruit trees for their new homes. They also loaded farm tools, their guns and powder and extra ropes.

Perhaps they loaded onto a raft to travel through the Appalachians into Tennessee. They rafted down the French Broad River from Asheville to Knoxville, Tennessee. The children had to be roped while on the raft, to keep them from falling overboard. The men on the raft used long poles to help guide and keep it in the current, pushing off from rocks that jutted up, to round them easier.

The French Broad was wide in the valley, making the rafting easy. But, in its meandering through the Smoky Mountains, at times it crashed and rolled as it tumbled over rocks and through narrow passes. The spray soaked the families on the rafts. They pitched and rolled as the river rushed on its way. In late afternoons, they started watching for an open space along the banks, where they could stop for the night. When one was sighted, the rafts were poled toward the bank. One of the adults would jump out, grab the rope and pull the raft close to tie it off to nearby trees so it would not drift away in the night.

Supplies were unloaded, wood was hunted and a fire started for the evening meal. Items that had become soaked that day in the rapids, were spread around the fire on bushes to dry. While the women cooked, the children scampered and played, using the pent up energy from the day on the raft. The men scouted the area, checking for unseen dangers. After the evening meal was over, all the utensils cleaned and put away, sleeping areas were set up around the fires and the children put to bed. The adults talked of the trip that day and what may be ahead of them. Sentries were set up and everyone bedded down for the night, exhausted after fighting the river all day, knowing tomorrow would bring the same.

It begins where the French Broad and the Holston Rivers combine, just a short distance from present day Knoxville, Tennessee, flowing southwest across Tennessee through Alabama and tipping the northeast corner of Mississippi, before turning back north through Tennessee into Kentucky, then running into the Ohio, and together, into the mighty Mississippi. To the Indians who first inhabited this region, the "Tenesse"and its numerous tributaries were like the sun. They were expected and revered, necessary and unseparated from life. To the frontiersmen the river was a source of abundant and valuable wildlife to be harvested and sold in the east. It was a potential route for further exploration west. To the settlers who followed, the vast diverse forests and rich bottom lands of the Tennessee valley were fuel to an emerging nation.

The headwaters of the Tennessee on the western slope of the Appalachian Mountains served as this country's first frontier. Pioneers like Boone, Crockett, and Sevier made names for themselves while living among the broad mountain ranges and fertile valleys. Of course, the frontier had already been discovered by ancient red pioneers thousands of years before and rediscovered later by newer peoples - most notably, tribes of the Cherokee.

The Indians the white man met were no more the original inhabitants of the country than the Normans and Saxons were the original inhabitants of England. Other peoples had come and gone before, leaving only their shadows upon the land. Some had gone into limbo leaving not only physical artifacts but spiritual ones as well. Often, encroaching tribes borrowed from
those that came before, accepting their values as a way of maintaining harmony with the natural world.

Initial curiosity between the new and the old was followed by trade and later by hostility and frequent war. The pioneers accepted the Cherokee name "Tenese" while adopting the land itself. Treaties were followed by more treaties until the Indians could no longer trust the white man to keep them and the whites could no longer trust themselves.

As the pioneers moved farther to the west, the lands became accessible to wagons, so people combined into wagon trains to continue west. A common thread among many was the free land to be had out west, and for some, the unmistakable itch to see what lay over the next hill, or across the next river. They combined their wagons for the safety in numbers and the help of their friends in making their trip.

Slowly, slowly turned the heavy oak wheels, pinned to the cumbersome wagon. Puffs of red dust rose high over the fields and over the animals, the oxen and horses that strained to pull the heavy laden wagons of these pioneers moving west. Both animals and people were tired, but there were still weeks left to their destination. Sometimes riding, mostly walking, the families did what they could to lessen the weight their animals had to pull. The men walked by the wagon guiding the teams. They carried long bull whips, with which they could "encourage" the team to keep moving. These men could use the whip with great skill. They could pop the head from a rattlesnake, or flick a fly from the teams back.

Homespun canvas roofed the half circle sides of the wagons in the train, which held treasures, old china, cached gold, iron pots, spinning wheels, looms, feather bedding and pain. The deep seated pain that strikes the hearts of the pioneer women when they have said good-bye to home and friends, family and loved ones, children left behind in lonely graves, as they bounce and sway with the motion of the wagons. Not so with the men. Their hearts are lifted up with visions of westward lands, unknown dreams catch at the sun lines of their quick eyes and steady hands, leaving behind the slave worked hills and valleys of the Tennessee and Alabama. These people, not strong as oxen in muscle and bone and sinew, but strong and active in man's spirit and God's, that leads them to try and do the tasks, that built homes and the nation. The spirit of unrest writhe and tortures our young nation from within. It groans and backbites, settles down again for a little season.

As the wagon wheels turn westward through nasty bogs and filthy swamps, these tired people pushed forward. Over a wood fire at night, they cooked a meal fit for a king. They are kings - and queens - but wear no crowns. Their crowning days are yet to come.

High and up!! They climb the mountains, the drivers voices echoing, as they yell encouragement to the teams. As the evening star rises, the animals are tired, and glad for the folks that feed them. They slowly lower themselves to the ground for a much needed rest. Ever onward, no time to loiter. Today was yesterday's tomorrow.

"I wish I had a buckskin suit.... like Daniel Boone wore," echo the children as they snuggle down into a downy feather bed on the upper bunk, under the home-spun cover, dreaming dreams of a far off land, coming as if to meet them, as the wheels slowly turned over and over again.

Then, down into the valleys, where the pulling is not so hard. The women sang hymns, stepping modestly behind, desiring to walk to rest their tired cramped spines from being too long inside low roofed wagons.

The children fought like bear cubs fight. Boxing and slapping inside their cage, laughing and looking with eager eyes. Wise eyes, seeing everything. Something at the foot of the incline was reflected in many eyes. In some, it meant a dare, something to defy, something yet untried - by them. In others, not exactly fear, but an end to one thing and the beginning of another. The waters of this river was in a turbulent rush that noon day. Wild, rough, hissing and pushing on its way. But, the mighty Mississippi could not stop these people.

The ferry boat clutched them, and beat the waves, lowered them, every one, their cargo safe to face more dangerous days. Looking westward from the muddy banks of the foe they had just crossed, not with ease and satisfaction, but praying hearts and quaking knees, they paused to pray for guidance on the way. The forest was dark, heavy, and many eyes look and quick ears listen to the strange noises and the turning wheels, ever bringing them nearer.
Finally, the valley is sighted - filled, packed down, measured out - through a gap in the mountain. A valley not large, but held securely by the toes of the range of mountains not yet known. The valley... beautiful, serene, peaceful, long since gone, the red man. The end of the journey, now the gate to the frontier.

The wagons spread out over the valleys, seeking a place to call home. With the comradery from long days on the trail, obstacles overcome, together, they set about to build their homes. On the appointed day they came, neighbors and friends, riding or afoot, to their holding - the men with their rifles and axes, the women with their pots and kettles. Every child toddled along too, helping to carry the wooden dishes and spoons. These free givers of labor had something of the Orientals notion of the sacred ratification of friendship by a feast.

The usual dimensions of a frontier cabin were sixteen by twenty feet. The logs already cut and laying at hand, the builders labored all day. At noon, the ladies had a meal ready, their morning no less busy than the men's. The food was made in sufficient quantities that there was enough left for supper, when the day was done. The crimson sun sinking into the unknown wilderness beyond the mountains, poured its last glow on the roof of the cabin and on the group near it's walls. With unfelt fingers, subtlety, it painted a soft red touch of the west in the faces of the men.

In primitive design, this frontier cabin was, perhaps, after all, the perfect home - a place where the personal life and the work life was united and nothing futile found space. Every object in the cabin was practical and had been made by hand on the spot to answer a need. Besides the chairs hewn from hickory blocks, there were others made of slabs set on three legs. A large slab or two with four legs served as a movable table; the permanent table was built against the wall, its outer edge held up by two sticks. The low bed was built into the wall the same way and was softened for slumber by a mattress of pine needles, chaff, or dried moss. In the best light from the greased paper window panes stood the spinning wheel and loom, on which the housewife made cloth for the family's garments. Over the fireplace or beside the doorway, suspended usually by deer's antlers hung the firearms and yellow powder horns, On a shelf or on pegs were the wooden spoons, plates, bowls and noggins. Also near the fireplace, which was made of large flat stones with a mud plastered wood chimney, stood the grinding block for making hominy.

Cooking was done on the open hearth by the women who dressed the skins of wild animals and brought water from the springs in crude pails. They milked the cows, cut firewood, spun, wove, knit and washed the clothes, tended the bees, chickens, gardens, and kids while the men and boys worked the fields and hunted the game.

Schools were being started in many places by now. Commissioners were created in every township and school districts were formed. To begin with, the schools were held in homes or churches until the districts could afford to build. The first schools were usually log, and school terms lasted only one to three months because of a lack of teachers and because the children had to help at home in the fields and do other chores. A lot of parents thought that "book learnin" was a waste of time. The children needed to learn more about farming and keeping house.

School teaching was by no means an easy job. The rural teacher of long ago had a less complicated situation. The textbook was the standard of education. The main list of studies were reading, writing, and arithmetic. Most rural schools were one room, with up to eight grades, taught by one teacher. Schools were located near a good number of families, giving the school a fair number of students.

Entrance to most of the schools was one well kept dead end country road and trails to the homes through the woods. These trails were wide and well padded by many, many feet, small and adult size - by shoes in the winter and bare feet of the younger ones in the warmer months.

During the warm months, recess and the noon hour were spent playing ball, with both boys and girls playing. The younger pupils played their own games, but all within sight of the teacher. At lunch hour the girls and the teacher mostly ate lunch, because in those days, everyone carried a lunch, sitting on the steps or somewhere near the door of the school. The boys usually ate standing, getting ready to start their games.
School would begin about 8:00 A.M. and last till 4:00. The students would range in age from five years up to sometime seventeen. Usually the morning began with a simple prayer, then some brief exercise. Then the work began. Sometimes, due to illness or bad weather, there could be as few as one or two students in some of the more advanced grades. Sometimes winter snows kept the students away.

In winter months, everyone stayed indoors, especially in severe cold or rainy weather. The school was warmed with a large cast iron stove, the older boys keeping it going and making sure there was plenty of wood inside for starting the next morning. They also made sure there was drinking water brought in from the well.

As people moved into an area, churches were built as the preachers moved along with the people. Churches built back then were along the same lines as the homes the people lived in.

The walls were made of hewn logs, about twenty feet by twenty four feet, with a wooden chimney on one end and a place cut out for a chimney at the other, which was closed with slabs until it could be finished. In the front was a large door, with a center post and double shutters on the principle of a barn. Immediately opposite was the pulpit, which stood about 6 feet out from the wall. The front was so high that when the preacher knelt to pray he was almost hidden from the people. Behind the pulpit was a window without glass. The shutter that closed it was too small for the opening and allowed a stream of air to come in. In the summer, the building was hot and stuffy, the open window and door helped in circulating the air.

The roof was made of clapboards, and there was no ceiling between the roof and floor. usually some boards were laid across the rafters, so some things could be lifted up and stored. The cracks between the logs were not chinked or daubed, mostly they were covered by nailing thin boards over. But, lots of times these were torn off during the heat of summer, to allow more air and light in.

Winters made the churches very uncomfortable. Sometimes, fall brought an early cold spell. On Sunday when the people went to church, it was cold and the church goers suffered in the cold. Usually they gathered around noon, but there was no set time for their meetings, as everyone had chores to be done, before leaving for church. The stock had to be fed, chickens let out, cows milked. In cold weather, they had to make sure there was no ice over the drinking water. A large fire was built in the front yard near the door. When it became too cold in the church, with the cold winds breezing through the cracks, they would retreat to the bonfire to warm. It was still easy to hear the preaching as the old time preachers were not of the soft spoken type. When one group was warmed they went back in and another group took their place. The sermons were not interrupted or stalled as the turns were taken by the fires.

The farms grew cotton and corn as a major crop. In the spring the fields were plowed with horses or mules, with the farmer following behind the plow. Following the plow, someone was dropping the seeds by hand, covering the seeds in the trench left by the plow, by raking the dirt from the sides, over the seeds, with their feet.

The hay fields were growing well in the hot hazy days of summer. Before long it was time to start cutting it. The days were long and the fresh cut hay was stored in the barns so the stock would have food when winter came. Also growing and producing were the gardens, fruit trees and berry bushes. The men were kept busy in the fields, the women in the kitchen, canning the tomatoes, peas, beans and corn. Fruit was picked and canned, and the berries were preserved in jellies and jams. Usually, the families had a 'dug out' near their house. This would be dug into a small rise or hill. The inside would be shored up and shelves installed. In this underground room, they would store the canning, apples, cabbages, carrots, and other vegetables and fruits that would keep through the winter.

Through the summer the seeds poked their heads through the ground. The family worked the fields, chopping the weeds from between the rows as the cotton plants grew. Late summer the plants had grown large and started blooming. It would not be long now. September - October saw the bolls start to form from the flowers. Then, the bolls would burst open, full of cotton. The rows upon rows, fields upon fields of cotton would turn to white, giving an impression of winter snow.
Then the hard work would begin. With long sacks, ten to twelve feet long, made from homespun canvas, with a strap to go over the shoulder, the family would work in the fields all day. The strap was slung across one shoulder, crossing the chest to the sack which dragged behind. Starting on one side of the field they would take row after row, pulling the cotton from the bolls and putting in the sack. When the sack was filled, it was taken to a wagon, weighed and emptied. Then the process would start over. When one wagon was filled, it was taken off to the nearest gin, to be sold and unloaded. This trip could take a while, depending on the closest gin.

At the gins, stalls were erected with the farmers names on them. The wagons of cotton were unloaded into these stalls. Then it was ginned when they had time - it took some time to gin a bale of cotton because they didn't have a press and the cotton had to be tromped down with their feet. In places where the gin was too far away, cotton buyers came. Their prices were usually less than what the farmer could get if he sold to the gins, but again, he didn't have to make the long drives.

Some farmers could not afford their own farms, so worked for some of the larger landlords. They would work and farm their few acres on share. They did the work, the landowner took part of the crops. A good landowner would allow the sharecropper a larger percentage of the crops, but some would barely be able to make ends meet with their small shares. This also was a form of slavery, because the sharecropper could never hope to be able to save enough to buy their own little farm.

Along with the work in the spring and summer, came the storms. The hot weather and shifting currents could cause some pretty rough weather, sometimes spurred on by the hurricanes that formed in the Atlantic and the Gulf. These storms could bring high winds, heavy rains, hail and tornadoes. These twisting, whirling "demons" from the skies would dance across counties, cutting a swath of destruction. Crops and trees could be destroyed, as well as homes, if they happened to lay in their paths.

Most farms had root cellars dug into a slight rise nearby, or dug into the ground, with doors. Their major purpose was to store fall vegetables and fruits for the winters. Underground temperatures remained constant. But, when these storms roared through, these root cellars became the protectors of the family as well. There they could shelter until the storms passed.

So are some of the lives and times our ancestors lived through. These tough resilient people are who we are today. If we know where we came from, we can know where we are going. Let us hope that we will show the same tough resiliency as our ancestors, for the generations stretching out in front of us.

William John Smedley

The Smedley name is Saxon [English] [Nottingham] It is the corrupted form of the older name [Smetheley]. It is apparently a habitation name from an unidentified place. Perhaps so called from smede+leah-smooth. A name for someone who lived/lives on a piece of smooth level ground, a dweller at the smooth or flat meadow. The principle seat of the Smedleys in early times was in and around Nottingham England. It was one of the oldest names in the area. The name has been found to go back to the year mid ten hundred.

William Robert and Minervia (unknown) Smedley were born and married in Madison County, Tennessee. They moved to McNairy County, Tennessee and there they bought land and he became a farmer and a tanner. The value of his land was $500.00. In 1859 he move his family to Redland, Arkansas Township of Antoine in Pike County, Arkansas and farmed until sometime in 1860. The value of his real estate was $600.00 and value of personal estate was $1,500.00. He owned 1 known slave according to the slave census of 1860. The census states that the slave was a fugitive from the state and he was 17 years old. They moved to Murfreesboro in 1860. He purchased a hotel and saloon of which he operated until after the Civil War. In 1864 through 1866 he was one of the county surveyors. In 1875 he purchased a farm of 375 acres in Kimberly, south of Murfreesboro. He farmed and carried on his trade, that of a tanner, until his death in 1877. After his death Minervia managed the farm with the help of the children still living at home. After the farm was sold she lived with her son Samuel Lewis and his first and second wife. He was aged 24 and she was 16 when they were married. According to the census her parents were from South
William Robert Smedley
born: December 28, 1850 in McNairy Co., TN
died: December 19, 1877 in Kimberly, Pike Co., AR
buried: Kimberly Cemetery, Murfreesboro, Pike Co., AR
married 1st: November 10, 1859 in Tippah Co., MS
married 2nd: April 2, 1834 in Madison Co., TN
born: March 20, 1889 in Kimberly, Pike Co., AR
Children of William Robert Smedley and Minervia:
(1) William John Smedley
born: December 28, 1850 in McNairy Co., TN
died: November 10, 1859 in Tippah Co., MS
married 1st: February 26, 1945 in Murfreesboro, Pike Co., AR
buried: Pleasant Home Cemetery, Pike Co., AR
married 2nd: March 24, 1849 in TN
born: April 2, 1834 in Madison Co., TN
died: December 28, 1909, Murfreesboro, Pike Co., AR
buried: Kimberly Cemetery, Murfreesboro, Pike Co., AR
married: 1878 in Murfreesboro, Pike Co., AR
(2) Martha Ann Smedley
born: February 11, 1853 in McNairy Co., TN
died: February 16, 1859, death place unknown
(3) Mary Francis Smedley
born: February 24, 1855 in McNairy Co., TN
died: April 9, 1892 in Murfreesboro, Pike Co., AR
buried: Kimberly Cemetery, Murfreesboro, AR
(4) Martin Calvin Smedley
born: August 31, 1857 in McNairy Co., TN
died: November 18, 1878 in Kimberly, Pike Co., AR
buried: Kimberly Cemetery, Murfreesboro, AR
(5) Robert Franklin Smedley
born: October 28, 1860 in Kimberly, Pike Co., AR
died: July 7, 1929 in Vandervoort, Polk Co., AR
buried: Witherspoon Cemetery, Polk Co., AR
married 1st: 1885 in Murfreesboro, Pike Co., AR
married 2nd: August 12, 1860 in Murfreesboro, Pike Co., AR
died: April 9, 1892 in Kimberly, Pike Co., AR
buried: Murfreesboro Cemetery, Murfreesboro, Pike Co., AR
married 2nd: 1892 in Murfreesboro, Pike Co., AR
Martha Ann Osment
born: 1859
married: 1948 in Vandervoort, Polk Co., AR
buried: Witherspoon Cemetery, Polk Co., AR
Children of Robert Franklin Smedley and Adelia Davis:
(1) Tom, m Christine Kemp; (2) George Murph, 1895-1964;
(4) Martin Calvin Smedley
born: August 31, 1857 in McNairy Co., TN
died: November 18, 1878 in Kimberly, Pike Co., AR
buried: Kimberly Cemetery, Murfreesboro, AR
(5) Robert Franklin Smedley
born: October 28, 1860 in Kimberly, Pike Co., AR
died: July 7, 1929 in Vandervoort, Polk Co., AR
buried: Witherspoon Cemetery, Polk Co., AR
married 1st: 1885 in Murfreesboro, Pike Co., AR
Adelia Ann (Evans) Davis
born: October 3, 1921 in Murfreesboro, Pike Co., AR
died: April 9, 1892 in Kimberly, Pike Co., AR
buried: Murfreesboro Cemetery, Murfreesboro, Pike Co., AR
married 2nd: 1892 in Murfreesboro, Pike Co., AR
Martha Ann Osment
born: 1859
married: 1948 in Vandervoort, Polk Co., AR
buried: Witherspoon Cemetery, Polk Co., AR
Children of Robert Franklin Smedley and Adelia Davis:
Children of Robert Franklin Smedley and Martha Ann Osment:
(1) Tom, m Christine Kemp; (2) George Murph, 1895-1964;
(6) Margaret Elizabeth Smedley
born: July 26, 1863 in Kimberly, Pike Co., AR
died: June 2, 1880
John James Moore
born: 1856 in GA
married 2nd: August 11, 1896
George Washington Ross
born: November 22, 1853 in Hempstead Co., AR
died: July 21, 1938 in Blevins, Hempstead Co., AR
buried: Union Grove Cemetery, Hempstead Co., AR

Children of William John Smedley and Sarah Tennessee Cooley:
Children of Margaret Elizabeth Smedley and John James Moore

Children of Margaret Elizabeth (Smedley) Moore and George Washington Ross:
(1) Gertie, 1897-1901; (2) Eldridge Edgar, 1898-1901; (3) Margaret Olivia, 1902-1980, m Nathan Norvell, 1902-1957.

(7) James Henry Smedley
born: April 15, 1866 in Kimberly, Pike Co., AR
married:
Mattie Gentry
Children of James Henry Smedley and Mattie Gentry:

(8) David Riley Smedley
born: June 29, 1870 in Kimberly, Pike Co., AR

(9) Samuel Lewis Smedley
born: 1873 in Kimberly, Pike Co., AR
died: June 10, 1953 in Murfreesboro, Pike Co., AR
buried: Japany Cemetery, Pike Co., AR
married 1st: June 15, 1893 in Murfreesboro, Pike Co., AR
Elizabeth Bradford, daughter of Jackson John Bradford and Susan E. Dallas
born: 1879 in community of Pleasant Home, Pike Co., AR
died: abt. 1894 in Texas
buried: Texas
married 2nd: December 30, 1896 in Murfreesboro, Pike Co., AR
Louella Missouri Hutson, daughter of John D. Hutson and Sarah Ann Keys
born: October 5, 1880 in Roy, Pike Co., AR
died: October 21, 1960 in Japany, Pike Co., AR
buried: Japany Cemetery, Pike Co., AR
Children of Samuel Lewis Smedley and Louella Missouri Hutson:

The information shown above was provided by Jim Smedley, 2005 Paisley Drive, Arlington, TX 76015; e-mail address <w001890@airmail.net>. Mr. Smedley welcomes any queries or exchange of information regarding the Smedley name, particularly in Pike Co., AR.

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Jefferson T. Wood

Among the names of the charter members of the old Antioch Church of Christ in Delight are Jefferson T. Wood and Susannah Carpenter. Susannah was a daughter of John Carpenter who, along with several of his children, is also listed as a charter member of the Church.

Descendants of Jefferson T. Wood and Susannah Carpenter gather every year on the second Saturday in October for the annual Wood Cemetery Cleaning. We meet at the cemetery about 10:00 AM to chat and share "dinner on the ground" (pot luck) around noon. The Wood family reunion takes place in conjunction with the cemetery cleaning. Many out-of-towners stay at the Queen of Diamonds Inn in Murfreesboro on Friday and Saturday nights and usually get together for a big family dinner on Saturday night at one of the area restaurants. Join us next year for lots of visiting and rocking on the porch of the Inn!

Many Pike County families have a descendant of Jefferson T. and Susannah (Carpenter) Wood somewhere in their family tree. Some of the surnames appearing in the descendancy list for Jefferson T. Wood are Allgood, Andrews, Avery, Browning, Calley, Campbell, Carr, Carroll, Denny, Dossey, Duren, Elzy, Hale, Haynes, Johnson, Kirkham, Lamb, Lee, Lewallen, Lockwood, McClennahan, Osborn, Prince, Sparks, Story, Strawn, Trout, Walker, Wall(s), Watson, Widener, Williams, Wilson, Witt, Womack, Woolard, and Wright.

We are almost 100% certain that everyone buried in the Wood Cemetery is related by blood or marriage to the Wood family. Surnames of persons buried at Wood Cemetery include Allen, (Brawner), Brooks, Byers, (Calley), (Carpenter), Carr, (Clapsaddle), Cox, Davis, Duke, Folsom, (Grimes), Gatlin, Haynes, (Hicks), Higgins, Holcomb, Hufford, Keiper, (Knighten), McGee, (Musgrove), (Osborn), Pee, Sparks, (Story), Thomasson, Trout, Wilson, Wood, Woolard, and Wright.

We hope to publish more information on the descendants of Jefferson T. and Susannah (Carpenter) Wood in future issues of The Gems. Please note: Although the surname is found as Woods in many instances, it is WOOD (with no A)@
1998 Wood CEMETERY UPDATE
By B.J. Sparks and Cindy Scott

Once again we gathered for our annual Homecoming and "Dinner on The Ground." As in days gone by, we did a lot of visiting and showing of family burial plots to some who had never been there before. About noon the traditional long tables were filled to the breaking point with all kinds of goodies. Then, after the blessing, full speed ahead. Needless to say, no one should have left without being stuffed to the gills!


If anyone was omitted from the list of attendees please contact Cindy Scott, 1801 Valdez Drive NE, Albuquerque, NM 87112.

We missed seeing Willie Lee and Joe Legate this year and hope they can join us next year.

Our thanks and appreciation to Junior Wright for cleaning and maintaining the cemetery for many years. It is our understanding that several gentlemen help him in this effort, but do not have their names. We also appreciate the facilities added by Junior several years ago!

[Wood Cemetery] Homecoming

The second Saturday in October is annual coming and work day for Wood Cemetery in Pike County, near old Shawmut Community.

This year, 36 people were present to clean and decorate the cemetery and have fellowship and feasting around the table at noon when the work was finished.


Alama (Keys) Wright, C. H. Minor, Shirley (Wright) Harris and children, Steve Wright, Mr. Dodson and Eva Hall of Murfreesboro.

Doan Witt, Carlton Wright of Little Rock; Clarence Ashford, Malvern; Roy Trout, Arkadelphia; Ida (Lee) Cash, Antoine; Willie and Myrtle (Kilper) Witt, Longview, Texas; Claudia (Musgrove) Wright of Nashville; Holbert, Norma (Trout) and Larry Poarch of Amity; Nano and Effie (Wood) Lee of Huttig, Ark. A donation of $36 was given to be used in buying folding tables to have for spreading the luncheon.

Goodbyes were said, as each one was leaving, looking forward to seeing each other again next year, the second Saturday in October, 1975.

Newspaper name unknown; October 1974.

Wood Cemetery Homecoming Held

The 2nd Saturday in Oct. is annual coming and work day for Wood Cemetery in Pike County, near old Shawmut community.

This year about 70 people gathered from 18 towns of 3 different states to clean and decorate the cemetery and have fellowship and feasting around a well spread table at high noon when the work was finished.

Those present were

Mrs. Alma (Keys) Wright, Mr. and Mrs. L. M. Keys, Mrs. Janet (Wood) Carrol, Mrs. Shirley Harris, Gay Lynn, Rose Mary, and Phil Harris, C. H. Minor, Mrs. Grace (Lee) Simpson and Mr. Simpson, all of Murfreesboro; Mr. and Mrs. Roy Ransom, Carlton Trout, Mrs. Vergie (Trout) Lewallen, Miss Opal Trout, Bud and Illie (Wright) Denson, Willie Lee,
Fletcher Gatliif, Arthur Calley and grandson, Leon Calley all of Delight also Mrs. Dossie Wood; Mrs. Claudia Wright, Lloyd and Hazel Stone, Keith and Steve Martin all of Nashville.

Gerald D. Higgins of Pike City; Mrs. Ida (Lee) Cash of Antoine; Nano and Effie (Wood) Lee of Huttig; Mrs. Mamie Trout, Mrs Dahlia (Trout) Lambert and grandson, Dennis Goodner of Mena; Mr. and Mrs. Roy Trout and Mrs. Bertie (Wood) Avery of Arkadelphia; Mrs. Olene (Avery) Arnwine of Alice, Tex. Mrs. Carmen Marroll, Mrs. Louise Marroll, Tommy, John, Janet and Sissy Marroll of Hot Springs.

Mr. and Mrs. Winburn Kelley of Amity; Mrs. Alma (Kelley) Witt, Louise and Ola (Calley) Keiped, Clyde and Camallia (Wright) Cockrell all of Houston, Texas; Weldon and Lina (Leath) Cox, Dodd City, Tex.; Mrs. Verda (Leath) Frazier, Mrs. Sammie Dee (Leath) Wright, and son, Travis Melton of Bonham, Texas; Jack and Buena (Webb) Simpson of Dierks; Mr. and Mrs. M. A. Shelton, Shreveport, La.; Mr. and Mrs. J. T. (Tump) Wilson and Mrs. Marie (Tweedle) Smithers of Benton; Billy and Jean (Wright) Willis, Billy Keith and Susan of DeQueen.

The crowd voted to erect a monument for the late Mr. Cap Haynes, who so faithfully cared for the cemetery in years past.

Everyone who is interested please come early next year on Oct. 14th, the Second Sunday* in October.

*should have been Saturday.

Newspaper name unknown: the year is uncertain. It could be 1971 or 1972, or 1977 or 1978. Please contact Cindy Scott, 1801 Valdez Drive NE, Albuquerque, NM 87112 if you know the newspaper name and/or date of the article.

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Thomas Parsons

The following list of descendants of Thomas Parsons was submitted by Tom Parsons, 1236 Abbotsbury, Universal City, TX 78148-3502; phone (210) 658-4280; e-mail <parsonc@netxpress.com>. Mr. Parsons requested that birth dates be removed for persons born after 1900 who may still be living in order to protect their privacy.

1-- Thomas PARSONS (1780-1836)

2-- Jane PARSONS
sp-John RUTLEDGE
2-- Thomas PARSONS
sp-Nancy WATERS
2-- Mary PARSONS
sp-CRAIGHEAD?
2-- Nancy PARSONS
sp-James O'NEIL
2-- John PARSONS (1804-1860)
sp-Eletha Jane SEWELL (1805-1883)
3-- James Thomas PARSONS (1829-1881)
sp-Mary Ann DAVIS (1833-1900)
4-- John William PARSONS (1854-1864)
sp-Mary Caldonia Whitfield TARPLEY (1865-1940)
5-- Delia Dow PARSONS (1883-1965)
sp-John Henry WITT (1875-1964)
6-- Effie Madera WITT (1900-1908)
6-- Lula Edna WITT
sp-Edgar WOOD (1900-1954)
6-- Annie Belle WITT
sp-Arlie JOHNSON
7-- Dorothy Belle JOHNSON
sp-I. D. PARKS
7-- Edward Eugene JOHNSON
7-- Billie Jean JOHNSON
sp-Cecil JOHNSON
8-- Clint DeWayne JOHNSON
7-- Edna JOHNSON
6-- Edgar Doan WITT
sp-Lydia WARREN
6-- Thomas Franklin WITT (1913-1944)
sp-Ola Fay HIGHT
7-- Mavis Dianne WITT
6-- John Herbert WITT
sp-Rachel NOLEN
7-- John Franklin WITT
7-- Barbara Jean WITT
7-- Paige Annette WITT
5-- Cora Ellen PARSONS (1886-1943)
sp-Alvin Curtis HIPPS (1873-1950)
6-- Josie Flarnce HIPPS
sp-William Paul HUGHES (1896)
sp-Cyrus Edward BATEMAN
7-- Vernon Leroy BATEMAN
sp-Gnell CURRIE
8-- Patricia Ann BATEMAN
7-- Joseph Edward BATEMAN (1928-1929)
7-- Clifton Newton BATEMAN
sp-Iris HARRIS
8-- Dale Timmy BATEMAN (1962-1962)
7-- James Donald BATEMAN
sp-Reba STARK
8-- Donald Steven BATEMAN
7-- Joyce Yvonne BATEMAN
sp-Terrell CHILDERS
8-- Lucinda Kay CHILDERS
7-- Dorothy Jean BATEMAN
sp-Harold HARRISON
8-- Tammy Lynn HARRISON
6-- Lena Mae HIPPS
sp-Linden HEAD
6-- Rosa Lee HIPPS
sp-Jim GRAY
6-- Katy Nadine HIPPS
6-- Loyd Lemuel HIPPS
5-- Charles Thomas PARSONS (1889-1964)
sp-Margaret "Maggie" Lucille STEVENS (1894-1976)
6-- Clyde Thomas Sr PARSONS
sp-Mary Cathryn DUNCAN (1923-1996)
7-- Clyde Thomas Jr PARSONS
sp-Patricia Ann NOAR
8-- Heather Anne PARSONS
8-- Susan Holly PARSONS
7-- Kenneth Charles PARSONS
7-- Mary Cathryn PARSONS
sp-David Eugene BAXTER
sp-Mary Cathryn DUNCAN (1923-1996)
6-- Helen PARSONS
sp-William Clay AYERS (1920-1961)
7-- William Clay AYERS
7-- Mary Cathryn AYERS
sp-Allen SEAGRAVES
4-- Eletha Jane PARSONS (1857-1873)
4-- Louisa Miranda PARSONS (1859-1928)
sp-Goodwin Abraham WISENER (1860-1929)
5-- Joel Abraham WISENER (1882-1899)
5-- Minnie Ann Elizabeth WISENER (1883-1928)
sp-Aaron David STONE
6-- Dorothy Mae STONE (1909-1987)
sp-Myrion Johan MOEN (1914-1987)
5-- James Monroe WISENER (1885-1951)
sp-Gertrude Missy True COCHRAN (1876-1946)
6-- James Aline WISENER
5-- Melissa Jane WISENER (1888-1943)
sp-Charles MASON (1888)
6-- Virginia Lee MASON
sp-Medford David CLARK (1892-1952)
7-- Billy Mason CLARK
6-- Maude MASON (1916-1918)
5-- Carrie Anthem WISENER (1891-1971)
sp-Otis Gilbert KENNEDY (1890-1982)
6-- Royston Goodwin KENNEDY
sp-Meador Elizabeth BATES
7-- Royston Bates KENNEDY
sp- Sharon MURPHY
6-- Otis Gilbert KENNEDY
sp-Ann Carlton LITTLE
7-- Otis Gilbert KENNEDY
7-- Wayne Carlton KENNEDY
6-- Charles Martin KENNEDY
6-- Donald Richard KENNEDY
sp-Larne Melvin MOWER
7-- Ronald Lewis KENNEDY
7-- Lisa Jane KENNEDY
7-- Julie Anna KENNEDY
6-- Jane Ann KENNEDY (1928-1931)
6-- Lewis KENNEDY
sp-Melba Faye DRAPER
7-- Allen Lewis KENNEDY
7-- Vicki Lynn KENNEDY
7-- Michael KENNEDY
6-- Dorothy Lee KENNEDY
sp-Reuben John PARTAIN
7-- John Gregory PARTAIN
7-- Nancy Deanna PARTAIN
5-- Mary Eta WISENER (1893-1982)
sp-Howard NORTON
sp-Leslie REED
sp-Joseph NOLA (1895-1967)
6-- Joel Robert NOLA
sp-Katie Leona MCCORMACK
7-- Amy Suzanne NOLA
7-- Joel Robert NOLA
7-- William Albert NOLA
6-- Albert Louis NOLA
sp-Orley Alexander KINDER (1914-1984)
6-- Charles Woodrow PARSONS (1916-1964)
sp-Sibyl I. SAMUELS
7-- Pamela Jean PARSONS
7-- Henry Verdo POWELL
8-- Russell Kelly POWELL (1966-1986)
sp-Verdo FLOWERS
8-- LaDonna Dee FLOWERS
7-- Linda Sue PARSONS
sp-Michael D. MURPHY
8-- Marcus Shane MURPHY
8-- Bridget Bree MURPHY
6-- William Dean PARSONS (1917-1986)
sp-Geraldine CAMPBELL
7-- Lamanda Ann PARSONS
sp-Darius Wenford CRAWFORD
8-- Debra Ann CRAWFORD
7-- James William PARSONS
sp-Dena Rene HAMM
8-- Misti De Ann PARSONS
7-- Charles Wayne PARSONS
sp-Pamela S. GREEN
8-- Charles Wayne PARSONS
8-- Heather Dawn PARSONS
8-- Sean Ashley PARSONS
sp-Tammy Elaine BAGLEY
8-- Deana Elaine PARSONS
5-- Martin Newman PARSONS (1885-1947)
sp-Lilly
5-- Thomas Lonzo PARSONS (1887-1932)
sp-Margaret Virginia KEEN (1887-1967)
6-- Thomas Floyd PARSONS (1907-1987)
sp-Inez MAYO
7-- Ruth Helen PARSONS
sp-Ray Cleve HILL
8-- Glenda Ruth HILL
8-- Gloria Faye HILL
8-- Ray Cleve HILL
8-- John Wayne HILL
8-- Kathy Lynn HILL
7-- James Lloyd PARSONS
8-- James Dean PARSONS
8-- Jeff Lloyd PARSONS
8-- John Thomas PARSONS
6-- Earnest Dean PARSONS
6-- Kenneth Greer PARSONS (1916-1983)
sp-Eula Lluaera CUMMINGS
6-- Cue T. PARSONS (1916-1967)
sp-LADEMA
7-- Twyla PARSONS
7-- Tommy PARSONS
4-- Narcissa Nancy Elizabeth PARSONS (1864-1937)
sp-William M. MCCALLISTER (1863-1940)
5-- Roy MCCALLISTER (1898-1913)
5-- Nellie MCCALLISTER (1899-1899)
5-- Victoria MCCALLISTER (1901-1902)
4-- Edmund Alonzo PARSONS (1866-1941)
sp-Lydia Jane WITT (1871-1954)
5-- James Thomas PARSONS (1888-1971)
sp-Willie Rose PHILLIPS (1895)
6-- Exa Marie PARSONS
sp-Roy JACKSON
7-- James Cyril JACKSON
sp-Virginia Elaine SMITH
8-- Dana Elaine JACKSON
8-- Kirk Duane JACKSON
sp-Verle W. STARNES
sp-Sid HERNDON
7-- Cheryl HERNDON
6-- Paul Raymond PARSONS (1930-1970)
sp-Lois Janette HUNT
7-- Paula PARSONS
5-- Lula PARSONS (1890-1890)
5-- William Dennis PARSONS (1891-1968)
sp-Leona Cordelia WILLINGHAM (1893)
6-- William Dennis PARSONS
sp-Laura Mae JOHNSON
7-- William Dennis PARSONS
7-- Sarah Lee PARSONS
6-- Ruby Virginia PARSONS
sp-Rodney Frederick SAUNDERS
7-- Judith Ann SAUNDERS
7-- Linda Gayle SAUNDERS
7-- Denise SAUNDERS
5-- Baby PARSONS (1893-1893)
5-- John Otis PARSONS (1894-1972)
sp-Fanny Lee CARROLL (1896)
6-- Jewell Burnelle PARSONS
sp-Joe OLMSTEAD
7-- Rhonda Jo OLMSTEAD
6-- John Carroll PARSONS
sp-Patsy Ann WRIGHT
7-- John Carroll PARSONS
7-- William Charles PARSONS
7-- Terry Susan PARSONS
7-- Robert Wright PARSONS
6-- Charles Edmond PARSONS
sp-Cherry Ann STINSO
7-- Scott Alan PARSONS
6-- Mary Jane PARSONS
sp-Harry Fredrick OCHSENBEIN
7-- Harry Fredrick OCHSENBEIN
5-- Jewel Edmond PARSONS (1896-1943)
sp-Georgia YOUNG (1899)
6-- Jewell Edith PARSONS
sp-Albert J. HERR
7-- Deloris Jean HERR
7-- Verona Joan HERR
7-- Victor J. HERR
7-- Tymithy Jewel HERR
6-- Lonzo Moody PARSONS
sp-Barbara CLARK
7-- Lonzo Mickle PARSONS
7-- Nancy Susan PARSONS
7-- Donna Sue PARSONS
5-- Ruby PARSONS (1904-1907)
5-- Roy Lee PARSONS (1908-1968)
sp-Leora Eumice ATKINSON
6-- Georgia Lee PARSONS
sp-George Davis SMITH
7-- Scott Alan SMITH
7-- Cary Wade SMITH
7-- Bryan Davis SMITH
6-- Noel Randolph PARSONS
sp-June Kristen EMIG
7-- Claire Diane PARSONS
4-- Thomas Jefferson PARSONS (1868-1948)
sp-Lillie Ann TARPLEY (1870-1938)
5-- Otis Edgar PARSONS (1890-1891)
5-- Opal PARSONS (1893-1968)
sp-Ira TAYLOR (.1917)
6-- Voyt TAYLOR
sp-Gussie GARNER
7-- John William TAYLOR
7-- Larry TAYLOR
6-- Gladys TAYLOR
sp-Art GARNER
7-- Virginia GARNER
sp-Garland MCDANIEL
8-- Dean MCDANIEL
8-- Melvin MCDANIEL
8-- Carl Allen MCDANIEL
sp-Johnnie GARNER
6-- Helen GARNER
sp-James WOODSON
7-- James WOODSON
7-- Thomas WOODSON
5-- Delmer PARSONS (1897)
sp-Delton BRUNSON
6-- Raymond Doyle BRUNSON
sp-Billy Joy WILSON
7-- Karen Lynn BRUNSON
7-- Jan Wesley BRUNSON
7-- Patricia Ann BRUNSON
5-- Delton PARSONS
sp-Juanita BOYD
6-- Elizabeth Ann PARSONS
sp-Arvile SHORT
7-- Elizabeth Simons SHORT
7-- Richard Delton SHORT
6-- Tommie Sue PARSONS
sp-Aubrey B. GOSNELL
7-- Charles Thomas GOSNELL
7-- Steven Kelly GOSNELL
7-- Paul Allen GOSNELL
6-- Robbie Nell PARSONS
sp-Cecil DIGGS
7-- Virginia Marie DIGGS
7-- Virginia Marie DIGGS
7-- Joann Cinhia DIGGS
6-- Edna Jewell PARSONS
   sp-Robert Eugene WILLIAMSON
7-- Robert Eugene WILLIAMSON
6-- Bobby Delton PARSONS
4-- Tarissa Ann PARSONS (1870-1945)
   sp-John Berry WALL (1870)
5-- George Logan WALL
5-- Porter Britton WALL (1891)
   sp-Verlin M. GOAD (1892)
6-- F. Britton WALL
   sp-Velma Pearl BUSSEY
7-- Donald Britton WALL
   sp-Marlene BRIDGES
8-- Donald WALL
7-- David Marion WALL
7-- Marianna Fay WALL
7-- Velma Ruth WALL
sp-Helen JACOBS
7-- Deborah WALL
7-- Samuel Todd WALL
6-- Linna Ruth WALL
sp-Woodrow WILSON
7-- Mary Lois WILSON
7-- Paul Joseph WILSON
5-- James Edgar WALL (1892)
sp-Delia ISSACS (1895-1933)
6-- Juanita Marie WALL (1914-1938)
   sp-William Glen MYATT
7-- Delbert Lavon MYATT
sp-Charlotte ALM
8-- Delbert Glenn MYATT
7-- Vearle Dean MYATT
sp-Verna KILLMAN
7-- Robert Edward MYATT
sp-Anetta WARE
8-- Robert Ray MYATT
6-- Willomene WALL
sp-Carl Joseph EDWARDS
7-- Kenneth LaDell EDWARDS
   sp-Kay Louise JENSEN
8-- Karen Lenore EDWARDS
8-- Kristine Lee EDWARDS
8-- Karla Lynn EDWARDS
7-- Nyle Loyd EDWARDS
6-- Burnis LaVerne WALL
sp-Albert Everett PINION
7-- Ramona Jean PINION
   sp-David Lee EDWARDS
7-- Roberta Lois PINION
sp-James Martin GRAMM
8-- Denise Louise GRAMM
8-- James Martin GRAMM
7-- John Douglas PINION
sp-Antone Rudolph TOMAC
7-- Neva Patrice TOMAC
6-- Reithias Vashini WALL (1920-1931)
6-- Generva Edwina WALL
sp-Clifton Desmier SIMS
7-- Larry Clifton SIMS
7-- Linda Edwina SIMS
6-- Valtton Clifford WALL
sp-Wanda Lou FORAN
9-- Johnny Berry WALL
   sp-Susie Perkins KENNERLY
5-- Minnie Ann WALL (1896)
   sp-Raymond Barnhart BROWNS (1896-1959)
6-- Raymond Burdell BROWNS
   sp-Virginia May DAME
7-- Vicki Ann BROWNS
7-- Kathie Sue BROWNS
7-- Bruce Burdell BROWNS
7-- Jeffrey Ray BROWNS
6-- John Lyndel BROWNS
   sp-Gwen Isabelle MCKILLUP
7-- Debra Jean BROWNS
7-- Toni Lyn BROWNS
5-- Elbert Doyle WALL
sp-?
6-- Jacquelin WALL
   sp-Monie WEST
6-- Patsy Ruth WALL
   sp-Norman Ray ROBERTS
7-- Ruth Ann ROBERTS
6-- Betty Sue WALL
   sp-Robert Carlyle BEEMAN
7-- Jeffrey Lynn BEEMAN
sp-Irene ESTELL
   sp-Emma DONCEIL
5-- Clarence WALL
   sp-Esther Ora MORAN
6-- Norma Jean WALL
   sp-James Walter HOLLAND
7-- Nicky Jean HOLLAND
7-- Mack Allen HOLLAND
6-- Del Raymond WALL
5-- Leslie Vernon WALL
   sp-Agnes Gertrude RITTER
6-- Bobbie Vernon WALL
   sp-Carolyn Ruth VAN NORMAN
7-- Michael Raymond WALL
7-- Bradley Vernon WALL
6-- Barbara June WALL
   sp-Richard MORRISON
4-- Dennis Houston PARSONS (1872-1950)
   sp-Mary Elizabeth KELLEY (1875-1909)
5-- William Fletcher PARSONS (1893-1967)
   sp-Maggie DODSON (1895)
6-- Crochia Phyrene PARSONS
   sp-Guy NIVINS
7-- Hazel NIVINS
   sp-Warren K. POE
8-- Gordon Keith POE
8-- Glenda Kaye POE
8-- Kelley Grant POE
7-- Guy NIVINS
7-- Gabral NIVINS
7-- David NIVINS
7-- Monroe NIVINS
6-- Edith Elizabeth PARSONS (1916-1917)
6-- Thurman Odell PARSONS (1918-1929)
6-- Clara Loree PARSONS
   sp-Loyd Clay MOORE
7-- Loyce June MOORE
7-- Charles Ray MOORE
7-- Judy Annette MOORE
7-- Margaret Lynn MOORE
6-- Lena Luceil PARSONS
sp-Dannie CASARIA
7-- Billie CASARIA
7-- Danette CASARIA
6-- William Fletcher PARSONS (1927-1929)
6-- Helen Imogene PARSONS
sp-Roland BOUVIER
6-- T. G. PARSONS
sp-Emma Lea JEETER
6-- Bobby Dale PARSONS
sp-Marilyn JEAN
7-- Denece PARSONS
7-- Marcell PARSONS
7-- Marla Jean ParSONS
6-- Wanda Elnore PARSONS
sp-Melton GammAGE
7-- Larry GammAGE
7-- Carla Faye GammAGE
6-- Glenn Houston PARSONS
sp-Suzzanna GREER
7-- Glenda PARSONS
7-- Linda PARSONS
5-- Noah Cleveland PARSONS (1895-1936)
sp-Minnie CARR (1890)
6-- Girl PARSONS (1916-1916)
6-- Dorothy PARSONS (1917-1939)
6-- Christene PARSONS (1919-1941)
6-- Ebelene PARSONS (1920-1938)
6-- A. L. PARSONS (1923-1939)
5-- Melley PARSONS (1897-1899)
5-- Nannie Dewey PARSONS (1898)
sp-Albert CARR
6-- Coy Franklin CARR
sp-Alpha Sue SMITH
7-- Baby CARR (1941-1941)
7-- John Henry CARR
7-- Coy Franklin CARR
7-- Alpha Lee CARR
6-- Roy Charles CARR
sp-Audry STILL
7-- Stanley Charles CARR
7-- Judy CARR
sp-Joe Glen HatLEY
6-- Floy Charlene CARR
sp-Carl MAYS
7-- Charles Edward MAYS
sp-Freeman SULLIVAN
6-- Catherine Estell CARR
sp-Clarence Everett SMITH
7-- Everett Earl SMITH (1937-1938)
7-- Gurvis Dewight SMITH
sp-Deloris DALE
7-- Frankie Eugene SMITH
7-- Shirley Jean SMITH
sp-John Penny BLAND
8-- Donald Eugene BLAND
8-- Timothy John BLAND
7-- Vickie Lynn SMITH
7-- Clarence Everett SMITH
6-- Guy Cecil CARR
sp-Rachel LoyD
7-- Cecil Wayne CARR
7-- Carolyn CARR
7-- Bobby Glenn CARR
7-- Marsha Ellen CARR
6-- Albert F. CARR
sp-Florence WILLIS
7-- Margaret CARR
7-- Charles CARR
6-- Leslie Cordie CARR (1927-1929)
6-- Calvin Earnest CARR
sp-Ruth RIXKOWSKI
7-- Calene CARR
sp-Henry COLWELL (1892)
5-- Ernest Elijah PARSONS
sp-Hattie Clary RALLS
6-- John Thomas PARSONS
sp-Hazel Odean KEELIN
7-- John Thomas PARSONS
7-- Calvin Wayne PARSONS
6-- Earnestine Clary PARSONS
sp-Earl Edward YARBER
7-- Leon Edward YARBER
7-- Ray Charles YARBER
7-- Linda Maie YARBER
7-- Sandra Lynn YARBER
7-- Patricia Ann YARBER
7-- William Earnest YARBER
7-- Joyce Marie YARBER
6-- Allice Josephine PARSONS
sp-Burtham Hal CHANDLER
7-- Bertha Ann CHANDLER
7-- Albert Lee CHANDLER
7-- Samuel Burt CHANDLER
7-- Allice Fay CHANDLER
7-- Judie Dian CHANDLER
6-- Dallas Edward PARSONS
sp-Violet OTHER
7-- Dallas Edward PARSONS
6-- Francis Huston PARSONS
sp-Elma Fay ROBINSON
7-- Yulenda Jo PARSONS
7-- Charlie Nelson PARSONS
6-- Winford Ray PARSONS
5-- John Daley PARSONS
sp-Lela HEAD
5-- Steva PARSONS (1904-1905)
5-- Landon Gladys PARSONS
sp-John N. DEWBRE
6-- Landon Juanita DEWBRE
sp-Vernon L. KING
7-- John Berry KING
7-- Aubrey Dale KING
7-- Sheri Lynn KING
5-- Susie Elese PARSONS
sp-Norvel Lollace BARR
6-- Barbara Sue BARR
sp-Mary Ann LEE (-1947)
5-- Irene PARSONS
sp-Willie Monroe JACKSON
6-- Willie Ann JACKSON
sp-Ray Dalton COX
7-- Lana Janett COX
7-- Loretta Kay COX
7-- Donna Ray COX
We are sold out of several of our publications. Please contact Dorothy Kennedy Partain if you are interested in ordering any of these books. She will keep a list of people who want these publications to decide if demand justifies reprinting.

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A LOOK AT THE PAST CORRECTION

Dear Madam:

On page 321 of A Look At The Past in the picture in the right hand corner of the page in the foreground is Roy Earl Nivens next to Della Nolen. He is incorrectly identified as David Nivens. I am Hazeleen Nivens Poe, oldest daughter of Guy Lord Nivens who is a younger brother of Roy Earl. David Nivens is my brother and a nephew of the gentleman in the picture.

By the way, I look at this book often and continue to enjoy.

Thank you,
Hazeleen Poe
104 E. Pirate Ave.
Longview, TX 75604
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SURNAME BEING RESEARCHED

_______________________________________  ___________________________________________
_______________________________________  ___________________________________________
_______________________________________  ___________________________________________
_______________________________________  ___________________________________________

9-138
"... you must know the past - to determine the future."

Pike County Archives and History Society
P.O. Box 238
Murfreesboro, AR 71958