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THE GENIE

VOLUME 46

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ARK-LA-TEX GENEALOGICAL ASSOCIATION, INC.

Post Office Box 4463
Shreveport, Louisiana 71134-0463

The *Ark-La-Tex Genealogical Association, Inc.* is a non-profit, non-sectarian, non-political, educational organization dedicated solely to the cause of genealogy. This organization is governed by these purposes:

To collect, preserve, and make available genealogical materials, documents, and records; to encourage an interest in genealogy and to sponsor educational programs for its development; to promote and publicize the City of Shreveport, Louisiana, as a major genealogical research center for genealogists and historians; to cooperate with and assist all other genealogical, historical, and patriotic societies in the furtherance of these purposes; to compile and publish a quarterly composed of records and data related to the science of genealogy.

The *Ark-La-Tex Genealogical Association, Inc.* meets on the second Saturday of each month from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the Randle T. Moore Senior Citizen Center, 3101 Fairfield Avenue, Shreveport, LA.

Dues for membership from January 1 through December 31 of each year in the *Ark-La-Tex Genealogical Association, Inc.* are \$20.00 for an Individual Membership and \$25.00 for an additional family member, same household, and one quarterly per household.

All members receive four issues of The GENIE, which is published quarterly.

The *Ark-La-Tex Genealogical Association, Inc.* will publicize a book of genealogical interest in The GENIE when submitted by the publisher or an author. These books are then donated to the Shreve Memorial Library, Broadmoor Branch Genealogy Department, 1212 Captain Shreve Drive, Shreveport, Louisiana 71105, where they are made available to the public. The Ark-La-Tex Genealogical Association, Inc. periodically donates other genealogical material to this library.

The *Ark-La-Tex Genealogical Association, Inc.* welcomes queries, which are published free in The GENIE. A query must be no more than seventy (70) words, either typewritten or legibly handwritten.

Statement of Publication

[Ark-La-Tex Genealogical Association, Inc.]

The Genie is published quarterly with issues in March, June, September and December. Each member receives four issues for each year of membership. All material published in **The Genie** is compiled and contributed by the members. Members and nonmembers of the Ark-La-Tex Genealogy Association may contribute material for publication in *The Genie* (*bible records, cemetery listings, diaries, wills, etc.*). Such contributions are appreciated and encouraged. Send material for publication to *The Genie* at the Association's mailing address. Material will be used at the discretion of the Editorial Review Board as space permits. We reserve the right to edit and/or condense material as needed. Submission deadlines are the last week before the first day of the month of quarterly publication.

The Association *exchanges periodicals* with other genealogical and historical organizations publishing data of general interest. These periodicals are then donated to the Broadmoor Branch *Genealogy* Section of the Shreve Memorial Library. We regret that we cannot exchange with limited family organizations. However, send samples of your publications for review. Since many publications possess information of value concerning families contain therein.

When *Cemetery Records* are submitted, include the name of the contributor, the copier, date copied and cemetery locations (such as road name or number, community, etc.) and also the Section, Township, and Range, if known. When *Bible Records* are submitted, give date and publisher of the Bible (if known), date copied, name of the contributor, name of present owner and the original owner.

Queries are free and encouraged. Please submit them typed or very plainly written. Space is limited. Please be brief and concise, using no more than 70 words per query. The editor reserves the right to edit or reject queries not suitable for publication.

The *Genie* cannot be responsible for errors or inaccuracies, but will hasten to publish corrections. Please read the material carefully and advise the Association in writing of corrections.

This publication is *indexed* in the *Periodical Source Index* published by the Allen County Public Library Foundation, Ft. Wayne, IN.

Copyright Laws

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Ark-La-Tex Genealogical Association
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| | | |
|-------------------------|-------------------|-------------------------------------|
| President | Jim Johnson | jjohnson747@suddenlink.net |
| First Vice President | Reed Mathews | reedmathews@yahoo.com |
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PUBLICATION (THE GENIE)

| | | |
|-------------------|----------------------|----------------------------|
| Editor | Willie R. Griffin | wraygriffin3@bellsouth.net |
| Printing | Willie R. Griffin | (318) 631-6031 |
| Printing | Jim Johnson | jjohnson747@suddenlink.net |
| Labels | Michael E. Broussard | (318) 222-1046 |
| Exchange Reviewer | Glenda E. Bernard | glenda646@gmail.com |
| Exchange | June L. Scholes | (318) 686-1745 |
| Bulk Mailing | Reed Mathews | reedmathews@yahoo.com |

ALTGA COMMITTEES

| | | |
|-------------------------|----------------------|----------------------------|
| Refreshment Coordinator | Brenda Randall | custerbren@aol.com |
| Reception/Name Tags | Chris Stoll | (318) 746-0383 |
| Programs | Jim Johnson | (318) 746-1851 |
| Programs | Edwina Wise | (318) 865-7957 |
| Education Committee | Jim Jones, Chairman | jimjones09@comcast.net |
| Education Committee | Phil Adderley | phil@311research.com |
| Education Committee | Glenda E. Bernard | glenda646@gmail.com |
| Education Committee | Marilyn B. Christian | mbcspirit@aol.com |
| Education Committee | Doris B. Hunt | dbhunt7@bellsouth.net |
| Education Committee | Esther Jones | estherjones09@comcast.net |
| Web Page | Jim Johnson | (318) 746-1851 |
| Seminar | Jim Johnson | jjohnson747@suddenlink.net |
| Membership | June Scholes | jscholez@aol.com |

Visit our website: <http://www.rootsweb.com/~laaltga/>

President's Message

I want to thank our members for giving me the opportunity to serve as your Association President the last four years. With help and guidance from the Board of Directors and support from the membership, this has been a very rewarding experience for me and I think a productive period for our Association. At our recent annual business meeting, the membership elected a very capable new Board of Directors for the 2013 - 2014 term. Leading the Association as President for the next two years will be Philip Adderley. Phil will also serve as Chairman of the Education Committee. Phil has been an Association member over ten years, is a certified genealogist and a frequent lecturer at our events. We are fortunate to have someone with his experience and knowledge to lead our Association.

This has been a very fast paced year with many highlights. It has indeed been a great year for our Association. Our Education Committee began the year with a workshop developed with beginner and intermediate level researchers in mind, and attracted several new members. Members of that committee built upon that workshop with skillfully developed 'hornbook' presentations at our monthly meetings focusing on various aspects of genealogy research topics. The 'hornbook' sessions are great learning tools that reinforce learning from other sources.

We have enjoyed educational and entertaining programs at our monthly meetings all year long. Among two of the more history oriented programs we featured earlier in this year were those that focused on the very unique and interesting history of Louisiana. To commemorate the 200th anniversary of the statehood of Louisiana, we were fortunate to have two local historians, John Agan and Mike Montgomery give lectures. Their presentations depicted Louisiana's history from the time of the earliest European explorations to the events that led to Louisiana being named the 18th state in 1812 and extending well into the 19th century.

We continued to enjoy excellent programs the last quarter of 2012. In October, we were honored to have as our guest speaker, Dr. Gary Joiner, author and historian. He gave a very enlightening presentation titled "Gravestone Symbolism and Iconography - Exploring the Meaning of Cemetery Symbols and other Graveyard Mysteries". He discussed the primary types of stones used for grave markers and gave detailed explanations of the symbols and inscriptions engraved on the stones. In November, we were equally thrilled to have certified genealogist Philip Adderley as our featured speaker. He presented a very detailed analysis of research he conducted on the Stoner family who moved from Kentucky to Texas prior to settling in Caddo Parish after the Civil War.

Planning is in progress for a very ambitious 2013. There will be educational events for the beginner, as well as for the more advanced researchers, plus other learning opportunities. We are also working on a great lineup of programs for our monthly meetings, and I know you will want to be at these events. Best wishes for a successful year of research.

Jim Johnson
President

Last Testament of Isaac Collins Chandler

*[Note from the Editor: This information was provided by **Ray Owens**, the grandson of Isaac Collins Chandler. Ray Owens indicated that he obtained this information from a group of documents his mother, Susie Estell Chandler possessed.]*

My Great Grandfather Solomon Chandler emigrated from Ireland to North Carolina somewhere near the middle of the 18th century. My Grandfather Chandler was born in N.C. and moved to North Louisiana about the beginning of the 19th century. My father, David Chandler was born on what was then known as the Kenchin Monzingo Place 8 miles N. of Minden on May 10, 1818. He first married a French lady who was a widow. Her name was Chandler also. They made their home near old Holly Springs near where Hall Summit is now located. They had 4 sons, Monroe, Albert, Robert and Solomon. His wife died and was buried at Holly Springs.

My mother's people were English and Irish. They immigrated to Georgia early in the 19th century. My mother's father, Milton Sledge was born in England and spent most of his boyhood days in Georgia. He married Debby McGinty who was born in Ireland. MY Mother, Nancy L. Sledge was born near Macon, Ga. on Jan. 12, 1839. The family moved to H. Louisiana in 1849 and settled about 7 miles West of Ringgold near a place now called the Gullies. My mother first married Jim Waters. They had 3 girls, Mary, Lucy and Sally. Mr. Watters died of fever during the Civil War leaving my mother with the 3 orphans. In 1867 she married my father who had 4 sons. As stated above they started off by settling at Rocky Mount which is about 3 miles East of Lake Bisteneau Dam in Bienville Parish that is my birthplace. They had 5 children, Susie Milton, Isaac, Henry and John. The family spent the remainder of their life in Red River, Bienville and Webster Parishes. My father and mother are buried at Pine Grove cemetery 9 miles N. of Minden, La.

I married Mary Elizabeth Morgan in the summer of 1894. My wife and I had 12 children, 7 girls and 5 boys. The oldest Esper Floyd born May 20, 1895, 8 miles N. of Minden. He was killed in action in the Battle of the Argonne, France on Oct. 8, 1918, and was brought back to America and buried in the Brushwood Cemetery 7 miles S. of Minden, La. My second son, Brodie David, was born 2 miles S. of Summerfield, La., Nov. 15, 1896. He is now living at Pana, Ill. My 3rd son, born and died the same day in Feb. 1899 and is buried at Forbing, La. in an old cemetery ¼ mile from Forbing which is West, of Forbing Station. My 4th and 5th were twins, Ivie Odell and Eva May born Feb. 13, 1900 near Ft. Jessup in Sabine Parish, La. Eva May only lived a year and is buried at Zwolle, La. My 6th child, Susie Estelle was born at Victoria, La. in Natchitoches Parish, July 27, 1902. Isaac Bonnie the 7th was born at Benson

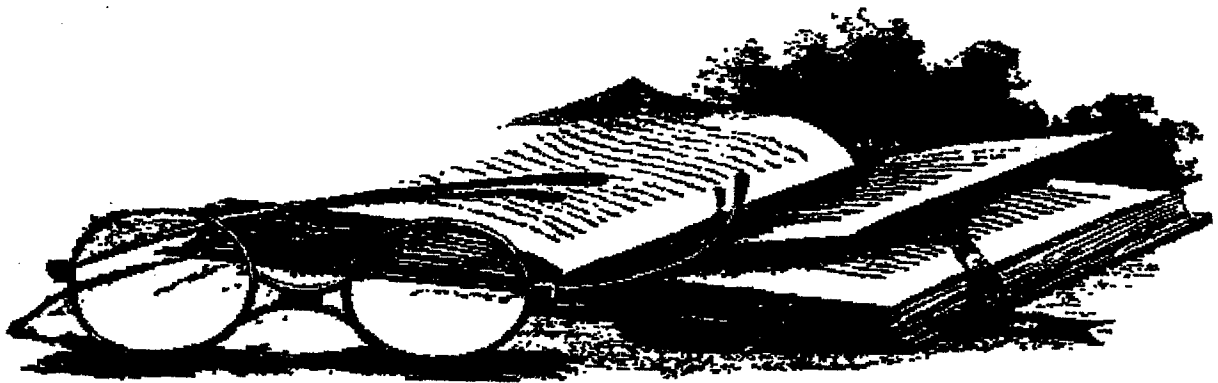
DeSoto Parish, La. Oct. 13, 1904. Ruby Lee 8th was born at Trout, Catahoula Parish at that time but now LaSalle, July 18, 1907. Mary Magdaline was born at Jonesboro, Jackson Parish, and La. Dec. 31, 1909. She died at the age of 5 years and is buried at Coushatta in Red River Parish, La. Gladys Juanita, the 10th was born in Natchitoches, Natchitoches Parish, March 23, 1912. Ruth Inez the 11th born in Coushatta, Red River Parish, La. April 10, 1915. Dolly Mae, the 12th was born at Dubberly, Webster Parish, La. Sept. 13, 1922.

My wife's paternal Grandfather, a Mr. Morgan and her maternal Grandfather, Billie Lane both spent the most of their lives and died near old Mt. Holly, Ark. in Union County, Ark. They moved to North, Louisiana in 1890. I married their youngest daughter, her short name was Betty. She lived to be 63 years old and died in Minden, La. Jan. 17th 1940 and is buried in the Brushwood Cemetery 7 miles Southeast of Minden, La. She was a good wife and mother. Her parents are buried in the Cemetery at New Hope Church about 5 miles East of Many, La.

For the benefit of those that may care to know, I append the following data as to where I lived and what I was doing from childhood to the present time Jan. 21st, 1942.

The first 14 years of my life was spent with my parents on the farm in Bienville and Red river parishes, and the next eight years with them mostly in Webster Parish, marrying when I was 22 years old. I farmed in Webster one year, ran a shop near Summerfield in Claiborne Parish one year, carpentered at Many, La. one year worked as track laborer at Hornbeck, Leesville, Florien, one year section foreman at Forbing and Benson for two years, helped build the V. F. & W. railway between Victoria and Fisher, La. one year, went to work as telegraph operator, working short periods at Grand Bayou, Carson and Foring, La. I went to Benson as agent and operator June, 1903, went from there to Grannies, Ark. first of 1906 as Agent the same summer and changed to Calhoun, La. with V.S. & P Ry as assistant Agent and Operator at Arcadia, La. I went as agent and operator for the L. & A. Ry. at Trout, La. late in 1906 changed to the Agency at Jonesboro, La. for the C.R.I. & P. Ry., first of 1908, left Jonesboro, La. and went with the L. & N. W. Ry at Bryceland, La. Late in 1910 I went with same road as assistant agent and operator at Natchitoches, La. for the benefit of the Normal school and went with the T. & P. Ry as assistant or relief agent at Powhattan, Scottsville, Tex. and Opalosas, La. back to Natchitoches, La. with the T. & P. Ry late in 1912 and was bumped off the job, then I did extra work as agent and operator at Goldonna, La., Howard, Chopin, Cypress, La. also Thornton, Ark., Colfax, La. until the spring of 1914, then farmed and did carpenter work contracting and such like until July 1915. In July 1915 I went to work for the Texas Oil Co. at Logansport, La. in Sept. 1916, they moved me to Jasper, then to Port Neches, Tex. Early in 1917 I went with the Gulf Pipe Line Co. at Goosecreek, Tex., Saratoga, Tex. and Dayton,

Tex. where I stayed two years, and they moved me to Humble, Tex. I went for a while to West Columbia, Tex. for the Humble Tex. Co. and went back to the Gulf Pipeline Co. in Oct. 1919 and worked at Poter Station in the Caddo field and Homer Field until Feb. 1920. They moved me to Dubherly, La. where I stayed seven years, leaving them the first of 1927 to go into the grocery business in Minden, La. for 11 years and nine months closing the business in Nov. 1937. From then until the present I have done nothing but odd jobs. This proves again that a rolling stone gathers no moss.



Be it known by all who may be interested that:

Ruth Inez Chandler is the owner of one-half interest in the Wurlitzer piano having paid her own money for same. I being the owner of the other half, give my interest to Dolly Mae Chandler, therefore I give to Gladys Juanita Chandler my singer sewing machine, my Underwood typewriter, and the cedar chest with the quilt material therein.

I give to my 3 youngest girls whatever household articles I may own, as they have made it possible for me to have a home in my old days. If I should own any personal articles worthwhile they should be divided between my 3 sons to be distributed by the aforementioned daughters impartially. I am sorry that I have nothing worthwhile to leave any of my children. I therefore can only leave them the blessings and good wishes of a loving father.

Respectfully,

Isaac Collins Chandler

This the 19th day of August, 1948

Tuition Grant: **Samford Institute of Genealogy and Historical Research (IGHR)**

Samford University's IGHR website (www4.samford.edu/schools/ighr/), states, "The Samford **Institute of Genealogy and Historical Research (IGHR)** provides an educational forum for the discovery, critical evaluation, and use of genealogical sources and methodology through a week of intensive study led by nationally prominent genealogical educators. Students choose one of the offered courses that last throughout the week and that range from a course for beginners to courses on specialized topics. The institute is academically and professionally oriented and is cosponsored by the Board for Certification of Genealogists. The faculty is composed of outstanding nationally known genealogy educators. Begun in 1962, the institute regularly enrolls over 200 students from around the country."

ALTGA's Board has received and accepted a tuition grant offer that covers the week's tuition to the June 9-14, 2013 IGHR, for one Association member. (The member bears all other costs, which can be estimated using the previously mentioned IGHR website.) The grant process is being administered by the Education Committee. More details are forthcoming.

All persons interested in attending IGHR are urged to register when registration opens on **22 January 2013**, because the courses fill *rapidly* (within hours). To support that date, the Education Committee plans to select a candidate shortly after the **12 January** ATLGA meeting.

***SO please let your desire to be considered known to
any member of the Education Committee NOW.***

The week-long courses scheduled for June 2013 are: (*see the IGHR website for more detail*)

1. Techniques and Technology, Coordinator: Pamela Boyer Sayre
2. Intermediate Genealogy and Historical Studies, Coordinator: Lloyd DeWitt Bockstruck
3. Research in the South, Part II, Coordinator: J. Mark Lowe
4. Advanced Methodology and Evidence Analysis, Coordinator: Elizabeth Shown Mills
5. Writing and Publishing for Genealogists, Coordinator: Thomas W. Jones
6. Genealogy as a Profession, Coordinator: Elissa Scalise Powell
7. Reading German Records, Coordinator: F. Warren Bittner
8. Understanding Land Records, Coordinator: Christine Rose
9. The Five Civilized Tribes: The Records & Where to Find Them, Coordinator: Linda Woodward Geiger
10. Scottish Genealogical Research, Coordinator: Paul Milner

Digital Release Notice

THE PATERNAL LINEAGE, ASCENDING, OF EARLY ROY STONER (1891-1958)

By Philip Burnett Adderley, CGsm, phil@311research.com

Mr. Adderley noted in his 10 November 2012 program given to the Ark-La-Texas Genealogical Association that the three-generation history of the George W. Stoner family in Caddo Parish, Louisiana, would be segmented and published in successive issues of *The Genie*.

The author apologizes to *The Genie's* subscribers and readers. Due to a technological error on the part of the author, he could not readily parse and reformat the 88-page document into segments that meet *The Genie's* editorial requirements without risk to the document's integrity, i.e., preserving the links between the body of the document and its citations.

Instead, the author will issue a single Adobe PDF document compatible with Adobe Acrobat Reader, Version X, which is available without cost from Adobe.com. Readers will or can receive the document in one of several manners:

- Those who routinely receive email notices from the President of the Ark-La-Tex Genealogical Association will receive an email from the author directing them to a free download of the document from a website holding the 2.6MB file. Recipients will not need high speed Internet access to be able to download the file.
 - Those whose email providers allow a file attachment that exceeds 2MB may separately request the document directly from the author at his email address (above).
 - Those who prefer a digital copy of the file via CD-ROM may separately request this from Mr. Adderley. Again, the reader will need to use at least Version X of Adobe Acrobat Reader to be able to open and read the document.
 - Paper versions of the document will be prepared only for those institutions that do not use computers, upon their request.
 - A person who does not use a computer (at home) can examine the document at their local library or nearest research archive facility. Should the institution not hold a copy, please ask the responsible person to request a digital copy from the author.
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Effective Use of Genealogy Message Boards

By Natalie D. Cottrill

<http://www.progenealogists.com/messageboards.htm>

[Article reprinted with Permission]

The Internet offers all of us many great opportunities to share and exchange information. One of the more frequently used and prominent means of communication on the Internet is through message boards, including bulletin boards and forums. Message boards allow people to communicate freely with one another in a public forum. When many people participate in these boards, the amount of information that can be shared is tremendous. With a few keystrokes and the click of a mouse, message boards broadcast our interests and inquiries to other interested readers around the world 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year. Message boards are wonderful tools for genealogists who are trying to connect with others who have similar interests.

Before sending out a message that will be read around the world, there are a few important things to understand about how message boards work. Though there are private message boards, most message boards are public. So, when you post a message to the Internet, it's going to be published for anyone and everyone to read. You never know who's going to read your post, or who might quote portions of it to share with other interested parties. So before you push "Submit," you'll want to make sure that the message you post to the Internet only contains information that you are ready to share with everyone. It is also worth mentioning that messages posted to a message board are generally permanent. Though in some instances editing can be done, once you push the "submit" button in a message board, you'll usually not be able to go back and change or edit your message. So, make sure there are no typos in your message, and that it says what you truly want it to say.

Usual Message Board Guidelines

Web sites usually have rules and regulations about the type, frequency and content of messages that can be posted to their boards. Some message boards are monitored; others are not. You'll usually find message board guidelines outlined in a section entitled "policies," "user agreement," or "terms of use." Make sure you're familiar with these guidelines so you'll quickly fit into the message board community in which you're considering participation.

As a general rule, you'll want to post your message in one or two places where it is the most appropriate so it will receive the best response. Leaving the same message in every available message board can be irritating to people who

frequent them (this is called SPAMMING), and who don't appreciate reading the same message over and over again. It is worth mentioning that most people will begin to ignore a message that has been posted rather indiscriminately on several different boards.

It's also important to stick to the topic of the message board. Just as in any real life social gathering, it's rather disconcerting to have someone barge into the middle of a conversation with some statement that has little relevance to the topic at hand.

There are several family history related message boards on the Internet that are frequented by genealogists. The most well circulated boards are those at GenForum. The boards at GenForum are arranged by surname, region and general topics (like genealogy software). Ancestry.com also has a set of message boards that are dedicated to a particular region or surname.

Following are some things that you can do to ensure that your message board posts receive positive responses.

More is Less

More information lessens confusion. If your message is content rich and detailed, it will lend itself more toward attracting appropriate responses. For instance, if you are planning on writing a message about John Smith who married Mary Jones, you'd better list more about them than just their names in your message! Otherwise, because of the common occurrence of the Smith and Jones surnames, you'll have way too many people responding to your inquiry. So, it's important to include enough information about the people you're seeking so that everyone will know exactly who they are, or at least how to positively identify them. The greater the details you can provide about when and where your subjects lived, the greater your chance of linking up with people seeking the same individuals. Some items that will help others identify common family members include these:

- Full name, including any middle names or initials
- Birth, marriage, and death dates
- Places where the above events occurred
- Residence and migration
- Names of their children and/or parents

Example: Henry Tewksbury, Jr. was born 15 Dec 1664 in Newbury, Essex Co., Massachusetts, the son of Henry and Martha (Copp) Tewksbury. Henry, Jr. married Hannah _____ sometime between 1685 and 1693. They had children: Henry, Jonathan, Hannah, Philip, Naomi, Jean, John, Abner and James. I would like to know the maiden name of Henry's wife, Hannah. I haven't been able to find Henry and Hannah's marriage record in

Newbury or nearby Amesbury, Massachusetts. I know that Henry was reported as "of Amesbury" in 1723 from a land deed. I also know that some of his children married in Marblehead, Massachusetts. Other than this, I have very little information on the time or place of his death or that of his wife. If anyone can help fill in the blanks, please contact me - ncottrill@progenealogists.com

Write it Right

Good grammar, spelling, content, and punctuation are important. Well-written message board postings will invite others to correspond with you. If your message is easily understood and has few typographical errors, then it will be easier for your relatives and others researching the same topic to find and comprehend your message.

Typographical errors might completely misconstrue the message you've written, so make certain to proofread your message before pressing the "Submit" button. For instance, if you were to accidentally type 1989 instead of 1899, the message will read as if it were written about subjects from a completely different century! Misspelling a place name or a person's given name may have similar consequences.

There's one added benefit to correct spelling and punctuation that most genealogists don't immediately consider - good search engine visibility. You'll want the Internet's search engines to display your message when some other genealogist is searching for the same family. Search engines like Google, AltaVista, HotBot, and Yahoo send out little indexing programs called "spiders." These spiders creep along word by word, sentence by sentence, indexing millions of pages of Internet text - including your message board post - day after day. Because they are computer programs, they won't think about or interpret the text that they see. They'll just index message board text - errors and all. So, if you want to connect with others who are researching Mary Jones born 1830, make sure that your message post doesn't accidentally read Mary Joens (typo) born 1830. Punctuation is important, too. A spider will often read MaryJones,b1830 as one big meaningless word.

You might want to include spelling variations, too, in your message if you know that the name can be spelled a few different ways by different branches of the family: McManis and McManus and Louis and Lewis are two such spelling variations. I'd suggest not using state abbreviations in your messages. Several states are often abbreviated incorrectly. For example: Maine is sometimes abbreviated MA (instead of ME) and Arizona is sometimes abbreviated AR (instead of AZ).

Check your email address for typos, too! You'll want to make sure that anyone can get in touch with you. There are some people who do not like to

communicate on public Internet boards. They may, however, contact you via email - if your email address was entered correctly!

Morse Code?

Message boards are often full of shorthand expressions that have been made popular on the Internet. These include emoticons - a set of non-alphabetical keyboard characters that are put together to resemble facial expressions (albeit sideways facial expressions). Here are some common abbreviations for phrases and emoticons that you might find useful to know:

| Shorthand | Meaning |
|-----------|-------------------------------|
| BTW | by the way |
| <g> | I'm grinning |
| IMHO | in my humble opinion |
| FYI | for your information |
| FWIW | for what it's worth |
| ROTFL | rolling on the floor laughing |
| WTG | way to go |
| :-) or :) | happy |
| :-(or :(| sad |
| ;-) or ;) | winking |
| :-D or :D | laughing |

Other Tips

Write to others as you would have them write to you. Be understanding and considerate about others' opinions and thoughts. Consider the consequences before publishing information on the Internet that concerns living individuals. They might consider the post an invasion of their privacy.

After posting a message to a board, check it every so often for a reply. Some boards will automatically email you when someone replies, but some do not. In the latter case, you'll need to go back and review the message board manually. To quickly find your message on these boards, you can use the "Edit (find on this page)" function on your browser or any pre-installed search box function that might be available. When someone does respond to your message, if you

don't have time to write a detailed response back to them, it would be a considerate gesture to drop them a quick thank-you note via email, until you have a chance to reply in more detail later.

One final thought that we should consider: each time we publish to the Internet, whether it be to mailing lists, web pages, or bulletin boards, we are playing a role in determining the way that the Internet will be used in the future. Issues like security, privacy, consideration, copyright, and, most importantly, freedom of speech need to be considered. Considerate online community involvement and gentle, meaningful interactions are important in helping us preserve and protect our unrestricted usage of the Internet.

A List of Popular Message Boards on the Internet

- GenForum
- Ancestry.com Boards
- Cyndi's List of Query Boards
- About.com Genealogy Message Boards
- GenealogyToday Message Boards

About the Author

Natalie Cottrill is a professional genealogist who, for the past 16 years, has concentrated upon researching United States family histories. She specializes in solving problems with difficult pre-1850 U.S. lineages, immigration, 20th century and common surnames. Natalie is an executive officer at ProGenealogists, Inc., a consortium of professional genealogists based in Salt Lake City, Utah. She belongs to the Association of Professional Genealogists (APG) and to Mensa, Intl. You can reach her at the ProGenealogists website.

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HUGHES SPUR AND ALDEN BRIDGE Bossier Parish Louisiana

By Dale Jennings

In the absence of any known written history of Hughes Spur, it is necessary to develop a time line for its origin, development and demise. This little rural commercial center a mile up the railroad track from the sawmill town of Alden Bridge never grew much. Captain William J. Hughes of nearby Rocky Mount saw the potential for a commercial venture here at the railway crossing of the newly laid Cotton Belt track and the road from Rocky Mount to the Red River landings. He established a mercantile business there sometime between 1888 and 1890. This was all Thornton land at the time, so he would have initially entered into some rental or partnership arrangement with the widow Elizabeth Thornton. Indications are that he used the lumber from an old Rocky Mount residence building to build the store at Hughes Spur, and then set up his sons William Clark and John F. Hughes in business there.

In January 1892, Captain W. J. Hughes bought the one-acre store lot from Mrs. Thornton for \$45.00. The store building occupied the northwest corner of the lot on the spur track, which paralleled the main track, 346 feet south of the "Switch Stand." The warehouse on the south side of the store was also on this side track. In June of that year, his son "Clark," who had now been Hughes Spur's postmaster at the store for two years, purchased a one-acre lot from Elizabeth Thornton. It was located on the west or opposite side of the track from the store. This was his residence lot. It was adjacent to Mrs. Thornton's half acre lot and another half acre lot where Ruth Hughes had previously allowed Jasper B. Whittington's widowed mother to live. That lot was between Clark's residence and the railroad track. Two years later he would buy this lot from her as well.

In January 1893, Elizabeth Thornton sold Captain Hughes her 1 ½ acre lot on the north side of the store. The sale was brokered by William H. Smith, who may have occupied it. The lot had a sawmill, blacksmith shop, stock house and a dwelling house. Three yoke of oxen were included in the sale, indicating that the sawmill was probably still in operation. Mr. Hughes had acquired large holdings of timber and planting land besides having interests in different mercantile operations.

An undated photograph of a large two-story house has been identified as the Hughes Spur home of W. J. and Mary Hughes, and is said to have burned in about 1916. No reliable evidence can be found that Hughes (who retained his store in Rocky Mount) ever lived at his Hughes Spur store site. It seems just as

likely that this is a picture of a second home, described below. A circa 1972 typewritten document by his son William C. Hughes' widow and her three daughters states that, "The first Hughes house was replaced by a large two story home built about 1890. The second home was destroyed about 1912." They further indicated that this second house was on the present site of the Thomas A. McKinney home near Rocky Mount (Bossier Restoration Foundation files).

Their first home was the Rocky Mount ante bellum "Hughes House," which would be entered into the National Register of Historic Places. The occasion for the aforesaid document had to do with the Hughes family's 1972 donation of the house and ten acres to the Bossier Restoration Foundation. According to the foundation's research, this house had been rented to Captain W. J. Hughes by his uncle Alex Hughes, who then sold him the house and its property upon his return from the war. It became his and Mary's first home upon their marriage in 1866. The Hughes House would be acquired after their deaths by their son, W. C. Hughes, and was now being made available from the W. C. Hughes estate for restoration and preservation. William J. Hughes had departed Bossier Parish to live in Shreveport well before the destruction of the two story house, whether at Rocky Mount or Hughes Spur. The picture of the house shows a gentleman and two ladies posing on the front porch (*Images of America – Bossier Parish* by Clifton D. Cardin, 1999).

The October 7, 1909, *Bossier Banner* made this announcement: "Capt & Mrs. W. J. Hughes & daughter Mrs. Annie Henderson moved this week from Rocky Mount to Shreveport. Capt Hughes was a resident of Rocky Mount for more than forty years" The Hughes family is not found in the 1910 census, but the 1910 Shreveport city directory shows W. J. Hughes and his wife Mary living at 1805 Irving Place in Shreveport. He died there at his Shreveport residence in 1921.

William Clark Hughes was elected to the Louisiana State Legislature in 1904 and was Speaker of the House in 1926-1928. He represented his Bossier Parish district from 1904 until his death in 1930. The previously referenced testament by his wife and daughters states that their husband and father had spent his entire life in Bossier Parish. We see that politics has not changed much. The 1910 census shows him living with John F. Hughes and his family in Ward 3 in Bossier Parish. William Clark is a merchant while his younger brother is head of household and a "Salesman Gen Store." However, the Shreveport city directory in 1910 shows that he and his wife Annie are living at 642 Wichita Street in Shreveport. In 1914 they built a fine home at 1839 Robinson Place. The 1920 soundex and census shows him "living alone" as a "Merchant General Store" on the Shreveport & Ark Rd. in Bossier Parish. The 1920 census also shows Hughes residing with his family at 1839 Robinson Place in Shreveport – as does the city directory.



Photo of S. M. McCall's store at Hughes Spur, LA
(incorrectly identified as Rocky Mount) January 1958
(LSUS Archives and Special Collections)



Louisiana State Representative William Clark Hughes, 1926.
(Bossier Restoration Foundation Files)

The *Bossier Banner* of January 27, 1927, announced that the Honorable W. C. Hughes had recently purchased 200 acres of the Kingston Plantation from W. G. Burt. A store on this property located on the Arkansas highway was included in the transaction. The September 4, 1930, *Banner* had the sad duty to report the death of Representative William Clark Hughes. He was at his place of business on the Kingston Plantation when a high-power wire broke in a storm and fell across the store causing a fire. Mr. Hughes was instantly killed when he touched the cistern faucet to draw a bucket of water to fight the fire. His wife Annie lived in the Robinson Place home until she died there at age 103.

Mr. Clark Hughes, in addition to his Hughes Spur store, had a cotton gin on the sawmill lot. Mary Elizabeth Thornton (always known as Elizabeth) had in August 1893 donated a 1 3/10-acre lot to the Benton Circuit Methodist Episcopal Church South. It was located on a hill on the west side of the track and south of the railroad "Section House." The fate of the church is unknown, but the Methodists sold their lot to John F. Hughes in November 1903. He had earlier that year purchased the remaining 137 acres of the "Elizabeth Thornton place" at Hughes Spur from Dr. A. B. Bugg. John evidently built his home at the church site on the side of the hill. It would later be the residence of Samuel Martin McCall and his family.

Mr. J. Davis McCall said in a June 10, 2012, interview with the writer that his father, Samuel M. McCall, was a cousin and associate of W. Clark Hughes. Sam's mother, Kate Clark, was a sister of Clark's mother, Mary Clark Hughes. Davis said that his father first worked at the Hughes' Rocky Mount store during the period of the First World War. Afterward he worked at, and then ran, his cousin Clark's Hughes Spur general store. He commuted from home on his "ward line" road property near Rocky Mount, first by horseback and then in his new 1923 Model T Ford. McCall moved to Hughes Spur in 1927 and soon bought the store business – but not the building – from his cousin. He moved with his family into what had been John Hughes' house on the hill. It was Davis' understanding that the larger Clark Hughes house under the hill had burned. The McCalls moved back to Rocky Mount in 1933 when Davis was about twelve and his father again commuted.

Davis McCall said that the Hughes Spur post office, of which his father was postmaster, was housed in a compartment of the store with "pigeon hole" boxes for the postal patrons. The outgoing mail was hooked from the arm of a rack holder by the passing train, and the incoming mail was simply tossed off the moving train (not always good for breakable parcels of mail). He said that the cotton gin was gone by his time, but that the gin's old concrete loading ramp, which was on the spur track, may still be there just north of the road and store site.

Davis said that over on the bayou from there they had a swimming hole. Across the bottom of this deep place between the banks were cypress logs laid in a row. He didn't know if this was in connection with an old bridge, ford or the sawmill. When the bayou dried up in the summer drought of 2011, these evenly spaced cypress logs were exposed.

Mr. McCall knew that the road (and bridge) had been rerouted southward somewhat down to the store as State Road 182 (pre-Parish Road 160) during the era of Huey Long's road building governorship. (This is borne out by the location of the old road on Mrs. Thornton's nineteenth century survey of her three lots west of the Cotton Belt track.) He said that his father continued to run the store, mainly for something to do, until 1959 or 1960, when it was closed down and the building sold for its lumber. This was the original store on its original site according to Davis. (See photo)

The Clark Hughes/Sam McCall country store was the last activity of the Hughes Spur community. The Hughes railroad station had already been discontinued. The station's name continued to be shown on official parish and other maps (as is customary for some reason) marking the location of the once robust little commercial center. Several years ago, some cartographer in a remake of the parish map apparently misread the placement of "Hughes" on the Cotton Belt. He moved it over to the old Swindleville store site one-half mile west on the Parish Road 160 - State Highway 3 crossroads. For the sake of historical accuracy and in fairness to both places, it would seem right to make this correction on the next remake of the map.

A word should be said for Swindleville. The Swindles had been reputable Bossier Parish merchants since before the Civil War. Young John J. Swindle started out with a store at Plainville south of Red Land in 1859, and moved his business up to Red Land after the war. With the coming of the railroad, he reestablished his business in Plain Dealing. In the burst of road building in the early to mid-1930's, the new State Highway 10 (now Hwy 3), was run north through Benton. It skirted the west edge of the Alden Bridge town site, crossed Hwy 182 (now 160) at soon-to-be Swindleville and followed the Cotton Belt on through Plain Dealing to Lewisville, Arkansas. In 1935, Mr. J. G. Swindle bought 111 acres of land that included the cross roads. "Aunt Mat" Swindle ran a store/gas station and garage there for several years. Subsequently, there was a "beer joint," another store and other small businesses at the corner, but none had lasting success. Although Swindleville died away and its name was removed from the map, there is no provenance for "Hughes" to be there at all.

To be continued....

THE TUCKER FAMILIES

A Story of Enslavement: from the Colonial Period thru the End of the Civil War

SUSAN TUCKER (b. 1758, MD)

SARAH TUCKER (b. 1780, VA)

Hy (b. 1797) Julien (b. 1800) Mariah (b. 1810)

Minerva (b. 1812) Amy (b. 1824)

The Beginning (the Colonial Period) – Virginia

Each member of the African American Tucker family were slaves of a white family also surnamed, Tucker. The white Tucker family, in the mid-1700s, lived in Dinwiddie County, Virginia, which lies in the lower eastern portion of the State, and was formed in 1752, from Prince George County, which lies to the east of Dinwiddie. Robert F. Tucker, who owned the black Tucker family, at the end of the Civil War in 1865, was the youngest child born to Colston and Jane Thrift Tucker.¹ Both Colston Tucker, born around 1757, and his wife Jane, born around 1765, were raised in Dinwiddie County. The couple married around 1791.² Colston Tucker may have been related to the family of the celebrated Virginian statesman, St. George Tucker, however, at the least, Colston was a contemporary of St. George, whose family migrated from Bermuda to the colonies; and, St. George, the youngest son of Bermuda island's second governor, Henry Tucker, also lived between 1782 and 1787, in Dinwiddie County, Virginia, according to land transfer and the 1783 personal property tax records.³ A clue that perhaps a kinship existed between the two Tucker families, is that Robert Tucker, Colston's son, named one of his own sons, Henry St. George Tucker, in a familiar naming pattern oftentimes used by the Tucker family living in Bermuda. It is likely that Colston's wife, Jane, was the daughter of Drury Thrift and the sister of William Thrift (the Thrifts were a wealthy Dinwiddie County family), as there are records of land transfers from the Estate of

¹ Memoirs of the Methodist Episcopal-South Church, Robert Tucker, Chapter XVIII – Louisville Conference, October 6-12, 1875, pp. 226-227, Cloverport, Kentucky, the memoirs of the slave owner, Robert F. Tucker.

² See Virginia State Library film J.R. 3512, for 1791 personal property tax listing at p. 11 for Colston Tucker. Note that Colston Tucker's first name is spelled "Colson, Coleston and Colston" on the various personal property tax listings.

³ See Land Records of Dinwiddie County, Virginia 1752-1820, compiled and indexed by Hughes, Jr., Thomas P. and Standefer, Jewel B., at pp. 128 and 164, pub. Thomas P. Hughes, Jr. (Memphis Tenn.). See also Virginia State Library film J.R. 3511, for 1783 personal property tax listing at p. 9 for St. George Tucker.

William Thrift to Colston Tucker, occurring in Dinwiddie County, Virginia, between 1790 and 1810.⁴

The black Susan Tucker was only one year younger than Colston Tucker. She was born in Maryland in 1758, and was probably enslaved at that time. She was likely born to parents who were slaves, and possibly Africans, brought from that nation and maybe taken to the island of Bermuda not far from the South Carolina coastline, before finally disembarking in the American colonies. Susan may have spent her younger years with her parents and any siblings. Knowing, however the capriciousness of slavery, she may have been yanked from her mother's breast at an early age and sold into one of the Tucker households in Virginia.

Between 1782 and 1799, many individuals surnamed Tucker appears on the personal property tax lists for Dinwiddie County, Virginia. They include white males named John, Daniel, Robert, Benjamin, Wood, Pascal, [Capt.] Joseph, Isaac and David; and white females named Amey and Martha.⁵ Colston Tucker first appears on the personal property tax list for Dinwiddie County, Virginia, reflecting that in 1784, he paid taxes only on himself.⁶ In 1785, Joseph Tucker was assessed personal property taxes to be paid for slaves named Susy and Sall; and, Martha Tucker who lived in a separate household was taxed on a slave named Sarah. Isaac Tucker also paid tax on a slave named Sarah.⁷ In 1786, Daniel Tucker was taxed for 19 slaves he owned named, Mack, Nan, Sue, Lucy, Tibbs, Amey, Michael, Sall, Lewis, Dick, China, Jack, Valery, Mikey, Bob, Sales, Benny, Sam and Doll.⁸ Colston Tucker paid personal property taxes for himself, and intermittently for horses he owned in 1785, 1786, 1788, 1789, and 1790.

Slaves were not allowed to marry, but Susan Tucker may have "aligned" herself with another slave and given birth to a daughter, Sarah, in Virginia around 1780, eleven years before Colston Tucker married Jane Thrift. If Susan and Sarah were slaves of Joseph,

⁴ A close relative of St. George Tucker, Daniel Tucker of Virginia, had a son named St. George, whose son, Beverly Tucker became a professor of law at William and Mary College. See *Genealogies of Kentucky Families* at pp 489, 789, Genealogical Publishing Co., Inc., (Baltimore 1981). *Ibid*, Hughes and Standefer, Land Records of Dinwiddie County, Virginia. See also, New, Wallace Boyd, *Our Ancestors From the Potomac to the Lavaca, Brown-Riney Counties and Allied Families* (Thrift family at p. 939), pub. Alpha Publishing Group (Houston, Tex. 1996).

⁵ Virginia State Library film J.R. 3511, 3512 and 3513 for Dinwiddie County, VA personal property tax lists. According to various online genealogical websites, it is believed that Colston Tucker was the son of Isaac Tucker and Frances Jones and that Colston's siblings were Berryman, Sarah Mary, Martha and Littleberry Tucker. See Joseph Tucker Family Bible-Genealogy.com at <http://www.familytreemaker.genealogy.com/users/t/u/c/Gary-W-Tucker/GENE.html>

⁶ *Id*, reel J.R. 3511 for 1784 personal property tax list at p. 19 for Colson Tucker.

⁷ *Id*, 1785 personal property tax list at p. 36 for Joseph Tucker and Martha Tucker; and, at p. 37 for Isaac Tucker.

⁸ *Id*, 1786 personal property tax list at p. 11 for Daniel Tucker.

Isaac and/or Martha Tucker, Sarah would have been around age 5 or 6 in 1785, and her mother, Susan, would have been 27 years old.⁹

By 1791, Colston Tucker was married and assessed personal property taxes for him and two horses, but the list also indicates he had a son under the age of 16 and one white female in his household.¹⁰ For the first time in 1793, Tucker is taxed on a slave, 16 years of age, himself and one horse.¹¹ He was taxed on 2 slaves in 1794, 3 slaves in 1797 and 1798, and in 1799 is taxed \$2.24 for himself, one slave under 16 years of age and 4 horses.¹² It is clear when viewing the personal property tax lists for Dinwiddie County, Virginia, between 1785 and 1787, that the Tucker families have numerous slaves with the same given name and that it appears that slaves shift from one Tucker household another (perhaps this is the result of gifting for births, marriages, etc., or bequests upon the death of a slave owner). At the time of his appearance on the 1810 census in Dinwiddie County, Virginia, his wife and children are merely enumerated in his household.¹³ The older children of Colston and Jane Tucker, and siblings of their son, Robert, may have included Paschal (b. 1792), Thomas G. (b. 1793), Peyton (b. 1795), Martha C. (b. 1797), Binns Jones (b. 1802), and Lucy J. (b. 1804), all were born and died in Dinwiddie County, Virginia. The 1810 census reveals that other Tucker households living near the family

⁹ Virginia State Library film J.R. 3511, personal property tax lists for 1785 at p. 5; for 1786 at p. 37; Virginia State Library film J.R. 3512 for 1788; for 1789 at p. 12; and for 1790. Note, that often pages in the various tax listings are not numbered and the naming of individual slaves ceased by 1792. The Susan Tucker referenced here is the 112 year old woman, who in 1870, is found in the home of a 17 year old white head of household in West Feliciana parish, Louisiana. See U.S. Census of 1870, W. Feliciana parish, Louisiana, roll M503_535, page 382, household of Anthony Lalver. Susan Tucker has been named as the matriarch of the Tucker family because recent DNA testing revealed a likely Louisiana sanguine connection between today's descendants of the Ashley County, Arkansas, Tucker families and those having ancestors that lived before the Civil War, in Louisiana's W. Feliciana and Pointe Coupee parishes. Additionally, living next door to Susan Tucker, in Louisiana, are Ransom families and families surnamed Ransom are living near the Tucker families in Ashley County, Arkansas. See U.S. Census of 1880, Mill Creek township, Ashley County, Arkansas, e.d. 9, roll T9_38, page 133.2, household of Noah Ransom. Hy and Amy Tucker were also on the 1870 census living in W. Feliciana parish; and, Julien Tucker was listed on the 1870 census living in nearby Pointe Coupee parish, Louisiana (all three were born in Kentucky, with parents born in Virginia). U.S. Census of 1870, Pointe Coupee, Ward 11, Louisiana, roll M593_527, page 413, household of Julien Tucker, and W. Feliciana parish, Louisiana roll M593_535, page 380, household of Amy Tucker; and, W. Feliciana parish, Louisiana, roll M593_535, page 344, household of Hy Tucker. Also, keep in mind that there have not been found any documents establishing that Susan Tucker had a daughter named "Sarah," and the name is merely used as a 'place mark' simply to explain the migration of the Tucker slaves. The name was selected from those names given on the 1880 Ashley County, Arkansas census for the 12 children of Noah and Mary Cash Ransom, a daughter of Minerva Tucker Cash, as the names reveal something of a genealogical road map for the first names of Mary's maternal ancestors, when she gave her oldest daughter's name as Susan and her next eldest daughter's name as Sarah. *Id.*

¹⁰ Virginia State Library film J.R. 3512, personal property tax lists for 1791 at p. 11 for Colston Tucker.

¹¹ *Id.* 1793 personal property tax list for Colson Tucker.

¹² *Id.* personal property tax lists for 1797 at p. 15; 1798 at p. 15; and, 1799 at p. 14 for Colson Tucker.

¹³ U.S. Census of 1810, Dinwiddie County, Virginia, roll M252_67, page 104, household of Colston Tucker (Colston is misspelled "Colsten").

were Amey, Mary, David, Dolly and Wood Tucker. Also living nearby in separate households were William and Mary Thrift. Interestingly, a Thomas Duncan, who may have been the link between the Colston Tucker family and the Duncan family of Kentucky, is living alone in 1810, in the City of Petersburg, Dinwiddie County, Virginia, and never appears on a census again in that County.¹⁴

In 1797, the same time that Colston's daughter, Martha, was born, Sarah, the enslaved daughter of Susan Tucker, gave birth to a son, Hy. Perhaps, after her use as a wet nurse was no longer required, Sarah was sold or given to the Duncan family of Logan County, Kentucky. The Duncan family, were an old family of Scots, that may have settled in Culpepper County, Virginia, and migrated to Logan County, Kentucky. The Duncans were intimately close to the Tucker family, and Sarah may have been given to the Duncan family to solidify the families' relationship with one another. If sold, it may have been the first time an 18 yr old, Sarah, was separated from her mother, and more tragically, severed from her infant son, Hy, who likely remained behind in Virginia with his grandmother, Susan.

Despite being a slave, Sarah would have had the same maternal yearnings to be near her infant son as any other mother. She would have snatched any opportunity allowed her to marvel at his smile, wide dark eyes and equally dark, smooth skin. She would have giggled when he gurgled as she twisted his curls around her forefinger; and, she would have been like modern mothers of today, and felt guilty when she was forced to attend to her work, which would mean for her, to leave her infant's side to attend to the needs of another mother's baby. It would not take much imagination to dredge up the pathos that would have been felt by Susan, at the impending loss of a daughter, as well as the heartbreak Sarah surely felt when leaving behind a child of her own.

Members of the Duncan family may have intermittently traveled from Kentucky back to Virginia, to engage in the purchasing of slaves, and one – perhaps Thomas J. Duncan, who may have been the same Thomas Duncan who appeared later on the 1810 census in the City of Petersburg, and was likely a grandson of Nimrod, son of Benjamin and nephew of George Duncan of Logan County, Kentucky, escorted Sarah from Virginia to her new household in Kentucky. There is, of course, no way of actually knowing how Sarah came to be in Kentucky, however, following her arrival there, Sarah gave birth to her son, Julien (b. 1800). In 1810, Sarah traveled with Thomas Duncan from the plantation in Kentucky to Dinwiddie, Virginia, with the hopes of seeing the child, Hy, she had left there in the Tucker household. Sarah was grateful, that although very pregnant before leaving Kentucky, she was still allowed to make the trip when reassuring her master that her due date was not until after her expected return to Kentucky. Despite her assurances, Sarah's eldest daughter, Mariah (b. 1810), was born while Sarah was visiting in Virginia, and she was permitted to take the infant back to Kentucky with her. Sarah's remaining children, Minerva (b. 1812), and Amy (b. 1824), were born in Logan County, Kentucky.

¹⁴U.S. Census of 1810, Petersburg, Dinwiddie County, Virginia, roll M252_67, page 152, household of Thomas Duncan.

In 1820, Colston Tucker headed a household of five other white males, and seven white females. He also owned 23 slaves, 12 males and 11 females. One of the female slaves was over the age of 45, and may have been Susan Tucker, who would have been 62 yrs old in 1820. In 1820, Colston Tucker paid \$7.72 in personal property tax for three white males in his household over the age of 16, four horses and ten male slaves over the age of 16.¹⁵

By 1830, Colston Tucker died and his widow, Jane, was listed on the census as the head of a household of two white males aged 20-29, one of which probably included the 24 year old, youngest son of Jane, Robert Tucker; and, two other white females. Jane Tucker's slaves included eleven males and seventeen females for a total of twenty-eight slaves. In 1840, Jane Tucker, still living in Dinwiddie City, Dinwiddie County, Virginia, owned twenty-nine slaves, including six males and twenty-two females (it appears the oldest female slave that appeared in the household in 1820, is still amongst the Tucker slaves with a projected age being between 55 and 100 yrs). There is one male slave in Jane Tucker's household, who is between the age of 24 and 35, and this may be Hy Tucker, who was born in 1797, in Virginia, and would be 33 yrs old in 1830.¹⁶

Robert Francis Tucker was born on December 23, 1806, in Dinwiddie City, Dinwiddie County, Virginia, to Colston and Jane Tucker. He was educated at Goodwin's Academy near Petersburg, Virginia. He married Martha Frances Browder in Dinwiddie, Virginia and the couple had four children: Benjamin (b. 1827), Thomas (b. 1828), Sarah (b. 1833) and Hester Ann (b. 1835). Robert Tucker converted to the Methodist Episcopal Church, studied divinity and was ordained a minister by the church prior to 1840. In 1840, Robert Tucker was ordained a deacon in the Church, Clarksville, Tennessee.¹⁷

The Middle - Kentucky

Following perhaps his mother death, Robert Tucker moved his family to Logan County, Kentucky, and it is likely that he took slaves with him that he bought and those he inherited from his parents. Robert lived in Kentucky less than ten years but while there, two additional sons were born to Robert and Martha Tucker: Robert, Jr. (b. 1842) and Henry St. George (b. 1844). Two younger children, daughters, Mary and Virginia, were

¹⁵ See Linebaugh, Samuel W., *Abstracts of Wills & Settlements of Logan County, Kentucky, 1795-1838*, Book B at p. 140 (Will of George Duncan), pub. Logan County Genealogical Society, Inc. (Russellville, Kentucky). Slave Schedule to U.S. Census of 1820, Dinwiddie, Virginia, roll M33_137, page 1037, image 33, household of Colston Tucker. See also, Virginia State Library film reel J.R. #3513, 1820 personal property tax list for Colston Tucker (note, that he is listed as "Coleston").

¹⁶ Slave Schedule to U.S. Census of 1830, Dinwiddie, Dinwiddie County, Virginia, roll M19_196, page 414, household of Jane Tucker; and, U.S. Census of 1840, Dinwiddie County, Virginia, roll M704_580, household of Jane Tucker.

¹⁷ See *Memoirs of Methodist Episcopal Church*, id. See also *Goodspeed's Biographical & Historical Memoirs of Southern Arkansas in 1890*, Ashley County at pp. 921-922, repub. Southern Historical Press (Easley, S.C. 1978), orig. pub. Goodspeed Publishing (Chicago, Ill. 1890), memoirs of the slave owner's son, also named Robert F. Tucker.

born in Kentucky to the Tuckers prior to 1850. In 1844, the year that Robert Tucker's son, Henry St. George was born, a split occurred in the Methodist Episcopal Church over the issue of slavery. At a conference in Louisville, Kentucky, those siding with the institution of slavery formed the Methodist Episcopal-South, which advocated fervently on behalf of enslavement and slave owners. Robert Tucker became an active member and minister of the Methodist Episcopal Church-South, and would remain with the Church until his death. It is likely that his views on slavery and his allegiance to the ME-South group, led to his forming an even closer personal bond with the Duncan family of Kentucky, since they too were slave owners and members of the Church. It is also likely that slaves owned by the two families, continued to be transferred back and forth between the families in Kentucky and ultimately, Arkansas.¹⁸

Following Jane Thrift Tucker's death around 1843, in Dinwiddie, Virginia, her slaves were sold or given as devisees to her heirs. Sarah's son, Hy, and his grandmother, Susan, were given to Colston Tucker's younger brother, Littleberry Tucker, who had moved his family to Georgia. In 1810, Susan had done her best to cajole her mistress, Jane Tucker, to permit her daughter Sarah to return to Dinwiddie for a visit. Jane Tucker had seen many of the families of the slaves separated that she and her husband, Colston, owned; and she, as a woman having children of her own, understood the angst of those mothers who were torn from the arms of their children. She was unwilling, however, to allow her slaves and servants to see how powerless she was against the whims and caprices of her husband, who as a male, had the real ultimate power in the Tucker household. Jane Tucker commiserated with Susan, when the black woman explained the sorrow she felt without her daughter, Sarah, and the mistress would nod in understanding when Susan told her how much the boy, Hy, then 10 years old missed his mother. Jane Tucker promised Susan nothing but she privately sought her husband's permission to allow Sarah to visit Virginia, when her husband explained he had received a letter from the Duncan family in Kentucky, detailing Thomas Duncan's planned return to Virginia to trade leather goods and purchase slaves. Jane Tucker reported her husband's grant of Sarah's visitation to a gleeful Susan. After Sarah's return to Virginia and the birth of her daughter, Mariah, Jane Tucker witnessed the hesitant reunion of the boy, Hy, and the mother he had all but forgotten existed and, she overheard the suppressed giggles emitted by Susan as she stroked the back of her long missing daughter. Jane promised Susan, thereafter, that as long as she was alive, Susan would not be separated from her grandson, Hy. A powerful promise from a mistress who had become powerful in her household following the death of her husband, Colston, and Jane Tucker could never have suspected then, that by the time of her death, her elderly slave, Susan, would have outlived her.

¹⁸ U.S. Census of 1850, Mill Creek, Ashley County, Arkansas, roll M432_25, page 34A, image 70, household of Robert Tucker (for the listing of six of the eight Tucker children, as it appears to be the first time they are named on a census. Their father, Robert Tucker, Sr., may be enumerated on the 1830 census, along with his young bride, in his mother's household in Virginia, but he arrived after the 1840 census was taken in Kentucky and left before the 1850 was taken there, and thus would not be listed on those Kentucky censuses). See also Methodist Episcopal Church Memoirs, *ibid*. The ME Church-South, which retained its own identity and separate governance, did not reunite with the Methodist Episcopal Church until 1939.

Logan County, Kentucky, located in southwestern Kentucky, was founded in 1792. It was formed from Kentucky County, Virginia, and is located north of Tennessee's northernmost counties, including Robertson County, Tennessee. William T. Duncan and Nimrod Duncan, perhaps brothers, arrived in Logan County, Kentucky, prior to 1810. William T. Duncan was born on June 13, 1788, in Pennsylvania, and may have lived in Culpeper County, Virginia before arriving in Kentucky. Duncan married Susanna (Suckey) Price on November 1, 1809, in Logan County, Kentucky, and the couple had ten children: John, Samuel, Daniel, Mary (Polly), William, Elizabeth, Margaret, Sarah, Ann and James G. Duncan. Between 1823 and 1849, William T. Duncan was granted 550 acres of land in Logan County, Kentucky near the Muddy River, where he operated in addition to his plantation, a mill and tan yard. In 1810, Duncan lived in a household with five other family members, including his wife, and four slaves. Ten years later, in 1820, Duncan had sixteen slaves. There was one female slave aged 26-44 years, who may have been Sarah, and she would have been 40 years old in 1820. There were also five females under the age of 14, and may have included Mariah and Minerva; and, Duncan had three male slaves aged 14-25, which may have included Julien, who would have been 20 years old at that time. In 1850, a sixty-eight year old William T. Duncan was living with his wife, Susanna, 53, his sons Samuel, 12, and Daniel, 15. His widowed daughter, Mary Moore, 32, was also living with the family. At that time, William T. Duncan had 27 slaves. His oldest female slave was 70 years old, the same age that Sarah would have been in 1850. Duncan's slaves also included children, three of whom were a female 14, a male 9 years old, and a female infant aged 6 months, all approximately the same ages that Minerva's eldest children, Mary, Thomas and Amy would have been. Duncan also owned a 50 year old male, who may have been Julien, and a 45 year old female, whose age is 3 years younger than Mariah would have been at that time. A 25 year old female, who may have been Minerva's younger sister, Amy, was also a Duncan slave. There is no female slave in Duncan's household whose age would have been close to Minerva's in 1850, but she may have been in the Tucker household at the time, as ten years earlier, in 1840, William T. Duncan had four female slaves aged between 36-54, and then Mariah would have been 38 and Minerva would have been 36 years old. William T. Duncan's son, James was 28 years old, living in Logan County, Kentucky, with his wife Ann, 22 years old, and their young sons, Hun, 3 years old and William W. Duncan, 2 years old. James Duncan owned one slave, a male.¹⁹

Minerva was placed in the Robert Tucker home, by Susanna Duncan, the wife of William T. Duncan, in 1949, to assist Tucker's wife, Martha, with her young daughters.

¹⁹ See Kentucky Marriage Record of William Duncan and Susanna Price, Kentucky Marriages (1802-1850). U.S. Census and Slave Schedule of 1810, Russellville, Logan County, Kentucky, roll 7, page 182, household of William Duncan. See also Jillson, Willard Rouse, *The Kentucky Land Grants*, vol. 1, Part 1, Chapter VI, Kentucky Land Warrants (1816-1873), p. 535, and Chapter X, Grants in the County Court Orders (1836-1924) at p. 1211, Filson Club Publications (Louisville, KY 1925). US Census and Slave Schedule of 1820, Russellville, Logan County, Kentucky, roll M33_26, page 37, image 48, household of William Duncan. U.S. Census and Slave Schedule of 1840, Logan County, Kentucky, roll 118, page 203, image 414, household of William T. Logan. U.S. Census and Slave Schedules of 1850, District 1, Logan County, Kentucky, roll M432_211, page 37A, image 79 and page 30B, image 65, households of William T. and James G. Duncan.

Although, Minerva sorely missed the daily closeness she had with her elderly mother, Sarah, and her young children, Mary, Thomas and Amy, her mother warned Minerva that she should be grateful that being at the Tuckers left her close enough to her family that she could see them on a regular basis. Minerva's misery was also soothed by the nearby presence of the children's father, Zachariah, who was born in Kentucky and purchased from the Cash family by the Robert Tucker family when the Tuckers arrived in Logan County, Kentucky.

The End (the Civil War and Emancipation) - Arkansas

In early 1850, Robert Tucker, his young family, and his slaves, likely traveled by rail from Logan County westward to Hickman County, Kentucky, where at the Mississippi River, they boarded a paddle steamship, much like the City of Baton Rouge described in books on Samuel Clemens (Mark Twain). A cholera outbreak occurred on the ship, killing Martha Frances Tucker, her two young daughters, Mary and Elizabeth and, an unknown number of the Tucker slaves. Robert Tucker probably disembarked the steamship in Helena, Phillips County, Arkansas, with the bodies of his wife and two youngest children. From Helena, Tucker and his surviving children either took a railcar or carriage traveling southwest towards Ashley County, Arkansas, where he appears on the 1850 census in Mill Creek, with his children but without a spouse. Tucker, identified as a "minister" on the census, owned 20 slaves at that time.²⁰

It was planned, that Minerva, who was entrusted with the care of the Tucker children in Logan County, Kentucky, was to travel with the family to Arkansas. In May of 1850, however, it was learned that she was expecting the arrival of her daughter, Henrietta, and Minerva was told that she would be unable to make the trip. Minerva deeply appreciated being left behind, because she doubted she would be able to physically withstand the trip by water, from Kentucky to Arkansas, without much discomfort during her early pregnancy. Additionally, she had failed to convince Martha Tucker to allow her to take her children, her mother and her siblings, Mariah, Julien and Amy. The father of Minerva's children, Zachariah, did travel with the Tuckers to Arkansas, and luckily he arrived in Mill Creek without the taint of cholera.

Ashley County, Arkansas, formed in 1848, just two years before Robert Tucker arrived there, was created from portions of Drew, Chicot and Union counties. The County is located in southeast Arkansas and is part of the Mississippi alluvial and the West Gulf coastal plains, providing fertile land for the successful cotton farmer that Robert Tucker would become. One year following the death of his first wife and young daughters, Robert Tucker married Mary J. Moore, the widowed daughter of William T.

²⁰Methodist Episcopal Church Memoirs, *ibid*. The church Memoirs use the post Civil War, Southern euphemism "servants" to refer to the slaves that died during the steamship trip. See also, Goodspeed's Biographical and Historical Memoirs of Southern Arkansas, *ibid* (it should be noted that Robert Tucker, Jr. recounts that his mother and sisters died aboard the Baton Rouge, but that ship did not exist in 1850, and was probably a steamship that resembled the Baton Rouge. See illustration of The Baton Rouge, which appeared as frontispiece to the Mark Twain book, *Life on the Mississippi*. See also U.S. Census and Slave Schedule of 1850, Mill Creek township, Ashley County, household of Robert Tucker, *ibid*.

Duncan, on September 18, 1851, in Logan County, Kentucky. That year, while in Kentucky, Robert Tucker conveyed by deed, realty and personal property he owned in Logan County, to his new bride. Tucker's eldest son, Benjamin, married Margaret Duncan in Logan County, Kentucky, on December 11, 1851. The following year, on Christmas Day of 1852, Tucker's eldest daughter, Sarah, 16 years old, married 28 year old, James G. Duncan, a new widower and the son of William T. Duncan. Robert Tucker, as a Methodist minister officiated at the marriage of the young couple in Logan County, Kentucky, but caused the marriage certificate to be filed in Ashley County, Arkansas, on February 23, 1852. Sarah and James G. Duncan moved to Ashley County, Arkansas in 1852, shortly after they married. On December 17, 1855, in Ashley County, Arkansas, the younger daughter of Robert Tucker, seventeen year old Hester Ann married the thirty year old William B. Duncan, another son of William T. Duncan and brother of James G. Duncan. The couple was married by the then renowned Methodist Episcopal-South minister, James P. Hulse.²¹

In 1855, Minerva traversed the Mississippi River, leaving Kentucky behind and on her way to Arkansas, to rejoin the Tucker family. She was accompanied by all of her children, for which she was incalculably grateful. It was all that consoled her after the loss of her mother, Sarah, who died just a year earlier; and, the separation from her siblings, Julien and Amy who were sold and taken 'somewhere in the deep South.' Try as hard as she did, she could not ascertain from the Duncan plantation gossips, where or to whom Julien and Amy were sold, but she prayed each night that it was near her brother, Hy and her grandmother, Susan. Such a thing would have made her mother, Sarah, happy too. Although it seemed certain that Mariah would also be sold, she was not, and she would rejoin Minerva in Arkansas two years later. When Minerva appeared at the Tucker plantation in Mill Creek, she had three more children, Henrietta, Amy and Sandy with her than she had when Zachariah left Kentucky in 1850. She had also brought her older children, Mary and Thomas. She viewed her two youngest off springs as the bounty offered by the multiple visits Zachariah was allowed back to Kentucky, when he traveled on the numerous trips made by his slave masters, the Tuckers. Minerva stood on the outer edge of the plantation, under an arbor, that provided little respite from the dry heat of the afternoon. She held, the infant, Sandy, and her other children clutched at her clothes like wayward vagabonds. She stood this way for what seemed like an hour, until in the distance, she saw the familiar gait of who she knew in her heart was Zachariah, strolling down a dusty path toward her. She moved slowly to meet him, marveling that they would be once again reunited as a family. When they were face to

²¹ See Logan County, Kentucky Marriages 1820-1860, for Marriage Record of Robert F. Tucker to Mary Moore on September 18, 1851 and Benjamin Tucker to Margaret Duncan on December 11, 1851. See also Ashley County Marriages, 1837-1957, for affidavit of Robert Tucker attesting that he performed the marriage of his daughter, Sarah to James G. Duncan on December 25, 1852, in Logan County, Kentucky; and, for the Marriage Record of Hester Ann to William Duncan on December 17, 1855. See *Memoirs of James T. Duncan* (b. 1852), a son of James G. Duncan, *Biographical and Historical Memoirs of Southern Arkansas*, *ibid* at pp. 946-947 (James T. Duncan married Willella, the daughter of Hester Ann and William B. Duncan). See General Index to Real Estate Conveyances for Logan County, Kentucky, Book 31, page 161.

face, Zachariah welcomed her by stroking her tear stained cheek, and then silently he turned to pat the heads of each of his little ones.

Susanna Price, the wife of William T. Duncan, died August 1, 1855, in Logan County, Kentucky. A few months later, on January 5, 1856, William T. Duncan died. A division of his "manual" slaves for sale was undertaken on July 17, 1856, in Kentucky. The fifth slave on the list was identified as "Moriah Jane," a 10 year old girl, valued for sale at \$600.00. This may be the same Mariah Jane, who married Esau Tucker, and it is thought that either she or Essau was a child of Mariah, as in 1880, Mariah Jane and Esau Tucker lived merely a few doors from the Cash and Ransom homes in Ashley County, Arkansas. At the time of her death in 1928, Ashley County, Arkansas, Mariah Jane Tucker was 82 years old, indicating that was born in 1846, and would have been 10 years old in 1856. James G. Duncan and his sister and her husband, Mary and Robert Tucker, were present in Logan County, Kentucky, for the division and sale by lots of the slaves to the Duncan family members, and they purchased slaves from the William T. Duncan estate. Three years later, in 1859, Mary and Robert Tucker sold four parcels of land to individual buyers in Logan County, Kentucky.²²

In 1860, Robert Tucker is shown on the census in Mill Creek, Ashley County, Arkansas, living with his wife, Mary, and owning 38 slaves, the oldest of which were two males both aged 58. One of these two males was a mulatto, and may have been Zachariah Cash, who on a later census, was described as "mulatto" and was said to have been born in Kentucky in 1800. There also two female slaves aged 46, who may have been Minerva and Mariah (in 1860, Minerva would be 48 and Mariah 50 years old). Listed also as slaves on the Tucker plantation were children who may have been Minerva's: a boy 6, who may have been Sandy; two males aged 17, one of which may have been Thomas; a girl, 9, who may have been Henrietta; a girl, 11, the same age Amy would have been. There were no female slaves listed as 14, the age Mary would have been, but Mary may have been in the Ramsour household nearby, where Noah Ransom was enslaved. A younger son of Robert Tucker, Robert F. Tucker, Jr., married Anastasia Mary Duncan, a daughter of John Price Duncan (a son of William T. Duncan), on April 16, 1860, in Ashley County, Arkansas, and the young couple is living in his father's household along with William J. Duncan. The slave owner Robert Tucker's three sons, Benjamin, Thomas, a lawyer, and Robert, Jr., may have all served as Confederates during the Civil War, which began in 1860. Tucker's daughter, Sarah and James G. Duncan were living in nearby Drew County, Arkansas, by 1860, where the family was operating a plantation and tan yard, much as the Duncan family did in Kentucky. Should anyone have doubts as to the severity of slave life on the Tucker plantation, they should know that the WPA interviewer, Samuel S. Taylor, in 1939, penned the oral narrative of Julia Fortenberry, who was born a slave in 1859, in Ashley County, Arkansas. Ms.

²² See Will of William T. Duncan, Logan County, Kentucky Wills, Book H at pp. 470-471. See Death Certificate of Mariah Jane Tucker, September 19, 1928, Ashley County, Arkansas. General Index to Real Estate Conveyances of Logan County, Kentucky, Books 37, pp. 30, 338, 616 and Book 39, page 368. U.S. Census of 1880, Mill Creek, Ashley County, Arkansas, e.d. 9, roll T1_38, page 133.2, household of Essau Tucker.

Fortenberry and her mother, Indiana Young, were slaves belonging to the Robert Tucker family. She describes in the narrative, her life living in a one room log cabin with dirt or plank floors and the adult slaves fearing the beatings and whippings administered by "pateroles" (patrollers), the gangs of white field hands and thug citizenry charged with handing out punishment to slaves.²³

Following the end of the Civil War in 1865, Robert and Mary Tucker fled the United States for Brazil, as did 10,000 former supporters of the Confederacy. The then ruler of Brazil, Emperor Dom Pedro, encouraged the Americans to move to Brazil, where the Emperor hoped to increase the cultivation of cotton. The Brazilian Emperor offered the migrants, subsidies on the transport of cotton to Brazil, cheap land and tax breaks. Heartened by their wish to avoid the post Civil War Reconstruction Era, and the existence of slavery in Brazil, which was not abolished until 1888, the Confederate supporters (known as "Confederados" to the Portuguese speaking Brazilians) moved to Brazil and set up colonies sustained by cotton growth. The Church described Tucker's mission in Brazil, as "seeking a location for a colony of Christian people." While in Brazil, the U.S. Internal Revenue Service assessed Robert Tucker a punitive tax of \$197.67, authorized by the Cotton Sales Tax of 1861, for the sale of 6,589 pounds of cotton in 1866. The Tuckers lived in Brazil for only one year, as Robert Tucker became ill, and the couple returned to the United States, settling in Illinois, where Robert's nephew, Colson, a son of his brother Paschal, also lived. James G. Duncan, the husband of Tucker's daughter, Sarah, purchased from the federal government in 1868, 40 acres of land in Arkansas. Robert Tucker would never again live in the State of Arkansas.²⁴

²³ U.S. Census and Slave Schedule of 1860, Mill Creek, Ashley County, Arkansas, roll M653_37, page 178, image 180, household of Robert Tucker (abstracted "Lucker"). Marriage Record of Robert F. Tucker, Jr. and Anastasia M. Duncan, married April 26, 1860, in Ashley County, Arkansas. See *Memoirs of Robert F. Tucker, Jr., Biographical and Historical Memoirs of Southern Arkansas*, *ibid.* It should be noted that following the Civil War, Benjamin may have moved to Logan County, Kentucky, and Robert, Jr. returned to Ashley County, Arkansas. Thomas may have died during the War, because it appears his Will was administered in 1865, see *Index to Wills and Administrations of Arkansas from the Earliest to 1900*, Ashley County at p.31, Record Adm. AA, page 237, compiled and edited by Mrs. James H. Stevenson and Mrs. Edward L. Westbrooke (Daughters of the American Revolution 1986). See Julia Fortenberry slave narrative, Library of Congress, Washington D.C. *Slave Narratives: A Folk History of Slavery in the United States from Interviews with Former Slaves*; Volume II, Arkansas, part 2, page 328. The Fortenberry narrative can also be viewed online at: www.accessgenealogy.com/scripts/data/database.cgi?file=Data&report=SingleArticle&ArticleID=0028480

²⁴ See *Memoirs of the Methodist Episcopal Church*, *ibid.* See also *Memoirs of Robert Tucker, Jr., Biographies and Histories of Southern Arkansas*, *ibid.* Harter, Eugene C. *The Lost Colony of the Confederacy*, Texas A&M University Press, (College Station, TX 1985). See also transcription of letters written by Robert F. Tucker, dated July 7, 1867, from Brazil, to his wife and son, Robert, provided by Norma Tucker of Nampa, Idaho and Sharon Gaught of Gassville, Arkansas, direct descendants of the slave owner, Robert F. Tucker. U.S. IRS Tax Assessment Lists, District 1 (Ashley County, Arkansas), Monthly and Special Lists, 1867, NARA series T1208, roll 2 (Tucker is listed as Robert "S." Tucker). U.S. General Land Office (Champagnolle, Ark.) Records, accession no. AR2330_445, doc. 6332. See General Index to Real Estate Conveyances for Logan County, Kentucky, Book 73, page 442 (for conveyance to ME-South Church trustees). See, *id.*, Books, 50 pp. 45, 47; Book 1, p. 300; Book 2, pp. 75, 415; Book 4, pp. 59, 156; Book 56, page 396 and, Book 62, page 363 (for Anastasia/Robert Tucker, Jr. conveyances). Book 54, page 45; Book 65, p. 551; and, Book 73, page 312 (for Mary J. Tucker conveyances).

In 1868, Robert Tucker was ordained an elder of the Methodist Episcopal-South Church's Illinois Conference. He moved to Kentucky in 1871, where in 1872, he began preaching on the Church's traveling circuit while based out of Cave Spring. He was appointed to the Burksville (Ky.) traveling ministry circuit in 1874. In 1873, Robert and Mary Tucker sold realty located in Logan County, Kentucky, to the Trustees of the Methodist Episcopal Church. Robert's son, Robert F. Tucker, Jr., and his wife, Anastasia, sold land in Kentucky from 1874 thru 1886, probably in an attempt to maintain the Tucker plantation in Mill Creek, Arkansas, where Robert Jr. is living with his family and appears on the 1870 census with having realty valued at \$100,000 and personal property valued at \$50,000. Mary Tucker sold land in Logan Kentucky thru 1889. Robert Tucker's youngest son, Henry St. George married Mattie Cammack, (the granddaughter of Lewis Cammack, a wealthy planter, who had also lived in Kentucky), on October 4, 1885, in Ashley County, Arkansas.²⁵

Robert F. Tucker, the Arkansas slave owner, died of pneumonia on February 2, 1875, in Cumberland, Kentucky, following an illness.²⁶ His wife, Mary Duncan Moore Tucker died on July 14, 1890, in Tiller, Arkansas. Many of the Tucker slaves, lived to see the end of the Civil War and their ultimate emancipation, including, Susan, Hy, Julien, Amy, Mariah Jane, Minerva and Zachariah Cash and their children and Mariah and her children.

*This article was submitted by Ms Arlene B. Polk;
A member of the Ark-La-Tex Genealogical Association*

Her paternal ggg grandparents were Minerva (Sarah's daughter) and Zachariah Cash. Her research in this endeavor is ongoing. Ms Polk will be turning her focus to Louisiana due to DNA evidence that indicates a connection between those Tuckers in W. Feliciana and Pointe Coupee parishes and Arkansas.

Any tips to aid her in her Louisiana search (pre-1870) would certainly be appreciated. Again, Ms Polk wants to thank you for your help.

Ms Polk may be contacted at [mailto:abpolk@earthlink.net]

²⁵ See Memoirs of the Methodist Episcopal Church, *ibid.* See General Index to Real Estate Conveyances for Logan County, Kentucky, Book 73, page 442 (for conveyance to ME-South Church trustees). U.S. Census of 1870, Mill Creek, Ashley County, Arkansas, roll M593_47, page 193, household of Robert Tucker, Jr., (his name is abstracted "Robbert" and his wife Anastasia is referred to as "Nancy") and they have a 55 yr. old black woman living with them named Maggie Tucker, who was born in Kentucky. See *id.*, Books , 50 pp. 45, 47; Book 1, p. 300; Book 2, pp. 75, 415; Book 4, pp. 59, 156; Book 56, page 396 and, Book 62, page 363 (for Anastasia/Robert Tucker, Jr. conveyances). Book 54, page 45; Book 65, p. 551; and, Book 73, page 312 (for Mary J. Tucker conveyances). See Marriage Record for Henry S. Tucker and Mattie Cammack, married October 4, 1885 in Ashley County, Arkansas.

²⁶ See Memoirs of the Methodist Episcopal Church, *ibid.* .

LAWSON YARD CEMETERY

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FROM THE MOREHOUSE PARISH COURT HOUSE, BASTROP, LA, TRAVEL ONE AND ONE-HALF MILES NORTH ON THE CROSSETT HIGHWAY (HIGHWAY 425) TO SHELTON ROAD. TURN LEFT, DRIVING FOR NINE TENTHS OF A MILE TO THE EVERGREEN NO. 2 BAPTIST CHURCH AT 11080 SHELTON ROAD. THE LAWSON YARD CEMETERY IS ENCLOSED WITHIN THE FENCE TO YOUR RIGHT AT THE END OF THIS CHURCH'S DRIVEWAY.

| ID | NAME (Last, First, Middle) | PRE/SUFFIX | BIRTHDATE | DEATHDATE | INSCRIPTION/NOTES |
|----|----------------------------|------------|-------------|-------------|---|
| 1 | CASH, RACHAEL (LAWSON) | | 1931 | 1999 | OBIT., BASTROP (LA) ENTERPRISE DTD 15 DEC 1999 |
| 2 | CASH, WILLIE LEE | JR. | 22 APR 1950 | 25 FEB 1975 | OBIT., BASTROP (LA) ENTERPRISE DTD 28 FEB 1975 |
| 5 | LAWSON, ALONZO T. | | | 03 AUG 1988 | OBIT., BASTROP (LA) ENTERPRISE DTD 06 AUG 1988 |
| 6 | LAWSON, JAMES | | | 2008 | F N, BASTROP (LA) ENTERPRISE DTD 26 JUL 2008 |
| 3 | SMITH, MOLLIE LAWSON | MRS. | 05 JUN 1924 | 26 DEC 2010 | DUO W/ PERCY LEO SMITH |
| 4 | SMITH, PERCY LEO | | 03 SEP 1920 | 21 MAR 1975 | DUO. OBIT., BASTROP (LA) ENTERP., DTD 24 MAR 1975 |



RACHEL LAWSON CASH

"Mr. and Mrs. Alonzo Lawson were the proud parents of five children of whom Rachel was the third, having entered this world on May 16, 1931.

"(MRS. RACHEL LAWSON CASH) grew up in a

Christian atmosphere at home and at Evergreen No. II Baptist Church. Later while still in her youth, she joined the Magnolia Baptist Church where she served until she became ill. She was an active member of her Sunday School Class.

"A gifted horticulturist, her love, patience and kindness was reflected in her green plants and beautiful flowers. She had the ability to grow plants of any size for herself, family, and friends. Her love of wood fixtures caused her to develop a natural art for restoring and re-

finishing wood antiques that were family treasures.

"She was preceded in death by one son, Willie Lee Cash, Jr., and one brother, Willie D. Lawson. Survivors: 3 sons: Alphonso Cash of Bastrop, Louisiana; Herbert Cash and Larry Cash of Detroit, Michi-

gan; two daughters: Beverly A. Cash and Vanessa Cash of Bastrop; one brother, James Lawson and his wife, Denise, of Chicago, Illinois; two sisters: Earnestine Lawson of Houston, Texas; and Mollie Smith of Bastrop; 15 grandchildren, and 4 great grandchildren; 1 aunt, Evelyn Hudson of Bastrop, and many cousins and friends."

Source: "In Loving Memory of Mrs. Rachel L. Cash," (photo) dated December 18, 1999, in possession of Mrs. Isabelle Woods, Bossier City, Louisiana.

WILLIE LEE CASH

"WILLIE LEE CASH, JR., 24, died in Detroit, Michigan, Tuesday, February 25. Funeral services will be held Sunday,

LAWSON YARD CEMETERY



ALONZO T. LAWSON

March 2, in the Greater Magnolia Baptist Church on West Cyprus Street in Bastrop at 11 a. m. with the Reverend Louie Wroten officiating.

"Interment will follow in the Lawson's Yard adjacent to Evergreen Number 2 Cemetery under the direction of Morehouse Funeral Home.

"Survivors include his mother, Mrs. Rachael Lawson Cash of Bastrop; his father, Willie Lee Cash, Sr., of Detroit, Mich.; one son, Billy; three brothers: Herbert, and Larry of Detroit, Mich., and Alphonso of Bastrop; two sisters: Beverly and Vanessa of Bastrop; his grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Clifton Jackson and Mr. Alonzo Lawson and a great grandmother, Mrs. Ernestine Lawson.

"Pallbearers will be brothers and uncles."

Source: Obituary of W. L. Cash, Jr., *Bastrop Daily Enterprise* newspaper, 119 East Hickory, Bastrop, Louisiana, dated February 28, 1975, Page 10, Column 3. [LAW 2]

"Funeral services for ALONZO T. LAWSON, 83, a resident of the Shelton Road, will be held at 10 a.m., Monday, Aug. 8, at Montgomery Funeral Home.

"Burial will follow in the direction of Morehouse Funeral Home.

"Mr. Lawson died Wednesday, Aug. 3, at Morehouse General Hospital.

"He was a native and lifelong resident of Morehouse Parish.

"Survivors include three daughters: Mollie L. Smith, Rachel L. Cash and Ernestine Lawson; one son, James W. Lawson, Chicago; nine grandchildren; 13 great grandchildren, and a number of nieces, nephews and cousins."

Source: Obituary of Alonzo T. Lawson dated August 6, 1988, in possession of Mrs. Isabelle Woods, Bossier City, Louisiana. [LAW 5]

PERCY LEO SMITH

"Funeral services for PERCY LEO SMITH, 54, will be held Tuesday at 10 a.m. at the Mt. Olive United Methodist Church, 239 Pruitt St., with the Reverend R. S. Murray officiating.

"Interment will follow in the direction of Morehouse Funeral Home.

"A wake will be held tonight at the funeral home between the hours of 7-9 p.m.

"Mr. Smith died Friday night at his residence, 307 Sentelle St., of an apparent heart attack.

"Mr. Smith was born and reared in Bastrop and moved to Chicago, Ill., in 1961 where he was employed as a postal employee until 1970, when he returned to Bastrop.

"He was a member of Mt. Olive Methodist Church.

"Survivors include his wife, Mrs. Molly Smith; two daughters: Mrs. Alma A. Atkins of Oakland, Calif.; and Mrs. Hazel Harper, also of Oakland; one granddaughter, Erika Nicole Harper of Oakland; his mother, Mrs. Hazel Smith; one brother, Melvin L. Smith, and a sister, Mrs. Eva Dorothy Alexander, all of Bastrop."

Source: Obituary of Percy Leo Smith, *Bastrop Daily Enterprise* newspaper, 119 East Hickory, Bastrop, Louisiana, dated March 24, 1975, Page 16, Column 1. [LAW 4]



SMITH

| | |
|-------------------|---------------|
| PERCY LEO | MOLLIE LAWSON |
| SEPTEMBER 3, 1920 | JUNE 5, 1924 |
| MARCH 21, 1975 | (BLANK) |

THE LORD IS MY SHEPHERD, I SHALL NOT WANT

PERIODICAL EXCHANGE REVIEW

Compiled by Glenda Efferson Bernard

The Ark-La-Tex Genealogical Association is part of an exchange program with other genealogical societies across the nation. The idea is to obtain newsletters and bulletins from these various societies in exchange for a copy of "The Genie." This very successful endeavor benefits genealogists who visit the Broadmoor Branch of the Shreve Memorial Library in Shreveport, Louisiana. The items discussed in this article, along with many others, are found on magazine racks to one's right upon entering the Genealogy Department.

The purpose of this article is to acquaint the reader with several publications which may be of interest in research. Generally speaking, one can find more data about the person of interest if research is covered in his locale before searching nationwide. For example, regional articles may provide an early church roster with just the name needed while a magazine showcased to reach statewide readers may not include such detail.

Numerous exchange copies have been deposited recently into the library's collection. Some interesting ones include:

***Kinfolks*, published by the Southwest Louisiana Genealogical Society, Inc., Vol. 36, #4, November 2012.** This bulletin includes a long list of books on the shelves at the Calcasieu Public Library, and a biography of Joseph Paul Antoine Garrigues de Flangeau who fought in the Battle of New Orleans for the French in "De Flangeau-A Man for All Seasons." Also added are transcriptions from *The Daily American* (5-7 July 1897), a local newspaper in Calcasieu Parish. On page 150 one can find several listings from "The Lake Charles City Directory" 1911-1912 for surnames beginning with "M". The volume concludes with a partial listing of Oaklawn Cemetery in Welsh, Louisiana (Jefferson Davis Parish).

***Stalkin' Kin In Old West Texas*, Nov 2012, published by the San Angelo Genealogical and Historical Society, Inc., Vol. 40, # 1 & 2, 119 pages.** This is a large publication with extensive research articles on John D. Curry, of the Alabama Infantry Regiment and the detailed life of John Daniel Hodges from Mocksville, North Carolina in "Some Recollections of a Davie County Soldier 1844-1936." These life stories are a long and thorough account with vivid illustrations. Various personal details of area citizens' family histories make this a welcome "flesh on the bones" inclusion. "Transcriptions from *The San*

Angelo Standard, 17 & 24 December, 1887," "Marriage Records from Menard County, Texas, Book 3, December 1918 to October 1920," as well as a lengthy listing for "Reagan County, Texas, Marriage Records, Book 1, May 1903 to April 1927," are found. A chart format, page 77, displays "Tom Green County, Texas, District Court Civil Court Docket, 1925 to 1926." Lastly, another lengthy marriage record list from "Runnels County Marriages Records, Book 4," fills out the publication.

The Kettle is a huge publication of The Melting Pot Genealogical Society, Hot Springs, Arkansas, Vol. XXXV, 200 pages. It is easy to read and beautifully illustrated with photos and commentary of several family histories such as "The Lynch Family." Also one would probably enjoy a wonderful article, "The Arlington Hotel Secrets" which is reprinted from the African American Genealogical Society of Northern California. A recurring column, "Dear Debby" is an interesting way to publish queries received by the historical society and read Debby's responses. On page 77 is another lengthy list of library acquisitions. Articles on the Tankersley and Tapp families are interesting along with a listing of Garland County, Arkansas, marriages whose groom surname begins with "J". A 40 page article about "The Early Fire Companies of Hot Springs, Arkansas," completes this terrific volume.

Terrebonne Life Lines, is published by the Terrebonne Genealogical Society, Houma, Louisiana, Vol. 31 #2, Summer 2012. This 94 page contribution about the LaFourche Parish area begins with a long biography of Louis Joseph and Noelle Lizzie Simoneaux Gautreaux and another biography of the Adele Hebert family. Following the biographies is a thorough genealogy of the James Lirette and Pharlie Emelie Thibodeaux families. Page 130 recounts another biography, "The Gautreaux Family, From Acadia to Louisiana." David L. Dalton authored an interesting article "Finding Your Louisiana Ancestors' Original Land Grants—A Primer." Photos and a bibliography are included.

Limestone Legacy, published by Limestone County Historical Society (Athens, Alabama), featured an article about The Joseph Adams family of Huntsville, Alabama, along with "A History of Athens, Alabama." "Nebo Community Church (1815-2012) Homecoming Celebration" concludes this small newsletter.

Searchers and Researchers, presented by the Ellis County Genealogical Society (Waxahachie, Texas), Vol. XXXV, #2, Summer 2012, 50 pages, is a medium sized publication which begins with an interesting article "Negro Families on 1930 Census, Ellis County, TX (Red Oak to Ovilla)." Also in this

volume one will find a "History of the U. S. Postal Service" in Waxahachie with full page photos. A biography of "The Aldredge Family", page 22, is included which is so very interesting! Two former slaves to the household "adjust" to life after the Civil War within this family. "Our Southern Neighbors" is a transcription from The Midlothian Argus,- 13 January 1916, Vol. XXII. It describes various communities within Ellis County from that timeframe.

Central Louisiana Genealogical Society Quarterly, (Rapides Parish, Louisiana), Spring 2012, Vol. 26, #2 presents an interesting article "Additions To, and Discrepancies of the Book, Rapides Cemetery, Pineville, Louisiana; Oldest Cemetery in Rapides Parish," is on page 20. Also "*The Town Talk* Obituaries, Alexandria, Louisiana," "S" collection (mainly 1994 and 1996) fills several pages. (The Winter 2011 and Spring 2012 editions appear to be stapled and mailed together at the same time.)

Legacies and Legends of Winn Parish, Louisiana, Vol. 16, #1, May 2012 is a large publication presented by the Winn Parish Genealogical Society. It is filled with a plethora of information about the parish. A number of families are highlighted: The "Shumaker-Weems" families by Barbara Smith Guillory, "William Frazier" and "James 'Jim' Calk" by Barbara Brazil and "James Calk's Adventures and Services-1781" by John Langford. A terrific article, page 24, "Cornbread, The Bank of Winnfield, and the Hoo-Hoos," by Barbara Smith Guillory, gives a history of the Bank of Winnfield. It is a short biographical sketch of the presidents of the bank with an explanation of the bank's black cat logo and even a "teller Recipe" for Cornbread from Grandma Smith. An article on the politics of Winn Parish at the turn of the 20th century examines the life of Bryant William Bailey. Transcriptions from the local newspaper, The Comrade, December 1894 and October 1910 are filled with genealogical facts. Near the end is a collage of old advertisements, photos and reunion announcements, etc. The last few pages include current advertisements which will be great to have for future generations to see what was for sale in 2010.

Ancestry, Quarterly Bulletin of the Genealogical Society of Palm Beach County, Florida, Vol. XLVI, #4, October 2012. A wonderful article, "Palm Beach in the good Old Days," by Margorie Watts Nelson can be found in this edition. It is divided into categories such as Getting There, Housekeeping, Food, Truck Gardening and Mail. The information was gathered by a group of ladies about 1897 having lived or visited in Palm Beach who recalled "indelible memories" of the "good life." Such fun reading! There is a genealogical record of Gerrit Westdijk of the Netherlands and his descendants with photos and a valuable article, "Finding Peter Smith" by Joanne E. Wilson. This article describes her success in finding an ancestor with such a common name.

Richard Smart Joins Navy

By Bob Holeman

Americans have long revered their soldiers who served their country in ways both great and small. Here we are in the midst of the holiday season, the feasts of Thanksgiving just over and Christmas carols in stores ushering in shopping frenzies, wishes for a joyful yuletide, and hopes for a prosperous new year. On the heels of the Great Depression, the events of December 7, 1941, brought the nation new challenges and changed the lives of millions. Here is the story of one of those lives.

Source:

WINN PARISH ENTERPRISE

Winnfield, Louisiana

Wednesday, July 4, 2012

Submitted By Linda Lynn

Richard Smart figures he was born as close to the center of town as a man could be in 1923. For the son of David F. Smart, a railroad man, and Artie Kelley Smart, that arrival happened in their rented downtown Winnfield apartment, "with old Doc Fitz tending to Momma."

Smart can't claim lifelong residency of his birthplace, since the railroad moved his dad to El Dorado, Arkansas, where Brother Charles (now deceased) and Sister Helen were born. Typical to the industry, the family moved with the railroad again, this time to Little Rock.

"Daddy was still working for the Rock Island Railroad when the Depression hit," said Smart as we sat at the breakfast table in his home just south of Winnfield. "They laid off a bunch of people, Daddy among them. We were in a pickle. Nowhere to live. Nothing to do."

His mother's family had a place in Winnfield where the family moved. "Daddy went all over the country looking for work but there was nothing to find. He came back here and tried his hand at farming in Gilbert, LA, on a bayou. He had a great crop going but a big flood killed about half the cotton when the banks over-flooded. It nearly ruined the crop but he salvaged enough to pay the loans and move back here."

At the time, the state had a Conservation Office, looking after trees and watching for fires. "Daddy got on with them. In that period of time, fire towers

had been built, maybe every 10 miles. They watched out for fires from them. That's what brought us up through the Depression years."

Smart was still 5 years old when school started in 1929. With a December birthday, he lacked a few months being 6 for the September deadline but he was big for his age so they let him start anyway. "Daddy got a place that the bank owned; near the Sheltons... the bank had a lot of places they had to repossess and didn't have anything to do with them. Daddy drove a school bus at Atlanta and the bank was willing to take what they could. And for nothing down because Daddy didn't have it."

Smart played a little basketball during his school years, "because that's all Atlanta had. I wasn't real good but played on the first team. We didn't travel and only played in the parish, Atlanta, Calvin, Winnfield, Dodson, Sikes, Gaar's Mill. Sometimes Verda. We'd finish the year with the parish tournament in Winnfield. That was always a big thing."

As to grades, he never claimed to be a scholar but "I didn't fail, either. I finished second in my class in 1940 but I was a long way from being an "A" student. In fact, when I looked at my transcript 29 years later, it didn't look so good."

The graduate had dreams of going to college but the family couldn't afford it. The local Trade School had just opened, with 1939-40 as its first year. In May, Smart went in and signed up to be in the second year's class. But that fall when he went back, he was told the class was full and there was no place for him.

"So I went out and was waiting on a vehicle for a lift back home and me and a friend, Fred Keyes, talked about getting on with the CCC. They were going strong then. But when I got home and told Momma, she went ape. She told me fast that her boy wasn't going to be in the CCC. The next day, I went with her to the Trade School office. When we left, they were happy to find a place for me."

He said he knew nothing about welding but chose it over the other course options. From the fall of 1940 until early 1942, Smart said he'd basically finished the course. "Then, Army camps were going wide open. In December of 1941 when the war started, someone at school had a radio and we listened to the President. On that Sunday (Dec. 7), us kids had walked a mile and a half to church. When we came back to the house, Momma was on the porch, wringing her hands and saying, 'we're at war. The Japanese have bombed Pearl Harbor.' We didn't even know where Pearl Harbor was. The thing was that she was afraid. The whole country was afraid."

Smart got a civilian job at nearby Camp Livingston. There were all types of shops and he found himself in welding, producing various items for the war effort in Europe. "When I was called up, Daddy, who had been in the Army in World War I and had been wounded, shelled and gassed, told me to stay out of the Army...It's tough."

So at Fort Humbug in Shreveport, booths were set up for the various branches of service. "I wanted to be in the Air Force to be a pilot. But I didn't have enough education. So I went to the Navy booth. In my interview, I said that as tall and skinny as I was, they wouldn't have a use for me but the selection guy said they could use a million like me."

It took nearly a week for the Navy to find a place for Smart and when he got back to Humbug, there was no transportation to California. "Those trains were all jammed so they put us up in a Shreveport hotel for four or five days before we got on a train to San Diego. The Navy yard there was down in a flat bordered by a hill. As long as you were in boot camp, you couldn't get a pass to go into town. But to tell you the truth, by the time they got through with you that day, you didn't want to go to town."

After the unit of about 140 men was taught the basics, most of them were shipped out to other assignments. But Smart stayed in San Diego for a 16-week course in most of the trades, concentrating in boiler making. They emerged as third class firemen. "There were 134 of us that they put on a ship. They didn't tell us anything. It was a baby flattop (carrier). Most of the fleet had been destroyed at Pearl. They converted some of the cruisers into baby flattops. It turned out that they were too short for the planes to land but they could transport planes."

They arrived at Pearl Harbor where they were housed. Smart watched over the next weeks as 132 of his unit shipped out to various assignments. "They called the last two of us down one morning and took us to a 200-foot bunkhouse, with bunks as far as you could see. I got one next to a boy from Rayne. I asked how long he'd been there. Ten months. I said, ten months, I don't have ten months, thinking I needed to be fighting somewhere. Well, 25 months later, I finally got out of there."

Smart had landed in what was called the Ships Repair Unit. "You'd think you'd repair ships but we did very little of that. We weren't set up for heavy work. We were set up like a construction crew that did all sorts of work around the island. The chief petty officer was superintendent of iron workers, carpenters and all. Each day, we'd go out to work, come home and clean up, then go to bed, just like regular workers. I won't tell you about all our work but there are a few.

"One day they started calling names, six of us. They took us to a big hole in the ground and informed us we were about to build a swimming pool. Well, we'd never done that before. We were a crew that had put steel rebar to reinforce concrete. But all the steel was straight and the pool wasn't. We'd have to fabricate it. I was the only one with any skills in reading blueprints and none of us had tied any steel. By the time we were finished, most of us got good enough to get the job done. It took several weeks.

"Another job was at the original coal docks, from back in time when there were coal-burning ships. We cleaned that up and made a huge shop. Machines and all. Civilians took that over when it was completed.

"We had a dry dock, the second largest in the world. We laid a keel to build a big barge, all welded, with a diesel-electric crane to lift smaller boats out of the water to work on them. We worked 24 hours a day. I caught the 3 a.m. to 11 a.m. shift. When we got it to where it would float, we fired it up to see how it would work. It had an 80-ton block on the main hook and a 20-ton on the jib. It was a little unsteady so they filled the hull with concrete and said it was fine."

While Smart was at Pearl, wreckage was still being cleared from the attack. "I saw them raise the Oklahoma and bring it to dry dock. You wouldn't believe the damage. The sides appeared to be six-inch steel, but torpedoes had busted holes right through. They were hauling it back to the States for a museum or something but the line broke and the Oklahoma sank again."

Not all was work. Some of the boys played various instruments. Piano, banjo, fiddle, harmonica. Some became professional after the war. Smart was recruited when their bass player was moved out. "I wasn't much good but I picked it up. We got good enough to pick up an open pass to play for civilians. Pearl to Honolulu was maybe 10 miles. We'd go there, eat in the cafeteria and, during the season, they'd have baseball games. Actually, most were Big League players. Well, Stan Musial wasn't in my barracks but he was in our unit. He loved our accordion player and he'd often sit over there in the corner and listen to us practice for an hour or two."

One day, Smart was busy welding rocket launchers onto the sides of LST's that were used in the islands when a friend came running, jumping up and yelling, "The war is over. They dropped a bomb on Japan." Smart said it took an hour or two for the reality of the announcement to sink in, together with the wonderment of how our country had a weapon with such destructive power.

By November 1945, he'd earned enough points to get out. At Oakland, the Navy tried to get him to re-enlist but he'd had enough. "I just wanted to get out of California and kind of hobo my way back home. But they put me on a train to

New Orleans where I was discharged. That was Nov. 25, 1945.”

With six million returning soldiers trying to enter the work force at the same time, jobs were scarce. Our returning navy man worked here and there until he hooked up with an expert meat-cutter in Shreveport and earned enough to hire on as a butcher. Then he did iron work and construction, but the jobs didn’t last long. He ended up in Monroe where he worked about 20 years.

Then in 1966, a slot opened for a welding instructor at the Huey P. Long Technical College in Winnfield. He wasn’t too sure since the job paid less than he made in Monroe, but it was home. So he took the instructor position and worked there 22 years before retiring in 1988.

In the late 1940s when Smart was in Winnfield, he knew some folks who were going to the new church over there, Laurel Heights Baptist Church. I started going over there and a young lady, Louise Frazier, caught my eye. We dated a little but I had [to] travel off to work a lot. After about five years of this, she said we’d either have to get married or move on. We married. It was hard for me to settle down. My mother-in-law had told me before the wedding, ‘You realize, that’s a mighty long job.’ It’s been 50-something years now but it’s still going.”

The couple has four sons, Timothy, Claude, Wayne, and Larry. They also have 10 grandchildren and 4 great grandchildren (plus two more on the way).



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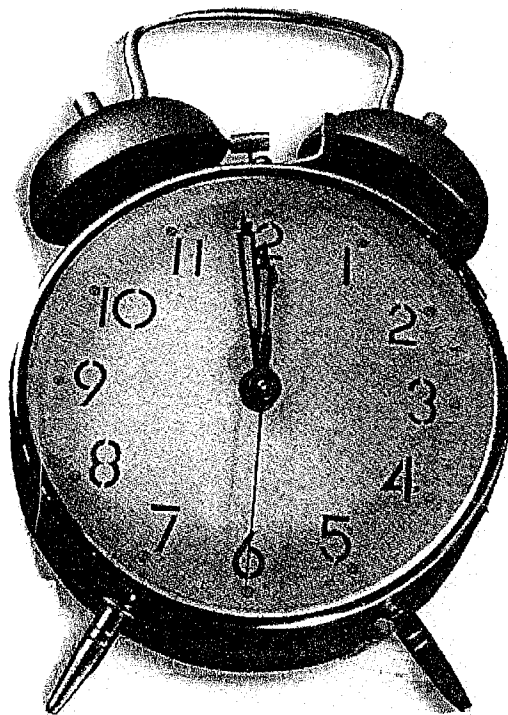
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Unique Treasures In Land Records

© 2012 By Valerie Eichler Lair

Member, Association of Professional Genealogists (APG)

President, Heartland Chapter-APG

There's more to deeds than simply land descriptions. They may contain exciting, interesting, humorous details, as well as provide your genealogical research with additional information that might not be found anywhere else. The focus of this article is not to explain how to use land records or how you can obtain a description of your ancestor's property, rather the goal is to tell you that the land deed record books have many other valuable documents.

You will need to get away from the traditional searching of grantor/grantee indexes, and begin searching the deed books page-by-page. If you are only looking up your surnames under the indexes, you are missing so much.

Minnesota, one of my states of interest, has many volumes of land deed record books microfilmed and available through the Family History Library in Salt Lake City, Utah. There are two deed books on each roll of microfilm with each book having 640 pages. That's 1,280 pages of possibly finding unique treasures.

So my search was recorded in an organized fashion, I created a spreadsheet with the following column headings:

Deed Record Book Number
Page Number
First Name
To
Second Name
FHL Microfilm Number

I put the date of my search at the top of the spreadsheet and any other pertinent source information (i.e. where the original records are located). As I was perusing each page in each deed book for an ancestor's name, I would enter the data into each column. This becomes a "mini index" and makes photocopying much easier when finished with each roll of microfilm. The information on the spreadsheet was used to cite the source on each copy once I got back home.

Here are some examples of items you can find that will open up new areas in your research world.

A. HOMESTEAD PATENTS. We all know about the Homestead Act of 1862 providing land to citizens, or to those who have declared their intent, to

receive 160 acres once the land was improved. However, the land deed also tells you what land office the certificate is registered in. This information will further your research into that particular General Land Office and possibly to naturalization papers.¹

B. STATE SCHOOL LAND PATENTS. An Act of Congress, approved 26 February 1857, enabled the people of Minnesota Territory to form a constitution and state government and for the admission of such State into the Union, the sections sixteen and thirty-six in every township were granted to the State of Minnesota for the use of schools. Family tradition stated that my great-grandfather had a school on his land. The search for a patent deed proved this family story to be fact.²

C. OBTAIN PARENT'S NAMES. Do you have an elusive lady on your ancestor chart? Are you having problems finding out her father's name and/or mother's name? My husband's ancestor chart had this situation for 1¹/₂ years until I found a "Letter of Attorney" document recorded, yes, in a land deed record book. Jacob LEHR appointed his attorney *for the sole benefit to demand, recover, or receive from the Estate of Benjamin CROTZER, all my wife Catharine daughter of the aforesaid Benjamin CROTZER [sic], her part now due...*³ What a gold mine (found!)

D. PROVEN RELATIONSHIPS. Before you are ever aware of some relationships, a document in either land deed record books or probate can help. It is most commonly found in deeds to state *his heirs and assigns forever*. Not so for dozens of my ancestor's deeds. I have quite a few that had stated_____, *being son/daughter and heirs of*_____.⁴ The document I came across in one of y searches was a will for a person who I just knew wasn't my relative! The will stated *I nominate and appoint as Executor my brother-in-law Christian YOST...* My family group sheet did not have this will's originator listed, so therefore, he couldn't have been right even though another "proven brother- in-Law" was listed as a witness. One year after copying this document, I had obtained proof for the relative in question.⁵ Can we genealogists be wrong in our assumptions?

E. HEIRS AT LAW OF THE ESTATE. Another example of wonderful finds in land records is one that lists children. You could fill out the names on a family group sheet from one of these finds. Even though this example appears to be an estate in a probate record, it was found in a deed record book because land was given to the heirs at law. The document lists the children of the deceased.⁶

F. OBTAIN NEW SURNAMES AND RESIDENCES. One of my most exciting research treasures found in using land records for other purposes was a deed that gave me the new surname of an elusive female. Not only the new (married) surname was obtained, but the man's given name was also in the document, the first document to have such information. The deed also gave new information as to their residence, which was in Jefferson County, Montana.⁷ Finally a door was opened into census research, names of the family, plus more!

G. AGREEMENTS BETWEEN FAMILY MEMBERS. This can be the most interesting and, in my case, the most humorous of all things to find in land records. An agreement between my grandfather and his father on 13 December 1910 was recorded in the county deed record book. It was agreed that the father, Christian YOST, would have the use of the parlor in the house on said premises, the north kitchen, the northwest bedroom down stairs, the northeast bedroom up stairs, the north hen house, the hen yard therewith sufficient firewood for his use, the right to keep one horse in the barn and hay for said horse, all of said privileges to be with reasonable access. The agreement further stated that this was to be until Christian YOST's death and not to be transferred to any other person.⁸ No joke! This certainly adds more flavor to the family history. I can understand why my family puts everything in writing to this day!

H. CEMETERY ASSOCIATIONS. Were there cemetery associations formed in your area of interest? How do you know this to be true? Are you going to believe those county history books? In the genealogical community those books have been referred to as "*mug books*" and are considered to be full of glorified, flowery lies. You obtained a biographical sketch of your great-grandfather that mentioned he was a founder of, or on the board of the Harmony Grove Cemetery in Dennis, Kansas. Do you believe it or not? To answer these questions, you might turn to the land deed record books. Three of my husband's ancestors were on two separate cemetery associations in Freeborn County, Minnesota. One was a chairman and one was a trustee, which was proven by documents found in the deed books.⁹ Three of my ancestors were elected trustees in 1878 to the Brush Hill Cemetery Association in Freeborn County, Minnesota. The document found in the deed books provided information on the cemetery's beginnings and incorporation.¹⁰

I. ELECTED OFFICERS. Again, you have obtained a family story or a biographical sketch saying that your ancestor was an elected official. You might possibly find the proof in other county records; however, land records might also provide you with additional, or the only, proof. This could be

found in a deed, contract for land, judgment, proof of identification, or other types of land records. A county history sketch stated that W. S. CAREY was Chairman of the Board of Supervisors. Well, prove it! A contract for land accomplished this task.¹¹

These are just a few of the many examples of unique treasures found in land records. Yes, you should always obtain your ancestor's property description and locate the land deed; however, go the extra miles trying to get more. In conjunction with any land record, use the tract maps or land ownership plat books. Good luck in finding your unique treasures!

Notes and References:

1. Freeborn County, Minnesota, Deed Book V: 9, Homestead Patent, U.S. to Charles TUNELL.
2. Freeborn County, Minnesota, Deed Book V: 630, State School Land Patent, State of Minnesota to Christian YOST.
3. Northumberland County, *Pennsylvania*, Deed Book L: 671, Letter of Attorney, Jacob LEHR and wife to John CROTZER.
4. Freeborn County, Minnesota, Deed Book 35:55, Kate YOST and Fred H. YOST to Charles YOST.
5. Freeborn County, Minnesota, Will Book A: 321-22, Last Will and Testament of August HINTZ.
6. Freeborn County, Minnesota, Deed Book 34:531, Agricultural College Lands Deed, The State of Minnesota to Heirs at law of the estate of John PFAHNING deceased.
7. Freeborn County, Minnesota, Deed Book 35, Caroline and Charles ZASTROW to William L. YOST.
8. Freeborn County, Minnesota, Deed Book 43:457, Agreement, Louis J. and Amelia YOST to Christian YOST.
9. Freeborn County, Minnesota, Deed Book P:390, Certificate of Bear Lake Cemetery Association, William P. SPOONER-Chairman. Also, Deed Book 45:70-71, Edward and Agnes M. CAREY to Trustees of St. Theodore Cemetery Association.

10. Freeborn County, Minnesota, Deed Book 0:107108, Incorporation of Brush Hill Cemetery Association.

11. Freeborn County, Minnesota, Deed Book 43:375, Contract for Land, John McGOVERN, administrator of the estate of Patrick McGOVERN to W. S. CAREY, Nick OTT and Sever NELSON, supervisors of Albert LEA Township.

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Valerie EICHLER LAIR

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The Johnson County, Kansas Genealogist]

Contact Information:

Val's Roots Professional Genealogy Services

www.valsroots.com

Overland Park, Kansas

720-886-9096



Death Records:

A Check List of Ten Documents Every Genealogist Should Acquire

By Bill Dollarhide

Here are ten places to look for a death record. All ten sources should be obtained for every ancestor on your pedigree chart, and every member of a family on your family group sheet.

1. Death Certificate. A rule in genealogy is to treat the brothers and sisters of your ancestors as equals. That means you need to obtain genealogical sources for all of them. For instance, for every ancestor on your pedigree chart, and for every brother or sister of an ancestor, you need to obtain a **death certificate** (assuming they are dead). If there were six siblings in an ancestor's family, a death certificate for each brother and sister will give six different sources about the same parents; places where the family lived; names of spouses; names of cemeteries; names of funeral directors; and other facts about a family. If a death certificate for your ancestor fails to provide the name of the deceased's mother, a sibling's death certificate may give the full maiden name.

How do you get a death certificate? Go to the www.vitalrec.com site, where every state and county is listed, and where you can find out where, when, and how much. Start with a death certificate, because the names, dates, and places you will find on a death certificate will always lead you to further records.

Dollarhide's rule No. 1: Death Certificates are rarely filled in by the person who died.

2. Funeral record. A death certificate may mention the name and location of a funeral director. Find a current funeral home in North America at www.funeralnet.com. This site has the listings from a directory of funeral homes called *The Yellow Book*, a published directory distributed annually to every funeral home in the U.S. and Canada. The current funeral home nearest your location will have a copy of *The Yellow Book*, and if you were to stop by and ask to look up another funeral home anywhere in the U.S. and Canada, they would probably allow it. Don't stop there when a funeral is in progress.

A funeral record may include names of survivors; names of the persons responsible for the funeral expenses; and often, obscure biographical information about the deceased not available anywhere else. Modern funeral records are full of genealogical information about the person who died and may include copies of newspaper obituaries, death certificates, printed eulogies, funeral programs, and other details about the person. A reference to a burial permit, cremation, or cemetery can be found here as well. Generally, funeral directors are very easy to talk to and they are usually cooperative (they want your family's business). Even if the old name of a funeral home is not listed in a current directory, it should be possible to locate the current funeral home holding the records of an earlier one.

These businesses rarely go out of business, but are more often taken over by another funeral director. If at one time a town had two or three funeral homes, but only one today, the *Yellow Book* listing is still the source for finding the current funeral home in that town, which can lead

you to information about the older funeral home. Funeral directors are also experts on the location of cemeteries in their area.

Dollarhide's rule No. 2: When visiting a funeral home, wear old clothes, no make-up, and look like you have about a week to live – the funeral director will give you anything you ask for if he thinks you may be a customer soon.

3. Cemetery Record. If the name of a cemetery is mentioned on the death certificate or funeral record, that cemetery is now a source of information about the person who died. There may be a record in the sexton's office of the cemetery, or off-site at a caretaker's home; and the gravestone inscription may be revealing as well. When you contact a funeral home, ask about the cemetery where the person was buried, and whether they have an address or phone number for the cemetery office, or at least know who might be the keeper of records for the cemetery.

At the same time, ask the funeral director for the names of monument sellers/stone masons who cater to cemeteries in the area. As a back-up, a local stone mason may have a record of a monument inscription for the deceased's gravestone. To locate a cemetery anywhere in the United States, a special list can be obtained from the United States Geological Survey (USGS) within their Geographic Names Information System (GNIS). The GNIS contains the names of over two million place-names (map features) in America, of which about 107,000 are cemeteries. The GNIS website is located at <http://geonames.usgs.gov/>. Click on "Domestic Names" to search for any named cemetery.

Dollarhide's rule No. 3: The cemetery where your ancestor was buried does not have perpetual care, has no office, is accessible only by a muddy road, and has snakes, tall grass, and lots of bugs... and many of the old gravestones are in broken pieces, stacked in a corner under a pile of dirt.

4. Obituary. A newspaper obituary was probably published soon after the person's death. Old newspapers from the town where the person died are usually available at the local public library. They may be on microfilm. Find the website for any library in the U.S. at the Lib-Web-Cats site, a directory of libraries throughout the world. See www.librarytechnology.org/libwebcats/. If the library responds but says it is unable to look for an obituary or make copies for you, then you may need to find a person living in that town to go to the library for you. One way to locate such a person is to write to a local genealogical society and ask if they know someone who can do a bit of research for you. Most genealogical societies have a volunteer who responds to such requests, and there will most likely be a small fee for this service.

A good list of American genealogical societies is in Elizabeth Petty Bentley, editor, *The Genealogist's Address Book* (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., Inc., 6th edition, 2009). You may also find your genealogy friend on the Internet. Do a place search for people involved in genealogy in a particular place near where you need help, drop them an E-mail message and promise to do something in exchange for them. A huge collection of historic newspaper obituaries are now on the Internet. The largest sites devoted to newspapers are 1) www.GenealogyBank.com, and 2) www.newspaperarchive.com. Check also www.cyndislist.com under the category "obituaries" for direct links to websites on the Internet

specific to actual obituaries transcribed and made available in various sites. Also, use www.google.com to search for obituaries with a keyword for a place or name of a newspaper, which should provide names, dates, etc., and what may be available. Example of keywords in the Google search box, "Obituaries Topeka." or "Kansas City Star Obituaries."

5. Social Security record. If a person died within the last 35 years or so, the death certificate probably includes the deceased's social security number. With or without a person's social security number, you can write for a copy of any deceased person's original application for a social security card, called a form SS-5. Since 1935, virtually every working person in America has applied for a social security account. The Social Security Death Index (SSDI) needs to be consulted to see if the person is listed. Most people who died since 1962 should be listed there. A free online search services can be found as part of the FamilySearch site. See The [SS Death Index at FamilySearch.org](http://www.familysearch.org).

A search in the SSDI can be made by the surname and first name, or adding other options for a date or place of an event death. With the name and social security number, you can obtain a copy of the deceased's application (Form SS-5) for a social security account, which was filled in by the person and gives his/her full name, date and place of birth, place of residence, name of parents, occupation, and name of employer.

Dollarhide's Rule no. 4: A Social Security Form SS-5 is better than a birth certificate because few people had anything to do with the information on their own birth certificate.

6. Probate Records. Details pertaining to a deceased person's estate may be located in a county courthouse. These records may provide important information about the heirs of the deceased. Probate records may include dockets (court calendars), recorded wills, administrator's records, inventories of estates, sheriff's sales, or judgments. Microfilmed probate records for nearly every county in the U.S., are located at the Family History Library in Salt Lake City. To find them, go to the www.familysearch.org site. Do a "place" search for a state, then click on "Review Related Places" to see a list of the counties for that state. The topics listed include probate records, and a review of what records have been filmed can be located quickly.

7. Private Death Records (Insurance Papers, Medical Records, Etc.). If the deceased had insurance, there is undoubtedly a record of the death within the insurance company's files. There may be much more information concerning the deceased's survivors, and the disposition of an estate. Hospital records are almost always closed, but a close family member may be able to get some information; and records at a Doctor's Office are also usually closed, but again, close family members may be given access. The cover sheet of a patient's file in a Hospital, Nursing Home, or Doctor's Office, is almost always the page containing vital information, including birth, marriage, divorce, occupation, health insurance, and name of closest kin or person to contact in an emergency. A close family member should be able to access that information.

8. Coroner and Medical Examiner Records exist for any person who died under suspicious conditions, or for whom an autopsy was performed, or in most cases for people who died outside of a hospital. Coroner records are public records kept at the county level in virtually all states. In addition to the circumstances of the death, there may be vital details about the

deceased. Locating a Coroner or Medical Examiner for a county is not difficult. Many have their own websites, or are part of a county government website. Do a Google search using keywords such as "Coroner King County." The office of a Medical Examiner is used in some counties or cities in lieu of the office of coroner.

9. Military Records for deceased veterans are public records. The National Archives and Records Administration, National Personnel Records Center (Military Records Facility) is located at 9700 Page Ave., St. Louis, MO 63132-5100. Write for a form SF-80 to request copies from any soldier or sailor's military file. Their online website is at www.archives.gov/st-louis/military-personnel/index.html. Next of kin to a deceased veteran can access data online. Others need to use the form SF-80 to obtain information about the deceased veteran.

10. Church Records. A death record may be recorded within a church's records, plus information about a burial. Check www.cyndislist.com under the category "Religion and Church" to survey what is available online.

Go get the death records! A death certificate is not enough, and may not even be correct. If you know a person's exact date and place of death, there are several more sources relating to a person's death. If you get these other death records, you will certainly learn more about your ancestors.

About the Author

William W. Dollarhide was born in 1942 and raised in Seattle. He was educated at West Seattle High School, Edison Technical School, Seattle Community College, the University of Washington, and Western Washington University. For eight years, he was employed as an Associate Architect at Western Washington University in Bellingham, Washington. He has been in pursuit of his family origins since 1971.

Bill currently resides in Salt Lake City, Utah, and is employed with Heritage Quest of Bountiful, Utah. He writes feature articles and edits the ***Genealogy Bulletin***, a bi-monthly magazine he founded in 1984, now published by Heritage Quest. In addition, he is engaged to write new publications for Heritage Quest, and writes occasional feature articles for *Heritage Quest* magazine. He has written over 60 magazine articles relating to genealogical research.

His honors include an ***Award of Merit*** from the American Society of Genealogists for the *Map Guide* book; an ***Award of Appreciation*** from the National Genealogical Society for services to the genealogical community; and ***Awards of Appreciation*** from the California, Missouri, Ohio, Oregon, and Washington state-wide genealogical societies/associations.

Best Records for Finding Female Ancestors

By Lisa A. Alzo

<http://www.familytreemagazine.com/Article/BestRecords-for-Finding-Female-Ancestors#newspapers>

Searching for female ancestors?

Turn your search toward these genealogical records.

Cemetery Records

A tombstone may bear a woman's maiden or married name, just her first initial, or her husband's name ("wife of John Doe). Record information from nearby plots—they may belong to her relatives. Contact the caretaker or cemetery office for the burial record.

Census

Search every census during a woman's lifetime. Look for relatives, as young couples sometimes lived with parents and an older woman may be living with a child. Pre-1850 censuses recorded only heads of household, usually men. Search for the husband or father and inspect the household members' tick marks for one who might be your female ancestor. (See the **May 2007** *Family Tree Magazine* for census search secrets.)

You can request court records from your ancestor's county courthouse or search for microfilm in the **Family History Library's** (FHL) online catalog. Rent films through a branch **Family History Center** near you.

Court Records

During many time periods, a woman couldn't leave a will unless her husband gave permission. But many unmarried, divorced and widowed women left wills. A woman also may be named in the will of her father, husband or son. For men who died without a will, research court records for letters of administration distributing property. Divorces and petitions for them were more common than you might think; see the **July 2007** *Family Tree Magazine* to learn more.

Death Records

Death certificates often contain women's maiden names, but the details are only as reliable as the informant, so be prepared for inaccuracies. Request the children's death certificates; too-one may give a maiden name if another doesn't. You can get death records from the state archives, or the county or state vital-records office where your relative lived. Find coverage years and contact information in the **Family Tree Resource Book for Genealogists** edited by Sharon DeBartolo Carmack and Erin Nevius (Family Tree Books).

Land Records

Though women rarely owned land, they may be named in deeds filed at county courthouses (check the FHL catalog for microfilmed records from your ancestor's county). "Depending on the time period and the state laws, when a

man bought or sold land, the record can include the name of his wife, and it might also include her release of dower," says Carmack. A woman's dower is her right to a third of her husband's real property after his death, and she had to grant him the right to sell it.

Check both grantee (buyer) and grantor (seller) records to determine when the woman or her husband first appear as owning land, and when the land was sold—typically after the death of a spouse. Get more land research advice in the **August 2006** *Family Tree Magazine*.

Marriage Records

Often the best sources of maiden names, marriage certificates or license applications are usually available from the same repositories that have death records. You also might find a certificate on FHL microfilm.

The FHL has some microfilmed church records, or you could try writing the church or its headquarters. See the **February 2004** *Family Tree Magazine* for more on church records research.

Naturalizations

Until 1922, wives were listed on their husbands' naturalization records. After that, you can find separate records for married women (children under 16 were on their fathers' forms). Before 1906, immigrants filed for naturalization in their municipal, county, state or federal court. For naturalizations after 1906, submit a Freedom of Information Act request to US Citizenship and Immigration Services using **form G-639**. But first, see if the FHL has the areas' naturalizations on microfilm.

Newspapers

Women may show up in the pages with recipes, sewing hints, ladies' club news and gossip columns. Also check obituaries and the birth and wedding announcements, as well as notices of desertions, divorces, immigrations and bankruptcies. Historical newspapers are increasingly available online through subscription services such as **GenealogyBank**, but you'll probably have to do some microfilm scrolling. Check with the library where your ancestor lived and use **Chronicling America** to learn which newspapers covered your ancestor's area and what repositories have them.

Pension

A woman could file for a military pension when her husband or unmarried son died of war-related injuries. Widows had to send marriage records to assure the government it wouldn't end up paying more than one pension on the same man. The **National Archives and Records Administration** has pension records for soldiers from 1775 to 1916; see the Web site for ordering information.

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