

## STEWART FAMILY HISTORY NEWSLETTER – January 2008

### BACKGROUND

The STEWART family in Texas was headed by Araminta COLEMAN and Daniel STEWART of Hopkins County. They had twelve children – seven of these married and had children of their own.

These seven were: Sarah Jane Stewart **MARTIN CLIFTON DRENNAN**, Mary Catharine Stewart **WADSWORTH FLORENCE**, Effa Matilda Stewart **POSEY**, Louisiana Caroline "Lucy" Stewart **RABE**, Daniel Morrison **STEWART**, Joseph Coleman **STEWART**, Araminta Emma Stewart **STOCKTON**, and Louvenia Domer Stewart **FLORENCE**.

### Happy New Year!

I hope everyone had a great Christmas.

### THE NABORS | THE GIRLS NEXT DOOR



Martha Jo Nabors



Modene Nabors

Martha Jo and Claris Modene NABORS are the daughters of Estelle POTTS and Cecil Fillmore NABORS. Estelle was the daughter of Lula D. CLIFTON and Joseph Richard POTTS. Lula was the daughter of Sarah Jane STEWART and Nathaniel CLIFTON.

Peggy Pearce, the niece of Modene NABORS HUGGINS, kindly sent me the photos of Modene and her sister, Martha Jo. We met with Modene last summer, along with Mary and Brody Koon, and visited both the Old and New Shirley Cemeteries, off Highway 19 in Hopkins County, Texas.

### SCHOOL IN DESDEMONA, TEXAS

My aunt Pat STEWART FAIRCHILD was so kind to contribute this photograph of her father, Clyde Arthur STEWART, with his class in Desdemona, around 1905. The arrow to the left points to Clyde, who was the son of Joseph Coleman STEWART and Nancy Louise COMPTON.



The Reuben RABE family lived next door to the Joseph Coleman STEWART family in Eastland County, Texas, at this time, so it's more than likely that at least one of the RABE boys is included in this photograph.



Robert Jay Rabe  
~1903 (left) and  
~1910 (right)

Elmer Leander Rabe  
~1903 (left) and  
~1910 (right)

Clyde Arthur STEWART was born 17 DEC 1897. Robert Jay RABE, three years older, was born 23 DEC 1894. Three years younger than Clyde was Elmer Leander RABE, born 9 AUG 1900.

My best, uncorroborated guess is that the boy tussling with Clyde is his cousin Elmer RABE. The boy at the other end of the same row, I believe, may be Robert Jay RABE. Now, we can't be certain, but circumstances put at least two of these boys somewhere in this photograph, and I have a fairly good track record of identifying family members.

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**MARY AND DAVID DEE HIGHNOTE**

We have been incredibly blessed by the generosity of Mary and David Highnote, of Abilene, who sent me a big box of family photographs. David is the grandson of Edith Lura MAXWELL MCLAIN. Edith was the daughter of Della Avery STEWART and Joseph Henry MAXWELL. Della Avery STEWART was the first daughter of Nancy Louise COMPTON and Joseph Coleman STEWART.

Mary and David, thank you SO much for sharing this legacy with us.

I'll be working my way through this box, trying to make IDs over the next couple of months. The two photographs below, though not definitively identified, are highly likely to be the people named.

**SARAH MARGARET MAXWELL AND JAMES WILLIAM FARMER AND FAMILY**



**L>R:** Roy Howard Farmer, father James William Farmer, Harry Alvin Farmer, mother Sarah Margaret Maxwell, baby James Elijah Farmer, and Thomas Elmer Farmer

**SARAH MARGARET MAXWELL AND JAMES WILLIAM FARMER AND FAMILY, continued**

This photograph had only one inscription on the back, "Aunt Sarah." Sarah Margaret MAXWELL FARMER was aunt to Edith Lura MAXWELL, who owned photos in this box. Sarah Margaret was also the little girl referenced in her mother, Amanda Lavina WILLIAMS MAXWELL's letter to her husband, James Harvey MAXWELL during the Civil War. This photograph was taken around 1886, in Titus County, Texas.

**JOSEPH HENRY MAXWELL AND DELLA AVERY STEWART**



I believe this to be a photograph of Joseph Henry MAXWELL and Della Avery STEWART. It was found among the box of photographs contributed by the HIGHNOTES, owned originally by Edith Lura MAXWELL MCLAIN, the daughter of the two pictured above. Della died during the 1918 Spanish flu epidemic on 16 OCT 1918. According to Orion Morgan MCLAIN, Joe and his brother Marion were building houses in Thurber when Joe was notified that Della was ill. He drove the nearly 120 miles back, arriving just in time to have Della die in his arms.

**JOSEPH HENRY MAXWELL & DELLA AVERY STEWART**, continued

Joe loved Della dearly, and didn't marry again until 1931 when he married Jeanette PINKERTON.



This is a study of Joseph Henry Maxwell. The first photograph is the one that I believe is Joseph Henry, the second and third I know to be him. I've resized the photographs and tilted them so they match each other as closely as possible in position. The first unidentified photo matches the other two in several ways. Note the deep gash that outlines the man's left cheek, repeated most clearly in the last photograph. The browlines, nose, cheeks, and lips all match.

In addition, several identified photographs of Joseph Henry MAXWELL were found among David HIGHNOTE's photos. It's highly likely that a photograph of Joseph Henry MAXWELL and his wife Della Avery STEWART would be among these, as they were great grandparents to David Highnote. There is no one alive today, however, who can identify Della.

Won't you take a few moments and record a few memories of our family's past? Little anecdotes, character sketches, special memories, slices of life, all these seemingly inconsequential tidbits are the things that make a family history come alive. Please take a moment and share with us. Send your contribution to the address at the left.

**BIRTHDAYS.**

Happy birthday to Bonnie Blu SMITH WAHL (1/14), LaDella RABE JONES (1/18), Orion Morgan MCLAIN (1/19), and Pat STEWART FAIRCHILD (1/25).

**PRAYER REQUESTS**

Please remember Orion Morgan MCLAIN in your prayers as he is in the hospital. Please pray for Dorothy Jo MCPHERSON, who has been undergoing tests.

**PASSINGS**

November was a sad month for us, as we lost four family members in quick succession: Bev RYAN WOODROOF's brother, Robert Henry RYAN; Ann WILLIAMS' husband, Hank THOMPSON; the grandson of John Harrison POSEY, Bill POSEY; and the father of Carol MOLLER STEWART, William Peter MOLLER. Please remember these families in your prayers.

**THANKS AGAIN**

to Peggy PEARCE, Pat STEWART FAIRCHILD, LaDella RABE JONES, Mary and David HIGHNOTE, and Orion Morgan MCLAIN, SR., who contributed so much to this issue of the family newsletter.

Until next month,

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*"Our greatest responsibility is to be good ancestors."* Jonas Salk quotes (American Microbiologist, 1914-1995)