

## STEWART FAMILY HISTORY NEWSLETTER – MARCH 2007

### 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**.

### Kettilhult, Påråd, Karlslunda, Småland Sweden



Above is a photo of the family homestead, Kettilhult, which my mother and I visited in 1985. The land has been owned by the family since the 1600's.

### 2007 STEWART FAMILY REUNION



**May 19, 2007 – Arlington TX – Potluck 1:00PM  
North Davis Church of Christ  
1601 North Davis Drive, Arlington, Texas**

A schedule of events will be included in next month's newsletter. Friday, May 18<sup>th</sup> will include a morning coffee and visit to Vernoy Cemetery in Grand Prairie, lunch at Ryans in Mesquite and a visit to Florence Ranch. Please plan to attend some, or all of the events. There are many newfound family members that are eager to meet you!

### LARSONS, ALEXANDERSONS, PETERSON, & MORE

My mother, Charlene LARSON STEWART, came for a visit last month and together we added another generation to her family lineage. Included are her great-grandparents, the families of Peter A. JOHANSSON, Alexander ANDERSSON, Lars Peter LARSSON, and Lars PETERSSON. If you couldn't tell by now, we are descended from a proud line of Swedes!

### DEATH CERTIFICATES

I found a researcher in Texas willing to go to the Dallas Public Library and copy death certificates for me. I gave her a list of 20, for which she charged me \$5 apiece. I'd like to have her obtain an additional 20 but don't have the funds. If you'd like to support these efforts, a contribution would be greatly appreciated. The results have provided helpful information, which is detailed below, family by family.

### BRAWNER FAMILY

Ruby Ladonia STEWART, the daughter of Joseph Coleman STEWART, married Homer Herman BRAWNER in about 1917. I'd previously been able to trace the family only to James H. Brawner, Homer's father. From the death certificate of Homer's mother, Mackie Katherine BARTLETT, I was able to trace the family all the way back to 1740. Beulah BRAWNER MAXWELL signed the death certificate and provided key information. It was a challenge to trace the family. BRAWNER is one of those names that can be spelled a dozen different ways, and in this case I found the family under Bonner, Bronner, Browner and Braunar. See the Brawner family for all the details.

### FARMER AND MAXWELL FAMILIES

Harry Alvin FARMER, the son of James William FARMER, married Lucy Judson RABE, the daughter of Louisiana Carolina STEWART. James married Sarah Margaret MAXWELL, the daughter of Amanda Lavina WILLIAMS and James Harvey MAXWELL. Sarah Margaret's brother, Joseph Henry MAXWELL married Della Avery STEWART, the daughter of Joseph Coleman STEWART. Another of Sarah Margaret's brothers, Claude Price MAXWELL, married Beulah T. BRAWNER. Beulah's brother Homer Brawner married

**FARMER AND MAXWELL FAMILIES, continued**  
Ruby Ladonia STEWART, another daughter of Joseph Coleman STEWART. As you can see, our families are intertwined.

From the death certificate of James FARMER I was able to gather his middle name, William, his birth and death dates, a confirmation of his parents' names, and the location where he is buried. More importantly, I discovered that James' wife, whose maiden name I previously did not know, was Mary Margaret MCCALLEN, or MCCALLON. I had long suspected this tie and was pleased to have it confirmed.

**RABE, WILLIAMS & FITZGERALD FAMILIES**  
From the death certificates of Doma Arie RABE and Newton Commodore WILLIAMS, I was able to get and verify birth and death dates, and ascertain the causes of their deaths. Doma died in childbirth. Newton died from a sarcoma on his arm. Billy Wayne FITZGERALD, Doma and Newton's grandson, drowned in Mountain Creek Lake. He was married but we still do not know the name of his wife.

**GOLDING AND BLAKE FAMILIES**  
The death certificate of my great-uncle Wayne Roscoe GOLDING, who died in Borger, Hutchinson County, Texas, stated that his remains were shipped back to his hometown of Spearfish, Lawrence County SD. My grandmother, Audrey Beryl GOLDING STEWART, signed the death certificate of her brother. An email to the sexton of Rose Hill Cemetery in Spearfish confirmed the burial of Wayne GOLDING, alongside his mother and father, Jennie BLAKE GOLDING and Roscoe GOLDING, and his infant brother, Ralph GOLDING.

Curiosity got the better of me and I ended up tracing the GOLDINGS and BLAKES back another generation. I also added a photo which includes Jennie's mother, Nancy KISER (or KYSAR) BLAKE. She died in 1935 in Los Angeles. Most likely she was living with her son, Charles Cennial BLAKE. "Cennial" is a short form for "centennial" and Charles was indeed born in 1876. (Two people are obscured in the photo as they do not wish to be identified.)

**GOLDING AND BLAKE FAMILIES, continued**



Back: Stewart baby, Clyde Arthur Stewart, Audrey Beryl Golding Stewart, Nancy Kiser Blake (Jennie's mother), Rabe baby, John Rabe (Nancy's son-in-law)  
Front: Jennie Blake, Child; circa 1920s

**WILLIAMS and MAXWELL FAMILIES**  
We have long searched for the father of Amanda Lavina WILLIAMS who married James Harvey MAXWELL. We knew her mother was Sarah. She was widowed, however, before 1860. The death certificate for Mary T. GUEST, the sister of Amanda Lavina WILLIAMS, lists Alec WILLIAMS as their father. This hasn't helped as much as I'd hoped it would, in tying this WILLIAMS family to the John Henry WILLIAMS family. If anyone knows anything more about Francis Marion WILLIAMS, the brother of Amanda Lavina MAXWELL and Mary T. GUEST, please contact me.

I knew that Mary GUEST was Amanda's sister from a slip of paper upon which Edith Lura MAXWELL MCLAIN wrote the name and relationship. Orion Morgan MCLAIN, who has contributed SO much to this effort, gave me the piece of paper from his mother Edith Lura. You never know what these little pieces of family history are going to yield. Thanks, Orion! I've also added a new photo of Orion, taken about 1945, when he was serving in Burma and Tibet.

**MORTON FAMILY**  
When I first started tracing our families' histories I was surprised and sad to see how much was missing from our record. For instance, the name Odell MORTON, a son of Edna Goldie RABE and Nealy Ambrose MORTON, appeared on the 1920 and 1930 Erath County TX censuses, but no additional record of his life was accessible. It pained me to record a possible year of his birth, and two unknowns for his marriage and death. How

**MORTON FAMILY, continued**

could someone be alive in the 1930s with no other record of his having existed except for a couple of census mentions?

So I was relieved to finally find an Odell MORTON in the Texas Death Index, and his death certificate tells us quite a bit. His full name was Nealy Odell MORTON. (He was named after his father.) He was born 10 SEP 1914 in Fisher County TX, and died 23 DEC 1934, two days before Christmas, in the same county. He was unmarried. Odell died from multiple fractures in an automobile accident and is buried somewhere in Rotan, TX. If anyone has any more information on the Morton family, descended from Louisiana Carolina STEWART and Robert William RABE, please contact me, as it has been difficult gathering information for this branch.

**OTHER FAMILIES**

I obtained other death certificates, which allowed me to fill in little bits of data here and there. Contact me if you'd like more information on Allen J. COMPTON (Louise COMPTON STEWART's brother), Mary Lee WELLS STEWART (the wife of Daniel Morrison STEWART), Lucy STEWART RABE, Susan SORENSEN (possibly the mother of Mary Lee WELLS STEWART), Effie Ada STEWART STEVENSON (the daughter of Mary Lee WELLS and Daniel Morrison Stewart), James Conden WATSON (the first husband of Mary Magdalene STEWART), and Monroe CARUTHERS.

**CONGRATULATIONS.**

Congratulations to Mark and Jennifer STEWART on the birth of their daughter last month.

**BIRTHDAYS.**

Happy birthday to Warren and Wilber STOCKTON.

**POSEY FAMILY**

Rachael MERRITT, a descendant of Effa Matilda STEWART, sent obituaries for Effa's husband, James Henry POSEY, and a son from his first marriage, William Thweatt POSEY. James Henry POSEY's first wife was Sara Caroline THWEATT. Rachael also sent a scan of the first child of Effa and James Henry POSEY, Henry E. POSEY, a daughter. The convention of naming a daughter Henry was passed on by Catherine Florence POSEY JOHNSON, Henry's younger sister, who named one of her daughters Henry Elma JOHNSON. Henry POSEY ROBERTSON died of typhoid fever 25 AUG 1902, leaving her husband, Buck Robertson, and young son, James Leonard ROBERTSON.

Thank you so much, Rachael, for sharing with all of us.



Henry E. Posey, 1876 - 1902

Until next month,

Teresa

*Family faces are magic mirrors. Looking at people who belong to us, we see the past, present and future. We make discoveries about ourselves."*

Gail Lumet Buckley in *The Hornes*