

STEWART FAMILY HISTORY NEWSLETTER – APRIL 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**.

NARCISA "SIS" L. COMPTON PARSONS

Joseph Coleman STEWART married Nancy Louise "Lou" Elizabeth COMPTON, 14 MAR 1878, in Erath County. Lou's family, the COMPTONS, had moved to Texas from Paulding County GA some time after the War Between the States. They settled in Van Zandt County, where many of the descendants live today. The fate of several of Lou's siblings remains unclear. Lou's eldest sister, Narcisa, for example, was born about 1853 but did not appear on the 1880 Van Zandt county census with the rest of the family, so I felt quite sure she had remained in Georgia.

Lou's father, Simpson P. COMPTON, died 3 FEB 1897, and I had ordered his probate papers long ago. His children were not listed in the record, though two grandchildren, W.L. and W.A. Parsons, were. The minor children were residing in Lamar County AL with a guardian, T.L. Logan. A portion of Simpson COMPTON's estate was to be left to them.

I found an "N. COMPTON" marrying an "A.J. PARSONS" in Paulding County, 9 MAR 1873. Later I found "J.G. COMPTON" had married "Mary Jane PARSONS" the same day, 9 MAR 1873. It had been a double wedding between two families. J.G. COMPTON was Josephus Gregory COMPTON, Lou and Narcisa's brother. Mary Jane PARSONS did not come with Josephus to Texas. Rumors of their divorce persist. Josephus married Nancy Elizabeth CARROL in 1881 in Van Zandt County, TX.

NARCISC "SIS" L. COMPTON PARSONS, cont.

I found Andrew J. PARSONS and "Sis" in the 1880 Lamar County AL census, with their two children Nora and Alonzo. There is a high probability that Alonzo is William Alonzo, or "Lon." He and his wife Ida AYERS raised their family in Wood, Rains, and Hopkins Counties, TX.

I was hoping that Lon PARSON's death certificate might list Narcisa as his mother, but it didn't. It did list Andy PARSONS of AL as his father. The death certificate listed Tapp Funeral Home as the provider of Lon's funeral. The Hopkin's County Genealogical Society has most of the records for Tapp Funeral Home going back to the 1920s. I'm now waiting for Lon's records to arrive. Most of his family, and his wife Ida AYERS' family, is buried in the Yantis Cemetery, in Yantis, Wood County TX.

ROSCOE & JENNIE GOLDING

Audrey Beryl GOLDING married Clyde Arthur STEWART, the son of Joseph Coleman STEWART. The GOLDINGS were from Indiana originally. They moved to Iowa in the early 1800s with some of their children moving into the Dakota and Wyoming territories in the 1880s. Roscoe GOLDING, Audrey's father, found a home for his young family in the remote mountain town of Spearfish, Dakota Territory. In 1884 Roscoe and his uncle, David H. DERRICKSON, wrote an article for the Taylor County (IA) Republican extolling the virtues of Spearfish and the surrounding areas, which included the notorious Deadwood!

"There seems to be almost an invincible tendency on the part of writers about the Black Hills to soar a considerable distance above the facts. The buoyancy of the atmosphere of our mountains is generally supposed to be at the bottom of this psychological phenomenon, but our statistics are undoubtedly below, rather than above the truth."

This sample illustrates the eloquence with which our great-grandfather wrote, this from a man who most likely did not continue his education past the eighth grade.

An anonymous genealogy angel living in Taylor County was kind enough to copy the Spearfish, D.T. article for us. Let me know if you'd like a copy. Our angel sent several family pieces, detailed below.

JOHN GOLDING & MARGARET ANN DERRICKSON

Our genealogy angel also sent obituaries for Roscoe's parents, John A. GOLDING and Margaret Ann DERRICKSON, and his half-sister, Electa GOLDING OWENS. These have been transcribed and posted online. Let me know if you'd like copies. An excerpt from Margaret Ann DERRICKSON GOLDING's (1906) obituary follows.

"Mrs. Golding was one of the charter members of the Bedford Baptist church, being one of the fifteen who on Dec. 2, 1854 under the pastorate of Elder J.M. SMITH, organized the First Baptist church of Bedford. At her baptism, Rev. William GOLDING who was present at her funeral officiated. The room where the church was held, when she became a member was a blacksmith shop, built of logs

The obituaries helped me locate John and Margaret GOLDING'S daughter, Delilah GOLDING, who married William T. MCKEE. The couple settled in Jasper County, Missouri and raised two daughters. William's father, Andrew, was a supply agent for the Indians and helped build the little town of Carthage. A biography of William T. MCKEE is posted online and includes harrowing accounts of his life during the War Between the States.

The GOLDINGS were among a group of people who traveled from the east to Indiana and Iowa, starting churches. There were many ministers in the family, though this tendency gave way to adventuring and pioneering in the younger generations.

DR. ALBERT DERRICKSON'S PROBATE

Albert DERRICKSON was the father of Margaret Ann DERRICKSON, John GOLDING's wife. He was a physician, and a farmer. At the time of his demise, he and his wife Phoebe had four minor children living at home. It's rumored that Albert left on a call and never returned, that his horse and carriage went missing, as well. They must have eventually turned up, because his carriage and all of his medical supplies were up for sale at the probate proceedings which began 21 AUG 1855.

The inventory of Albert DERRICKSON's possessions provides us with a fascinating glimpse of the times. As well as items of

DR. ALBERT DERRICKSON'S PROBATE, cont.

obvious value: a cow, a calf, and two mules; there were listed items less obvious: one large box (\$0.50), one wash tub (\$0.25), one flour barrel (\$0.25), and one axe (\$0.25).

The inventory of Albert's medical supplies is equally interesting. Among these are a spring lancet, "scarrifying" instruments, and cupping glasses - all items used in the practice of phlebotomy, or bloodletting. The instruments Albert used were new technology at the time and definitely put him at the cutting edge of his profession. It's interesting, too, that Albert's son David, mentioned above, purchased an interest in a barber shop. Barbers practiced phlebotomy before physicians did. Indeed, the barber pole itself represents bloodletting, the red stripe for blood, the blue stripe for the tourniquet, and the pole representing the staff the patient squeezed to facilitate bleeding.

Other medical supplies included various chemicals, herbs, and flavorings, for concocting medicines and treatments, treatments often far more damaging than the original illness. Peruse the entire inventory and the probate record and if you can identify an item I cannot, please let me know.

THE MURDER OF JOSEPH COMPTON WATSON

Joseph Compton Watson was the son of Mary Magdalene "Maggie" STEWART and James Conden WATSON. Maggie was the daughter of Joseph Coleman STEWART and Louise COMPTON, both of whom gave a name to their grandson.

Joseph Compton WATSON's nieces and nephew told me that he had been shot in a bar by a jealous husband somewhere in west Texas. Uncertain of the date and place of his death, I sent for his death certificate. I found out he was killed in Ranger, Eastland County TX. The death certificate lists Alexander's Tavern as the place of his death, H.G. JOHNSON as his assailant, and the date of his death as 22 NOV 1941.



LUCY A. FINLEY POSEY

Last month Rachael MERRITT of the POSEY line sent me an obituary for William Thweatt POSEY (the firstborn son of James Henry POSEY who married Effa Matilda STEWART). The death certificate for his wife Lucy POSEY answered many questions. I could never find her family,



and, it turns out, for good reason. Her maiden name was not FINLEY, but FINNEY. Her father was Francis (Frank) Elgin FINNEY of Maryland, and Lucy was born in AL, most likely Harpersville, in Shelby County, as was her mother and one of her siblings. Her family had moved to Hopkins County, Texas by 1860 when Lucy was just 4 years old. It turns out that Lucy's father Frank was the son of Catherine POSEY FINNEY, the sister of William Elgin POSEY (the father of James Henry POSEY). William Elgin POSEY, Catherine POSEY FINNEY and her son Frank FINNEY are all living in the same household in Shelby County AL in 1850. That makes Lucy and William second cousins. I also found out that Lucy's middle name was Ann. (The photo is of Lucy Posey and her son Walter Lee.

STOCKTON LIVES AND DEATHS

Long ago Bev RYAN WOODROOF sent me a typed history of the STOCKTON family penned by Willie Stockton Whisenhunt Pruett. Many of the bios of Bill and Merena STOCKTON'S children are fairly detailed, but there was not much information for Sarah "Sallie" Madison STOCKTON who married Frank HOLMESLY. Sallie and Frank had seven children, five of whom survived. Around 1870 Frank HOLMESLY, perhaps accidentally, shot and killed a man. He fled to Arkansas and sent for Sallie. Some time around 1890 Frank died and Sallie brought her five children back to Texas, living near William Franklin STOCKTON and the rest of the STOCKTON clan. Death certificates for her two sons, James Edward and Walter Lee HOLMESLY, helped fill in the gaps of Willie's very helpful biographies.

Other STOCKTON biographies, aided by the acquisition of Texas death certificates, include

STOCKTON LIVES AND DEATHS, continued

John Richard STOCKTON, the son of William Franklin STOCKTON and Lucy Ann CARRUTH, and Wilce STOCKTON and his wife Araminta Emma STEWART STOCKTON. Emma's death certificate declares Daniel STEWART as her father, which is one more proof that Daniel STEWART and his wife Araminta D. COLEMAN were the parents of the twelve STEWART children, and not, as has been erroneously reported, Joseph STEWART and Nancy WADSWORTH.

AMANDA LAVINA WILLIAMS MAXWELL

I have long sought the identity of the parents of Amanda Lavina WILLIAMS as I've felt fairly certain that these WILLIAMS were from the same family as John Henry WILLIAMS, whose son Newton Commodore WILLIAMS married Doma Arie RABE, the daughter of Louisiana Carolina STEWART and Robert William RABE.

The death certificate of Amanda's sister, Mary T. WILLIAMS GUEST, which I acquired a couple of months ago, listed Sarah WILLIAMS as mother and Alec WILLIAMS as father. My assumption was that Mary's informant could not remember Sarah's maiden name so listed her married name. I was surprised to find, therefore, that the death certificate of Amanda Lavina WILLIAMS MAXWELL lists Sallie WILLIAMS as her mother. (Sallie, I've found out, is a nickname for Sarah.) Sarah's maiden name may have actually been WILLIAMS. My mother disagrees and feels that both informants may have not known Sarah's maiden name.

I called Orion Morgan MCLAIN, Amanda's great-grandson, to tell him the news. He was happy to hear it and told me stories about Amanda. He told me that when he was a boy she told him the only time she ever swore an oath was when the Federals (Union Soldiers) confiscated her paint pony. She looked the soldier in his face and said, "God damn you!" and, she said, she meant it.

Amanda Lavina WILLIAMS MAXWELL is buried in Willow Cemetery, in Haskell County TX, in the family plot, though her grave is unmarked.

STEWART FAMILY HISTORY NEWSLETTER – APRIL 2007, page 5

ASK AND YOU SHALL RECEIVE

If you'd like a copy of a photo, article, or death certificate referred to in this newsletter, just let me know and I'll be happy to send you a copy.

2007 STEWART FAMILY REUNION

Please come, as I'm hoping to see you all again, but won't be able to make a separate trip to see you all.

What: Potluck Reunion

When: May 19, 2007, events begin 10:00am

Where:

North Davis Church of Christ
1601 North Davis Dr, Arlington TX

OTHER REUNION ACTIVITIES

Thursday, May 17, 2007, Noon

LUNCH WITH STOCKTON FAMILY
Niester's Restaurant & Deli
4426 East Hwy 377, Granbury, TX 76048

Friday, May 18, 2007

9:00 am COFFEE AT STARBUCKS
3824 S Carrier Pkwy, Grand Prairie, 75052

10:00 am VERNON CEMETERY MEMORIAL
meet at Starbucks

Noon LUNCH, Ryan's Buffet
909 Tripp Rd, Mesquite, TX 75150

2:00 pm FLORENCE RANCH PRIVATE TOUR
1424 Barnes Bridge Rd Mesquite, TX 75150

DONATIONS

We need donations to help cover the costs of the reunion, about \$300. If you can help out, please send a check to Teresa Piccolotti (my legal name). Any money left over will be used to pay for printing and postage for this newsletter.

Again, PLEASE COME to the reunion. You'll only be a stranger for about five minutes!

BIRTHDAYS. Happy birthday to Charlotte WORD STOCKTON (4/24), and Opal Nell HENRY SMITH (4/27).

Until next month,

Teresa Stewart Sitz

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www.ouramericanfamilies.com

"The company also deployed cutting-edge monitoring systems made by a supplier to the Defense Department that allowed it to capture and record the actions of anyone connected to its global computer network."

- John Piper, American Minister