

STEWART FAMILY HISTORY NEWSLETTER – MAY 2006

Welcome to the **MAY EDITION** of our newsletter.

BACKGROUND

The STEWART family in Texas was headed by Daniel and Araminta 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**.

WILLIAMS DISCOVERY

The last information I could find on Doma Rabe, the daughter of Lucy Stewart, and her husband Newton Williams, was in the 1910 Eastland County TX census. In 1920 their six children are living with other relatives, and the parents are nowhere to be found.

Through some fortuitous searches I was able to find Dorothy Jo Williams, the daughter of one of Doma and Newton's children, Robert Henry Williams. Speaking with her on the phone I learned that Doma died giving birth to Ira (Arie) Vernon Williams on 14 SEP 1911, and that Newton died of cancer one year later. The children then went to live with relatives, who have been mentioned here before (see March 2006): Alexander Stewart and his sister Anna, Hannah and Keiffer Looney, and Maxwell Scott Williams (Newton's brother).

Dorothy Jo has expressed interest in the reunion and we hope that she will come and tell us more about her family.

ALEXANDER NEWTON STEWART

After his brother William died at the Battle of Jonesboro, Alexander Newton Stewart became the eldest son of the Stewart family, and assumed all the duties of that position. After his mother, Araminta, died in 1878 Alexander became the head of the family, and

ALEXANDER NEWTON STEWART con't

cared for his father Daniel, his widowed sisters Mary and Anna, the orphaned Ira Williams and scores of cousins, nieces, and nephews.

Last month I sent to the State of Texas for Alexander's death certificate. Though the family Bible records his death as May 17, 1935, his death certificate dates his demise on May 13, 1935. He died of nephritis and endocarditis. Ira Williams signed the death certificate as "Arie Williams." Daniel Stewart is listed as Alexander's father. But most importantly I learned that Alexander is buried at Vernoy Cemetery, in an unmarked grave.

HATFIELD FAMILY PHOTOS

Ethylene Hatfield, the wife of W.D. (Skeeter) Hatfield, sent some lovely photographs of her father-in-law Homer Nathaniel Hatfield and his wife Audrey Ovalla Ivy. Homer was the grandson of Joseph Coleman Stewart, and the son of Joseph's daughter Minnie Lee Stewart Hatfield. Homer was an accomplished musician, playing the fiddle, guitar, and egg mandolin. He died at the age of 29 from Bright's Disease.

From the photos that Ethylene sent me I was able to trace the Hatfield family back a couple of generations, and this additional information is now online.

FLORENCE UPDATES

Julie Florence Morris sent me a copy of the portrait of John Hicks Florence that hangs in the Florence Elementary School in Mesquite, Texas. John Hicks Florence was the second husband of Mary Catharine Stewart Wadsworth. Julie also sent me information on the first family of John Hicks Florence, which is now posted online.

STEWART FAMILY REUNION

Volunteers Needed

1. We need someone with a truck to bring 4-6 tables and some folding chairs to and from the potluck.
2. We need someone with some "a-cumin" to make a big pot of Texas chili for the event - not too hot please, as we have some tenderfoots from out of state who hope to return home with their lips intact.

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MAPS to the location will be included in next month's newsletter. Please jot down **my cell phone number, 213-447-8591**, as that will be the best way to reach me while I'm in Texas, from June 16th until July 3rd.

RSVP

Please RSVP to me as soon as possible, telling me whom you will be bringing, and what dish or dishes you'll be sharing. We'll have both a stove and refrigerator, as well as a gas grill.

Bring Your Family Photos

Please bring any photos, letters, or other family documents you'd like to have scanned. Later I'll put these on a CD which I'll make available to family members at cost (about \$1.00 for each CD).

REUNION SCHEDULE

VERNOY CEMETERY – Grand Prairie

Friday, June 23, 2006, 10:00am

We'll meet for coffee and then caravan to Vernoy Cemetery in Grand Prairie. Vernoy Cemetery was established by one of the founders of the city, Thomas Vernoy, and is the final resting place of about a dozen members of the Stewart family. There's a good chance that Daniel Stewart is buried here, though many of the graves are now unmarked.

FLORENCE RANCH - Mesquite

Friday, June 23, 2006, 1:00pm

We'll meet for lunch and then caravan to the Florence Ranch in Mesquite. The Stewart family lived next to the Florence Ranch, and Mary Catharine Stewart Wadsworth lived on the property after she married John Hicks Florence. Julie Florence Morris will be there to meet us and talk with us about the property. Though not directly related, Julie is a sort of step-third cousin to most of us.

MESQUITE RODEO - Mesquite

Friday, June 23, 2006, 7:00pm

Join the family for an evening of fun at the Mesquite rodeo.

FAMILY COFFEE KLATCH – Lake Tawakoni

Saturday, June 24, 2006, 11:00am

Meet us early at the lake for coffee, scanning, updating records, and setting up for the barbecue later in the day. I can use your company, and your help!

FAMILY POTLUCK/BARBECUE – Lake Tawakoni

Saturday, June 24, 2006, 1:00pm

Bring a dish, beverages of your choice, and (if you can) folding tables and chairs. A couple dozen people have confirmed so far, so it's shaping up to be quite an event. Please join us.

OKLAHOMA SIDE TRIP – Lone Grove OK

Sunday, June 25, 2006, 10:00am

The Rabe family (descendants of Lucy Stewart) are unable to attend the Texas event so we're moving the party up to them. Join us in a trek across the Red River to Lone Grove, just outside Ardmore. We're renting a block of rooms, so let me know if you want one.

May Passings

Bobby Joe McLain - 9 FEB 1951 – 2006

Thomas Dale Henry - 26 JUL 1922 - 7 MAY 2006

MAY BIRTHDAYS

Happy Birthday to our son Elliott SITZ (5.2), Nannie MCLAIN (5.8), and Virginia DAWSON (5.22).

STEWART HISTORY WEBSITE

The entire family history is online at:

www.ouramericanfamilies.com

You are welcome to log on anytime.

If you are not able to get to a computer, please let me know and I'll send you a paper copy of the history.

If you have any stories, letters, photographs, updates, or prayer requests, please send them to me and I'll post them in the next issue of this newsletter.

Thank you to everyone who has already submitted materials.

Until next month,

Teresa Stewart Sitz

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www.ouramericanfamilies.com

"It is a revered thing to see an ancient castle not in decay; how much more to behold an ancient family which have stood against the waves and weathers of time!"

– Sir Francis Bacon