

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**.

HENRIETTA EFFA POSEY ROBERTSON

Effa Matilda STEWART married James Henry POSEY. Their first child was Henrietta Effa POSEY. We didn't have a lot of information on her before her granddaughter, Mrs. Norma Jean Hale, contributed a biography of this branch of the family.

Henrietta, born on Christmas Day, 1876, married James Buchanan ROBERTSON, of Martin County, North Carolina. Everybody called him "Buck." Buck and Henrietta had one child, a boy named James Leonard ROBERTSON. When Leonard was about three, Henrietta died of typhoid fever.



Buck Robertson's store at Polo and Robinson Roads

HENRIETTA EFFA POSEY ROBERTSON, cont.

Buck ran a store on the corner of Robinson and Polo. At one point he was tied up and robbed, a pillowcase tied over his head. He believed the robbers to be Bonnie and Clyde, and the notorious couple was indeed active in the Grand Prairie area.

ALEX & SARAH WILLIAMS CONNECTION

Doma Arie RABE, the daughter of Louisiana Carolina "Lucy" STEWART RABE married Newton Commodore WILLIAMS. They both died within a year of each other leaving six orphaned children aged one to fourteen. The children were separated and sent to live with relatives. Grandmother Lucy took the baby Ira to live with her brother, Alexander Newton STEWART, in Grand Prairie. Carlton Mack, age 4, went to live with his father's brother, Maxwell Scott WILLIAMS. Ethel, age 11, lived with her mother's cousin, Hannah LOONEY in Hopkins County. I'm not exactly certain where the children Robert Henry, Era Marie and Edna Lee went to live but we know it was with family.



Doma Arie Rabe & Newton Commodore Williams

Each of the children grew up to marry and have children of their own. As adults the children were able to reunite, though the pain of their parents' deaths and their own separations stayed with them.

Newton Commodore WILLIAMS was the son of Margaret Jane MAXWELL and John Henry WILLIAMS. Margaret Jane MAXWELL was the sister of James Harvey MAXWELL who married Amanda Lavina WILLIAMS. I've always felt that Amanda Lavina WILLIAMS was related to John Henry WILLIAMS but could not find the connection. For one thing, it took me almost two years to find Amanda's parents. I suspected that she was the daughter of Sarah WILLIAMS, because as a newlywed, in 1860, she lived next door to the widowed Sarah and her children. But Amanda was not

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ALEX & SARAH WILLIAMS CONNECTION, con't.
 listed on the 1850 census with Alexander and Sarah WILLIAMS. Eventually her death certificate, and that of her sister, confirmed that Alex and Sarah WILLIAMS were her parents.

By researching online I was able to connect with Jack CARRIGAN, a descendant of Alexander WILLIAMS, a great-grandson of John Marion MAXWELL (son of Amanda and James Harvey MAXWELL). Jack CARRIGAN noted that a descendant of Leander Hansford WILLIAMS (brother to Newton Commodore WILLIAMS) confirmed that Alexander WILLIAMS was the son of Thomas N. WILLIAMS, and brother to John Henry WILLIAMS.

Back to Sarah WILLIAMS. The informants on the death certificates of the two sisters, Amanda Lavina WILLIAMS MAXWELL and Mary Tabitha WILLIAMS GUEST, listed their mother's maiden name as Sarah (or Sallie) WILLIAMS. In the 1850 Benton County Census the Alexander and Sarah WILLIAMS family is sandwiched between Clarrisa [GORE] and Samuel WILLIAMS and his various married children, one named Ambrose Gore WILLIAMS. Sarah and Alexander had children named Clarrisa and Ambrose G., which originally led me to believe, not knowing that Sarah was also a WILLIAMS, that Alexander was a son of Samuel, brother of Ambrose Gore WILLIAMS. Now I know that is not true, and suspect that Sarah was the daughter of Samuel, and sister of Ambrose, and that perhaps Thomas N. and Samuel WILLIAMS were brothers, making Sarah and Alexander WILLIAMS cousins. She may have named one of her sons Ambrose, in honor of her brother, Ambrose Gore WILLIAMS. Between proximity and naming conventions this is the most likely scenario.

Unfortunately the list of Sarah's children in the 1860 census is at variance with that of 1850. Amanda Lavina is not on the 1850 list and neither is Francis Marion, though he is the same age as Thomas M. so that could have been an error. James and Ambrose, from 1850 could both have left home by 1860. Alexander could have died. Clarissa and Mary are on both 1850 and 1860, and Rebecca was born around 1853. (See chart)

ALEX & SARAH WILLIAMS CONNECTION, con't.

1850		1860		1870	
Osage, Benton Co AR		Colville, Benton Co AR		Osage, Benton Co AR	
Alexander	35				
Sarah	28	Sarah	38		
Thomas M.	11	Frances	20	Williams, Francis	29
James	9				
Ambrose	7				
Clarisa	6	Clarissa	15		
Mary	4	Mary	13	Mary	22
Alexander C.	2				
		Rebecca	7	Rebecca	17
		Amanda next door		Amanda next door	

What does all of this mean to the STEWART family? The descendants of Doma RABE and Newton WILLIAMS were related distantly to the MAXWELLS through the STEWART and RABE lines, but now we know they are also related to them through the WILLIAMS and MAXWELL lines. For instance, Charlene POOL MATTHEWS, Dorothy Jo WILLIAMS MCPHERSON, and Bobbie OVERTON WHITAKER, all grandchildren of Doma and Newt WILLIAMS, are third cousins to Orion Morgan MCLAIN through the STEWART line, but they are third cousins twice removed through the WILLIAMS line. They are also first cousins twice removed to Amanda Lavina WILLIAMS and James Harvey MAXWELL.

The best news is that Jack CARRIGAN generously provided us with copies of family treasure, photographs of John Purviance MAXWELL and his wife Martha A. HAMMACK; Sarah and Alexander WILLIAMS; Amanda Lavina WILLIAMS, James Harvey MAXWELL in front of one of the houses he and his sons built; and much more. Some of these photographs date back to before 1880. Thank you, Jack CARRIGAN, for your generosity, and for helping us to solve a long-standing family mystery.



Martha A. Hammack and John Purviance Maxwell

ALEX & SARAH WILLIAMS CONNECTION, con't.



Alexander Williams & Sarah Williams



Five Generations (relationships to Jack Carrigan): Ruby Alyne Barton Carrigan (mother), Troy Marshall Carrigan (brother), Amanda Lavina Williams Maxwell great-great-grandmother, John Marion Maxwell (great-grandfather), Mary Catherine Maxwell Barton (grandmother)

When Amanda Lavina wrote to her husband James Harvey MAXWELL, a soldier during the Civil War, she wrote enigmatically, "The connection is all well as far as I know." I had always wondered about that sentence. Searching the web I found it oft repeated in various letters written from the South. I believe it means that the families of both husband and wife are fine and getting along. So I'll close this abbreviated letter with the same, "The connection is all well as far as I know." And I'll see you all in a couple of weeks!

BIRTHDAYS.

Happy birthday to Nan MCLAIN (5/8), and Virginia DAWSON (5/22).

PASSINGS.

Dorothy STYLES WILLIAMS, April 2006.

SPECIAL THANKS.

A special thanks to Scharie and Robert STEWART, Dewey BRAWNER, Bullet and Iris HATFIELD, Norma HALE, Charlene STEWART, and Dorris [STOCKTON] TAYLOR who donated funds for the reunion. And a very special thanks to Cindy MCPHERSON for all her help in securing a location for the reunion and all the work she's put into planning.

Until next month,

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" The past is never dead. It's not even past."
- William Faulkner