

## STEWART FAMILY HISTORY NEWSLETTER – SEPTEMBER 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**.

### STEWART FAMILY REUNION PHOTOS



Jennifer HAMMERMEISTER, of the POSEY line, sent her photos of the May 2007 reunion, and I must say that they were vastly better than mine. I'll be sending you all copies for Christmas. Thanks a million, Jennifer.

### ADD YOUR CONTENT TO THE SITE

People often have things lying around the house that they are certain would not interest anyone else. Well, chances are, I'm interested, and many of our relatives are, too. In addition to old photographs, I'm looking for

*Bibles, letters, autograph books, birthday books, funeral guest books, cemetery records or photos of headstones showing dates of the deceased family member, old city phone books, diaries, receipts, birth and death certificates, scribbles of any kind, recipes, obituaries, other clippings, funeral cards, scrap books, postcards, snapshots of family heirlooms (Aunt Lado's quilts, Uncle Sam's powder horn), Grannie's favorite poem, Aunt Connie's address book, etc.*

Remember especially those photographs of people unknown to you. Having collected hundreds of our families' photos I may be able

**ADD YOUR CONTENT TO THE SITE**, continued to identify these people, or know someone who can.

Our families' collection depends on your contributions, and all of these are more important than you may know. A big thank you to all of you who have contributed for this month's newsletter: Dorothy Jo WILLIAMS MCPHERSON, Bobbie Jo OVERTON WHITAKER, Charlene WILLIAMS MATTHEWS, Sammie HAZEL, Garth LOONEY, Lamar County TXGenWeb, LA City Library, and a special thanks to Jo Anne TRIPLETT for sending all the lovely portraits of the MORTON family.

### ERA MARIE WILLIAMS FITZGERALD

Era Marie WILLIAMS was the daughter of Doma RABE and Newt WILLIAMS, one of six children orphaned when both her parents died within a year - 1911-1912, as reported in the May 2007 Family Newsletter. She was only 13 years old at the time, and we do not know with whom she



was sent to live. It seems she spent time in East Texas, in Hopkins and Lamar, where she married Joseph Harvey FITZGERALD in 1919. The couple had two boys, Joseph Harvey and Billy Wayne, whom they dearly loved. One relative related to me that the boys kissed their parents every time they left the house, and that it was a very close family.

Billy Wayne fell in love with a girl named Ann, and though it is reported that they were too young to marry, they were so much in love that the Fitzgeralds allowed the union. A short time later Billy Wayne drowned in Mountain Creek Lake, in Grand Prairie, TX. Ann, Billy's wife, later remarried but remained close to Era.



I don't know much more about the FITZGERALD family, and attempts to reach

**ERA MARIE WILLIAMS FITZGERALD**, continued the descendants of Joseph Harvey FITZGERALD, JR. have failed. Many thanks to Lamar County TXGenWeb for Era's obituary, below. From the obituary I was finally able to determine Era's birthday and birthplace.

**THE PARIS NEWS**, 1 Jan 1973:  
Funeral services were conducted at 3 p.m. Saturday for Mrs. J.H. [Joseph Harvey] Fitzgerald Sr. in Leverett and Steele Funeral Home chapel. Dr. James Semple officiated and interment was in Evergreen Cemetery. Pallbearers were Jim Ausmus, Eddie Fitzgerald, Louis Keller, Jim Russell, Tommy Melton and Jerry Seay. Mrs. Fitzgerald died Friday in L.P. McCuistion Hospital.

**THE PARIS NEWS**, January 9, 1973:  
Mrs. J. H. Fitzgerald, 73, of 920 E. Austin, died Friday, December 29, 1972 in a local hospital. Funeral services were held Saturday in Leverett and Steele Funeral Home Chapel with Dr. James Semple officiating. Burial was made in Evergreen Cemetery. Era Marie Williams Fitzgerald was born November 5, 1899, in Cleburne, Texas, daughter of Newton and Dora Ruby Williams. She married J. H. Fitzgerald in 1919 in Gainsville, his death occurring on May 17, 1961. She was a member of First Baptist Church and its Euzelian Sunday School Class. Survivors include a son, Harvey Fitzgerald of Paris; three brothers; Bob Williams of Fort Worth, Ira Williams of Temple and Carlton Williams, residing in Missouri; a sister, Mrs. Edna Lee Pool of Tulahoma, Tennessee; three grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

**Photos:** 1) Era Marie Williams Fitzgerald, 2) "Such Faces!" from the collection of Hannah Potts Looney, via Garth Looney. Most likely Era Marie and her sister Ethel Jewel Williams.

**DR. ALBERT DERRICKSON DINES ON A DOG**  
Dr. Albert DERRICKSON was the great-grandfather of my grandmother Audrey Beryl GOLDING. Audrey married Clyde Arthur STEWART, the son of Joseph COLEMAN STEWART.

The GOLDINGS and DERRICKSONS were pioneers in Illinois and Iowa, building churches and businesses with a small number of families. When Dr. Albert DERRICKSON arrived in Bedford, Taylor County, IA, he had his eye on a prime piece of real estate owned

**DR. ALBERT DERRICKSON DINES ON A DOG**  
continued  
by a rival doctor. Threats ensued, and a gun was pulled, but everything worked out all right in the end (except for the dog!). Read the story (attached) from "The History of Taylor County," written in 1888.

**EDNA GOLDIE RABE AND NEALY AMBROSE MORTON**



Many thanks to Jo Anne TRIPLETT for contributing photographs of the MORTON Family. Jo Anne is the daughter of Myrna Marie MORTON TRIPLETT. Edna Goldie RABE was the daughter of Louisiana Carolina "Lucy" STEWART and Robert William RABE.

We also have photos of Doyle Ward MORTON, Golda Fern MORTON BURNES, Nealy Odell MORTON, Mildred Fitz MORTON ACKER, and Myrna Marie MORTON. If you'd like high resolution prints of any of these photographs, let me know, and I'll send you copies.

#### L.A. CITY LIBRARY TREASURES

I spent some time in the Los Angeles City library and found a few gems to share with you. The copyrights are not expired so you will only be able to access them through this newsletter, and not online.

From a book on Haskell County, Texas, I found biographies on the PITMAN Family and the GUEST Family. Calvin PITMAN married Abbie THOMPSON, the daughter of Delilah STEWART and granddaughter of Daniel Morrison STEWART. There is also a narrative sketch of the city of Haskell, in Haskell County, Haskell Texas, My Home Town, written by Mary Tabitha Williams Guest's son, John Lemuel GUEST.

**THE PITMAN FAMILY**



**Front:** Hudson, William E. Pitman, Mary Elizabeth Moore Pitman, Verna, Lillie Belle  
**Back:** Calvert, Riley, Lena, Dudley, John, Calvin  
circa 1906, Haskell County, Texas; courtesy of Walter Pittman

The GUEST family connection is a little more circuitous. Mary Tabitha WILLIAMS married Joseph Jefferson GUEST. Mary Tabitha is the sister of Amanda Lavina WILLIAMS, both descended from Sarah and Alex WILLIAMS. (See the May 2007 Family Newsletter.) Alex WILLIAMS is brother to John Henry WILLIAMS from whom almost all our WILLIAMS relatives descend. Amanda Lavina WILLIAMS MAXWELL is mother to Joseph Henry MAXWELL who married Della Avery STEWART, daughter of Joseph Coleman STEWART. There are other connections as the STEWARTS, WILLIAMS, and MAXWELLS are like a wild rose, rambling and tangled.

On a side note, last month the Benton County Pioneer published the Civil War Letter from Amanda Lavina WILLIAMS to her husband, James Harvey MAXWELL.

**NEW FARMER FAMILY CONNECTION**

I'm now in touch with the descendants of Mattie May FARMER, who married Rayford William HAZEL. Mattie May was sister to Harry Alvin FARMER, who married Lucy Judson RABE. Lucy was the daughter of Lucy STEWART RABE. Both Harry and Mattie were the children of Sarah Margaret MAXWELL and James William FARMER. Sarah Margaret MAXWELL was the daughter of Amanda Lavina WILLIAMS and James Harvey MAXWELL.

**NEW FARMER FAMILY CONNECTION**, continued Anyhoo, Sarah Margaret Maxwell and James William Farmer had one more child before Sarah Margaret died, 3 AUG 1900. I knew they had a daughter, but she was unnamed on the 1910 Erath County, Texas federal census. My contact, Mrs. Sammie HAZEL, gave me her name, Ruth, and told me that she married and had children, and that before she died she lived in Fort Worth. Mrs. Hazel also gave me contact information for others in the family, so I'm hoping to have more information soon.

**BIRTHDAYS.** Happy birthday to Modene Nabors Huggins and Mary McDonald Koon

Until next month,

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*"There is no king who has not had a slave among his ancestors, and no slave who has not had a king among his. "*

- Helen Keller

## STEWART FAMILY HISTORY NEWSLETTER –2007, page 4

### DR. ALBERT DERRICKSON DINES ON A DOG

*From History of Taylor County, 1888, pg. 544-546*

Speaking of Dr. Bent calls mind some of his history, which will appear properly here, he being the first physician resident in the county...

He was a man of fine physical proportions, and intellectually was rather above the average. His friends say that he was a perfect Chesterfield on courtly occasions, and his ability enabled him to act the part of the backwoodsman to perfection. He was generous to a fault, and no friend ever questioned his fidelity. He was impulsive to an extraordinary degree, and upon questions of honor he was peculiarly sensitive; consequently he wasn't everlasting in the olive branch line of business with his friends. Frequently there was deadly bitterness existing between them. There was one occasion especially deserving mention, which will serve to show Dr. Bent's character in its true light. Early in the summer of 1854, two men, named John Thompson and J.W. Miller, laid the foundation of a cabin on, and filed a preemption claim to a portion of the land on which the town of Bedford now stands. Subsequently, Dr. Bent purchased their claim, and although of no validity in law, it was respected by the settlers until the autumn of that year. In the meantime, a party of emigrants had arrived from Indiana, among whom was a physician named Derrickson.

The newly-arrived doctor, in looking around for a place to invest his money, fixed a covetous eye upon the claim of Dr. Bent. But, not wishing to violate the rules that were held sacred by the early settlers, he went to Dr. Bent and asked him if he intended to enter it. Receiving an affirmative answer, he said: "Then I will not." Thompson then represented to Dr. Derrickson that Dr. Bent had not purchased the claim from himself and Miller, and through his own and the influence of Madison Guess, Derrickson was prevailed upon to make the entry. Dr. Bent, hearing of this, became greatly excited, and, with a loaded revolver in his hand, pointed over his left shoulder, he approached within a few feet of Derrickson, and said: "I learn that you have

### DR. ALBERT DERRICKSON DINES ON A DOG

*continued*

entered my land, and I give you one minute in which to decide whether you will make a personal matter of it or leave it to friendly arbitration." Derrickson answered: "You have taken me by surprise, doctor." Bent simply said: "Your time is passing, sir." Derrickson replied: "I will leave it to disinterested men." Upon hearing this, Bent turned and left him. The news of the affair spread rapidly. Much excitement was thus engendered, and angry feelings were manifested by the friends of the two doctors, and violence was anticipated. However, in the course of a few days, Dr. Bent sent a polite note to Dr. Derrickson, informing him that Judge Lowe would act as his friend in settling the matter. Derrickson chose a friend, and he and Judge Lowe met. The result was an amicable adjustment of the difficulty, by which the title of the land was passed to Dr. Bent. Of course there was occasion for rejoicing, and, as Dr. Bent had learned in his trip across the plains that it was a custom among certain Indians on the ratification of peace to celebrate it by feasting upon the fattest dog belonging to the tribe, his eccentricity led him to conceive the idea of sanctifying the occasion of his treaty with Derrickson by inviting his own and his opponent's friends to a "dog supper." A large cur, as obese as a well-fed hog, was slaughtered. The hind-quarters were neatly dressed, properly seasoned, and nicely baked, under the doctor's supervision, in a large oven. The feast was had at Mr. O.W. Fenno's hotel. All in the way of edibles that the town afforded was placed upon a large table, and in the center was artistically arranged the two hams of the defunct dog. The smell thereof was savory, and those who carved and ate said that the canine part of the feast was excellent. The boys had a "huge old time" that night, and the peace thus established was never disturbed in after years. Soon after this Dr. Bent was married to Elizabeth, daughter of Judge Lowe, and he became a prominent citizen of Bedford. He died August 1, 1878, mourned by all who knew him.