

### 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**.

### Toll Free Line Discontinued

Please note: In an effort to reduce costs I've discontinued my toll-free 800 line. You may call me at my home telephone number, 323-667-0013. I can call you at no cost, so let me know if you want me to return your call and save you the "dime."

### 2008 Stewart Family Reunion Photos

LaDella RABE JONES sent me a CD of images from the 2008 Stewart Family Reunion in Sulphur Springs, Texas. I've posted these at Picasa.com and tried to label them all. Please check them out and let me know if I've got everything right. I was unable to label the last few photos, so if you can, please help me out. Thanks, LaDena and LaDella, for all your hard work on the reunion and for sending me photos.

### Designer Genes

I missed sending out a newsletter last month as I've had the flu. In addition I had my annual physical and was informed that I have prediabetes. My doctor thinks I can turn this around if I watch what I eat and exercise every day. I didn't realize that diabetes is a genetic disorder, but I do now. No matter what I do, it's likely that the disease will catch up with me sooner or later. Looking through the family history I've identified a handful of people that did have, or may have had, the gene. The good news is that of those who stayed active and kept their weight down, all lived to a very ripe old age. If you know you have the gene and feel like discussing this issue with me, you can

### Designer Genes, continued

depend on me keeping your confidence. I'd love to hear from you.

### The Silly Season

I don't know about you, but the election is driving me crazy. As if there's not enough to worry about in our day-to-day life, we've been subjected to two years of campaigning. My greatest hope, no matter who wins, is that we will become united as Americans and work together to better our lives. It's very distressing to me to see us as divided as we are.

### MARY FRANCIS FOLLIS SELTZ REMEMBERED



I received a sad note from Jan Seltz that her mother, Mary FOLLIS SELTZ, died recently in Dover, Delaware. The note was forwarded to me by Eddie TULLER, a third cousin of mine on the Joseph STEWART line. Mary FOLLIS SELTZ was the granddaughter of Mary Delane COMPTON FOLLIS who was the sister of Nancy Louise Elizabeth COMPTON STEWART. "Lou" married my great-grandfather, Joseph Coleman STEWART.

*Mom is being interred at Arlington National Cemetery with full military honors on the 12th day of December, 2008. Full military honors include a band, caisson, honor guard with flag, bugler, and gun salute. Her ashes will be placed at the Columbarium with a plaque in her honor.*

In this photo, Eddie tells me, Mary "...was awaiting orders to go to Japan and you can see the book on the table. She is showing the Japan unit patch that will replace the German unit patch that is on the jacket."

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**MARY FOLLIS SELTZ**, continued

Mary FOLLIS SELTZ authored **A Nurse's Experience**, which is a thrilling account of her service in the Battle of the Bulge in World War II. Mary was a real hero and an inspiration.

### FRAGMENTS OF OUR FAMILY HISTORY



*Sisters Maggie Stewart Watson Allums, Lado Stewart Brawner Dawson, and Ollie Stewart McCleskey Moore. Contributed by Vera Stewart Macon.*

A lot of what we have of our family history exists in fragments, little pieces of letters and other documents that have survived against all odds. Our cousin, Jody WATSON, descended from Mary Magdalena STEWART WATSON ALLUMS, sent me copies of a packet of old letters and odds and ends last month. Among these were notes from her grandmother Maggie.

*My father's name was named Stewart. My Grandfather was Nathaniel Stewart. My Grandmother's [illegible] name was Coleman. She was an Irish woman. Grandfather was a Scotchman. He came to the U.S. when he was 12 years old direct from Scotland. These children were born to them: Sarah Jane, Catherine, Ann, Elex, Daniel, Lucy, Matilda, Josif Coleman (my own father), Emma and Dink. 10 children. I don't remember when Grandma died and don't believe I ever saw her. Grandfather died in 1908 in the Autom at the age of 99. This is May the 11, 1939 and they are all dead. Not one of them is liveing.*

"Nathaniel" is Daniel and I'm not certain if this is just an error or maybe a reference to Daniel's father. I don't believe Daniel came directly from Scotland. During his lifetime his census records indicated that both he and his parents were born in the United States. "Elex" is Alexander

**FRAGMENTS**, continued

Newton STEWART. Catherine's second husband was John Hicks FLORENCE. "Dink" is Louvenia Domer STEWART FLORENCE. She married Daniel FLORENCE, a nephew of John Hicks FLORENCE.

Another fragment follows,

*My They all had big famblies, with the exception of Aunt Cathrine, Aunt Ann and Uncle Elex. Elex never married and died at the age of 81 or 82 in 1935. Most of them died with parilises. Uncle Daniel died with cancer. Aunt Sarah married a Night first and then a Potts. Aunt Matilda married a Posey. Aunt Catherine married a Florence. Aunt Ann, a Dunlop but only lived with him about 6 months. Aunt Lucy married a Rabe. Aunt Emma a Stockton. Aunt Dink a Florence.*

Maggie references Sarah, but she meant to reference Sarah's daughter, Mary Gertrude MARTIN, who was a few years older than Dink, obviously mistaken as an aunt and not a cousin. Mary Gertrude married Franklin P. KNIGHT and James William POTTS.

Jody also included a letter written to her grandmother, Maggie STEWART WATSON ALLUMS, from Maggie's sister Lado (Ruby Ladonia STEWART BRAWNER DAWSON).

*Ranger, Tex.*

*[Illegible month and date] 1947*

*Dear Sis and Jack,*

*Will ans your letter. We are all well except colds. Mother is well. She said to tell you to come on up. She wouldn't go home with you. She sure [illegible]. It sure is dry here. Opal sent me a big box of stuff the other day. Three dresses, one house coat, three shoes and too blouse. Oh gosh, I don't know what all. Sure was glad to get them.*

*How Carol doing? My boy [Willie Dawson] sure learning fast. How much are egg down there? They are 70 cent here. No mother still here. She got mad at me today. I have the worst cold and she was right against me and I told her not to get so clost she catch my cold. She got sore and went home. Herman still at Leslie. Guess he be home some time this week. We went to a good singing con. Sunday but just stayed about a hour. Do you have a turnip patch? I don't. It*

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### FRAGMENTS, continued

*has been too dry here. There is a lots of colds here but not bad ones. [Illegible] liked to come down last Sat. Done bought my ticket and mother played sick until late that even. She sure does play off on you when she don't want you to do anything and I am afraid she really get sick. Well I will quit so write soon.*

*Lado*

*Mother is in better shape than she been in in too or three year.*

Thank you SO much, Jody, for sharing this amazing information with us all. You're an angel.

### MORE ON CLYDE & MABLE STEWART



*The State Sanatorium at San Angelo, Texas.*

Nolan PORTERFIELD, the nephew of Mable Ruby PORTERFIELD STEWART, wrote to me recently,

*I remembered a memoir that my Uncle Bruce wrote sometime in the 1980s (he died in 1998 at age 88). He had this to say about his sister Mabel:*

*"Sister's [Mabel's] baby was born in 1919, when I was 8. It lived only nine days. She was already thin as a rail and was beginning to cough a lot. Soon after the baby died she was bedridden with TB. In those days it was called Consumption because the germ actually devours lung tissue. And there was no treatment for it. Bed-rest was the only known way to even slow the progress of the disease . . . Her husband had no job and he lived with us. Mama now had a dozen souls to care for, one an invalid, and the youngest, Bettye, was less than two. How Mama survived those years is a mystery to me. Yet she did and lived to 83.*

### MORE ON CLYDE & MABLE STEWART, continued

*Sister's health did not improve. And Papa wanted desperately to do something that might help. The doctors had recommended a higher climate, mentioning Colorado as a possibility." [Here follows a long passage about my grandfather selling everything except the household furniture and moving to Lamar, Colorado; at the time he had under lease in Texas a six-section ranch for ranging cattle and a half-section in cultivation, which made him one of the more prominent rancher/farmers in the county.]*

*Then follows:*

*"[In Colorado] Sister's health continued to worsen. Sometimes her coughing spasms were so intense that I felt it was more than anyone could bear. Yet she never complained. Her husband was young and inexperienced. He had stayed with us for a time in Colorado, but had never found a job, and several months before her death, he disappeared. Although I never knew for certain, I have long thought that Austin [the son just younger than Mabel] may have driven him away. Austin has quoted [Clyde] as saying, 'Fate has dealt me a cruel hand.'*

*This agrees with stories I heard from Chink and Bettye at the recent reunion. Of course they were both too young to have first-hand knowledge, but both agreed that "Austin beat up [Clyde] and ran him off." As I remember Austin, he was a gentle and even-tempered man, like all the other brothers, but he did have a reputation for having a temper in his younger days, and his nickname as a youth was "Salty" because he was always ready for a fight. In any event, this tends to relieve my grandfather from being the culprit in the Mabel-Clyde situation. I was happy to tell Chink and Bettye - - and they were glad to hear it -- that Clyde was a success in later life and highly esteemed by family and friends.*

It must have been incredibly difficult to be a young couple trying to make a home in a tent in a boom town oil camp in the early 20s. Thanks, Nolan, for sharing this information with our family.

**BIRTHDAYS.**

Happy birthday to Modene NABORS HUGGINS (9/10), Mary MCDONALD KOON (9/13), Dorothy FULBRIGHT PITMAN (10/18), Scharie DORMAIER STEWART (10/24) and Charlene LARSON STEWART (10/29).

**PRAYERS.**

Please pray for our family in Houston as they recover from the devastation of Hurricane Ike.

Until next month,

Teresa Stewart Sitz

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Teresa Stewart Sitz

*"We are not enemies, but friends. We must not be enemies. Though passion may have strained, it must not break our bonds of affection. The mystic chords of memory, stretching from every battlefield, and patriot grave, to every living heart and hearthstone, all over this broad land, will yet swell the chorus of the Union, when again touched, as surely they will be, by the better angels of our nature."*

- Abraham Lincoln