

TREE TALK

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Visit our internet site at: <http://cherokeecountygenealogy.com/index.htm>

Editor's Letter

Spring is here! I hope you are well.

We have survived the COVID-19 Pandemic and the bad winter storm in February. Many of us have now had the COVID-19 vaccine. It seems to me that we are getting back to the pre-pandemic normal.

I hope you enjoy this issue of TREE TALK.

Gordon Bennett, Editor

Genealogy Sites by James L. Douthat, Mountain Press

If you are like me, genealogy has been a very expensive hobby. We all have had to pay a lot for the information that we have needed and wanted. It is not unusual for me to have to take \$150.00 in quarters and stay overnight in Nashville every few months when I need to go to the State Archives. Then I only can stay a few hours over two days. I am not able to work for hours on end like I once did since I turn 82 this year. But I still do what I can.

In this article I want to help you find some of the "FREE" websites that might be useful to your research. Let me know if you are successful with any of them.

Immigrant Ship Transcribers Guild - ship records - www.immigrantships.net

Find a Grave - cemetery/obit records - USA - www.findagrave.com

USGenNet - ancestral records - www.usgenet.org

Genealogy Buff - genealogy links - www.genealogybuff.com

Census Finder - genealogy links - www.censusfinder.com

Ancestor Search - genealogy links - www.searchforancestors.com

Ancestor Hunt - genealogy links - www.ancestorhunt.com

Access Genealogy - search engine - www.accessgenealogy.com

Obituaries Help - genealogy links - www.obituarieshelp.org

Ancient Faces - genealogy forum - www.ancientfaces.com

Cyndi's List - genealogy links - www.cyndislist.com

GenealogyWise - genealogy forum - www.genealogywise.com

GeneaNet - genealogy form - France - www.geneanet.org

Automated Genealogy - ancestral records - Canada - www.automatedgenealogy.com

British Genealogy - genealogy forum - UK - www.thegenealogist.co.uk

Ireland Genealogy Project - ancestral records - Ireland - www.igp-web.com

I know this is just the tip of the iceberg, but if you have a favorite one that you use a lot pass the information on and we will run another list later. Do not forget that most local historical and genealogical societies have websites that function on a free basis. Then you might want to explore the State Archives in the area of your interest as many of them now have free access to some of their records and other services that you may obtain for a minimum cost.

Happy Searching!!

Tips, Tools & Techniques for Preserving Family History

I received the latest issue of Stirpes, December 2020, Volume 59, Number 4 on January 29, 2021.

The Cover subtitle is “Tips, Tools & Techniques for Preserving Family History.” The magazine lives up to its subtitle. Here are the page numbers, article titles and authors I found of interest:

6 Protect Family Secrets While Preserving Them for Future Generations by Jessica Horne Collins

8 Family History Preservation: Why, How and Where by Jim Thornhill

12 Oral History: a Key to Preserving Your Family’s Unique Heritage, by Pat Gordon

16 Keeping it All Together by Russell A. Rahn

25 Preserving DNA: Raw Biological Material , DNA Data, Lineages, Conclusions by Debbie Parker Wayne

61 Organizing Old Photos with the “Parking Lot Method” by Denise May Levenick

64 Preserving Your Family History Forever by Emily C. Richardson

68 What Do I Do With All These Old Photos by Tami Osmer Mize

71 Ask an Archivist – An Interview with Linda Reynolds, TxSGS Archivist by Susan E. Ball

The copy of Stirpes, December 2020, Volume 59, Number 4 will be placed in the Genealogy Section, Rusk Public Library.

I plan on buying my own copy of this issue.

Copies of previous issues of Stirpes are available at the price of \$15.00 per issue, if available, which includes mailing. Contact: Betsy Mills, treasurer at Texas State Genealogical Society, attn: Treasurer, 2028 E. Ben White Blvd #240-2700, Austin, TX 78741; e-mail: treasurer@txsgs.org.

Gordon Bennett

COUNTY COURT MINUTES

BY James L. Douthat

One of the more important resources for genealogical research, but very seldom used, are the County Court Minutes or whatever they are called in your state of interest. These are the regular records generated by the local county governmental body. For the sake of this article, I will refer to them as the commissioners, but they can be called by a number of different names such as supervisor, councilmen, or even Justice of the Peace.

The major reason that many do not use these minutes is that very few counties have them in a searchable form. Many are still in the handwritten form and have never been printed. Even if they are in print, they are not indexed and so you have to read them from beginning to end. However, it is a journey that is very rewarding if you make the effort.

In this article, which may run for several issues, I want to take each of the various records that can be found in the minutes. Even those from the 17th century Virginia colonies are well worth the effort for the tidbits of information not found in most any other place. I was inspired to write this after researching one of my wife's ancestors. I found that he was a commissioner in our county just after the Civil War, and I knew very little about him before reading the county minutes. I did not know that he was the commissioner in the first place, so this was news to me and her family. A later grandson-in-law was also one at the turn of the 20th century.

One of the first things you will discover is that all of the Justices or Commissioners have to be bonded to hold their position. They do not just stand up and raise a hand to volunteer for that position. Someone must be willing to put a large amount of money on hold to assure that this person will perform their task as directed by law. Most of the time, the money is never laid on the table, but pledged against unlawful actions on the part of the Justice. Since about the middle of the 19th century all of these persons have to be elected by the people in their district or section of the county. Since these persons will be handling a great deal of money everyone wants to be sure they are honorable and held accountable.

There is usually one person designated as "Tax Collector". In our minutes it is given to read, "I will use all lawful means in my power to find out such property as may not have been listed for taxation in my county and return a list of such property to the clerk of the County Court." Thus, their oath to be administered upon taking office. You will notice that the word "find" is given and unlike the census taker, no one was to be skipped over for taxes. Does this translate to you that tax listings are more accurate than census for giving a listing of those in the county?

Next to be found are "Deeds with wills and nuncupative wills" presented to the Court to help fulfill the words of the will and or sales of property. In our county court minutes we find the following: "Absolam Sivley, deceased &c - It appearing to the satisfaction of the Court that Absolam Sivley departed this life intestate in this county. And Daniel H. Sivley applied for letters of Administration, the widow appearing in open Court and waved her right to administer. Whereupon the said Daniel H. Sivley was appointed Administrator of said estate, he entered into bond, and security, and was qualified as required by law, which bond was examined and approved and ordered to be recorded and filed, and letters issue accordingly."

COUNTY COURT MINUTES

"On motion John King, B. F Clark, and Peter Mounger were appointed Commissioners to lay off and set apart to Cynthia Sivy, widow of Absolam Sivy deceased one year's support out of the effects of said estate." Later these three men must file an accounting and later Daniel H. Sivley will also have to file a complete listing of the results of settling of the estate. Reports are submitted to the Court until it is satisfied that all that was necessary to settle the estate is completed.

All of this information was given for a nuncupative will. Note you get about the time of Absolam's death, sometimes the date of death is given, the name of his wife and probably a son or brother.

One the major items in the County Court minutes are orphans in their territory. Of all the things taken care of by the court is the care of the children. There have been children in need from the earliest colonial era down to today. There were a couple of different ways the court could take care of the children. In the middle of the 18th century we can find where children were "Bound" out. In my family, three children were bound out first by the church administrators and then by the justice of the court. To each is named a 'sponsor' and terms of their bondage. This is normally to a certain age or if in the case of girls, until they marry. In a compendium of Hawkins County, now in process of being published, we find this remaining up into the 20th century.

In the case of bastardy, the county will attempt to find the parties involved and assure that the child is cared for in a proper manner. In our volume [North Carolina Bastardy Bonds](#), a number of individuals give assurance that the child will never be a ward of the court but will be cared for until they reach adulthood. We note that North Carolina required a number of males to sign the bond which included the "father" if he could be identified and then family members like father, brothers, uncles, etc. also signed. The court took great care for the children of bastardy and orphans.

As our court records demonstrates this approach: "This day [Monday June 6th 1864] came Vinson Eldridge into Court with William Goins, an orphan boy about eight years of age, who was bound as an apprentice to the said Vinson Eldridge to the occupation of a farmer until he attains the age of twenty-one years, and the said Vinson Eldridge entered into bond and security as required by law."

We have just scratched the surface of the contents of the County Court Minutes. Next article we will continue on with this subject.

Look for ways to see your county of interest with the minutes! Good luck!!!

COUNTY COURT MINUTES

To continue with the County Court Minutes, look for the “road orders”. This is one of the misunderstood items and at the same time one of the more important for genealogist. In the early days of our nation, there were few roads and even fewer of them kept up to any degree. The main process for the upkeep of roads during the 19th century was by manual labor of those that lived along the roads. Usually an “overseer” was appointed to a section designated by “...from point A to point B...”. Then the overseer was given the “hands” or the labor of those others that lived between those two points to do the work of road maintenance. This does not sound like a lot of facts but look at the layout.

First you see a small section of the county from A to B. This is usually from a prominent persons’ home, mill, landing etc. This extends to another point of quick reference to a gap, mill, school, etc. More importantly are the names of those that live in this area. As you look at the names you might see a daughter-in-law’s family name mentioned or any spouse’s family name. Most couples are married within a mile or so of their residence as this time in history. If one of your ancestors happens to be on the list, then you can run the deeds for that county and place them in a general location. This will help place them in a tax district, school district and voting district. All of this helps to narrow down their life’s story. If you look hard into that ancestor’s background, the other names on the list will become important also in their life’s story.

From the county minutes of 4 December 1865 for Hamilton County, Tennessee: “Ab Carroll was appointed overseer of the public road of the 2nd class from James Rogers to the Bridge across the Tennessee River at Chattanooga and that he have all the hands on the farms of Mrs. Cowart, Ab Carroll, J. Beck, Caldwell’s, widow Smith’s, James Rogers, and John and William Fryer and Zion Craynes to work on him of said road.”

One minor role of the court was to settle some of the claims from the Civil War as the following from September 1865. “On motion and it appearing to the satisfaction of the Court that John G. Glass, held claims on the County for about one thousand dollars, which men destroyed when the said Glass house were burned during the Mission Ridge Battle. It is therefore ordered by the Court that the estate of the said John G. Glass deceased be allowed the sum of eight hundred dollars, a majority of the Justices being present and voting in the affirmative.”

Another of the important role of the County Court is to care for the “poor”. Many of them have a “poor house” and therefore have overseers of the residents. Many times, a coffin is ordered for one or more of the residents and both the maker and the user of that coffin are named. The following item in our court minutes are as follows: “James A. P. Guthrie was allowed sixteen dollars and fifty cents for goods furnished paupers.” or “On motion, Dr. B. F. Clark was allowed twenty-five dollars for medical services at the Poorhouse.” or “On

COUNTY COURT MINUTES

motion, Daniel Temples was allowed four hundred and fifty two dollars and fifty cents for keeping paupers, the last quarter.”

Voting is one of the very important roles of the court. They establish the districts and set out the site of the voting place as well as maintain a listing of those who vote. In Tennessee, the State Legislature in December 1835 made a law that each county was to divide their territory into districts of certain population and number determined by that population. These districts became their voting precincts, school districts, Justice of the Peace areas and in time these became very important in the political life of the county. Many of the districts from then until now still exist.

In the 19th century, when the husband died leaving a widow and orphans, it was the responsibility of the county court to guard the orphans from abuse. Thereby they took over the guardianship of those children by appointing guardians. In December 1865, Hamilton County, Tennessee court gave the following responsibility to Lunnis Wilson. “Lunnis Wilson was appointed guardian of Martha Ellen, Rebecca Jane, and Samuel Wilson, minor heirs of Samuel Wilson dec’d. She entered into bond and security as required by law, which bond being examined and approved and ordered to be recorded and filed.” In this case it appears the mother is the guardian which is rare.

The bastardy bonds are another of the court’s attempt to help parents of illegitimate children. They do not attempt to punish either the man or the woman, but their intent is to care for the child. By getting others to sign on to help care for the child, this takes the burden off the court to only oversee the process.

As you can tell from all of this that the county court has a vital role in the wellbeing of the citizens of the county and they make every effort to see that all citizens are cared for in most cases. There are many entries into their minutes that deal with citizens at all levels of society and therefore, is a great source of information about our ancestors that we might never have known otherwise. Read their minutes and make as many notes as you can when the records are not indexed or even transcribed.

Good hunting!!

James L. Douthat

Mountain Press

Cherokee County Genealogical Society Members

LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	MIDDLE NAME	CATEGORY	ADDRESS 1	ADDRESS 2	CITYSTATE	POSTAL CODE	E-MAIL ADDRESS	TELEPHONE	MOBILE PH.	SURNAME SURNAME 2	SURNAME 3	SURNAME 4	SURNAME 5
Benge	Gordon	Member		1750 COUNTY ROAD 3107		Jacksonville TX			75766-7792	903-586-3473	BENGE, MOWERY, TALLEY, MONKHOUSE, CRIPPINS, TOMS, CAHILL, PORTER, ROBERTS			
Bennett	Gordon	Member		825 Willowcreek Drive		Jacksonville TX			75766-3401	ccgs@suddenlink.net	903-586-0135	BENNETT, HOLLENBECK, HICKMAN, HICKS, NEVITT, GILL, CRAVEN, TAYLOR		
Blodgett	Elizabeth	Member		6020 Minnetonka Blvd		Minneapolis MN			55416-2024	eeblodgett@gmail.com	979-776-1925	979-436-8745	EARLE, TEMPLETON, WALLACE, BUSH, PAYNE, WRIGHT, THOMPSON, BENGE, WINN, BREVARD, BLANSETT, McEACHERN, RAGSDALE	
Bolton	John Seguire	& Sonja Carroll	Couple	1112 Pine Street		Kilgore TX			75662-3355	johnsbolton8@gmail.com	903-988-1591	903-399-4644	BOLTON, NORWOOD, DURRETT, McCRACKEN, HAMMETT, DENT, THOMPSON, HUDNALL, CLARK, MAY, MEYERS, DuBOSE, SEVIER, GOREE, RANKIN, JONES	
Burkett	Deborah L.	Member		PO Box 325		Troup TX			75789-0325	deb-bietroup7@yahoo.com	903-752-7850	LONG, LANGSTON, ARMNSTRONG,		
Cates	Vivian T	& Dan B	Couple	2403 State Highway 21 West		Alto TX			75925-5706	vcates@exede.net	936-858-3801	ALLRED, BALDWIN, BLACKSHEAR, BURT, BRADLEY, BROWN, CATES, COLLIER, COWARD/COWART, DANIEL, DOMINY, FONDREN, GAY, MANNING, MAYES, NEWBERRY, ODELL, SPURLIN, TOOLE ALLEN, BOOTH/E, BOWLES, BOOLES, BRUCE, BUCKNER, CARPENTER, CHRISTIAN, CROW, DURHAM, EDMONDS/EDMUNDS, FREEMAN, GREEN/E, HATCHER, LINDSEY, MALONE, POLLARD, POWELL, RANDAL/ RANDALL, REYNOLDS/RUNNELS, ROBINSON, SHEFFIELD		
Childs	Marleta	Member		PO Box 6825		Lubbock TX			79493-6825	kinsearching@gmail.com	806-748-1470			
Daniel	Joe	& Debbie	Couple	1707 FM 2274 N		Jacksonville TX			75766-1391	ponta628@gmail.com	903-683-2624	STAPP, DANIEL		
										pontapinecone@gmail.com				

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FIELD, McCLUER, EDWARDS

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ARMSTRONG, SUMMERS, WILLSON, BLACK, PRYOR

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CORELEY, WILLS, RAMEY, FOXWORTH, ARANT, TODD, HENSON, MAYNARD LA-
NIER, DICKY, REDD, COOK, ALLEN, PEGUES, McCLURE, SINGLETARY DOVER,
ROSS, HEWGLEY, MAY, WARD, FORD, HERLONG, WESLEY, BENNET, GDNTRY,
GUICE, PERRY VICKERY, WATSON, ETHRIDGE, MOORE, FELDER, TANNERY, VAL-
ENTINE, RISHER, , DILLARD, TERRY, THOMPSON, COPPER, MASTERS, BRADFORD,
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Cherokee County Genealogical Society Members

Martin	George	Member	1555 FM 1911 S.	Alto TX	75925-6039	gbmartin@consolidated.net	936-858-2159	903-676-6103
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Saicoe	Georgia	Member	34656 Broncho Ln	Squaw Valley CA	93675-9681	gsaicoe@unwiredbb.com	559-332-2391	CAUSEY, BURNETT, WOOD, BILLINGS, BROWN, HOMESLY, WHITE, McKNIGHT, DEVER, COOK, AKERS, LONG
Shirley	Beth	Member	2105 N JOSEY LN APT 421	Carrollton TX	75006-3030	pastel.artist@yahoo.com	972-245-1621	DURRETT, ROACH, SHERMAN, JONES, BOBBITT, CHAPMAN, EMBRY, SIMPSON

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SADLER, ACKER			
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HALL, BETTES			
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LOWE, COOPER, DEES/DEAS,	BERRY, PARIS, SALTERS/SAULTERS, JOWELL,		
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JOHNSTON, JOHNSON, WRIGHT, LEACH, GILCHRIST, COOPER,	GLENN,		
WOODLEY. DUNCAN			

J.M.B. McKnight, An Appreciation by H. L. McKnight**J . M . B . M c K N I G H T**

An Appreciation

By

H. L. McKNIGHT

My father, John McPherson Berrien McKnight, was born 26 August, 1844, in Chambers County, Alabama. With his parents, Hiram Lee and Martha Causey McKnight and his only brother, Richard Henry Lee McKnight, he came to Rusk County, Texas at the tender age of four years. Three years later the family moved to Cherokee County and settled on one of those beautiful hills overlooking Rocky Springs Baptist church and Cemetery, one mile west of the present village of Dialville. In a very modest log house, typical of pioneer days in East Texas, My father grew to young manhood within sight of the church where he later held membership for almost three quarters of a century, and where we laid him to rest on Friday, February 11th.

Among my earliest recollections are events, and scenes in and about the log cabin home of my grandfather, Hiram McKnight. It was by the light of a tiny window, made by cutting out two logs near the fire-side, that grandfather read the few newspapers and fewer books that were available to the pioneer settlers of East Texas. His postoffice was Rusk, seven miles distant. Grandfather McKnight was a school teacher in his early years. At the time of his death, about 1879, he was serving as Justice of the Peace for the Rusk precinct. Grandmother McKnight made her home with us after grandfather died. She lived for some twelve years after his death.

It was on January 8, 1867, that J. M. B. McKnight and Martha Elizabeth Acker, daughter of Columbus and Martha Acker, were united in bonds of wedlock that endured all the vicissitudes and hardships common to pioneer life and ended only with the death of my mother on March 17, 1923. At the time my mother

J.M.B. McKnight

and father married, my maternal grandfather, Columbus Acker, member of one of Cherokee County's most widely known families, was living "on the mountain" some ten miles west of Rusk, and just north of Mount Hope Church.

My father and mother lived and labored and loved together for fifty seven years. During these years, fifteen children came to bless their home. Of these fifteen, nine are living.

Early in life, mother and father joined Rocky Springs Baptist Church, and throughout all the busy years of their toilsome lives, they attended its services and supported its institutions to the extent of their abilities.

I learn from my good friend, Ben Albritton, President of Jacksonville College, that at his request, father prepared a history of this church only a few years ago. So far as I know father was the last of the 'old guard' on whose support and and loyalty this church depended for so many years. Younger men have come on the scene, and it is to them that we must look for future support.

In his early manhood, father took an active interest in the Grange Pioneer Farmers organization. For a time he was president of the county organization. Later he was active in Farmers' Alliance, an organization with objectives pretty much akin to those now held by the Farm Bureau. During the years of his active connection with these organizations our home was the Mecca for such men as John B. Long, Hiram Arrant, John J. Felps, John Anderson, Henry Singletary, and many other whose names do not occur to me at the moment. I must believe that these men and their kind did much to shape the rural mind of Cherokee County for a period dating roughly from 1875 to 1910.

Since early manhood father had held membership in A. Jackson Lodge No. 29, Ancient, Free and Accepted Masons. At the time he joined this lodge and for many years afterward, it was located at Old Pine Town. The lodge was moved to Dialville some twenty years ago.

J.M.B. McKnight

But it is not as a Baptist, nor a Mason nor a Granger nor a follower of any group or sect or class, that I shall delight to remember my father. He was first a husband and a father. His was by no manner of means a life of ease. With a growing family to provide for from his early years, and with no resources save and except such as could be wrung from Mother Earth with strong and willing hands, he knew privations. To meet such burdens, self-denial and self-sacrifice became daily practices. Also, he knew sorrow, for the dark shadow fell athwart his own humble doorway six times, and seven times across the doorway of those he loved better than he loved self.

He met life's privations with courage equal to every emergency; he met sorrow with a philosophy grounded in faith that knew no faltering.

Five sons and four daughters survive: Mrs. Theresa Odom, Mrs. Frankie Bounds, C. J. McKnight, Dialville; J. M. McKnight and Mrs. R. J. Garner, Denton; J. B. and S.P. McKnight, Jacksonville; Mrs. Daisy Schmidt, Troup; H. L. McKnight, Ruston, Louisiana.

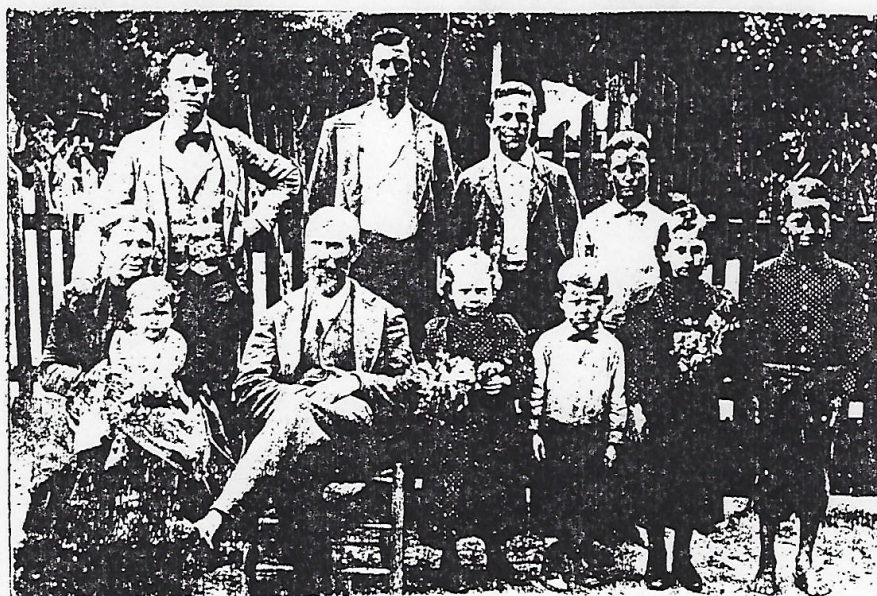
Tenderly, lovingly and with memories rich beyond measure, we buried him beside our Mother, there in that quiet country Church-yard, sheltered by the hills that had known his footsteps for more than eighty years.

Truly, he was a gentleman of a plain people.

McKnight Family

December 22, 1962.

On this date, I, Eva McKnight Garner, made a copy from an original history written by my father in or about the year 1916. I have endeavored to keep the facts exactly as given, being careful to keep spelling of names as nearly as I can interpret the writing, which, by the way, is in pencil and on a very poor grade of paper. Such corrections as I have made consist of some punctuation, and the injections of a few comments at places wherein I could detect an error. Such comments as I have made have been carefully included in parentheses.



Top row :- Lee, Price, Lewis and Ben, Bottom row:-
Martha (Grandma), Eva, J. M: B. (Grandpa), Dollie,
Lem Odom, Daisie and Jim.

McKnight Family

Beginning with my grandfather:

John McKnight and wife, Mariah Simms, moved from Coweta County, Georgia, one or two years before the Indians were removed from Florida, Alabama, Georgia and other Southern States to the Indian Territory, about 1826 to 1834. Grandfather raised seven boys. Their names were Andrew, Hiram, Thomas, Lewis, John, Columbus, and Lafayette. Andrew married Sally Ann Hudman in Chambers County, Alabama. They moved to Texas about 1848, settling in Rusk County. Andrew died in 1859. His family then moved to Kaufman County, where some of them still live.

Hiram married Mary Causey in Chambers County, Alabama, in 1843. They had three children, all born in Chambers County. John McPherson Berrian, born August 26, 1844; Richard Henry Lee, born November 26, 1845; and Susan Loraine Josephine. She died at Shreveport, Louisiana, with cholera in the winter of '49 and '50. John McPherson Berrian married Martha Elizabeth Acker, January 3, 1867. They had fifteen children, four dying in childhood. Names of those that lived to be grown were: Theresa; John Morgan, Columbus Johnson, Mary Frances, Hiram Lee, Sterling Price, Lewis Sidney, Benjamin Eli, James Parker, Daisy Nevada, and Ola Eva.

Richard Henry Lee McKnight married Ruthie Jane Acker in 1867. They raised two boys, Henry Dearbon and Stonewall Jackson. Ruthie Jane died and R. H. L. married a Mrs. Sally Malory. They raised one daughter, Maggie. She married Ed Curry. (As an effort to make this account a more accurate one, this item is added by those of us who can remember another son, Albert born to Uncle Dick and Aunt Sally.) Sally died and R. H. L. married Mrs. Susan Corbett. They have three children.

Thomas McKnight married in Alabama, name and date not known. He moved from Chambers County, Alabama, to Rusk County, Texas, about 1857 or 8, and died the first year, the family moving back to Alabama soon thereafter.

McKnight Family

Lewis, John, and Columbus all married in Alabama and moved to Texas about 1874, all settling in Cass County, Texas, near Atlanta. Lewis and Columbus raised families, both dying in that part of the state. John was a doctor, and his wife's maiden name was Lou Simms. They raised no children. Lafayette died during the Civil War. If he was married, I do not know.

The girls in grandfather's family were: Mariah, Nancy, Larissa, Martha, Mary, and Minerva. Mariah married a man named Bently. They raised two boys, Frank, born the same day I was, and is now therefore 72 years old last August 26. (From this statement we figure that this account was written sometime between August 26, 1916 and August 26, 1917.) He is, or was, a doctor and lived about Atlanta, Texas. His brother, Joe, also lived in that part of the state; but, like my other cousins up that way, I know nothing further.

Nancy married Wright Causey. That family moved to Texas about 1869. Martha married a man named Simms (I suppose a cousin) [(The foregoing parentheses appear in the account.)] I know nothing more of them. Mary married a man named Stanley. I know nothing further of them. Minerva married Allen Spraggins in 1858. They raised one son, Millard Fillmore Spraggins. Allen Spraggins died at Shreveport, Louisiana, the winter of 1858 or 9. Minerva then married William Monkress. They raised two children, Kirby M. and Mollie Monkress. (At this time, December of 1962, Kirby Monkress is still living, tho' is completely senile and so could give us no further facts concerning the history of the family.)

Joseph Acker and his wife, Ruth, moved from North Carolina to Pickens County, Alabama. They raised 14 children to be grown and married. The boys names were: Alfred, Alexander, Amos, William, James, Columbus, and Peter. The girls names were: Lucinda, Desdimona, Jane, Artimesa, Teresa, Margurate, and Mary.

McKnight Family

Of the older boys' marriages I do not know enough to record, tho' one man married a woman named Herrin, and Jane Acker married a man named Herrin. Columbus married Elizabeth Thompson and they had three children: Ruthie Jane, Joseph Benjamin, and William Alfred. Columbus' wife died and he married Martha Mills, an orphan without any immediate relatives, and was, so far as I know, raised in Mississippi. They raised 8 children to be grown. They were: John Alexander, Andrew Jackson, and Peter. The girls were: Martha Elizabeth (my wife) [(Again the parentheses appear in the original.)], Loduska, Caroline, Columbus Anna, and Marietta, or Mollie.

Joseph Benjamin married Martha Jones in Cherokee County, Texas, January 2, 1867. William Alfred married Sarah Causey. Ruthie Jane (See other reference.) [(Again the parentheses appear in the original.)] John Alexander married Amanda Shaw. They raised three girl children, named Alice, Ida, and Beulah. Alice married Lee Crownover, Ida Married Crockett Hazlewood, and Beulah married Lee Crownover.

Andrew Jackson married Catherine Ann Jones. They raised 6 children, 2 boys and three girls (here is an error in calculation). The boys' names are Hosea Columbus and John Alexander. Hosea married Annie Smith and John married Annie Whitaker. The girls' names were: Mattie, Cynia, and May. Mattie married Will Odom, Cynia married Charlie Allen, and May married Fred Garner.

Caroline Acker married Daniel Deerman. They raised 11 children--five boys and 6 girls. The boys names were John Allen, Columbus, Oliver, James, and Daniel. John Allen married Mary Garner. Columbus married Ossie Fellman, James was killed by a train. Ollie and Daniel are unmarried (At this writing.) The girls names are: Mattie, Minnie, Iva, Mollie, Myrtle, and Caladona. Mattie married R. B. Jarratt, Minnie married Enoch Herrington, Mollie married Ira Bounds, and Caladona married Claud Price. (At the time the original copy was written, Iva and Myrtle were unmarried. They later were married, Myrtle to H. C. Moseley and Iva to George Walton Norwood.)

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