

Alabama) 1820 for Limestone County with the name spelled Benningfield on that document with Charles Benningfield and wife and three sons under 21 years and two daughters under 21 years of age. There was a James Bedingfield and wife and two sons and two daughters under 21 years of age listed in that same area with Charles and his name was spelled correct. This James and family did not appear on later censuses in Alabama. The children in the Charles Benningfield listing I have obtained names of two of those, James Ashley Bedingfield, born January 17, 1798, and Charles Bedingfield, born ca1809. The other son and the two daughters have not been identified.

James Ashley Bedingfield married twice and produced three daughters and two sons. Charles Bedingfield married ca1833 and produced five sons and one daughter. More on Charles and his family.

The first Bedingfield settler in the Lauderdale/Limestone County area of Alabama has been identified as Charles Henry Bedingfield, Jr. born in Cheraw district S.C. in 1773. Married ca1797 Jane Ashley and paragraph one notes that the first of their children was born there. Their other child in this document, Charles was born, I believe in Georgia. In Lauderdale County on January 20, 1826 the purchase of 160 acres of land NW of Elk River and on the road to Huntsville was a strategic move. He further purchased on May 31, 1828 the adjoining land to the west and deeded that 160 acres to James Ashley Bedingfield. On September 18, 1828 he transferred the 160 acres from his purchase on January 20, 1826 to Charles Bedingfield, both of these transactions were for the sum of \$400.00 each. From holdings of the Bedingfields there emerged a business, a Ferry across Elk River for traffic east and west on the Huntsville Road and shown on later maps as Bedingfield Ferry. It was a family business.

II. Charles Bedingfield and wife Frances J. Halcomb began their family of six with the birth of William H., December 27, 1834. Then Stephen H., December 8, 1836, next James M., ca1841, John David, February 13, 1843, then Andrew J., March 17, 1848, and finally a daughter, Mary S.F., September, 1850.



John David Bedingfield

When only nineteen years of age, John David and brother James M. Bedingfield both entered the service of the Confederacy January 10, 1862 at Florence, Alabama. They served in the Alabama 27th Infantry Company I. A few weeks after their entry John David and James M. Bedingfield were captured at Ft. Donelson, Tennessee and both were transferred to Ft. Douglas, Illinois and there on August 2, 1862 James M. Bedingfield became sick and was admitted to the hospital. He died there on August 22, 1862. John David Bedingfield was taken to Vicksburg, Mississippi for a prisoner exchange there on September 4, 1862. He then became a prisoner of war again on April 15, 1864 being captured in Lauderdale County, Alabama. John David Bedingfield was released at City Point, Virginia on February 26, 1865. He returned to Rogersville, Alabama to rejoin his family after the war.

John David Bedingfield married Frances Gertrude Tribble and produced nine children, Hase (Hayes), January 14, 1872, Jeroam (Jerome), May 27, 1873, James Wm., June 11, 1876, Loduska, April, 1878, Frances D., October 16, 1884, Charles W., January, 1886, John David, Jr., June 17, 1888, Katie P., June 9, 1890, and Johnnie P., October 2, 1892. There is an eight year delay from April 1878 and October 1884, the birth of the next child.

After the death of Charles Bedingfield before January 25, 1875 his widow Frances J. Bedingfield became an invalid. On November 17, 1877 there was a meeting of Frances J. Bedingfield and her five surviving children and from that meeting was a plan for the care and assistance of their mother for her remaining natural life. It was decided that the home and land totaling 571 acres would be

deeded to John David Bedingfield and he in turn would be responsible for her care and comfort for her remaining days. The exact date of her death is unknown to me now but I believe it was late 1881/82, prior to March 27, 1882. John David Bedingfield and wife Frances G. (Fannie) Tribble were separated by events during this period and resided in separate households, she living in Limestone County, he was in Lauderdale County with his mother nearby. They were together as stated and resumed their marriage again and produced five more children, the fourth of these, Katie P. Bedingfield, was born June 9, 1890 married James Donie Romine November 25, 1906 and the writer of this history was their ninth of ten children.



Bedingfield-Tribble Back row L-R - Johnnie P., Katie P., Frances D., Charles W., John D., Jr. Seated L-R - Frances Gertrude Bedingfield, Paulina (Denny) Tribble.

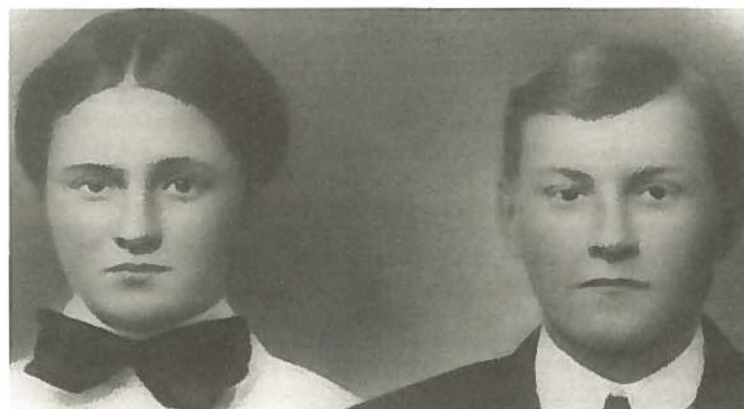
John David Bedingfield continued as a major farmer in the east end of Lauderdale County, however, not of the same magnitude as that of his father Charles Bedingfield who owned 891 acres during his top operation. John David Bedingfield and children had differences with neighbors that grew in intensity over a decade and on January 23, 1900 a confrontation occurred that resulted in the deaths of John David Bedingfield and his son Jeroam (Jerome). John David Bedingfield was 56 and Jeroam was 26 years of age at their deaths. The Bedingfield community as well as all of Lauderdale County was stunned that a crime of this brutality could happen in the community and county. Submitted by: Bobby L. Romine, Grandson of Jno. D. Bedingfield, 151 Gilbert Court H10, Florence, AL 35630.

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Behel - Coker

According to census and family records, our ancestors lived in and near Palatine, Germany, during the 1600-1770's. Due to unrest in the region, six parties sailed to the United States in May and June 1709, settling in Perry County, PA.

Grandparents, Wilbert Milton Behel and Elizabeth Jane Bernheisel Behel were born in Perry County, PA, on February 15, 1853 and October 18, 1853, respectively. They were married in 1870 or 1871. They were parents of twelve children, six were born in Perry County, PA. Samuel and Ellen died in infancy and were buried in Perry County, PA.



Pearl and Allen Behel

In the spring of 1884, Wilbert Milton, Elizabeth Jane Behel and four living children, William, Harve, Ira and Raymond moved south to Bailey Springs, Lauderdale County, AL, arriving on March 6, 1884. They later moved to the Mt. Zion community and in 1897 or 1898, their last move was to a farm in the Lone Cedar community which included a lot of "milking time chores." They were active members of the Church of Christ, meeting in a log cabin which stood in the shadow of a "lone cedar tree" near the site of the present building located about 12 miles north of Florence, AL.

Children born in Lauderdale County, AL, were Mae Quillen, Allen Franklin, Herschel, Charlie, Beatrice Garner and Dicie, who died in infancy.

Allen Franklin Behel, our father, was born April 20, 1888. Mother, Mattie Pearl Coker, daughter of Robert Lee and Jessie Pearl Beecher Coker, was born November 22, 1892. Allen and Pearl were married February 12, 1912.

They reared eight children on a farm in the Greenhill community. Three are deceased; A.D., March, 1992, Leva Allen, June, 1998 and Hollis, September, 1989; Still living Emory, Manson, Mattie Ruth Wallace, Elmyra Howell and Cornelia Ragerster. Four daughters died in infancy; Virginia Dare, Imogene, Dorothy and Verlie. They are buried in the North Carolina cemetery.

In 1912, farm life was difficult and possessions were necessities. Allen and Pearl Behel started their life on the farm with \$6.00 cash, a few clothes, a pig and a mule, which he bought at an auction. He later gave a mortgage on the mule to buy a wagon.



Allen F. Behel and Children

His first crop was on shares. The following year they bought the original homeplace site of 40 acres and in 1929 built the house that we called home. The house has been remodeled and is now the home of Manson's son, Keith and Glenda Behel and daughter Haley.

Allen and Pearl were leaders in the community, prize winners at county fairs in numerous categories, progressive and diversified in soil and product research and testing and producing quality farm products for family needs and profitable yields. He and his son Emory owned and operated a modern and successful dairy farm for 26 years.

They were active members of the Church of Christ, worshipping at the Lone Cedar congregation.

Pearl died September 11, 1934, Allen died July 12, 1966. Both are buried in the North Carolina cemetery. Submitted by: Mattie Ruth Wallace and Emory Behel, Route 1 Box 294, Florence, AL 35630

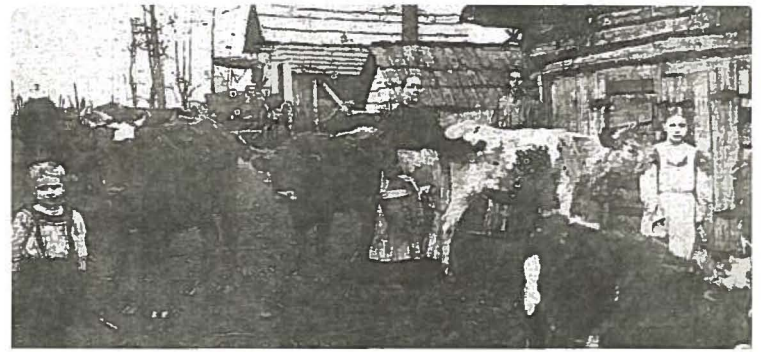
Allen Franklin Behel

Allen Behel started his Lauderdale County farm enterprise in 1912 with \$6.00, a few clothes, a pig and a mule. From this small beginning, he became a community leader, one of the founders of the oldest community fairs in Alabama at Greenhill. He was a leader in the early days of the Alabama Farm Bureau Federation, serving as president of the Lauderdale County group.

He was one of the first to do research for the Tennessee Valley Authority. For many years, he did extensive research



Allen Franklin Behel



Milking time

on test demonstration plots on his acreage. As a result of his work, his farm was visited by foreign groups and a film made, which was shown overseas.

In 1928, he was recognized as one of the first ten master farmers in Alabama by *The Progressive Farmer*. The award was presented at Alabama Polytechnic Institute, Auburn, and read as follows:

"That in recognition of his high standing as a man and a citizen, the head of a family and a farmer; and in special recognition of his long and faithful service to agriculture as a leader and a demonstrator of the best methods of modern farming, which he has practiced on the farm for many years; and for and on account of his signal help to this institution and all of those engaged in the cause of a better rural life. The Alabama Polytechnic Institute joins *The Progressive Farmer* and *Farm Woman* in conferring upon Allen F. Behel the title of Master Farmer". Submitted by: Mattie Ruth Wallace and Emory F. Behel, Route 1 Box 294, Florence, AL 35630

Beheler / Cantrell / Reynolds

The Reynolds and Cantrell families were known to have been in Lauderdale County, Alabama, as early as 1830 according to Federal Census records. Both families acquired quite a bit of land in the northern portion of Lauderdale County.

Hamilton Reynolds (1761-circa 1845/51), a soldier in the American Revolution (#R8711), married Rachel Cements (1775-1833) in 1791 and had nine children, one of whom was Hugh Riah Reynolds (1795-1871). Hugh, listed on the 1830 through the 1870 Federal Censuses for Lauderdale County, married Elizabeth Hamm (1800-1882), and had fourteen children. Elizabeth Hamm Reynolds applied for a pension (#15085) based upon Hugh's service in the Alabama militia in the War of 1812. The eleventh of Hugh and Elizabeth's children was Anderson Pinkney Reynolds (1836-circa 1881/2).

John Cantrell, Sr. and John Cantrell, Jr. are listed on the 1830 Federal Census of Lauderdale County, and John Cantrell, Jr. is listed on the 1840 census in the same county. John Cantrell, Sr. (ca 1760/5-1836) married Mary Westmoreland (1771-1847) in about 1790 and had eight children one, of whom was John Cantrell, Jr. (?-circa 1842). John, Jr. married Jane, called Jinsey, (last name unknown) (?-1875) and had at least four children: Nancy (1820-1906), who married Joseph Hardwick (circa 1805-1885) in 1845; Mary Ann (circa 1832-?), who married Hugh Riah Reynolds, Jr. (1828-?) in 1849; Eleanor Jane (1835-1895), who married Willis Howell (1829-1903) in 1853; Lucinda (ca 1841-1903), who married Anderson Pinkney Reynolds. After the death of her first husband, John, Jane Cantrell married Enoch Brewer. Jane is listed on the 1850, 1860 and 1870 Federal Censuses of Lauderdale County.

On 19 Aug 1854 in Lauderdale County, Alabama, Anderson Pinkney Reynolds and Lucinda Cantrell were united in wedlock. From this union seven children were born: Mary (1857-1918), who married Luke Howell; Maxie Jane (1863-?); who married a McWilliams; Frances Ada (1865-before 1903), who married S.A. Hamm and T.B. Olive; Ursula Ann (1867-?), who married George Chaudoin; Mattie L. (1869-?), who married Andrew Pierce; Octavia V. (14 Feb 1873-12 Apr 1944), who married Edward C. Beheler (12 Feb 1861-Sep 1896); and James Marion (1875-Abt 1907), who married Ada Hamm. There may have been a Thomas born in 1856, but as he was not listed on any subsequent census records, he must have died by 1860.

Edward C. Beheler left his home in South Carolina and settled in Lauderdale County, Alabama. The young Octavia Reynolds met and married the handsome Ed Beheler on 26 Sep 1889 in Lauderdale County. Although theirs was to be a short and tragic marriage, it produced five children, four of whom lived to be adults. Their children were: Minnie Gertrude Beheler (1890-1967), who married Dan W. Coffman (1885-1955), of Kaufman County, Texas; William Pinkney Beheler (1892-1961), who married Hattie Mae Lindsey; James Crayton Beheler (1893-1962), who married Beulah Ellis (1902-?); and Ursula Jane (later changed to Zula Jane) Beheler (1896-1977), whose first marriage was to Roy Cowgill, and second to John (Bud) Mincher; Mattie Lucindy, who died in infancy.



Edward C. Beheler

Minnie and Dan had nine children; Will and Hattie had five children; Crayton and Beulah had one child; Zula and Roy had one child; and Zula and Bud had two children.

In 1896, while pulling fodder in his field, Ed Beheler was shot to death. Ed had been working with Federal Revenue agents, trying to close down stills in the area, and although many individuals in Lauderdale County were suspected, none was ever convicted. An agent from the Treasury Department was sent "undercover" to try and obtain information regarding the crime, but it

appears he was unable to gather enough evidence against anyone. Wade Pruitt in "The Bigger Saga" wrote a humorous account of the grand jury proceedings.

A family source said that the brothers of Ed Beheler collected money to bring Octavia and her children to live with Ed's mother in South Carolina, but Octavia was unhappy and returned to Alabama. After the death of her mother in 1903, Octavia bravely set forth to begin a new life in Texas with her four young children. Octavia had heard about Texas from the family of her aunt and uncle, Willis and Nellie Cantrell Howell. A couple of sisters had also settled there, while two sisters came about the same time as Octavia. With money from the sale of land in Lauderdale County, Alabama, Octavia purchased land near Ables Springs in Kaufman County, Texas.



L-R - William Pinkney Beheler, Mennie Beheler Coffman, Octavia Reynolds Beheler, Florence Hamm, James Crayton Beheler, Zula Beheler Mincher (leaning against Octavia).

In 1907 Octavia married Frederick W. "Whit" Barnes (1857-1929) of Kaufman County, Texas, and had three more children, Walter, Marie and Harlan. Although a busy mother and wife, Octavia was also a respected midwife and an accomplished organist. She washed clothes in a starched white apron and set a proper table, demanding good table manners from her diners. When her granddaughter, Kathryn, came to visit, she was taught proper housekeeping and was expected to piece a quilt for an hour each day. Octavia, a strong woman of the kind found among pioneer women, lived a long, full life. She suffered the tragic murder of her husband, death of a child, and, as a widow moved hundreds of miles from her home, but her faith and strength kept her going.

Octavia and Whit Barnes are buried in the cemetery at Ables Springs in Kaufman County, Texas. The family believes that Ed Beheler is buried in the Howell Cemetery in Lauderdale County, Alabama. The burial places of Lucinda Cantrell Reynolds, John Cantrell, Jr. and Jane Cantrell Brewer are unknown. John Cantrell, Sr. and Mary Westmoreland Cantrell are buried in the Missionary Baptist Church Cemetery at Butler Creek. Anderson Pinkney Reynolds is said to have died while in Arkansas and to have been buried there. *Submitted by: Charlotte Shivers Klimaszewski, 1807 University Drive, Richardson, TX 75081-3920*
Sources: Federal Censuses for Lauderdale County; American Revolutionary Pension Applications; War of 1812 Pension Applications; Family Tree traced and printed by R.O. Burch, Jr. 1962 with history by Mrs. Vernon Danley, from the Lauderdale County Library; Lauderdale County Probate Files; National Archives, Department of Justice; Article titled "Bloody Murder," from The Florence Times, Saturday, Sept. 12, 1896; Correspondence with family members.

Renney Belew Leads Westward Migration to Lauderdale County

Nineteen-year-old Renney Belew left the hills of Union Co. SC to make a home in the West. That was likely in the year 1817.

He entered 80 acres on March 4, 1818 in Township 1 S., Range 8 W., Section 3. It was the first day for public entry and just 12 days after Lauderdale Co. was organized. Only two years earlier it had belonged to the natives. Some of these natives would stay around for another 20 years.

Renney was of French extraction and most likely, as some of the other Belews, a descendant of French Huguenots. On December 27, 1823, Renney Belew married Rebecca Johnson in Lawrence Co. TN. She was also born in SC.



Daughter-in-law and grandchildren of Renney Belew — circa 1800 - Seated L-R. Catherine Porter Belew — widow of John Harrison Belew, Sara, Rainey, Julia, Jane, Standing L-R Jim, Bob, Wes, Hosea, Agnes, Jack

In 1833, Renney's brother, Hosea, and their uncle Zachariah, entered land in Township 1. Zachariah and two of his brothers had served in the Revolutionary War. They were Renney Jr. and Reuben. Reuben was the father of our Renney and Hosea.

Others who would leave Union Co. SC and again be neighbors were cousins and church related people. This included other Belews, the Howard, Harland, Springer, Todd, Powell, Comer, Porter, Newton, and James N. Williams families. Some families would live in nearby Lawrence Co. TN.

Rebecca and Renney reared ten children. They were John Harrison, Miriam, Mary, Christian, Henry, Ruth, Julie, Susan, Margaret, and William. The last one was a girl but surely they must have been hoping for a boy.

James Ernest married Lola Mae Crunk. They have three children, David, Terry and Linda. David has two sons, David and Bobby and one grandson. Linda has two daughters, Tracy and Mechelle. James was born July 10, 1927 and died April 7, 1985. James and Terry are buried at Michigan Memorial Gardens in Flat Rock, Michigan.

Beatrice Christine married Arlan Jackson. She was born March 29, 1930. They have five children, Wanda, Roy, Mark, Judy and Arlene. Wanda has one child, Deanna, and one grandson. Mark has two daughters, Christina and Danielle. Arlene has two daughters, Erin and Kelly. Roy is buried in Michigan Memorial Gardens.

Billy married Dessie Michael. He was born January 31, 1936. They have two daughters, Peggy and Debra. Peggy has two daughters, Sarah and Jaime. Debra has two sons, Joshua and Zackary. Billy died March 3, 1997 and is buried at Centerhill Church Cemetery.

After Lelia's death, the children were staying with different aunts and uncles until Christine got old enough to do the home chores, then they moved back in with their father. As they got older, they grew closer together, perhaps making up for the years that they were apart. At one time all three were living in Taylor, Michigan. Billy returned to Lauderdale County in 1973. Christine moved back after her husband retired and still lives here. *Submitted by: Debra Clemmons*

Mary Adeline Lanier

Mary Adeline Lanier was born on 16 February 1836 in Tennessee, probably Giles County. Her parents are unknown. She had at least two sisters. One was Janie Lanier Weaver, who died 21 June 1901. According to family stories, her mother was a Native American. She is known to have grown up in Lauderdale County.

In 1860, she married James Curtis Clemmons, son of Aaron and Perlissa ____? Clemmons. James Curtis was born near Greenhill in Lauderdale County on 10 October 1839. He died in August, 1861, during the early days of the Civil War and was buried in the

Kennedy-Stutts Cemetery. Less than two months later, on 28 September 1861, Mary Adeline gave birth to his son, James Henry Clemmons.

On 25 March 1865, Mary Adeline married Welcom (Wec) McGee, a widower with six children. Welcom was the son of an early Lauderdale County family. His parents, Jacob McGee and Elizabeth (Lizzie) Richardson McGee, came from Moore County, North Carolina via Tennessee about 1818. They settled a large tract of land next to the Jackson Military Road near present-day Greenhill.



Mary Adeline Lanier Clemmons McGee and son, James Henry Clemmons, ca. 1862

During her thirteen year marriage to "Wec" McGee, Mary Adeline had several children, five of whom survived infancy. The first was Welcom Abraham (Bose) McGee (14 February 1866-14 August 1924) who married Jenny Evans Clark and had two sons and four daughters. Two years later, Charles Forrest was born. He and his wife, Lillie Williams, had three sons and three daughters. William Lee (17 November 1873-9 January 1910) never married. One daughter, Rosa, died as a young girl. The remaining daughter, Mina, married Henry Adams and had four sons and a daughter.

Mary Adeline's oldest child, James Henry Clemmons, married Missy Wright. Six sons and five daughters were born into their family.

During a large part of the time of her marriage, her mother-in-law, Elizabeth Richardson McGee lived with Mary Adeline and Welcom.

Lizzie was a member of their household at least as early as 1870 and died there in 1878. Welcom suffered two tragic losses in 1878, for on 20 August 1878, Mary Adeline died. She was buried in the cemetery at North Carolina Church of Christ. *Submitted by: Welcome Enoch McGee, grandson and Written by: Mary Danley Riley, great-granddaughter, 2117 Covington Drive, Florence, AL 35630*

Theophilus Brown Larimore

Elder Theophilus Brown Larimore was born July 10, 1843 in Jefferson County, Tennessee and grew up in Sequatchie County. His Mother Nancy was the daughter of George K. and Mary Larimore. In 1850 George and Mary were living with James H. and Jackson V. - probably sons, - in Bradley County, Tennessee. Mary, George and Jackson were listed in the 1860 census in one household and Nancy, Theophilus, Prendo and Mary Larimore were listed in a separate household. There were two other families listed in the 1860 census in Sequatchie County with the surname Larimore who may have been relatives.

T.B.'s Brother Prendo, or Prends is believed to have either been killed or gone missing during the Civil War and his sister Mary married Rufus Polk Meeks, then the head of the Bible Department at West Tennessee Christian College. T.B. may have had another sister, Helen, who married a Joe Tate of Sequatchie, County.

As a boy Larimore worked for a Mr. James McDonough of Sequatchie for \$4.00 a month, sleeping in his barn loft. He also cultivated a ten acre field owned by a Dr. Bell with Dr. Bell's two Negroes, Samps and Tamar.

Larimore entered the Massey Creek Baptist College in 1859 where he spent some time "wrestling with the Lord at the Mourner's Bench", and it was on a short trip home that Nancy Larimore told her son that she and Larimore's Sister had recently joined the Disciples of Christ after hearing the preaching of Bro. Madison Love.

When the Civil War broke out two noted Disciples of Christ Ministers - J.W. McGarvey and David Lipscomb began preaching that Christians should not enter the war, but should remain pacifists, and this may be the basis for the story which says that Larimore entered Co. H. 35 Tennessee Infantry as a "Conscientious Objector" and was made a scout. Referring to his service in the war Larimore once remarked in a sermon that he never had the time to attend a Veterans Reunion because he was too busy preaching, which was always his first love, and referring to his busy schedule he once wrote to a friend: "During all this time I have preached two sermons per day in Florence, four miles from home, and gone into the water to baptize, usually once per day. We leave home, rain or no rain, but nearly always rain, at 9 A.M. and 7 P.M.; return at 1 and 11 P.M. After we get home at night, we sit up and talk about what we have done, and said, and heard, and seen, and thought and felt, till about midnight".

And indeed, Larimore was in such demand as a Preacher that he was forced to close the Mars Hill Academy in order to preach full time. As further proof of his great popularity as a "Pulpit Orator" he was even invited to preach in Churches of other denominations. The week of May 8, 1886 Bro. Larimore preached each night at the Presbyterian Church, according to the *Florence Gazette*, "to large congregations and with marked effect". And referring to an upcoming series of meetings at the First Baptist Church in Troy, Alabama, *The Troy Messenger* of November 1886 reported that Prof. Larimore "presents the truth in a forcible and earnest manner".

Nine weeks into a protracted meeting in Sherman, Texas, Larimore wrote to a friend that "nothing can be better for me than to preach twice everyday and three times on Sunday, unless it is to preach three times everyday and Sunday too".

Brother Larimore's preaching engagements took him all over the South and Southwest to such places as Nashville, Memphis, Little Rock, Dallas, St. Louis, Birmingham and Lexington, Kentucky, as well as to local Churches such as Mars Hill, Stoney Point, East Florence, Poplar Street and also to places such as Morrison Hall and the Lauderdale County Courthouse. And when the Christian Church rented the Odd Fellows Hall in Florence in Jan. in 1887, Rev. T.B. Larimore conducted the services each Sunday.

Bro. Larimore travelled to the 1893 Chicago World's Fair with Mr. Walter Crow, and in August of 1896 Larimore travelled to Oklahoma with his son Herschel, on the advice of Larimore's physician, so that Bro. Larimore could "secure the benefit of a cooler climate".

T.B. Larimore was baptized into Christ on July 10, 1864 in Hopkinsville, Kentucky, (where Larimore and his Mother and Sister were living) by Elder E.H. Hopper. While teaching at the

Hopkinsville Female Institute, Larimore preached his first sermon entitled "Christian Union". He later attended Franklin College near Nashville, which was founded by Bro. Tolbert Fanning.

According to Prof. Earl West, Larimore was teaching at Mountain Home School, in Lawrence Co., AL. in 1867. On August 30, of 1868 he married Miss Julia Esther Gresham in Lauderdale County.

Together T.B. and Esther had seven children who were: William Herschel, Virgil, T.B. Jr., Mary Delilah or "Dedie", Granville Lipscomb (named after Bro. David Lipscomb?), Ettie and Minnie Bell.

Herschel married Edna Hooper and was elected County Tax Collector of Lauderdale in 1917, Virgil was married three times and died in a tragic car crash, Granville married Lucille May Wooten and opened a successful Law Practice in Tampa, Florida in the 1890's, Ettie married Mr. Earnest White and Dedie married Mr. William George. Theophilus Jr. opened up a successful Osteopathic Practice in Winchester, Tennessee, but died in 1903 while undergoing a surgical operation and Minnie Bell died the same day of her birth.

In 1871 Larimore and Circuit Court Clerk John A. Thompson of Lauderdale, opened Mars Hill Academy, however, Larimore was eventually forced to close the school so that he could preach full time. Some records give the year of the School's closing as 1887, however, Larimore's *Times* and *Herald* Obituaries stated that the school closed in 1885. In 1875 Larimore began publishing a magazine called the *Angel of Mercy* which he offered free of charge.

As a Preacher of the Gospel Bro. Larimore was never harsh, mean spirited or condescending and when division arose in the Christian Church (which would eventually result in the Church of Christ splitting with the Christian Church around 1906), over issues such as instrumental music, the creation of Missionary Societies and attendance at "Cooperative Meetings", Larimore refused to preach for or against these issues, regarding them as untaught issues of Scripture. Larimore had his own views on these issues, he simply refused to make such issues tests of Christian Fellowship.

Brother Larimore's Mother Nancy passed away on September 2, 1902, just three weeks shy of her nintieth birthday. Mrs. Julia Esther Gresham Larimore died on March 4, 1907, at Mars Hill after an illness of several months. Her funeral was conducted in the newly built Christian Church at Mars Hill by T.B.'s Brother-in-Law Elder Rufus Polk Meeks and Brothers Elam and McQuiddy of Nashville.

Brother Larimore re-married in 1911. His second Wife was Miss Emma Page of Donelson, Tennessee, and they were married on New Year's Day 1911.

By September 1914 T.B. and Emma were living in Henderson, Tennessee. A notice in the September 3, 1914 *Florence Herald*, and written by Larimore, reports that the Mars Hill Home and farm were up for lease. The Larimores would later move to Texas and in 1923 Brother Larimore accepted the Pastorate of a Church in Washington, D.C., which he held until the fall of 1926 when he accepted a preaching position at Berkley, California.

Theophilus Brown Larimore departed this life on March 18, 1929, in Santa Ana, California and was laid to rest in the Fair Lawn Cemetery, leaving a legacy that has yet to be surpassed. Submitted by: Lee Freeman for the Lauderdale County Heritage Book Committee

Sources: *Lauderdale Times* - May 1871 - March 1872; *Florence Times - Journal* - May 1873 - Jan. 1874; *Florence Gazette* - May 1875 - Aug 1875, Dec. 1880, Aug. 1882, June 1883, June 1884; *Florence Republican* - June - Aug. 1874; *Florence Journal* - Dec. 1868 - March 1871; *Florence Wave* - Nov. 1886 - May 1887; *Florence Times* - July 1890 - March 1929; *Florence Herald* - June 1889 - March 1929; *The Banner* - Jan. 1889; *Letters and Sermons of T.B. Larimore* - By F.D. Srygley; *Distant Voices* - By Prof. C. Leonard Allen; *Search for the Ancient Order Vol. III* by Prof. Earl West; *A Walk Through The Past* - by William L. McDonald; *World Evangelist* - November 1989; Personal Papers of Mrs. Lois Henderson; Lauderdale County Marriage Books; 1860 Tennessee Census; 1850 Tennessee Census; *Tennesseans In The Civil War* by

Edward Frank Lash

Edward Frank Lash was born in February 1852 and died August 8, 1927. By April 1857, he was considered an orphan and was bound to John Ritter Stutts. The only known court document refers to him as Evander Lash, which is the name he used on legal documents. The document states that for "sufficient reasons known to the court" Evander Lash was bound to John Ritter Stutts until Evander was twenty-one years of age. According to law, all "bound" children were required to be educated and trained in a profession.

John Ritter Stutts and Susannah Robertson Stutts were married February 24, 1857, only a short time before they gave a home to Frank. Frank Lash's birthplace in the 1860 census is shown as Mississippi. However, in later census he gives Alabama as his birthplace. Most likely the Mississippi location is correct since it was probably given by the Stutts. By 1860, they had also bound another child by the name of James Robertson. In later years, both Frank Lash and James Robertson married into a related Stutts family.

Since most new brides would be reluctant to offer a home to a small boy who was not a relative, James Robertson was probably related to Susannah. The case of Frank Lash's presence is not so obvious. However, there are some marriages recorded in North Carolina between people with the last name of Robertson and Lash. Since the Stutts and Robertson families and many other families from this community were Moravians from North Carolina, this causes one to speculate that Frank Lash was probably also a relative.

Prior to the court documents in 1857, I have not been able to locate the Lash name in Alabama. However in the 1860 census, Sarah Lash was living near Frank with the Henry Clemmons family. She gave her age as thirty and birthplace as Tennessee. She had two daughters and both were born in Alabama. One daughter was Betty Lash who was six years old and the other was Nancy who was four months old. This was probably Frank's mother, however; I have not found anything to document it. I cannot locate Sarah Lash or either of the daughters after the 1860 census.



Joseph Hiram Lash, son of Frank, and Nellie Canup Lash

Frank married Sallie Carter on December 29, 1874 and they had four children: William Thomas (1878-1957); Lizzie (b. 1882); twins Mary and Annie (b. 1884). Sallie died and Frank married Nancy Belle McGee (1865-1928) on November 24, 1891. Nancy was the daughter of John and Martha Hill McGee, the granddaughter of James and Catherine Stutts Hill, and the great-granddaughter of Leonard Stutts originally of North Carolina. Frank and Nancy had five children: Margaret who married George Swinea; Joseph (b. 1892) who married Nola Hardwick on May 19, 1912, later Nellie L. Canup on December 13, 1921. (Nola died November 1, 1919 from complications of the birth of her second child. Her child died shortly before she did.); Charity (b. 1895) who married Emeitt Richardson; Gentry (1899-1974) who married Mary Brewer; Bessie (1908-1929) who married Grady Roy Sledge.

Frank was a farmer by trade. Although like most people of that day, he had a working knowledge of many maintenance type jobs around the farm. One day as he was cleaning out the well the family used for a water supply, the pulley and wench used to raise and lower him in the well broke. The well was approximately fifty feet in depth. Frank fell almost all of the fifty feet to the bottom of the well and his leg was badly broken. Since the nearest hospital was over one hundred miles away, his leg had to be amputated at home. The local doctor was Dr. H. Lee Stutts whose father had provided a home for Frank during his childhood. He came to the home and amputated Frank's leg. According to family lore, since he did not have any anesthesia, Dr. Stutts ordered the family to give Frank quite a lot of whiskey just before the surgery. While Frank was healing from the grueling surgery, his bed had to be suspended from the ceiling in order to keep it from vibrating when someone walked in the house. Family members claimed he had phantom pain from the missing leg until he died.

Although there are missing pieces in Frank Lash's history, I feel certain he is a descendant of the Pennsylvania Dutch Loesch (Lash) family who were instrumental in establishing a Moravian community in North Carolina. Balthazar Loesch (b. 1671), his wife Susanna

by Laura Frances in February of 1872. The Smith household was rounded out by two more sons, John Andrew Burr Smith and Selby Luther Smith.

Of ten children, only five were to produce families of their own. Leander and Laura died as children, and Sarah, Caroline and Luther never married. James married and moved his family to Gates, Tennessee, where he is buried. Martha raised her family in Waterloo, and is buried in Wright Cemetery. Frederick, Mary and John raised their families in the area around Threet and Central Heights. Frederick is buried in Austin Cemetery, and Mary and John in Wesley's Chapel Cemetery.

Nancy Selby Smith died on May 28, 1889, one month and one day after her eldest daughter. She said to her children, the day she fell ill, "What a great thing to live so as to be ready to die at any time." A great testament to her faith.

William Marion Smith survived his wife by five years. During his remaining years, William suffered seizures, and on October 19, 1894, as his children picked cotton in the fields, William fell into the fireplace and burned to death. His obituary in the *Florence Times* gives great testimony to his standing in the community. *Submitted by: His Great Grandson, David L. Smith*



William Marion Smith and Nancy Caroline Selby Smith about 1889.

Snell Family Reunion

The Ralph and Ruby Snell family now numbers eighty-six and they have found that a bi-annual reunion keeps memories alive and fosters a wonderful three days of togetherness.

The family is pictured here in their first family reunion on the steps of the historic T.B. Larimore Home on the Mars Hill Bible School campus. Other reunions have been at the Bear Creek Educational Group facility near Hamilton, Alabama and more recently at the Brandon Springs Group Camp at the TVA owned Land Between the Lakes near Clarksville, Tennessee.



Snell Family Reunion

Ralph Snell was an intricate part of Mars Hill for over thirty years and loved working with many teachers and hundreds of students over the years. He died in April of 1982 just before his 70th birthday. Ruby still lives in their house on Mars Hill road.

The ten Snell children, their spouses and children are listed in order of age from the oldest to the youngest.

Jewel and husband, Ronald Kendrick have four children: James Ralph, Robin, Joel and Ronya Johnson.

Joy and husband, Gerald Brown have two children: Laura Gargis and Larry.

Joan and husband, Bob Dixon have four children: Mark, Michael, Jonda Pieper and Murry.

Jan and husband, Jim Brantly have six children: Carole Houston, Kevin, Kerry, Krista, Chad and Kent.

Jill and husband, Russell Watson have four children: Kelly Evans, Kurt, Kyle and Craig.

Tom and wife, Jincy have two children: Nathan and Jenifer Scott.

Jerrilyn and husband, Richard Kelley have three children: Amy, Andrea and Richard III.

Ken and wife, Susan have two children: Lauren and Whitney.

David and wife, Jane have four children: Katharine, Stephen, Peter and Caroline.

Jonathan and wife, Lea have three children: Jessica, Christopher and Victoria. *Submitted by: Ruby Snell*

Snell Family

The Snell family heritage began in Tennessee, but the move to Alabama in 1947 began a beloved Alabama heritage they are happy to claim.

Ralph and Ruby Snell were born in Bedford County, Tennessee. They met during their junior year in Community High School in Unionville, Tennessee. They both had a great desire to attend a Christian College and were able to do so at David Lipscomb in Nashville. They married in 1934. Both taught school and Ralph preached.

Ralph and Ruby Snell loved Christian education, so when Ralph was approached about moving to Alabama to help with the beginning of a Bible School, they felt like this would be what they wanted for their children, five little girls, Jewel, Joy, Joan, Jan, and Jill Snell.

In 1947, the move was made to Florence and the dream of area Christians became a reality. On the site of the T.B. Larimore Academy, established in 1871, the doors were opened to over four hundred students. The school was named Lauderdale County Bible School, but was soon changed to Mars Hill Bible School.

Mr. Snell preached for the East Florence Church of Christ and taught 6th grade at Mars Hill. He was made an administrator and filled many

capacities through the years, but loved nothing better than teaching the Bible to elementary children every day in chapel.

During the next nine years the family grew to ten children, Tommy, Jerrilyn, Kenneth, David, and Jonathan Snell. All ten children graduated from Mars Hill and went on to attend Christian colleges.

Mr. Snell preached for several congregations of the Church of Christ. Following East Florence, he preached at New Hope, Oak Grove, Central Heights, and Sherrod Avenue, where he was associate minister with John D. Cox, and later with Jack Wilhelm.

After ten years he went to the Stenson Hollow area in Colbert County and preached at the River Road church. He spent fourteen years there until his death in 1982.

Mr. Snell preached in gospel meetings in many Lauderdale County churches as well as in adjoining counties. He and Ruby made many trips with the Mars Hill chorus and promoted Christian education all over the country until his retirement in 1978. Ralph was active in community activities, the Civil Defense, St. Jude Telethon and encouraged students to participate in Rotary, Lions, and Kiwanis Club speeches and essays. He served as institutional representative for the Boy Scouts of America.

Ruby Snell was a busy homemaker and a tireless seamstress as she made all the children's clothes. She made coats, jackets, suits, often from the old suits of Ralph's. She smocked and embroidered dresses for all the girls. She used colorful feed sacks to make



Ralph and Ruby Snell

summer clothes. She read Bible stories to her children every day, taught ladies and children's classes and wrote articles for several Christian magazines.

The Snell's descendants total 86. Their ten children are involved in many service-related occupations: teachers, rural letter carrier, foreign missionaries, homemakers, assisted living director, school administrator, elderly caretaker, ministers, counselor, insurance agent and anesthetist. They and their spouses, children and grandchildren are active in churches as song leaders, preachers, elders and Bible class teachers.

Lauderdale County has been a good home to the Snell family. Submitted by: Joy Snell Brown

Archie John Snoddy Family

Archie John Snoddy was born 19 April 1878 and died 15 November 1907. His wife Ethel Adelia Downs was born 27 February 1883 and died 26 May 1936.

Archie John was the son of Thomas Archie Snoddy, born 17 March 1823 and died 18 December 1878. His mother was Sarah Josephine Haraway, born 27 October 1833 and died 5 October 1901.



Archie John and Ethel Adelia Snoddy

Ethel Adelia was the daughter of Louis F. Downs, born 12 August 1852 and died 8 July 1930. Ethel's mother was Sarah A. Rogel, born 22 February 1856 and died 21 February 1933.

Archie John Snoddy married Ethel Adelia Downs 19 December 1899. They had five children: Elna Odell (26 October 1900-20 May 1992), Ezra Eugene (Buck) (19 September 1902-13 May 1983), Felix John (Pete) (30 January 1904-2 November 1995), Roy Oliver (12 November 1905-7 May 1976), Lula Eloise (14 August 1907-7 January 1990).

Archie John and Ethel farmed south of Mt. Bethel Church in Lauderdale Co. on Co. Rd 53 (Old Red Lane). He also had a general merchandise store at Toonersville. Their marriage was short lived, with his death in a freak accident at a cotton gin east of Toonersville.

Ethel was grief stricken, but soon adjusted and began working to support her children. She worked on the farm, took in quilting, sewing, and did washing and ironing at night. Archie's sister Julia A. Snoddy (3 February 1885-11 November 1941) was living with them when he died and continued to live with Ethel and the children until they were grown.



Lula, Roy, Pete, Eugene, and Elna Snoddy

After a few years Ethel bought a farm near Anderson where she and the children continued to farm. She met and married Meredith Gentry (Bud) Moore, 6 May 1860-30 January 1943. He is buried in Romine Cemetery by his first wife, Lucy A. Romine.

Mr. Bud Moore was one of the charter members of the Rogersville Church of Christ. Mr. Bud and Ethel had a son, William O'Neal, 9 October 1922, who died 1 November 1931 with spinal meningitis. Again Ethel was stricken with grief.

During her later years, Ethel owned and operated a general merchandise store at Grassy, AL. Her son Felix worked with her and ran a "rolling store" for the business.

Ethel Adelia Downs Snoddy Moore is buried in Mitchell Cemetery by the side of her son O'Neal. Archie John Snoddy is buried in Ingram Cemetery, Thornton Town Community, by his sister, Julia. Submitted by: Alta Snoddy Barnett
Source: Family records

The Felix John (Pete) - Velma Jeanette Daly Snoddy Family

Felix (Pete) was born 30 January 1904 in Lauderdale County. He was the middle child of five children born to Archie John Snoddy (19 April 1878-15 November 1907) and Ethel Adelia Downs (27 February 1883-26 May 1936). His siblings were Eleanor Odell Camp (26 October 1900-20 May 1992), Ezra Eugene (Buck) Snoddy (19 September 1902-13 May 1983), Lula Eloise Weathers (14 August 1907-7 January 1990), and Roy Oliver Snoddy (12 November 1905-7 May 1976). Archie John is buried in the Ingram Cemetery. In later years Ethel married Meredith Gentry "Bud" Moore (6 May 1860-30 January



Felix John and Velma Jeanette Snoddy

1943) and they had one child, William O'Neal Moore (9 October 1922-1 November 1931) who died of spinal meningitis. "Bud is buried in the Romine Cemetery. Ethel, O'Neal and all of Pete's siblings are buried in the Mitchell Cemetery.

Pete was almost four years old when his dad was killed in an industrial accident.

Life was difficult for his mother as she reared the five children. He endured many hardships as the son of a widow. These hardships (hard knock lessons) made him a survivor, one who could overcome adversity and meet the challenges of life. He advocated fairness to his fellow man and demonstrated that man can overcome adversity and become successful if they mold their lives with the proper attitude, hard work, honesty, trustworthiness and a faith in God. As a result of his upbringing he was a strong advocate of benevolence, especially for widows and their children.

Pete married Velma Jeanette Daly (2 November 1905-17 September 1979) on 11 November 1923 at the home of her parents in Anderson.

Velma's parents were Lucius Franklin Daly (21 May 1877-28 April 1932) and Lucy Louisa Burgess Daly (19 November 1878-22 September 1965). Lucius and Louisa Daly are both buried in the Mitchell Cemetery.

Pete and Velma reared five children, as follows:

Alta Wynell Snoddy (7 September 1924) married Robert V. Barnett, Jr. Their



(Back) Robbie, Felix, Velma, Alta (Front) David, Lowell, Harry Snoddy

children are Barbara Jeanette Barnett Cornelius (23 September 1946), Archie Eugene Barnett (17 January 1949).

Robbie Neil Snoddy (22 January 1927) married Daniel P. Nugent (deceased). Their children are Daniel P. Nugent (16 January 1947), Jossie Diane Nugent Sizemore Arnold (17 November 1948), and John Wisley Nugent (20 February 1950).

Lowell Glenn Snoddy (24 July 1931) married Reba Herston. Their children are Gwenda Lynet Snoddy (14 April 1951), and Steven Jerome Snoddy (21 June 1955).

Harry Crandall Snoddy (11 May 1934) married Jerald Dean Spivey. Their children are Larry Wayne Snoddy (11 November 1963), Sherry Lynn Snoddy Creps (11 November 1964), and Wanda Lee Snoddy (19 January 1979).

David Earl Snoddy (7 July 1935) married Bonnie Sue Schrimsher. Their children are Monica Leigh Snoddy Hammond (26 November 1963) and Brian David Snoddy (6 December 1966).

Pete worked in many fields of business. In early life he was a farmer, sold insurance, ran a furniture store, general store, and rolling store, picked fruit in Florida and followed the construction trade as a carpenter. During the forties he began work for



Tommy and Donie Steen Wedding Day 27 December 1907

Lila Gautney. 2) Chisholm D. Steen was born 4 December 1911 and died 16 October 1912. 3) Jessie Steen, born 20 January 1914, died 27 February 1991, married Ernest Davis. 4) James Thomas Steen Jr. was born 23 August 1917, died 22 February 1991, and married Lennie B. Burks. 5) Necia Ola Steen was born 23 March 1920 and married C.J. (Dick) Barnett. 6) Alice Nell Steen was born 8 June 1931 and married Wayne Taylor. *Submitted by: Nell Steen Taylor, 3878 hwy. 101, Rogersville, AL 35652*

Christopher Young Steen

Christopher Young Steen was born on November 22, 1814 in Union County, South Carolina. He was the son of Thomas Young Steen and Elizabeth Howard, grandson of William Steen and Jane Young, great grandson of Col. James F. Steen and Eleanor Bogan, and great great grandson of John Steen and Jane Moore.

Christopher was married twice. His first wife was Permelia Williams, born September 2, 1814, the daughter of J. Patrick Williams and Lucy Nicholas of Union County, South Carolina. According to Bible records, the date of their marriage was August 20, 1834. Christopher was married on September 18, 1864 in Lauderdale County, Alabama to Edna Elizabeth Wilson, born October 5, 1835, the daughter of John Wilson and Elizabeth Herston, and granddaughter of Robert and Nancy (unknown) Wilson and Samuel and Nancy (unknown) Herston, all of Lauderdale County.

According to census records and Bible records, Christopher and Permelia moved to Lauderdale County between April 1, 1840 and April 23, 1841. Christopher appears in census records in Lauderdale County from 1850 through 1880. He was an overseer before the Civil War and was later a farmer.

Christopher and Permelia had the following children: Mary Jane Steen, born January 22, 1836, married (1) Lacy Franklin Prince (died of sickness in the Civil War) and (2) William Davis; D. Thomas Steen (died of sickness in the Civil War), born August 12, 1837, married Sinthia Ray; Martha M. Steen was born November 12, 1838 (no further information); A.W. Steen was born April 1, 1840 and died before 1850; Eleanor Elizabeth Steen, born April 23, 1841, married (1) Joseph Cox (died of sickness in the Civil War); (2) William Parton Croney; and (3) W.G. Shelton; William P. Steen was born January 28, 1843 (died of sickness in the Civil War); J.C. Steen was born April 30, 1845 and died before 1850; Nathan Howard Steen was born August 10, 1847 (no further information); Hannah T. Steen, born February 2, 1850, married James Butler; John Franklin Steen, born March 26, 1852, married Mary Frances Butler; Benjamin Steen was born January 7, 1856, and died before 1860. Many descendants of the children of Christopher and Permelia still reside in Lauderdale County.

Donie Butler, born 27 January 1886, died 24 September 1969. She was the daughter of William Henry (Tossy Bill) Butler and Susie Sledge Butler. They are buried in the Butler Cemetery also. Tommy and Donnie were of the Primitive Baptist belief. They lived on highway 101 about one mile north of Elgin. Tommy was a hard working man, a quiet man of few words. He and Donie worked in the fields together. They bought their little farm in 1926 and they lived there the rest of their lives. They had six children: 1) Willie Maples Steen, born 9 October 1908, died 25 May 1996, married

Christopher and Edna had the following children in Lauderdale County: Robert Lee Steen, born September 25, 1865, married Willie J. Townsend (great grandparents of the author); Christopher Columbus Steen, born June 12, 1868, married (1) V.A. Slagle and (2) Mary Elizabeth Hales; Margaret Frances Steen, born about 1869, married Thomas A. Taylor; Cynthia Adeline Steen, born October 30, 1872, married William Robert McCafferty; Andrew Jackson Steen, born about 1874, married Nancy Ellis; Nancy Belle Steen, born August 27, 1877, married Arson Franklin Stewart; Wilson Davis Steen, born February 23, 1879, married (1) Della Gafford and (2) Maude Belle Ellis.

Christopher and Edna and their seven children left their farm in Lauderdale County in 1881 to move to Hopkins County, Texas. They were probably accompanied by members of the Wilson, Ellis, McCafferty, and Stewart families. Christopher died of a heart ailment on July 5, 1885, and was buried by the Masons in Stewart Cemetery in Hopkins County. Edna died September 15, 1909, in Hugo, Oklahoma, and is buried in Mt. Zion Cemetery in Hopkins County. Christopher's marker reads "Farewell my wife and children all - from Father - Christ doth call." According to the memoirs of Wilson Davis Steen, Christopher was a very quiet and moral man.

This Steen family most likely had Scots-Irish roots. The following was taken from the memoirs of John Jefferies, Esq., written on December 10, 1847: "Born March 6, 1760, son of Nathaniel and Sarah Jefferies. Mother's maiden name was Steen, sister of Col. James Steen. Father of English ancestry, mother Irish. Was born near Camden whither parents had gone to escape the Indians. Before that they resided on Brown's Creek in the Gregory vicinity. Afterwards bought on Thicketty and lived many years, then bought this place. Here my father resided in time of the war." Note: The Jefferies family lived in that part of Union County, SC, that later became part of Cherokee County.



Children and grandchildren of Christopher Young Steen ca 1912

Prior to moving to South Carolina in about 1754, the Steens were in Pennsylvania. John Steen and Jane Moore were married on September 29, 1734 in First Presbyterian Church in Philadelphia. They settled in West Nantmeal, Chester County, Pennsylvania.

Pictured in photo are: Top row L-R - Mabel McCafferty, Fred Steen, Mae Steen, Claudia Steen Dennis with Thomas Lee Dennis, Nancy Ellis Steen, Maude Ellis Steen with Sibyl Steen. Second row - Frank Stewart, Ernest Steen. Third row - Nancy Steen Stewart, Cynthia Adeline Steen McCafferty, Margaret Frances Steen Taylor, Robert Lee Steen, Christopher Columbus Steen, Andrew Jackson Steen, Wilson Davis Steen. Bottom row - Raymond Stewart, A.L. Stewart, Bascom Stewart, Lorene McCafferty, Arlie McCafferty, John Franklin Steen (visiting in Oklahoma from Lauderdale Co., AL), Berthyl Steen, Grace Steen *Submitted by: Janie Dennis Weaver, 9709 Admiral Emerson, NE, Albuquerque, NM 87111*

Stevenson / Stephenson

William Stephenson was the earliest known ancestor of most Stevenson or Stephenson descendants living in Lauderdale County in the 1900's. He was probably born about 1785. We do not know his wife's name. William Stephenson was the father of James Stephenson, who married Obedience Vann in Madison County, Alabama in 1830. Obedience Vann Stephenson was listed in the 1850 Census of Bedford County, Tennessee. Evidently, her husband, James, was deceased by that time but researchers have found no record of his death.

The descendants of Nancy Terrell Stephenson have documentation, which shows that they have Royal blood. According to this

documentation, they are descendants of King Edward the First of England. There is also a note, which states that this is nothing to brag about. According to the Britannica encyclopedia, that note is correct. The encyclopedia lists a half dozen or so atrocities that this King committed.

The descendants of Mamie Earnest Stevenson are kin to the Kirklands. A Kirland man whose first name has not been found, came to South Carolina from Ireland. He was of Scotch Irish descent. The year of his immigration has not been established, but he is believed to be the ancestor of the Kirklands now living in Lauderdale County, Alabama. Before the Civil War, there was a Kirkland man in Dallas County, Alabama, who owned 250 slaves. His eldest son, Joseph, was bitterly opposed to slavery. He believed it was against God's divine law to enslave any human being. Joseph and his father got into an argument and he ordered Joseph to leave and never to return. He also told Joseph that he would not inherit one penny from the Kirland estate. Joseph was only 16 years old at that time, but he left and came to Lauderdale County, Alabama, where he married Mary Wesson.



The Stephenson Family

Joseph and Mary bought a farm about 15 miles north of Florence near what is now Pruitton. Their children: Richard, Bob, Enoch, Dave, Elvira, Date and Missouri. Joseph Kirkland was my great-great-grandfather and Dave Kirkland was my great-grandfather. Sarah Kirkland who married Thomas Earnest was my grandmother.

William Bryant Stephenson was born on May 24, 1840, married Nancy Jane Terrell in 1860 and died on April 22, 1916. He is buried at Stoney Point Cemetery, Florence, Alabama. William Bryant Stephenson was named for both of his grandfathers. They were William Stephenson and Bryant Vann. The surviving grand children of William Bryant Stephenson and Nancy Jane Terrell Stephenson in 1998 are: Vadie Lee Miller, Charles Stephenson, Mamie Turner, Ruth Brown, Woody Richardson, Calvin Stephenson and Charlie W. Stephenson.

After reading down to this, you have probably noticed that the Stephenson and Stephenson name was used by the same person at different times. I have a deed in my possession where the man's name was spelled Stephenson, Stephenson and Stinson in different parts of the deed.

Obedience Stephenson moved from Bedford County, Tennessee to Florence, Alabama between 1850 and 1860. There is no documentation showing why she moved, but it is my belief that she moved because the Civil War was looming just over the horizon. In Florence, Alabama she did not miss the Civil War completely, but according to history, Florence was a safer place than Middle Tennessee.

William Bryant Stephenson and Nancy Terrell Stephenson lived on a farm where the present day Industrial Park in Florence is located. During the first part of the Civil War he worked at the Levi factory where Confederate uniforms were made. Union soldiers came and burned the Levi factory. William Bryant Stephenson burned both hands while trying to put out the fire. There is documentation in the Florence-Lauderdale Library showing that he went around for several weeks with bandaged hands.

Dating back to at least 1940, there was talk among members of the Stephenson family in Lauderdale County that they had Indian Blood, but there was no proof. While doing some research in 1992 in Huntsville, Alabama, I learned that the talk about Indian blood was true. The mother of Obedience Vann was a Cherokee Indian who had moved from South Carolina to Madison, Alabama between 1812 and 1815. She and her husband lived with the Cherokee Indians in Madison County, Alabama near the present

day town of New Hope. I have heard that there is a Vann Street in New Hope. We do not know the first name of our Cherokee ancestor but her husband was Bryant Vann.

William Bryant Stephenson was a Church of Christ preacher, but research has not revealed the date when he started preaching. Several people still living in 1998 remember hearing him preach. The older descendants say that he accepted \$5.00 in pay during his 55 years of preaching. In the Florence-Lauderdale Library, there is an obituary which listed him as the preacher for his brother-in-law's funeral. *Submitted by: Woody Richardson*

Thomas Stone

Great-Great-Grandfather Thomas "Tom" Stone (1806-1879) born in North Carolina, and Great-Great-Grandmother Rebecca Hammond, also said to be born in North Carolina, married in Lauderdale County, Alabama 3 December 1828.

Their two children were Great-Grandfather Christopher C. Stone, who married Great-Grandmother Elizabeth Williams, and Eliza (or Lousia) Stone, who married William J. Grigsby, a widower. Christopher and Elizabeth had four children: Rebecca Stone Rogers, Albert M. Stone 1858-1877, Grandfather Lawson W. Stone, (married Grandmother Amanda Barnett), and Thomas J. "Tommy" Stone, born 1861. Christopher C. Stone was in the Civil War, Alabama Regiment 50, Company H, Infantry, and was declared "Missing" after a battle near Atlanta 28 July 1864.

Rebecca Hammond Stone died sometime during or after 1831 and before 1835 when Tom Stone married secondly Mary Adeline Sturgeon. Their children were Elizabeth C. Stone, Sarahann M. Stone, Frances Jane Stone Acres, William W. Stone (born 1841), Mary Melissa Stone, John C. Stone, James K.P. Stone died ca 1863, Josephine Stone Wilson, Thomas J. "Jepp" Stone born 1848 and Albert M. Stone born 1850. Of these, Frances Jane, Josephine and Albert M. are all known to have migrated to Texas.

Jepp born 1848 remained at home. He was a postmaster and a Sunday School superintendent. He married Mary Frances Braly. Their children were William T. Stone born 1887, Albert Houston Stone, Maud M. Stone Harrison, and Jefferson D. "Jepp" Stone.

Thomas Stone 1806-1879 was a Justice of the Peace from March 1841 until May 1872, according to Lauderdale County records filed in the Alabama State Archives at Montgomery. His name also appears in the Lauderdale County portion of the 1850 Agricultural Census. James M. "Jim" Hammond's manuscript *History of Grassy Schools* shows that Tom Stone was among those who constructed the first Grassy School building. Then there is a legend that in the late 1850's another structure was erected evidently in the corner of Tom Stone's property (near where Grassy Chapel now stands) for the purpose of "settling disputes."

In my conversation in June 1957 with Miss Mary Hammond (older sister of Mr. Jim Hammond), she related memories of "Uncle Tom Stone." She said he was "a big man with big hands." Remembering his trip riding a mule to Huntsville when some land he wanted was available, she said Uncle Tom usually moved around slowly; however, when hearing that someone else was also interested in that piece of land, Uncle Tom departed for Huntsville hurriedly and secured it for himself.

Miss Mary said she went to the Stone's house soon after Uncle Tom died (31 January 1879). She recalled seeing a tearful Josephine, holding a little son wearing red stockings, as she lingered at her father's casket. Before turning away, Josephine murmured, "I'll see you in the morning."

Thomas Stone, both of his wives, daughter Mary Melissa Stone, probably son James K.P. Stone, son Thomas J. "Jepp" Stone and wife, grandson Albert M. Stone 1858-1877, and grandson Jefferson D. "Jepp" Stone and wife are buried in Lexington Cemetery. *Submitted by: Ruby R. Stone, 7270 County Rd. 89, Lexington, AL 35648* Sources: 1. Names, dates, and marriages are from family Bibles, cemeteries, Lauderdale Co. marriage records, and the 1850 and later censuses. 2. Christopher C. Stone's Civil War record: National Archives Microfilm 3R4 Roll 444 in Huntsville Public Library. 3. Migrations, burial sites and the career and activities of T.J. Stone born 1848, all from Mrs. Maud Harrison in 1966.

David C Stout and Rebecca Jane Walker

David Carroll Stout was born 13 Aug 1836 in Randolph Co., NC, son of Jesse and Sarah Roach. His ancestors came from London, England before 1643. He lived in NJ and NY before moving to NC about 1750. Some were patriots in the Revolution.