

Remembering 17 Volumes 3 & 4

July 2017—October 2017

Preserving the Past for Future Generations

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The Irish Migration to Newton County, Mississippi

By

Dr. Harold Graham

Part I. Seven Ships A'Sailing, The Emmigrant Ships and Their Passengers

1. Arriving: The Good Ship Caledonia

Ship Manifest of Emigrant Ship Caledonia originating in Belfast, Ireland and arriving in the Port of Charleston, South Carolina on 22 Dec 1822. Selected passengers are shown only.

<u>Passenger # and Name</u>	<u>Comments</u>
1. Thomas Germaine, 41, male	
2. John Campbell, 20, male	
3. Thomas Scott, 16, male	
4. George Gunter, 16, male	
5. George Scott, 20, male	
6. Martha Scott, 22, female	
7. Robert Small, 25, male	
8. Ann Small, 20, female	
9. James Stewart, 24, male, clerk	
10. John McBride, 20, male	
11. McAdam Smith, male	
12. Henry Bell, male	
13. John Wright, male	
14. Alexander McGrady, male	
15 John Devlen, 35, male	
16 James Smith, 32, male	
17. Thomas Caulfield, 30, male	Son of Henry Caulfield & Mary Castles
18. & 19. Mary A. Caulfield, 23, female & infant	Wife of #17; nee Watson
20. George Johnson, 20, male	Correctly Johnston; first husband of #21

21 & 22. Elizabeth Johnson, 23, female, & infant	D/o Henry Caufield and Mary Castles
23. David Watson, 17, male	Bro. of #18; later married Susan Caufield
24. Thomas Castles 40, male	H/o of #25; s/o Henry Caufield and Mary Castles
25 & 26. Mary Castles, 28, and infant	Nee Greenlee; married secondly to #30;
27, 28 & 29. Sarah, Ellen & Mary Castles, females	Daughters of #24 and #25
30. William Willis, 24, male	1840: Newton County, Mississippi
31. John Greenlee, 23, male	B/o #25; settled in Winston County, MS
32. George Stewart, 23, male	

2. Arriving: The Good Ship Tallahassee

Ship Manifest of Emigrant Ship Tallahassee, originating from France, departing from Liverpool, and arriving at the Port of New Orleans on 5 Dec 1836. There was one passenger of interest:

J. Vance

1840: James J. Vance, Newton County, Mississippi

3. Arriving The Good Barque Liverpool

Ship Manifest of Emigrant Barque Liverpool originating in Switzerland and arriving in New Orleans 17 Dec 1845 with total passenger list of 23. (Partial list shown only)

<u>Passenger # and Name</u>	<u>Comments</u>
16. John Smith, 28, labourer, Ireland	
17. Ellen Smith, 19, Ireland	
18. James Saunders, 23, bricklayer, Ireland	
19. Chas. Dillon, 23, labourer, Ireland	
20. Thos. Vants, 23, labourer, Ireland	1850: Newton County, MS; William Thomas "Whisky Tom" Vance
21. Margaret Vants, 18, Ireland	1850: Newton County, MS; wife of #20
22. Matilda Vants, infant, Ireland	1850: Newton County, MS; Child of #20; later wife of James French

23. David Vants, 18, Ireland

1850: Newton County, MS; David Franklin
Vance (1825-1911)

4. Arriving: The Good Ship Independence

**Ship Manifest of Famine Ship Independence Arriving in Port of New Orleans from Belfast,
Ireland on 11 Jan 1847. Partial List only.**

<u>Passenger Name and #</u>	<u>Comments</u>
1. James Vanch, 40, male	1850: Newton County, MS
2. John Vanch, 30, male	1850: Newton County, MS
3. Thomas Vanch, 30, male	1850: Newton County, MS
4. Abel French, 30, male	1850: Missing
5. Thos. French, 5, male	1850: Newton County, MS
6. James French, 7, male	1850: Newton County, MS
7. George French, 2, male	1850: Newton County, MS
8. Davis? French, 1, male	1850: Missing
9. Jno Henry, 20, male	1850: Newton County, MS
10. Thos. Golt, 25, male	1850: Gault, Newton County, MS
11. Jno McCannon, 20, male	1850: Newton County, MS
12. John Dallas, 35, male	1850: Missing
13. James Dowdell, 20, male	1850: Dowdle, Newton Co. MS
14. Geo. Davison, 20, male	1850: Newton County, MS
15. Wm. Davison, 20, male	1850: Newton County, MS
16. Jno. McKee, 20, male	
17. David McKee, 9, male	
18. Wm. Cori, 19, male	
19. James Delongg, 20, male	
20. Jno. DeLongg, 22, male	
21. Mary Vanch, 40, female	1850: Newton County, MS
22. Ann Vanch, 20, female	ALL

23. Peggy Vanch, 20, female	FEMALE
24. Mary Vanch, 30, female	VANCE
25. Peggy Vanch, 5, female	NAMES
26. Ann Vanch, 20, female	BELIEVED
27. Peggy Vanch, 20, female	NEWTON COUNTY
28. Mary Vanch, 30, female	MISSISSIPPI
29. Peggy Vanch, 5, female	IN
30. Ann Vanch, 30, female	1850
31. Elisa Vanch, 5, female	
32. Mary Vanch, 1, female	
33. Mary Dowdell, 20, female	1850: Dowdle, Newton County, MS

5. Arriving: The Good Ship Erin's Queen

**Manifest of Famine Ship Erin's Queen Arriving in Port of New Orleans from Liverpool, England
Departing Liverpool, England 11 Jan 1847 and Arriving 3 March 1847, Master Captain
Davidson. Partial list only.**

<u>Passenger Name and #</u>	<u>Comments</u>
30. Francis Vance, 55, male	1850: Newton County, MS
31. Jno. Vance, 20, male	1850: Newton County, MS; son of #30
32. Hudson Vance, 18, male	1850: missing; son of #30?
33. Alexander Vance, 8, male	1850: Newton County, MS
34. Francis Vance, 7, male	1850, Newton County, MS
33. Geo. Vance, 20, male	1850: Kemper County, MS
34. Thos. Vance, 43, male	1850: Newton County, MS
35. James Vance, 9, male	1850: Newton County, MS
36. Thos. Vance, 6, male	1850: Newton County, MS
37. Elisa Vance, 44, female	1850: Newton County, MS; wife of #30
38. Elisb? Vance, 16, female	1850: Newton County, MS
39. Mary Vance, 9, female	1850: Newton County, MS

40. Matilda Vance, 6, female	1850: Newton County, MS
41. Mary Vance, 42, female	1850: Newton County, MS
42. Margaret Vance, 12, female	1850: Newton County, MS
43. Martha Vance, 8, female	1850: Newton County, MS
44. Mary Vance, ?, female	1850: Newton County, MS

6, Arriving: Good Ship Viceroy

Manifest of Emigrant Ship Viceroy from Liverpool, Arriving in New Orleans 4 January 1848 with 364 Passengers Aboard. Partial list shown only.

Passenger # Comments:

31. Margaret Blackburn, 20, female, native of County Antrim, Ireland; destination: Mississippi
1850: Scott County, MS; wife of #290; nee Margaret Colville
288. William Blackburn, 23, male, native of County Down, groom; destination Mississippi
1850: Newton County, MS; William John Blackburn; later moved to Texas
289. Eliza Blackburn, 20, female, native of County Down, wife, destination Mississippi
1850: Newton County, MS, wife of #288; nee Margaret Elizabeth Preston
290. Arthur Blackburn, 20, male, native of County Down, labourer, 1850: Scott County, MS;
1860: Newton County, MS.
291. Susan Blackburn, 11, female, native of County Down, "girl", 1850: Newton County, MS;
sister of #288 and #290; died ca. 1858. Susannah md. 26 Feb 1852 Samuel Henry Stephens.
345. Arthur Mercer, 27, male, native of County Down, labourer, 1850: Newton County, MS;
married Eliza Jane Blackburn, sister of William John, Arthur "Arter" Blackburn and Susannah Blackburn
346. Eliza Mercer, 25, female, native of County Down, wife, 1850: Newton County, MS; wife
of #345; nee Blackburn
347. Mary Mercer, 10, female, native of County Down, "girl", 1850: Newton County, MS
348. Rebecca Mercer, 7, female, native of County Down, "girl", 1850: Newton County, MS;
Later md. Francis Vance, Jr.

349. Susan Mercer, 3, female, native of County Down, girl

1850: Newton County, MS; md. Robert W. Burton

7: Arriving: Unknown Ship

**Unknown Ship Manifest originating from Belfast Ireland and arriving at the Port of Mobile ca.
March 1849 (and prior to the 1850 Federal Census)**

<u>Passenger Name and #</u>	<u>Comments</u>
1. James Osbourne, 40, male, clerk	1850, merchant, Mobile, Alabama
2. Matilda Osbourne, 38, female, matron	Wife of #1
3. Hugh Osbourne, 16, male, child	Son of #1
4. Mary Jane Osbourne, 13, female, child	Child of #1
5. Francis Osbourne, 8, male, child	Child of #1
6. Matilda Osbourne 6, female, child	Child of #1
7. Agnes Osbourne, 4, female, child	Child of #1
8. Isabelle Osbourne, 1, female, child	Child of #1
9. Jane Hannah, 18, female, spinster	
10. Margt Donaldson, 18, female, spinster	1850: Mobile, Alabama; married James Bligh
11. Jas Campbell, 15, male, labourer	
21. Matilda Judge, 15, female, spinster	Md. 15 Aug 1849, Greene County, AL, to John Carr
22. Margt Alexander, 28, female, matron	1850: Gainesville, Sumter County, AL with husband William Alexander
23, Robt Alexander, 6, male, child	Child of #22
24. John Alexander, 4, male, child	Child of #22
25. Wm. Alexander, 2, male, child	Child of #22
26. Wm. Pollock, 24, male, no occupation	
27. Sarah ? Jordan, 24, female, matron	Wife of #28
28. James Jordan, 24, male, labourer	1850: Mobile, Alabama

29. Margt Palmer, 21, female, spinster	Married 6 Dec 1849, Mobile County, AL to John A. Lockhart
30. _____ Kelly, 26, male, labourer	
31. Ricd B__hard, 29, male, labourer	
32. James B___hard, 26, male, labourer	
33. Eleanor Maxwell, 28, female, matron	
34. James Davison, 18, male, labourer	
35. David McCartney, 38, male, labourer	
36. ? McKibbon, 45, male, spinner	
37. Jane McKibbon, 42, female, matron	
38. Ann Jane McKibbon, 13, female, child	Married 11 June 1851, Mobile County, AL, to Alexander McCowen
39. Henry McKibbon, 10, male, child	
40. ? McLaughlin, 18, male, labourer	
41. Wm. Catherwood, 37, male, labourer	
42. Wm. McConnell, 24, male, labourer	
43. Mrs. McConnell, 24, female, matron	
44. Edwd Gyles, 20, male, labourer	
45. John Willis, 40, male, farmer	1850: Newton County, MS
46. Jane Willis, 38, female, matron	1850, Newton County, MS, wife of #45
47. John Willis, 20, male, labourer	child of #45
48. Ellen Willis, 18, female, spinster	child of #45
49. Ed Courtney, 26, male, labourer	1850: Union, Newton County, MS, blacksmith, 1860, Franklin Parish, LA, md. 27 Nov 1847, Ireland to Ann Willis
50. Ann Courtney, 24, female, matron (wife)	1850, Newton County, MS, wife of #49

51. Letitia Willis, 16, female, spinster	1850: Newton County, MS, child of #45
52. Jane Willis, 14, female, spinster	1850: Newton County, MS, child of #45; md. Alson Red
53. Thomas Willis, child	1850: Newton County, MS, age 8, child of #45
54. Mary Willis, infant	1850: Newton County, MS, age 3; child of #45
55. Thos. Houston, 30, male, labourer	
56. John Ellis, 20, male, labourer	
57. Johnston McIlhinny?, 20, male, labourer	
58. M. Mullin, 25, male, labourer	
59. James Shaw, 16, male, labourer	
60. John Houston, 20, male, labourer	
61. John Toal, 28, male, labourer	1850: Mobile, Alabama
62. Eliza Morton, 24, female, spinster	Md. 1 Mar 1851, Sumter County, AL to Peter Burnes
63. Margt. Dallas, 17, female, spinster	1850: Newton County, MS servant for Isaac Hollingsworth
64. Mary Ann Dallas, 15, female, spinster	?
65. Andw Atkinson, 30, male, labourer	1850: Greene Co., AL
66. Jane Catherwood, 20, female, spinster	
67. Robt Vance, 40, male, farmer	1850: Lauderdale County, MS
68. David Vance, 38, male, farmer	1850: Lauderdale County, MS
69. Jane Vance, 22, female, spinster	1850: Lauderdale County, MS
70. Edwd Vance, 16, male, laborer	1850: Lauderdale County, MS
71. Rich'd Vance, 16, male, labourer	Lauderdale County, MS, 1855
72. Mary McAile?, 22, female, spinster	

73. Saml Davidson, 40, male, farmer	1850: Newton County, MS, Correctly "Davison"
74. Sarah Davidson, 38, female, matron	Wife of #73; nee Patterson
75. John Davidson, 24, male, labourer	Child of #73
76. Nancy Davidson, 22, female, spinster	Child of #73
77. Robert Davidson, 13, male, child	Child of #73
78. Sarah Davidson, 12, female, child	Child of #73
79. Esther Davidson, 10, female, child	Child of #73
80. Mary Gault, 40, female, matron	1850: Newton County, MS, nee Vance, wife of Thomas Gault
81. Eliza Gault, 14, female, spinster	Child of #80
82. Martha Gault, 6, female, child	Child of #80
83. Betty Vance, 35, female, matron	1850: Lauderdale County, MS, wife of #67.
84. John Vance, 3, male, child	1850: Lauderdale County, MS, child of #67
85. Robt. Vance, male, infant	1850: Lauderdale County, MS, child of #67
86. Laurence McGarken, 21, male, labourer	
87. Margt Harbison, 50, matron	
88. John Harbison, 50, male, labourer	
89. Catherine Harbison, 18, female, spinster	
90. Andrew (Harbison), 13, male, child	
91. Wm. Vance, 20, labourer	
92. Margt Graham, 20, spinster	
93, Robt Cushen, 25, male, labourer	

Part II. The Three Waves of Emigration of the New Settlers to Newon County, Mississippi

Any migration usually can be described in three waves or phases, and the Irish immigration to Newton County, and primarily to Newton County, is no exception.

In the first wave scouts arrive in the New Land from the Old Country to see what they can make of it. If things work out for them, they send back word to friends and relatives who swarm into the New Country. Years later and for their own personal reasons, stragglers who have remained behind in the Old Country join their friends and relatives in the New Land years.

. The First Wave of the Irish, 1822--1840

On December 22, 1822, the ship *Caledonia* (or *Caledonian*, as it is sometimes listed), arrived from Belfast, Ireland at the port of Charleston, South Carolina, its passengers including Thomas Caulfield (son of Henry and Mary Castles Caulfield), age 30, his wife Mary Ann Watson Caulfield, age 23, and infant; Thomas Castles, age 40, and his wife Mary Greenlee Castles; age 28, and their children Sarah Castles, age 5, Eliza Castles, age 4, and Mary Castles, age 3, along with Infant Letithia Castles, David Watson, age 17; George Johnston, age 20; Elizabeth Caulfield Johnston, age 23, and their infant; Robert Beggs, age 19; William Willis, age 24; John Greenlee, age 23, and George Stewart, age 23.

An aging vessel, the *Caledonia* had made its first recorded visit to Charleston as early as 1746 and over the course of more than three-quarters of a century had carried all types of human cargo, including convicts, to the New World. Like all immigrant ships, passengers crowded into close and unsanitary quarters for the treacherous trip across the Atlantic in search of a better world than they were leaving behind. Behind them were the troubled quarrels between differing religious and political factions in Northern Ireland and the poverty that these problems and other economic issues placed on more than 80% of the Irish population. Ahead was the promise of America, the right of free worship, and the opportunity to escape poverty. Despite the danger presented by the voyage, one could only be optimistic.

Following their arrival, most of these individuals lived in Fairfield County, South Carolina, for a period approximating four years, then in 1827 moved to Greene County, Alabama. Daniel Willis, then of County Antrim, Ireland, but later of Newton County, Mississippi, joined his brother William Willis in time for this move to Alabama. Taking part in this move with the Willis brothers were the Castles, Greenlees, Watsons, Caulfields, Johnstons, Campbells, and other Irish immigrants who settled in the community of Boligee, Greene County, Alabama.

During his stay in Greene County, William Willis received four grants of land, the first for 88.5 acres on August 20, 1826 and the last for 40.3 acres in October 1834 in which he is referred to as William B. Willis.

In 1835, several members of these families migrated further to then Neshoba County, most settling in what would become Beat 3 of Newton County and in an area that soon came to be known as New Ireland. These new settlers included Daniel Willis, William Willis and his wife Mary Greenlee Castles, widow of Thomas Castles. Her four daughters from her first marriage

also came with her: Sarah Castles, who married Elisha Red/d, Mary Castles, who married James Jackson (Jack) Vance, Eliza Castles, who married Andrew J. Windham and lived in Scott County, Mississippi, and Letitia "Letie" Castles who married John Jackson.

Most of these new settlers located on adjoining land just north of the juncture of Brushy Creek and Conehatta Creek in Sections 29-33 of Township 8 Range 11 East. (The property on a contemporary map is centered by the Highway 489 crossing of Conehatta Creek and the Andrew Milling Road and extending north to Erin Cumberland Presbyterian Church. A number of descendants of the original settlers remain on the land granted to their ancestors.) This included Daniel Willis, William Willis, Samuel Campbell, Elisha Red, and John Watson. John Willis, a brother of Daniel and William Willis, joined them later. The land of William Willis included the current location of Erin Cumberland Presbyterian Church.

James Jackson "Jack" Vance arrived at the Port of New Orleans from aboard the emigrant ship Tallahassee, originating from France, departing from Liverpool, and arriving at the Port of New Orleans on 5 Dec 1836. He spent some time working on the river docks, we are told, to earn money, then proceeded to Newton County, Mississippi.

James Jackson (Jack) Vance was a native of County Derry and soon invited many of his Vance kin to join him. His invitation was so successful that the Vance surname became the predominant name among the new arrivals. The 1840 Federal Census of Newton County shows James as married with a wife (Mary Castles), and with one son under the age of 5. There was one other male adult in his household, his identity presently unknown.

James Jackson Vance patented 85.87 acres of land northeast of Conehatta on February 6, 1837, but later sold this land and bought other land just inside the Neshoba County line in S 4 T 8 R 11. This land is located along Highway 492 and near New Ireland Baptist Church.

The Thomas Castles--Mary Greenlee Castles family was also joined in Mississippi by at least six children of Lorenzo Castles and Nancy Cosby (Lorenzo Castles being a brother of Thomas Castles). Lorenzo Castles and Nancy Cosby remained in Ireland, but at least two of their sons Lorenzo Castles, Jr., and William M. Castles immigrated to the United States. Lorenzo Castles, Jr., moved to New Jersey and William M. Castles moved to Greene County, Alabama, and afterward to Leon County, Texas.

William M. Castles may have lived for a short period in Newton County, but we have not found a record of such. After his first year in America, he sent for four of his sisters to immigrate to America.

With the arrival of these immigrants, two churches with definite Irish leanings were formed New Ireland Baptist Church and Erin Cumberland Presbyterian Church and quite early the communities surrounding these churches came to be identified as New Ireland and Erin. These communities, with Lucern, represented the heart of the Irish Settlement.

Doole, George (1813—1868)

A native of Ireland, George Dool/Doole married 8 Aug 1837, Greene County, Alabama, to Elizabeth Red and they moved to Newton County, Mississippi, with the Reds and John Doole (believed to be his brother) where they affiliated with Erin Cumberland Presbyterian Church. They were parents to thirteen children, and following his death in 1868 in Newton County, Mississippi, his widow Elizabeth moved to Freestone County, Texas with family members.

Doole, John

A native of Ireland, John Dool/Doole appears in the 1845 Tax List for Newton County, Mississippi. He married 11 Feb 1837, Greene County, Alabama, to Mary Red.

The Second Wave of The Irish (1840-1849)

The success of the first wave of Irish settlers in Newton County prompted a second wave of Irish settlers during the 1840's, most of whom settled near relatives in Beat 3. Under the primitive circumstances of the times, it is obvious that letters were being sent and money mailed back to kinfolks in Ireland with the catastrophic decline in the potato harvest because of an uncontrollable blight, coupled with a major economic depression. James Jackson Vance was the most significant individual in this second wave of migration and was able to bring his parents, as well as his siblings, cousins, and former neighbors during this time.

We next provide the reader with an abbreviated genealogy of these families and individuals.

Blackburns

Four members of the Blackburns, all siblings, arrived at the Port of New Orleans aboard the ship Viceroy on 4 Jan 1848. These four were:

William John Blackburn (1822, County Down, North Ireland—1888, Marshall, Harrison County, Texas; married 5 July 1846, Dounty Down, Ireland to Margaret Elizabeth Preston (1830—1905), daughter of John Preston and Margaret Kelly. They were parents of seven children.

Eliza Jane Blackburn (ca 1823, County Down, Northern Ireland—after 1880, Lawrence, Newton County, Mississippi; married Arthur “Arter” Mercer and they were parents of three daughters.

Arthur “Arter” Blackburn (1828, County Down, Northrn Ireland—1900, Conehatta, Newton County, Mississippi. He married 30 Oct 1847, Belfast, County Down, Ireland to Margaret Colville (1827—1905) and they were parents of eleven children.

Susannah “Susan” Blackburn, ca. 1834, County Down, Northern Ireland—bef 1858, Lawrence, Newton County, Mississippi; married 25 Feb 1852 to Samuel Henry Stephens (1814—1890), his second of three wives. They were parents of two daughters.

Courtney, Edward “Ed” (1829—

Edward Courtney, a native of Ireland, arrived in the United States aboard an unknown emigrant ship arriving at the Port of Mobile ca March 1849 with his new wife, Ann Willis, daughter of John and Sarah Jane Willis. They appear as residents of Union, Newton County, Mississippi, in 1850 where he was employed as a blacksmith. Subsequently, they moved to Franklin Parish, Louisiana. They were married in Ireland on 30 Nov 1847.

Dallas, Margaret (1831, Ireland

Margaret Dallas arrived in America on an unknown ship originating from Belfast Ireland and arriving at the Port of Mobile ca. March 1849. She was accompanied by Mary Ann Dallas, believed to be a sister. She was employed as a servant in 1850 and 1860 by Isaac Hollingsworth. No further information.

Davison, George W. “Genie” (1829—1902)

A son of Samuel Davison and Sarah Patterson and native of Ireland, George W. “Genie” Davison arrived in the United States ca. March 1849 aboard an unnamed ship at the Port of Mobile. He settled in Newton County, Mississippi and at his death in 1902 was buried in Erin Cumberland Presbyterian Church Cemetery. He married (1) Hester A. Red and the marriage produced three children; married (2) Martha M. “Mattie” Blackburn and the marriage produced one son, Robert George Davison.

Davison, Hester Acie (1836, Ireland—1919)

Hester Acie Davis, daughter of Samuel Davison and Sarah Patterson, arrived in the United States ca. March 1849 aboard an unnamed ship at the Port of Mobile. She married James Hester Ezell and they were parents of ten children.

Davison, John (1823—

A son of Samuel Davison and Sarah Patterson and native of Ireland, John and his wife Mary MNU produced four children, the first born in Ireland, the last three in Newton County, Mississippi. Both husband and wife died early in the marriage. They arrived in the United States ca. March 1849 aboard an unnamed ship at the Port of Mobile.

Davison, Margaret (1847, Ireland

Margaret Davison, a daughter of John and Mary Davison, arrived in the United States ca. March 1849 aboard an unnamed ship at the Port of Mobile, and was living in Newton County, Mississippi in 1850. No further information.

Davison, Nancy (8 Nov 1829, Ireland--

Nancy Davison, daughter of Samuel Davison and Sarah Patterson, arrived in the United States ca. March 1849 aboard an unnamed ship at the Port of Mobile. She married ca. 1852 to William B. Willis (1800-1879), as his second wife, and the marriage produced seven children.

Davison, Robert (1832, Ireland

Robert Davison, son of Samuel Davison and Sarah Patterson, arrived in the United States ca. March 1849 aboard an unnamed ship at the Port of Mobile and was living in Newton County, Mississippi, in 1850. No further information.

Davison, Samuel (1795—after 1870)

A native of Ireland, Samuel Davison arrived in the United States ca. March 1849 aboard an unnamed ship at the Port of Mobile, along with his wife Sarah Patterson Davison and most of their eight known children. Samuel Davison appears in the 1850, 1860, and 1870 Federal Census of Newton County, Mississippi.

Davison, Sarah Jane “Sallie” (1827, Ireland—1908)

Sarah Jane “Sallie” Davison, a daughter of Samuel Davison and Sarah Patterson, arrived in the United States ca. March 1849 aboard an unnamed ship at the Port of Mobile. She married ca. 1853 to Benjamin French, Sr., and they were parents of seven children.

Davison, William (1822, Ireland--

William Davison, son of Samuel Davison and Sarah Patterson, arrived in the United States ca. March 1849 aboard an unnamed ship at the Port of Mobile. He married Sarah MNU and they were parents of four children.

Dowdle, James Masonic (1818—1900)

A native of Ireland, James Dowdle arrived in the United States at the Port of New Orleans on 11 Jan 1847 accompanied by his wife and other family members aboard the ship Independence. They settled in Newton County, Mississippi. He was married to Mary Ann Davison, daughter of Samuel Davison and Sarah Patterson, and they were parents of seven children.

Dowdle, Nancy Ann (1820—1890)

Nancy Ann Dowdle Vance arrived in the United States at the Port of New Orleans on 11 Jan 1847 aboard the ship Independence and was accompanied by her husband and other family members. She married in Ireland to Thomas James “Pap” Vance and they were parents of seven children. She is believed to have been a sister of James Dowdle.

French, George (1843, County Antrim, Ireland—1899, Caddo Parish, Louisiana)

George French, son of Richard Neil French and Eliza Jane Vance, emigrated to America on the ship Independence, arriving at the Port of New Orleans from Belfast, Ireland on 11 Jan 1847 with Abel French, believed to be an uncle, and other family members. His mother, according to family tradition, died at sea. He married Mary Jane Heslen, also a native of Ireland, and they were parents of nine children.

French, James (1840, County Antrim, Ireland—1927)

James French, son of Richard Neil French and Eliza Jane Vance, emigrated to America on the ship Independence, arriving at the Port of New Orleans from Belfast, Ireland on 11 Jan 1847 with Abel French, believed to be an uncle, and other family members. His mother, according to family tradition, died at sea. He married Matilda Vance, daughter of William Thomas “Whiskey Tom” Vance and Margaret Jane “Peggy” Vance and they were parents of seven children.

French, Thomas (1840, County Antrim, Ireland—1884)

Thomas French, son of Richard Neil French and Eliza Jane Vance, emigrated to America on the ship Independence, arriving at the Port of New Orleans from Belfast, Ireland on 11 Jan 1847 with Abel French, believed to be an uncle, and other family members. His mother, according to family tradition, died at sea. He married Martha Jane Red, daughter of Alston Red and Jane Willis, and they were parents of five children.

Gault, Eliza (1833—1888)

Eliza Gault arrived in America aboard an unknown Ship originating from Belfast Ireland and arriving at the Port of Mobile ca. March 1849. She was accompanied by her mother Mary Vance Gault and other family members. She later became the wife of Thomas James Graham, son of Christopher Graham and Judith Gill, and they were parents of three children. They were residents of Prospect in Newton County, Mississippi.

Gault, Martha (1843—1906)

Martha Gault arrived in America aboard an unknown Ship originating from Belfast Ireland and arriving at the Port of Mobile ca. March 1849. She was accompanied by her mother, Mary Vance Gault and other family members. In Newton County, Mississippi, she married William John Thomas Brown and they were parents of nine children. They were residents of Prospect in Newton County, Mississippi.

Gault, Thomas (1810—aft 1870)

Thomas Gault arrived in America on board the ship Independence at the Port of New Orleans on 11 Jan 1847. He married Mary Vance and they were the parents of five daughters. Mary and their two oldest children arrived in the United States aboard an unidentified ship at the Port of Mobile ca. March 1849.

Thomas and Mary were parents of five daughters: Eliza Gault (1833—1888) md. Thomas James Graham; Nancy Gault (1836--); Mary Gault (1839--); Martha Gault (1843—1906); married William John Edward Brown, and Hannah Frances Gault (1851—1930); married Henry J. Phelps.

Mary Vance Gault, and later her daughter, Mary, were institutionalized at the Mississippi Hospital for the Insane in Jackson, Mississippi, for unknown mental health issues and likely are buried in the hospital cemetery located in the Medical Complex in north Jackson.

On 28 Sept 1854, Thomas Gault applied for Land Patent #36355 consisting of 37.59 acres for which he paid \$.75 per acre for a total of \$28.20 and situated in SE ¼ SE ¼ Section 24, Township 8 North, Range 10 East.

On 28 Sept 1854, Thomas Gault applied for Land Patent #36354 consisting of 39.99 acres for which he paid \$.75 per acre for a total of \$30.00 and situated in SW ¼ SW ¼ Section 19, Township 8 North, Range 11 East.

Henrys of Neshoba County, Mississippi

Alex and Joseph Henry, both born in Ireland, were living in Neshoba County, Mississippi in 1850. They appear to be brothers and are likely related to the Henrys in Newton County. Alex Henry (ca. 1827—1859) was the first husband of Sarah Campbell, daughter of Samuel Campvell and Letitia Castles.

Henrys of Newton County, Mississippi

The Henry genealogy is not well-known by this researcher; however, four Henrys are of special interest.

Mrs. Elizabeth Ann Henry Johnson, born 1797, Ireland; living in Newton County, Mississippi in 1850 as second wife of Rev. Henry Harrison Johnson. She is likely the mother of the three Henry identified below. The exact time of her arrival in America is currently a mystery, but is known to have been prior to 1850.

John Hubert Henry (1825, Ireland—1860, Newton County, MS; md.

Nancy Campbell. Jno. Henry arrived on the ship Independence arriving in the Port of New Orleans from Belfast, Ireland on 11 Jan 1847.

Anne Jane Henry Sessums (1833, Ireland—1902, Scott County, MS); md.

Jacob Sessums. The exact time of her arrival in America is currently a mystery, but is known to have been prior to 1850.

James Henry (1835, Ireland. The exact time of his arrival in America is currently a mystery, but is known to have been prior to 1850.

McCannon, John (1824, Ireland)

John McCannon arrived in the United States at the Port of New Orleans on 11 Jan 1847 aboard the ship Independence and was living in Newton County, Mississippi in 1850 in the household of Dr. Timothy Richardson Hughes in Decatur, Newton County, Mississippi. . He is believed to be a realative of Margaret Nancy Ann McCannon Vance

McCannon, Margaret Nancy Ann (1795—after 1850)

Margaret Nancy Ann McCannon Vance arrived in the United States at the Port of New Orleans on 11 Jan 1847 aboard the ship Independence and was accompanied by his husband and other family members She was married to Thomas James Vance, Sr., and they were parents of eight children.

Mercer, Arthur “Arter” (1822—1877, Newton County, Mississippi)

A native of Belfast, County Down Ireland, Arthur Mercer emigrated to the United States aboard the emigrant ship Independence arriving in the Port of New Orleans from Belfast, Ireland on 11 Jan 1847 with his immediate family members including his wife Eliza Blackburn Mercer, their three children, a sister-in-law, Susannah Blackburn, later wife of Samuel Henry Stephens, and two brothers-in-law, William John Blackburn and Arthur “Arter” Blackburn.

Mercer, Mary (1838, County Down, ireland)

A native of Belfast, County Down Ireland, Mary Mercer emigrated to the United States aboard the emigrant ship Independence arriving in the Port of New Orleans from Belfast, Ireland on 11 Jan 1847 with his immediate family members including her parents Arthur Mercer and Eliza Jane Blackburn. She ws living in Newton County, Mississippi, in 1850. No further information.

Mercer, Mercer (1839, County Down, Ireland—1880)

A native of Belfast, County Down Ireland, Rebecca Mercer emigrated to the United States aboard the emigrant ship Independence arriving in the Port of New Orleans from Belfast, Ireland on 11 Jan 1847 with his immediate family members including her parents Arthur Mercer and Eliza Jane Blackburn. She married Francis Vance, Jr., son of Francis Vance, Sr., and Elizabeth MNU and they were parents of eight children.

Mercer, Susannah (1846, County Down, ireland—1890)

A native of Belfast, County Down Ireland, Rebecca Mercer emigrated to the United States aboard the emigrant ship Independence arriving in the Port of New Orleans from Belfast, Ireland on 11 Jan 1847 with his immediate family members including her parents Arthur Mercer and Eliza Jane Blackburn. She married Robert W. Burton and they lived at Lawrence, Newton County, Mississippi.

Splain, John (1804, Ireland)

John Splain/Splane, a native of Ireland, was living in Newton County, Mississippi, in 1850 with his wife and one son. He married 1 Dec 1845, Perry County, Alabama to Hester Frazier. No further information.

Vance, Alexander (1830—1909)

Alexander Vance appears in the 1850, 1860, and 1870 Federal Censuses of Newton County, Mississippi. A native of County Derry, Ireland, and son of Francis Vance, Sr., and Elizabeth “Eliza” MNU, Alexander Vance arrived in the United States on 3 March 1847 at the Port of New Orleans aboard Erin’s Queen. He was married to Sarah Ann Vance, a daughter of James Jackson “Jack” Vance and Mary Caroline Castles and their marriage produced seven children. They moved ca. 1878 to Jackson County, Oklahoma and are buried there.

Vance, David Franklin, Sr. (1825—1911)

A native of County Down, Ireland, David Franklin Vance, Sr. came to the United States on the emigrant ship Independence arriving in the Port of New Orleans from Belfast, Ireland on 11 Jan 1847. He was a son of Thomas James Vance, Sr., and Margaret Nancy Ann McCannon. He married Margaret Vance, daughter of Thomas Frank Vance and Margaret Nancy “Mattie” MNU and they were parents of fifteen children. The oldest, James Thomas Vance, was born in Turnersville, Coryell County, Texas, in 1851. The remainder were born in Newton County, Mississippi

Vance, Mrs. Elizabeth “Eliza” (1800, Ireland)

Mrs. Elizabeth “Eliza” Vance was a resident of Newton County, Mississippi in 1850. He married Francis Vance, Sr., and they were parents of seven known children. She arrived in the United States on 3 Mar 1847 at the Port of New Orleans aboard the ship Erin’s Queen.

Vance, Francis, Sr. (1792—

Francis Vance, Sr., was a resident of Newton County, Mississippi, in 1850, 1860, and 1870. He married Elizabeth “Eliza” MNU and they were parents of seven known children. He arrived in the United States on 3 Mar 1847 at the Port of New Orleans aboard the ship Erin’s Queen.

DNA testing has been done and indicates he is a brother of Thomas Frank Vance and likely a cousin of Thomas James Vance, Sr.

Vance, Francis, Jr. (1838, County Down, Ireland—ca. 1896.

Francis Vance, Jr, arrived in America from the ship Erin’s Queen departing Liverpool 11 Jan 1847 and arriving 3 March 1847 at the port of New Orleans. He was a son of Francis Vance, Sr., and Elizabeth MNU.

Francis Vance, Jr., married (1) to Rebecca Mercer, dau. of Arthur Mercer and Eliza Jane Blackburn, and they had eight children. The last child was born with the death of Rebecca and

was given the name of “Lonesome” Vance, since she had no mother to love. Francis married (2) on 8 June 1880, Newton County, Mississippi, to Martha Brunson and they moved to Perry County, Mississippi, where he died.

Vance, George (1822-1887)

George Vance, a son of James Vance and Margaret Ann McCannon, arrived in America from aboard the ship Erin’s Queen departing Liverpool, England on 11 Jan 1847 and arriving 3 March 1847, Port of New Orleans in company of other family members. According to family accounts, he had paid for his voyage by working on the immigrant ship and then had worked along the river front in New Orleans to earn money to travel to Mississippi.

According to these same accounts, George lived at New Ireland, Newton County for a short period of time before moving to Kemper County, Mississippi.

George was born February 14, 1822, County Derry, Ireland, and died April 4, 1887, Kemper County. He married in 1849 to Mary Jane Page and they had six children.

Vance, James Matthew “One Armed Jimmie” (1836—1922)

A native of County Down, Ireland, James Matthew Vance arrived in America accompanied by his parents, Thomas Frank Vance and Margaret Nancy “Mattie” MNU and other family members, aboard Erin’s Queen at the Port of New Orleans on 3 March 1847, only to have his father to die in Jackson, Mississippi, as they made their way to Newton County, Mississippi.

James Matthew Vance lost an arm in the Civil War, created his own prosthetic arm, and continued to plow and farm. This gave him the nickname “One Armed Jimmie”

Jimmie married Nancy Elizabeth “Eliza” Vance Mitchell, the widow of William Thomas Mitchell and daughter of Thomas James “Pap” Vance and Nancy Ann Dowdle. They had five children of their own and he helped raise three step-children.

Vance, John (1815—1855)

John Vance, a native of Ireland and son of James Vance, Sr., and Margaret Ann McCannon, came to the United States aboard the emigrant ship Independence, arriving in the Port of New Orleans from Belfast, Ireland on 11 Jan 1847 with his wife Mary (whose maiden name is unknown) and four children. He died in Newton County, Mississippi, in 1855 and his widow later moved to Freestone County, Texas, with their daughter Margaret Jane “Peggy” Vance and her husband Thomas A. Jones and their children.

Vance, John A. (1826, County Down, Ireland—1903, Dixon, Neshoba County, Mississippi)

John A. Vance, son of Francis Vance, Sr., and wife Elizabeth, came to America on the ship Erin’s Queen arriving in the Port of New Orleans from Liverpool, England, departing Liverpool, England, 11 Jan 1847 and arriving 3 March 1847 in New Orleans.

He served as a Methodist minister in Neshoba County. He and his wife Lucy had no natural children, but adopted one daughter, Jane Shackerford.

Vance, Letitia (1845, Ireland—1929, Duncan, Stephens County, Oklahoma)

Letitia Vance arrived in the United States at the Port of New Orleans on 11 Jan 1847 aboard the ship Independence and was accompanied by her parents, John and Mary Vance, and other family members. She married John D. Sessums, son of William Thomas Sessums and Zilphia Cooksey, and they were parents of ten children.

Vance, Mrs. Margaret (1796—

Margaret Vance (maiden name unknown) was living with James Vance in Newton County, Mississippi, in 1850, and has the appearance of a sister-in-law. Living with her was Thomas Vance, age 10, who appears to be a grandson.

Vance, Margaret Ann “Peggy” (1845, Ireland—aft 1920)

Margaret Ann “Peggy” Vance arrived in the United States at the Port of New Orleans on 11 Jan 1847 aboard the ship Independence and was accompanied by her parents, James Thomas “Pap” Vance, Jr., and Nancy Ann Dowdle Vance, and other family members. She married Thomas Wiley Leach. They settled in Scott County, Mississippi, where they had nine children. She is buried beneath an undated marker in Sulphur Springs Baptist Church Cemetery, Scott County, Mississippi.

Vance, Margaret Jane “Peggy” (1841, Ireland—aft 1880, Texas)

Margaret Jane “Peggy” Vance arrived in the United States at the Port of New Orleans on 11 Jan 1847 aboard the ship Independence and was accompanied by her parents John and Mary Vance and other family members. She married Thomas A. Jones and they lived in Hamilton and Freeston Counties, Texas. They were parents of five children.

Vance, Martha Ann (1842—1879)

A native of County Derry, Ireland, Martha Ann Vance, a daughter of Thomas Frank Vance and Margaret Nancy “Mattie” MNU, arrived in the United States aboard Erin’s Queen at the Port of New Orleans on 3 March 1847, only to see her father die at Jackson, Mississippi, as they made their way to Newton County, Mississippi.

Martha Ann Vance married ca. 1860, as his second wife, to William Cooksey “Billie” Sessums, son of William Thomas Sessums and Zilphia Cookey, and they moved to Leake County, Mississippi, where she died in 1879. They were parents of ten children.

Vance, Margaret (1832, Ireland—1925)

A native of County Down, Ireland, Margaret Vance came to the United States on the emigrant ship Independence arriving in the Port of New Orleans from Belfast, Ireland on 11 Jan 1847. She

was a daughter of Thomas Frank Vance and Margart Nancy “Mattie” MNU and was married to David Franklin Vance, Sr. They were parents of twelve children.

Vance, Mary (1805, Ireland

Mary Vance, parents unknown, and wife of Thomas Gault, arrived in America aboard an unknown ship originating from Belfast Ireland and arriving at the Port of Mobile ca. March 1849. She was accompanied by four daughters.

Vance, Mary Ann (1826--1860

Mary Ann Vance arrived in the United States at the Port of New Orleans on 11 Jan 1847 aboard the ship Independence and was accompanied by her parents, Thomas James Vance, Sr, and Margaret Nancy Ann McCannon Vance, and other family members. She married in Newton County, Mississippi, to William Cooksey Sessums, son of William Thomas Sessums and Ziplhia Cooksey, and they were parents of seven children. He was married three additional time after her death.

Vance, Mary Eliza (1832, County Derry, Ireland—1915

A native of County Derry, Ireland, and daughter of Francis Vance, Sr., and Elizabeth “Eliza” MNU, Mary Eliza Vance arrived in the United States on 3 March 1847 at the Port of New Orleans aboard Erin’s Queen.

Mary Eliza Vance married Henry S. Massengale, Sr., and they were parents of five children.

Vance, Mrs. Mary (1822, Ireland--

Mrs. Mary Vance, a native of Ireland and wife of John Vance, came to the United States aboard the emigrant ship Independence, arriving in the Port of New Orleans from Belfast, Ireland on 11 Jan 1847 with her husband and four children. Her husband died in Newton County, Mississippi, in 1855 and she later moved to Freestone County, Texas, with their daughter Margaret Jane “Peggy” Vance and her husband Thomas A. Jones and their children.

Vance, Matilda (1841, County Derry, Ireland—1899)

A native of County Derry, Ireland, and daughter of Francis Vance, Sr., and Elizabeth “Eliza” MNU, Matilda Vance arrived in the United States on 3 March 1847 at the Port of New Orleans aboard Erin’s Queen. She was married to Wiley A. Graham and they were parents of one daughter.

Vance, Matilda (1844, County Down, ireland—1915)

Matilda Vance arrived in the United States at the Port of New Orleans on 11 Jan 1847 aboard the ship Independence and was accompanied by her parents William Thomas “Whiskey Tom” and Margaret Jane “Peggy Ann” Vance, and other family members. She married James “Jim”

French, son of Richard Neil and Elisa J. Vance. They lived at Lucern in Newton County, Mississippi and were parents of five children.

Vance, Nancy Elizabeth “Eliza” (1843, County Antrim, Ireland—1921)

Nancy Elizabeth “Eliza” Vance arrived in the United States at the Port of New Orleans on 11 Jan 1847 aboard the ship Independence and was accompanied by her parents, Thomas James “Pap” Vance, Jr., and Nancy Ann Dowdle Vance, and other family members. She married (1) to William Thomas Mitchell, by whom she had three children; married (2) to James Matthew “One-Armed Jimmie” by whom she had six c Vance.

Vance, Mrs. Margaret Nancy “Mattie” (1810, Ireland

Mrs. Margaret Nancy “Mattie” Vance was a resident of Newton County, Mississippi, in 1850 and 1860. A native of County Derry, Ireland, she arrived with her husband Thomas Frank Vance in the United States aboard Erin’s Queen at the Port of New Orleans on 3 March 1847, only to have her husband die at Jackson, Mississippi, as they made their way to Newton County, Mississippi. They were parents of four children.

Vance, Thomas Frank (1804—1847)

A native of County Derry, Ireland, Thomas Frank ZVance arrived with his wife Margaret Nancy “Mattie” in the United States aboard Erin’s Queen at the Port of New Orleans on 3 March 1847, only to die at Jackson, Mississippi, as they made their way to Newton County, Mississippi. Family lore tells us that Thomas Frank worked on the riverfront in New Orleans, but injured a foot when a large object fell on it. It became infected and he took sick in Jackson, Mississippi and did not survive. They were parents of four children.

Vance, Thomas James (1844—1866)

Thomas James Vance, a native of County Down, Ireland, arrived in America accompied by his parents, Thomas Frank Vance and Margaret Nancy “Mattie” MNU and other family members , aboard Erin’s Queen at the Port of New Orleans on 3 March 1847, only to have his father to die in Jackson, Mississippi, as they made their way to Newton County, Mississippi.

Thomas James Vance married Sarah Ann Dowdle, daughter of James Masonic Dowdle and Mary Jane Davison.

Vance, Thomas James “Pap” (1818--1905)

Thomas James Vance, Jr., arrived in the United States at the Port of New Orleans on 11 Jan 1847 aboard the ship Independence and was accompanied by his wife and other family members including his parents Thomas James Vance, Sr., and Margaret Nancy Ann McCannon. He is located on the 1850 Federal Census of Newton County, Mississippi. He married Nancy Ann Dowdle in Ireland and they were parents of seven children.

Vance, Thomas James, Sr. (1795--

Thomas James Vance arrived in the United States at the Port of New Orleans on 11 Jan 1847 aboard the ship Independence and was accompanied by his wife and other family members. He appears on the 1850 Federal Census of Newton County, Mississippi, with his wife, Margaret Nancy Ann McCannon. They were parents of eight known children, including James Jackson "Jack" Vance who helped bring them to America. Thomas James Vance (or James as he is usually known as) was naturalized in Mississippi in 1858 and probably was deceased by 1860.

DNA testing has been done for the three senior Vance men who came to Newton County, Mississippi. This testing confirms that Thomas Frank Vance and Francis Vance, Sr., were brothers and that Thomas James Vance was a close relative and likely a first cousin.

Vance, William Thomas (1822-1857)

On 12 Jan 1854, Newton County, Mississippi, Thomas Vance applied for Land Patent #35565 (price not given) consisting of 40.14 acres, such land situated in the SW ¼ SE ¼ Section 7, Township 8 North, Range 11 East.

A native of County Derry, Ireland, William Thomas "Whiskey Tom" Vance appears with his family in the 1850 Federal Census of Newton County, Mississippi. He was a son of Francis Vance, Sr., and Elizabeth "Eliza" MNU and was married to Margaret Ann "Peggy" Vance and the marriage produced seven known children. He operated a saw mill in conjunction with a son-in-law, William Cooksey Sessums. He arrived in the United States at the Port of New Orleans aboard the ship Liverpool on 17 Dec 1845.

Willis, Ann (1830, County Antrim, Ireland

Ann Willis arrived in the United States aboard an unknown emigrant ship arriving at the Port of Mobile ca March 1849 with her family, which included his parents, John Willis and Sarah Jane (MNU). She moved to Franklin Parish, Louisiana with her husband Edward Courtney and they were parents of four children.

Willis, Ellen (1832, County Antrim, Ireland

Ellen Willis arrived in the United States aboard an unknown emigrant ship arriving at the Port of Mobile ca March 1849 with her family, which included her parents, John and Sarah Jane Willis. She married Steve Preston. No further information.

Willis, Jane (1835, County Antrim, Ireland—1888, Johnson County, Texas

Jane Willis arrived in the United States aboard an unknown emigrant ship arriving at the Port of Mobile ca March 1849 with his family which included her parents, John and Sarah Jane Willis. She married Alston Red and they were parents of eight children.

Willis, John (1801, County Antrim, Northern Ireland—bef 1860

John Willis arrived in the United States aboard an unknown emigrant ship arriving at the Port of Mobile ca March 1849 with his family, which included his wife Sarah Jane (MNU) and seven children, as well as a son-in-law, Edward Courtney.

John Willis was preceded to Newton County, Mississippi by two brothers, William Willis and Daniel Willis.

Willis, John Henry (1827, County Antrim, Ireland)

John Henry Willis arrived in the United States aboard an unknown emigrant ship arriving at the Port of Mobile ca March 1849 with his family, which included his parents, John Willis and Sarah Jane (MNU). He married Ellen MNU and they were parents of two known children.

Willis, Letitia (1834, County Antrim, Ireland)

Letitia Willis arrived in the United States aboard an unknown emigrant ship arriving at the Port of Mobile ca March 1849 with her family, which included her parents, John and Sarah Jane (MNU) and was living in Newton County, Mississippi, in 1850. No further information.

Willis, Mary (1847, County, Antrim, Ireland)

Mary Willis arrived in the United States aboard an unknown emigrant ship arriving at the Port of Mobile ca March 1849 with her family, which included her parents John Willis and Sarah Jane (MNU) and was living in Newton County, Mississippi in 1850.

Willis, Thomas (1842, County Antrim, Ireland)

Thomas Willis arrived in the United States aboard an unknown emigrant ship arriving at the Port of Mobile ca March 1849 with his family, which included his parents John Willis and Sarah Jane (MNU) and was living in Newton County, Mississippi in 1850.

The Third Wave of The Irish (1850—1860)

Irish immigrants continued to come to Newton County and surrounding area during the 1850's. While the Potato Famile had ended poor economic conditions had not. Call the third wave of settlers stragglers if you will. From a research point of view at the presnt time, they are not as well documented, but for historical purposes it is clear that the decision to come to America was the right one. Their story, often incomplete, follows.

Cannis, William (1838, Ireland)

William Cannis, born 1838, Ireland, was living in the household of Allen Jones in the 1860 Federal Census of Union, Newton County, Mississippi.

Creighton, Joseph (1830, Ireland)

Joseph “Joe” Creighton (ca. 1830, Ireland—aft 1885) settled near Hickory, Newton County, Mississippi, by the year 1860. He was married to Nancy McGowan, a native of Alabama, and they had nine children, most of whom remained in the Hickory area

Doole, Isabella (1820, Ireland

Isabella Doole was the second wife of Richard Heil French (see later) and they were parents of five children.

French, Benjamin Sr. (1824, County Antrim, Ireland—1908)

A native of County Antrim, Ireland and son of Samuel French and Sallie Ann Guinn, Benjamin French, Sr., emigrated to the United States ca. 1851 and settled in Newton County, Mississippi. He married Sarah Ann “Sallie” Davison, daughter of Samuel Davison and Sarah Patterson, and they were parents of seven children.

French, Richard Neil, (1815, County Antrim, Ireland—ca 1862)

A native of County Antrim, Ireland, Richard Neil French arrived in the United States ca. 1851 and settled in Newton County, Mississippi. He married (1) Eliza Vance, by whom he had four children; married (2) Isabella Doole, by whom he had five children.

By all appearances Richard Neil French remained in Ireland in 1847 and sent his first family to the United States accompanied by a brother, Abel French, aboard the emigrant ship Independence arriving in the Port of New Orleans from Belfast, Ireland on 11 Jan 1847. His first wife, Eliza J. Vance, died during the voyage and was buried at sea. Richard then remarried, likely in Ireland, to Isabella Doole and immigrated to the United States. No additional record can be found for his brother Abel French.

Heslens

The late Myrtle McNair in her history of the Willis family indicated that William Willis, son of Daniel Willis and Elizabeth Chisolm was married to Mary Jane “Chressland” or “Heslen”. The name is correctly Heslen. Two members of this family, “A. Heslen” (male) and “Zilphia Heslen” are recorded as being members of Pinckney Baptist Church in 1853. Mary Ann Heslen is not mentioned in these records, still considered as a family member at this point.

Mary Jane Heslen was born ca. 1840 in Northern Ireland and died some time after 1900 in Caddo Parish, Louisiana. She married (1) to William Willis, and (2) to George French, son of Richard Neil French and Eliza J. Vance.

Hogan, William H. “Billie”

According to Myrtle McNair, William H. “Billie” Hogan came to America from Belfast, Ireland through the Port of Mobile, Alabama in August 1851 and was naturalized as a U. S. citizen on 23 September 1856. He married not long after his arrival to Nancy Letitia Willis, a daughter of

Daniel Willis and Elizabeth Chisolm. Both Billie and Nancy would be dead by 1860, but they left three children for others to raise.

On May 2, 1859, William H. Hogan applied for a patent on 159 acres in Newton County. He, however, was deceased by the time of the 1860 Federal Census.

In 1860, those three children, along with Narcissa Gill, age 12, were being raised by Mary Martin, age 58, in Newton County.

The three children of the marriage of William “Billie” Hogan and Nancy Letitia Willis, were (1) Daniel Robert Hogan (1852-1899) married Caroline Willis, daughter of William B. Willis and Nancy Davison; (2) Eliza Jane Hogan (1854--) married John Jehue Leander Ponder; and (3) Mary Ann Hogan (1859—1906), married Noah R. Vance.

Johnson, E. F.

E. F. Johnson, born 1825, Ireland, was a clerk employed by Walter Scott Nimocks, merchant, in Decatur, Newton County, Mississippi.

Masseys

Archy Massey, born ca. 1825, Ireland, was living at Union, Newton County, Mississippi, in 1860, where he was employed as a day labourer. Living with him was Liza (?) Massey, born ca. 1818, Ireland, and Susan Massey, born ca. 1845, Ireland. No further information.

McCabe, John

John McCabe, born ca. 1817, Ireland, was living, unmarried, at Newton Station in 1860. By 1870, he was married and living in New Orleans, Louisiana as a labourer.

McGowan, Barney

Barney McGowan, was born ca. 1825, Ireland, was a resident of St. Lawrence County, New York, in 1850, of Massachusetts, ca. 1856, and Decatur, Newton County, Mississippi, in 1860, where he was employed by Samuel Herd as a ditcher. No further records.

McLay, John

John McLay, born ca. 1834, Ireland, was living at Union, Newton County, Mississippi, in 1860, where he was employed as a ditcher by Allen Jones. By 1870, he had married and moved to Chicago, Illinois where he worked as a carpenter.

Mercer, George (1829, Belfast, County Down, Ireland—1923)

A native of Belfast, County Down, Ireland, George Mercer emigrated to America aboard the ship John Howell, departing from Liverpool, England and landing at the Port of New Orleans on 13 December 1854.

George Mercer settled first in Neshoba County, Mississippi, where he took his first wife, Susan Virginia Chipman. After her death, he married (2) Sarah Campbell, the widow of Alex Henry, and daughter of Samuel Campbell and Letitia Castles. He had a total of eight children from both marriages. He died at Conehatta in 1923 and was likely a brother of Arthur Mercer of Lawrence, Newton County, Mississippi.

Moore, William Thomas—Sarah Vance Moore Family

William Thomas Moore (1820—1892) and Sarah Vance (1824-1905) both were natives of County Londonderry, Ireland. They were married in 1843 and their three oldest children were born there. They immigrated first to Canada, where a son was born in 1852, then to Kemper County, Mississippi, where a daughter was born in 1854. They lived in the Martin area along the Kemper—Lauderdale County, Mississippi line and had nine children. Sarah Vance was a daughter of James Vance and Margaret McCannon who immigrated to Newton County, Mississippi

Their oldest daughter, Elizabeth Moore, married Daniel M. Hitt, a native of Greene County, Alabama, and they had four children. They were living in Newton County, Mississippi in 1860, then moved to the House community, Neshoba County, Mississippi.

Morse, Jane (1790

Jane Morse, born ca 1790, Ireland, was living in the household of Elizabeth Chisolm Willis (wife of Daniel Willis) in 1860 and is believed to be a relative, connection unknown.

Parkhills

Robert Parkhill, born ca. 1809, Ireland, settled by 1850 north of Hickory in what later became known as the Berry community. He married Martha Goodson 17 May 1838, Franklin County, Mississippi, and they were parents of five children, only one of whom, John F. Parkhill, is known to have remained in the area. Robert Parkhill, in 1870, was superintendent of a sawmill operation.

Prestons

The Prestons appear in Newton County, Mississippi in 1860. Two children of John and Margaret Kelly Preston of Belfast, County Down, Ireland, who migrated to Newton County, Mississippi, were Margaret Elizabeth Preston (1830—1905) wife of William John Blackburn and a sister, Martha Preston, born ca. 1843, Ireland.

James Preston, born, according to baptismal records, 19 June 1791, Dromore Parish, County Down, Ireland, and son of Thomas Preston and Esther McMurray, was living in Newton County, Mississippi, in 1860 with his wife Sarah and sons Albert, Thomas, and George (born 1852, Scotland).

Steven Preston, born 1833, Ireland, married Ellen Willis, dau. of John and Sarah Jane Willis, and is likely a son of either James or John Preston (as described above).

Robinson, Henry (1800--

Henry Robinson, born 1800 in Ireland, was a resident of the Pleasant Grove area of Beat 2 in 1850. He married Eleanor, the widow of Thomas J. Crocker, and in addition to step-children, had one son from his marriage to Eleanor.

Sullivans

Michel Sullivan, Sr., born 1820, Ireland, was living at Decatur, Newton County, Mississippi, in 1860, with his wife Aby and five children. No further information.

Crus Sulivan, born 1832, Ireland, was living at Decatur, Newton County, Mississippi, in 1860, where he was employed by merchant Walter Scott Nimocks.

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Postnotes

This story of immigration has taken many years to research and write, and the story continues to evolve. We have brought you the most accurate account as possible of the individuals and families involved and beg your assistance (and forgiveness) in correcting any error.

I am indebted throughout with the assistance of Janette Morgan Vance in preparing the entries on the Vance surname and hope I have copied these entries correctly according to her directions.

In the summer of 2016 we were contacted by Bill Vance of the Vance Family Association who requested notes from our research. We shared these notes with him and thereafter he published these in a VFA publication. While neither Janette Vance Morgan nor myself have read the entire report, what we have seen contains a number of false statements and conclusions. Efforts to correct these errors with Mr. Vance have been unsuccessful. We might add, also, in addressing the matter, that Mr. Vance is not a descendant of any of the Newton County Vance families and does not have the personal up-close knowledge in researching these families as a local researcher would have.



Henry McIntosh, Freedman

By

Dr. Harold Graham

In all my years of researching and of all the people I have “met” over the years through this research, I have encountered only two freedman. The first was Buck Smith of early Lawrence County, Mississippi, who at one time was the property of Isham Smith.

Isham was the father of John William Smith who settled at Pinckeney in Newton County, Mississippi, in 1834. John William Smith is my 3rd great-grandfather, so I have a lot of personal interest in this story.

Yes, some of my ancestors owned slaves. That is a sad fact of history that I share with millions of white southerners. I can not change it. It is what it is, but I was glad to learn that Isham Smith had some role in freeing his slave Buck, as told so candidly by John Paul Smith, the authority on the early Smiths who settled in Lawrence and surrounding counties in Mississippi.

John Paul calls our Smiths the “Four-Penny Smiths”. I was puzzled by that description, so I asked him for an explanation.

“Not a one of them had a nickel to their name”, he responded.

So it is equally puzzling that old Isham Smith could afford to own a slave. It is what it is.



The second freedman that I have met was Henry McIntosh. This happened in 2013 after I was contacted by Carolyn McIntosh, someone who grew up at Decatur but now lives in Chicago, Illinois. J. D. McIntosh was her father and she wanted to know about his ancestry. It is through this research that I “met” Henry McIntosh. I am sharing some of my notes from our correspondence.

Henry McIntosh, mulatto, born 1827, North Carolina, appears on the 1850 and 1860 Federal Censuses of Kemper County, MS. He is living in the town of DeKalb without any other family members and in a household or business occupied by whites. In 1860 his occupation is given as “ditch digger”. I can not find him on later records and am inclined to think that he died during the early days of the Civil War, perhaps prey to the Confederates who were hustling off to war. Tragic, but that is my view of how his life may have ended. I hope that you can find out differently.

For Henry as a mulatto or black and listed on the 1850 or 1860 Federal meant that he had to meet a special requirement: he had to be a Free Person of Color. If he were part of the slave population, we would not see his name on a census until 1870.

How did this come to be? It is most likely that his sire and his white slave owner were one and the same and that he was granted his freedom because of this relationship, most likely to be provided at the time of his father's death as part of a will or other written provision since Henry would have had to always carry around special papers verifying his status as free. For obvious reasons his father would be expected to bear the surname of McIntosh..

Where do you look next? Most of the early Kemper County records have been destroyed. Try North Carolina records, county unknown as this time, but start with the 1840 Federal Census of North Carolina to isolate the counties where McIntoshes lived and then dig deeper into these counties' records. That is your best shot at finding the paper trail.

I have been unable to find the name of Henry's mate, but have identified two children: John Henry McIntosh (1859-1941) later of Newton County, Mississippi) and Sibbie Isabelle McIntosh (1861-1922), later wife of John E. Mathes or Matthews and residents of Cairo, Illinois. Mathis was employed in the lab at Singer Manufacturing Company, probably the same that produced sewing machines. For a black to have this type of career at this time was a remarkable achievement. They had children and through some research, you may be able to find descendants in the Cairo area.

Henry's mate would have been part of the slave population. Under the laws of the day, there were no legal way for them to marry or live together as man and wife. Those laws would only come after the Emancipation Proclamation. To live together would require that he either give up his freedom and live with her slave family or that else, he would need to purchase her freedom (as Buck Smith did for his Rachel). What happened to her? I simply do not know. She may have died before 1870 or she may have taken a new husband.

It is significant to report that John Henry and Sibbie could have carried their mother's surname for some time. This may explain why I have yet to find John Henry or Sibbie on the census as children. I do have a John McIntosh, age 11 and white, living in Leake County, MS, in 1870, with the family of John and Susan Guice, both of whom are black. That is an odd arrangement, but when you take into account that John Henry McIntosh had blue eyes and looked to be white, the census enumerator may have made that quick assumption.

John Henry McIntosh was living in the town of Newton, Newton County, MS, in 1900, where he is described as a barber. He is "widowed" . He later remarried, had children, and was living with his son J. D. McIntosh when he died at Newton in 1941.

McIntosh: Two Generations of My Family

By

Carolyn McIntosh

Generation I: The Family of John Henry McIntosh, Sr.

Note: This part of the family history below was written by my older sister Sadie McIntosh-Baynes (who is now deceased) back in 1984 for a family reunion. She, my brother, and another sister who was around 3 at the time were the only ones in my family who remembered Grandpa John. They remembered when he came to live with them in 1938. I was born the year after he passed.

My grandmother was originally from Kemper County, Mississippi.

As to date, all of John Henry's children are deceased except for Henry. His brother Herbert passed June 2017.

Grandpa John was married prior to marriage to my Grandma Willie. As a child, I used to visit my Dad's half-brother, James, who at the time resided in Newton, Mississippi. His wife as I remember was named Ruth and they had a son Ted. Ted lives in Gary, IN. His half-sisters Ora Dee and Polly, as I remember when I met them once or twice, lived in Joliet, IL.

The following was written by Sadie McIntosh-Baynes – August 1, 1984

"John McIntosh was married to Willie Hardge¹, and they made their home in Decatur, MS. There were ten boys and two daughters born into this marriage (Percy, J D, C N, Beatrice, John Henry (Johnny), Elizabeth (Lizzie), Elb B. (E B), Henry, Willie John (W J), Herbert, Chester, and Jerry.

"John had three children by a previous marriage (James, Ora Dee, and Polly). All are now deceased.

"Although John and Willie were separated in the late 1930s, neither of them ever remarried after their separation. John passed in August of 1941 at the age of 82 and Willie passed October 1959 at the age of 69.

"Grandpa John was an industrious and skilled businessman who operated a combination dry cleaners, pool recreation hall, and a barber shop of which he worked in all three capacities.

"Grandpa John came to live with his son J D around 1938 and lived with us until his death. Although he was in his 70's when he came to live with us, he was still in good

¹ Correctly Willie Hodge.

health and did a lot of handy work around the house, like build chicken coops, hen nests, kept fresh pine straw in the hen nests, planted and worked the garden, drew well water, kept the yard clean, netted crawfish and dug earthworms and he taught us how to fish. He had wits and was dexterous. He would even trim eight to ten small corks from a big cork for our fishing line, and he would wait for all of them to sink so that we would not lose our fish. We lived in a pasture that had a pond, so we fished every evening during the spring, summer, and early fall.

"He was kind and merciful and told us lots of things about the world that I am just beginning to understand now. He was born in 1859 during the time of slavery, which was abolished in 1863 under the great President Abraham Lincoln. He took the name of McIntosh from his slave master which is Scottish. His favorite song was "Walk in Jerusalem Just like John."

Mississippi Death Certificate

McIntosh, John Henry

#14160-1941

Colored widowed male, resident of Newton, and patient at Newton Infirmary. Occupation: barber. Born September 25, 1859, Kemper County, Mississippi, and age 82-8-16. Died August 9, 1941, and buried at Decatur, Mississippi. Parents not given. Cause of death: apoplexy.²

Note: Below is history of J D's mom from the family history written by my sister.

Willie Hodge

"Grandma Willie was a woman of principles who arose early in the morning, worked during the day, and rested in the evening on her porch in her rocking chair before going to bed. Whatever she did, she did it neat and well. She washed and boiled her clothes the best. She always had a good garden with the best strawberries and vegetables which she shared with us, and she also planted fruit trees – peaches, figs, and pecan. She kept a beautiful green lawn with lots of beautiful flowers and shrubs. She held the upkeep and respect of property to high esteem.

She was a virtuous woman of high morale, and she liked to talk with all passing neighbors. She did not run from house to house to gossip. Her conversations were always with laughter and she enjoyed talking about her children and family. She demanded obedience, respect, and responsibility from children and accepted nothing less.

She always wore a clean cotton dress and lived a conservative life within her means which accounts for a 'free from worry' attitude. She always rewarded her grandchildren

² Mississippi Death Certificates, Mississippi Department of Archives and History, Jackson, Mississippi.

with gifts whenever they made scholastic achievements whether in school, field's day, or 4-H club. She was concerned, and she had a love for her family that I have just come into the knowledge of understanding during the past two years. I have never known a woman who had such strength and backbone that Grandma Willie had, and it is something to be happy about. Anyone who was obedient to her principles was rewarded. She was responsible for her words and actions."

With the background of Grandpa John and Grandma Willie, I believe all of us born into this family have something to be happy about – to be born of these two-great people. A good look at the family shows they brought forth good fruit – working people, smart people, intelligent people, people that love to talk, laugh, and live in love.

I have listed below John's children, their wives and children as I know



John Henry McIntosh, Sr., was born 25 Sept 1859, DeKalb, Kemper County, Mississippi—died 9 Aug 1941, Newton, Mississippi.

He married (1) Unknown. Issue:

- 1. Ora Dee McIntosh**
- 2. Polly McIntosh**
- 3. James McIntosh, born 16 Feb 1899—died Jan 1973, Newton, Newton County, Mississippi**

John Henry McIntosh, Sr., married (2) Willie H. Hodge, born ca. 1892, Kemper County, Mississippi. They were parents of the following children:

- 4. Percy E. McIntosh** was born 10 Oct 1909, Decatur, Newton County, Mississippi, and passed December 1986, Pinola, Smith County, Mississippi. He was a teacher and football coach in Simpson County Mississippi. He married Mallie Mae Black (deceased) of Pinola, MS. They made their home in Pinola, MS and had thirteen children.
- 5. James David "J. D." McIntosh** was born March 15, 1911, Decatur, Newton County, Mississippi, and passed August 31, 1961. His work career was in the dry cleaning. In 1959 he attended in Jackson, Mississippi, "The Colored Dry-Cleaning Convention." He worked at the Decatur Cleaners at that time, owned by Alex Munday until retirement. He married Rebecca Moore of Decatur (deceased). They had five children.
- 6. Connie "C N" McIntosh** was born November 12, 1912, Decatur, Newton County, Mississippi, and passed June 26, 2008. He worked as a carpenter and brick layer. He married Lucille Hawkins (deceased) of Decatur, MS and they had four children. He later had two children by Mildred Buckley of Decatur, MS.

7. **Beatrice McIntosh** was born_____ and passed as a child. (They never talked about her. Hugh Eatmon remember her when he would play with some of the brothers).
8. **John Henry McIntosh (Johnny), Jr.** was born 7 Feb 1917, Decatur, Mississippi, and passed 29 June 2009, Canton, Madison County, Mississippi. He moved to Flint, MI at an early age and worked in the dry-cleaning business there. He was never married.

Military service in World War II

McIntosh, John H inducted 30 June 1942 in the United States Army at Camp Shelby, Mississippi, at age 25. Civilian occupation; presser machine. Served as medical NCO in the European Theater. Battles and campaigns: Rhineland. Decorations and citations: American Theater of Operations Medal; European African Middle Eastern Theater of Operations Medal; Good Conduct Medal; World War II Victory Medal. Discharged as Corporal, Medical Detachment, 629th Quartermaster Battalion, at Camp Shelby, Mississippi, 27 Dec 1945³

9. **Elb Bennett "E. B." McIntosh Sr (EB).** was born August 27, 1919, Decatur, Newton County, Mississippi, and passed May 26, 2001, Decatur, Newton County, Mississippi. He worked in the dry-cleaning business for many years and had a cleaner in Louisville, MS. He later moved his family to Decatur in the family home. He opened a dry-cleaners in Decatur, MS in the same spot where Munday's Cleaners used to be. It was called, McIntosh Cleaners. He later moved his cleaners to Newton, MS where he operated until retirement. He married Lucille Hampton of DeKalb, MS. They had three children.

Military Service in World War II:

McIntosh, Elb B., inducted 12 Dec 1942 in the United States Army at Camp Shelby, Mississippi, age 22. Civilian occupation; laundry machine operator. Served as supply NCO in the European Theater. Battles and campaigns; Naples-Foggia, Rome-Arno Northern Apennines. Decorations and citations: European African Middle Eastern Theater of Operations Medal; Good Conduct Medal; World War II Victory Medal. Discharged as Sergeant, 99th Quartermaster Railhead Company, Camp Shelby, Mississippi, 12 Dec 1945.⁴

10. **Elizabeth Florence McIntosh (Lizzie)** was born November 27, 1923 in Decatur, Newton County, Mississippi. She passed December 3, 2015. She married Warren

³ Lange, Terry T. and Graham, Harold, Ed. D., Veterans of World War II, Newton County, Mississippi, Turner Publishing Company, Nashville, TN, 2007.

⁴ Ibid.

Harding Boler (deceased) of Conehatta, Mississippi. They moved from Decatur, Mississippi to Flint, Michigan and raised their family. They had four children. Lizzie learned the art of sewing from her parents and was a professional tailor in Flint, MI. As a young girl, she learned to play the piano and played well. Her ten brothers protected her and loved "sister."

11. **Henry M. McIntosh** was born 1925, Decatur, Newton County, Mississippi. He is living and resides in Flint, MI. He was married to Willie Etta Black (deceased) of Pinola, Mississippi. They had four children. He later married Jewel Temple (deceased) of Decatur, Mississippi and they moved to Flint, Michigan where he worked in the dry cleaning and tailoring until retirement. They had four children.

Military Service in World War II:

McIntosh, Henry, inducted 16 Jul 1943 in the United States Army at Camp Shelby, Mississippi, age 18. Civilian occupation: laundry machine operator. Serviced as high explosives packer in the European Theater. Military qualifications; Rifle Sharpshooter. Battles and campaigns: Northern France. Decorations and citations: American Theater of Operations Medal; European African Middle Eastern Theater of Operations Medal; Good Conduct Medal; World War II Victory Medal. Discharged as Private, Company C, 784th Tank Battalion, at Camp Shelby, Mississippi, 4 May 1946.⁵

12. **William John "Wilie" McIntosh** was born 17 Sept 1926, Decatur, Newton County, Mississippi, and passed 20 Oct 2010, Chicago, Cook County, Illinois. He worked in the dry-cleaning business in Hickory, Mississippi and Gulfport, Mississippi. He later relocated to Chicago, IL where he worked as a Manager, Building Engineer for realtor until retirement. He married Mary Brown (deceased) of Hickory, MS. They had two children. He was married to Maxine ____ (deceased) of _____. They had two children. His third wife is Claudia _____ of Chicago, IL and they had one child.

Military Service in World War II:

McIntosh, Willie J., inducted 5 Feb 1945 in the United States Army at Camp Shelby, Mississippi, age 18. Civilian occupation, presser machine. Served as light truck driver in the Pacific Theater. Military qualifications: Rifle Expert. Decorations and citations: Asiatic Pacific Theater of Operations Medal: Army of Occupation Medal (Japan); World War II Victory Medal; 1 Overseas Service Bar.

⁵ Ibid.

Discharged as Sergeant, Headquarters 768th Engineer Dump Truck Company, at Fort Sam Houston, Texas, 30 Nov 1946.⁶

13. **Herbert Franklin McIntosh, Sr** was born May 20, 1929, Decatur, Newton County, Mississippi, and passed June 6, 2017. He was married to Ruby Pearl Jordan (deceased) of Decatur, Mississippi. He graduated from Newton Vocational High School (there was no high school in Decatur for African Americans during that time). He and Ruby later moved to Flint, Michigan. They had four children. He successfully completed several college courses. He was hired at Chevrolet, a division of General Motors and began his career as a Line Worker. Soon his drive for learning led him to become an Apprentice within the Skilled Trades Group. He later became a Journeyman Electrician with the United Auto Workers Union. He retired from General Motors. He was an avid golf player and played in several leagues.
14. **Chester McIntosh, SR** was born in 1932, Newton County, Mississippi, and passed February 25, 2012. While living at home in Decatur, he and his younger brother Jerry were painters at East Central Junior College. He married his high school sweetheart Alberta _____ (deceased) of Mobile, AL who came to live with her Uncle and Aunt in Decatur and attended Decatur Consolidated School. They both graduated. Chester served in the United States Army. While in the army, Alberta stayed with his mother in Decatur. After serving his stint in the Army, they moved to Mobile, Alabama where his occupation was a professional painter. They had four children.
15. **Jerry McIntosh** was born 30 Aug 1934, Decatur, Newton County, Mississippi, and passed 20 Nov 2006, Wyncote, Montgomery County, Pennsylvania. . Jerry graduated from Decatur Consolidated School in Decatur. While at home he and his brother Chester were painters at East Central Junior College. He would later service in the United States Army. After serving his stint in the Army, he relocated to Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. He was married on 31 Dec 1954, Petersburg, Virginia, to Jean Elizabeth Montgomery of Virginia. They had four children. He would later marry Margareta _____ and they had one child.

Part II: J. D. McIntosh

J D was born on March 15, 1911 in Decatur, Mississippi to John Henry McIntosh, Sr., and Willie Hodge McIntosh. He was the 2nd of 12 children born to this union. He attended Decatur Colored School through 6th grade. He went to work in his father's dry cleaners at an early age and learned the dry cleansing business. As an adult, he worked at Alex Munday's Decatur Dry Cleaners until retirement. He was known through Newton County as an expert in his field. He could remove spots from most garments. He could also do some tailoring. People throughout Newton County would bring their clothes for him to do their dry cleaning. I think it was in 1959

⁶ Ibid.

that he attended a Dry-Cleaning Convention for Colored People in Jackson. I ran across the book from the convention several years ago and we talked about it. He learned from this meeting, but most he learned from his daddy



LEFT: J. D. McIntosh at Age 26

Daddy left Decatur for a few years and moved to Flint, Michigan and stayed with his brother Herbert and his family. There he got a job working in a dry cleaner. When he came back to Decatur, he went back to work at Decatur Cleaners. After Mr. Munday passed, he stayed on and helped Mrs. Munday run the cleaners.

If you knew Daddy, he was a man of few words, but meant what he said. He also had an amazing sense of humor. He was always quick with a comeback and was always joking. He did this until his passing last year. You could always tell he was getting ready to make a joke or a statement that probably was not true by the smile on his face.

I can remember, he was well-respected by everyone that knew him. We as a family were respected because of the name McIntosh and Daddy's family. All his siblings were highly respected growing up. He and my mother were proud of all of us and we knew that they expected nothing better from us than to respect ourselves, elders and authority. Although Daddy only got to 6th grade and Mama 3rd grade, education⁷ was very important to them. We had to go to school every day, do our homework, and get good grades. We were encouraged to participate in school activities. Staying home just because we did not want to go to school was not an option.

Daddy had the knowledge to do almost anything. He was creative. He made his own earthworm bed by taking the tub out of an old wringer type washing machine, embedded it in the ground in the back yard. Put a few earthworms in and would wet the soil with dirty dishwater. Eventually, he had a harvest of worms for anytime he wanted to fish.

He also planted several trees in the yard to raise a type of worm that insect would lay lava on the leaves, and the worms would come from the larva and grow. Once they got a certain size, they would fall off and turn into a butterfly. The worms were black and green with many legs and antennas on their heads. He loved fishing for bass with these worms. He made a cage with two side and bottom of wood, screen on the sides, and he would cut a hole in the top and

⁷ There were no school facilities beyond grade 8 in the county at this time for Black students. (HG)

insert a can, so they could not crawl out. He even made a handle to carry the cage. He had the same cage that he would use for crickets. I was his best cricket catcher. He made up this god awful smelly fishing bait to catch cat fish which he called "stink bait." I think he also taught his friends how to make it. As I recall, he would take liver and cheese, grind it into the sausage grinder, put in a pint jar, bury in the ground for a certain period until it smelled awful. He thought nothing about his smelly hands. He just loved fishing that much.

He was self-taught to be an electrician and plumber. After retiring from the cleaners, he took up the hobby of gardening. Every year, he had the most beautiful plentiful garden. He enjoyed working in it every day, as he had cut down on fishing every day. He devoted his spare time to doing electrical work and plumbing for people in Decatur. Whenever someone would call the house for him to come and fix plumbing or electric problems, he was on his way. As he got older, he slowed down and eventually stopped. He loved having his grandsons visit put them to work, at the same time teaching them.



Rebecca Moore McIntosh, wife of J. D. McIntosh

He and Mama loved when their children and grandchildren came to visit. It did not matter how many came, we all found a place to lay our head. The joy showed in their faces and they were always so proud of their children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren. They lived to see most of them. He used to love to sneak off from his grandchildren to go fishing. When they heard his loud car, they would tear out of the house running to try and catch him. He thought this was too funny.

Although he never cooked at home because Mama was an exceptional cook, he could cook almost anything. I had the opportunity to experience his cooking when I was in junior high and high school and Mama would go to Chicago to assist my sister and family when she had a baby. I could not cook, and he did all the cooking for us while she was gone.

He married Rebecca Moore of Decatur, Mississippi and they had five children (Sadie, Billie Jack, Jean Doris, Carolyn, and Bobbie J.)

Bobbie passed as an infant. All are now deceased with the exception of Billie Jack and Carolyn.

All children (excepting infant Bobbie) graduated from high school. Sadie attended Alcorn College in Lorman, MS at age of 15 and completed two years. Jean Doris and Carolyn graduated from Mississippi Valley State in Itta Bena, MS.

He and mama were very strict with us, especially the girls. We were not allowed to date. They wanted us to get our education and be prepared to take care of ourselves. As a matter of fact,

when I went to my prom, he drove me to the school and came back and picked me up, I guess he was my date. I was a cheerleader and he would take off from work and drive me to the other towns where the games were. It never bothered me as I knew it was out of protection and love.



Fishing. Does Life Get Any Better Than This!

J D had a love for fishing and hunting. He would go fishing every opportunity that he had, which at times would be 7 days a week. No matter what car he had, he always had fishing poles attached. He never went fishing that he did not catch fish. As kids, the older ones grew tired of cleaning fish as it was every evening. Mama would also clean fish. Until we got a refrigerator, we had an ice box which did not freeze, so at times we had fish sometimes twice a day. He would also give fish to neighbors. He fished everywhere. He was given by some of the residents of Decatur that had private ponds lifetime membership and a key to the gate to fish as he pleased. I know that he had that privilege at Kenneth Osbourne's pond.

He was friends with Jody Johnson, Kermit Jackson, Austin Johnson, and highway patrolman, Walker (I do not remember his full name). Bert Evans was a friend that I can remember. Kermit Jackson was the game warden and Daddy would attend "game warden camp" with them each year and he would do the cooking and would hunt with them. I recall he would bring game of squirrels, rabbits, and possums home. He had told his friends how well Mama could prepare a possum and many people in town would bring a possum to my Mama to cook for them.

Later in life, Daddy joined Roman Hill Baptist Church. It was a small, warm, and friendly church in the woods with a small congregation. He loved the church and the church family. He stopped fishing on Sundays, and spent his Sundays in church and Sunday school. He was made a deacon and became the Sunday School Superintendent. He loved the children of the church, and to encourage them to attend Sunday School, he made sure to have candy to pass out each Sunday to the children and they looked forward to it. Each summer, they had a church picnic. He would save fish for this purpose and would fry fish at the picnic and Mama would make sweets and side dishes

Daddy even was a manager of a baseball team for a group of young men from the high school. I had two good friends and classmates that were a part of the team. They said that he always supported them and would come through in a crunch if needed. On one occasion, they had to travel to another town to play a game. Daddy was going to take a group in his car, and had solicited another person to take the remaining boys. A few hours before the game and they were to leave, the other person's car broke down. The boys felt down because they knew they

would have to forfeit the game if they did not go. Daddy told them to wait. He left and came back with a hearse that he had borrowed for someone. They all piled in, reluctantly, and made the game on time.

He loved reading the **Meridian Star** and the **Newton County Appeal** newspapers. He would pick the **Meridian Star** up as soon as they threw it in the yard and start from front. I mean he would read the entire paper. He would even go sit in his car and read. He still received both papers once he became a resident at J G Alexander Nursing Center in Union. He was known there for having paper scattered on his bed as he read through. He continued until years before his passing.

Obituary of J. D. McIntosh

J D McIntosh was born on March 15, 1911 in Decatur, Mississippi to the parents of Willie and John McIntosh. Graced with 105 years, he transitioned Wednesday, August 31, 2016.

Preceded in death both parents, his wife Rebecca; Three children, Bobbie J., Jean Doris, and Sadie. Two sisters, Beatrice and Elizabeth (Lizzie); Seven brothers, Percy, Johnnie, Jerry, Elb B. (EB), C N, Willie Joh (WJ), and Chester.

He attended school in Decatur until 6th grade. He always said he was put out of school for saying a big word to his teacher, "elephan".

He joined Decatur Baptist Church at an early age and later in life became a member of Roman Hill Baptist Church where he served a Deacon and Sunday School Superintendent until failing health. He had a love for the children there and made sure he had candy for them each Sunday. He enjoyed doing a fish fry during their picnic each year. He loved his church family.

He was married for 72 years to the late Rebecca McIntosh and to this union, five children were born

He had a passion for fishing and was one of the best fisherman in the county. There is probably not a pond or creek in Newton County and surrounding counties that he did not fish. He was known for always having fishing poles tied to his car. His cars always had a certain sound that you knew it was him coming. Most of all, he was known for his quick wit. When he gave you that grin, you knew some funny comment was next.

He worked in the dry-cleaning business until retirement, a trade he learned as a young man from working with his father in his dry cleaners. After retirement he found a love in gardening and did plumbing and electrical work.

He loved helping people. He would always go when called to make sure their problems were cared for. It did not matter the weather conditions, he was there.

He loved when his grandchildren came to visit. He would take them fishing. However, he would also try and slip off from them. They always heard the car and caught him. They often said that when he drove, he drove so close to the edge of the road they could reach out the window and break off tree branches. In June 2006 he became a resident of J. G. Alexander Nursing Center in Union, MS where he resided until his death. Even there he was known for his sense of humor and quick wit. It became his home and he was very content being there.

*He also loved reading the **Meridian Star** and **Newton County Appeal** newspapers faithfully. He continued to receive and read them in the nursing home until recently failing health.*

He leaves to cherish his loving memories two children, Billie Jack McIntosh (Flora) of Flint, Michigan and Carolyn McIntosh of Chicago, Illinois; Two brothers, Henry McIntosh and Herbert McIntosh of Flint, Michigan. Four sisters-in-law; Lucille McIntosh of Decatur, Mississippi, Claudia McIntosh of Chicago, Illinois. Margaretta McIntosh of Wyncote, Pennsylvania, Alberta McIntosh, Mobile, Alabama, and Emma McCune of Rio Linda, California; Thirteen grandchildren, twenty-eight great grandchildren. Thirty-one great-great grandchildren. One great-great-great grandchild; a host of devoted loving nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends; A very special devoted family friend, Hugh Eatmon Jr.



History of Poplar Baptist Church (1896—1996)

By

Martha Waltman

Poplar Baptist Church was organized on May 24, 1896, on two acres of land donated by Davis Edwards. Several years later the church acquired two more acres of land from the Carson Addy estate.

The church is located on an unpaved road .09 miles off HW 489 and approximately 5 miles northeast of Conehatta.

The church had nineteen charter members when organized. These were as follows: Eugene Bryant, Eliza Bryant. I. M. Bryant, T. B. Bryant, Mary A. Coats, Eliza Edwards, J. S. Edwards, Amanda Hutcherson, J. R. McCorkle, W. M. Milling, Fannie Moulds, Sidney Ann Nichols, J. B. Ponder, J. W. Reeves, Mary Reeves, Sarah Reeves, S. D. Reeves, A. L. Rice and J. N. Rice.

A number of the charter members transferred their membership from Pleasant Hill Baptist Church at Conehatta, as indicated in the minutes of Pleasant Hill (Conehatta) Baptist Church, Book B, for May 2, 1896, which notes:



"Called for business when Letters of Dismission was (sic) requested members for the purpose of organizing a Church at Poplar Springs, J. M. Bryant and wife, T. B. Bryant and wife; J. S. Edwards and wife; J. W. Reeves and wife; J. R. McCorkle and wife; Sidney Ann Nichols, Fannie Mould, Alex Coats, Amand Huskerson. This request was granted."

The first pastor was Bro. J. W. Arnold, who served for several years. There have been thirty pastors since he served. The present pastor (1996) is Rev. Curtis Price.

In 1896 there was also a school here, Poplar Springs School, thus the name Poplar Springs Baptist Church.

There was a good spring of water at the bottom of the hill north of the present church. Many a bucket of water was carried up the hill to the school since that was the only water supply.

When the church joined the Southern Baptist Association, the name had to be changed to Poplar Baptist because of the already existing Poplar Springs Baptist Church in the same county.

In the 1930's a piano was bought for the church with hard-earned chicken and egg money that members contributed. The present piano was donated by Linda Truesdale, our pianist.

The original church was torn down in 1954 and in November of that year the present church was built. There was a lot of help from the community in building the new church. Cotton crops were planted and sold the money went toward the building of the church.

Frankie Edwards and Jess Ezelle cut and sawed the logs that and Joe Buntyn planed the lumber that went into the building of the church. Gum posts were used at the entrance of the church. Andrew Ezelle took the pews from the old church and reworked them for the new church.

The early minute books of the church burned, but according to different members' recollections, some of the early deacons were Bob McCorkle, Davis Edwards, Lee Milling, Clinton Mitchell and Perry Gill.

Present deacons are Frankie Edwards (who has been a deacon here for fifty years), John Fulcher, and Phil Waltman.

Past treasurers have been T. C. Easom, Floyd Addy, Clark Leach, Rachel Leach, Bettie Wall, Jackie McCraw, and Frances Edwards. The present treasurer is John Fulcher and the church clerk is Martha Waltman.

The oldest members of the church at the present time (1996) are Amos Easom and his wife Ludie Mae Easom.

In celebrating our centennial anniversary, we should be proud of all of the hard work of our forefathers who built this church.

We hope to see this church grow and prosper in the years to come with God's guidance.

Notes on Poplar Baptist Church Cemetery

Martha Waltman, Contributor

Wilbert Easom, Contributor

It is not unusual for a cemetery to be much older than the church nor for unmarked burials to be located outside the fence, and that is true to Poplar Cemetery.

The first person to be buried in the cemetery after the church was organized was sixteen-year-old Onie Bryant. She had picked out a plot in the cemetery a few weeks prior to her death of a ruptured appendix and was buried accordingly. Lee Cooksey dug her grave. Miss Bryant lived from August 7, 1884 until October 4, 1900.

The original burials, however, date back to 1878 (or earlier) when Winfred Scott and Mary Henrietta Easom Bassett lived in the area. Their first- born children were twins, Mary and Earline Bassett, and were buried in what later became Poplar Church Cemetery.

Wilbert Easom relates,

“When the original fence was replaced in the 1950's, they told Frankie Edwards the original fence was placed over some graves. This turned out to be true.

“During my research on the Easom/Bassett families, I was told the Bassett family lived near the cemetery and their first children (twin girls) were buried there. While looking at the land records at the court house in Decatur, I found where Robert Lee Bassett owned the land on the west side

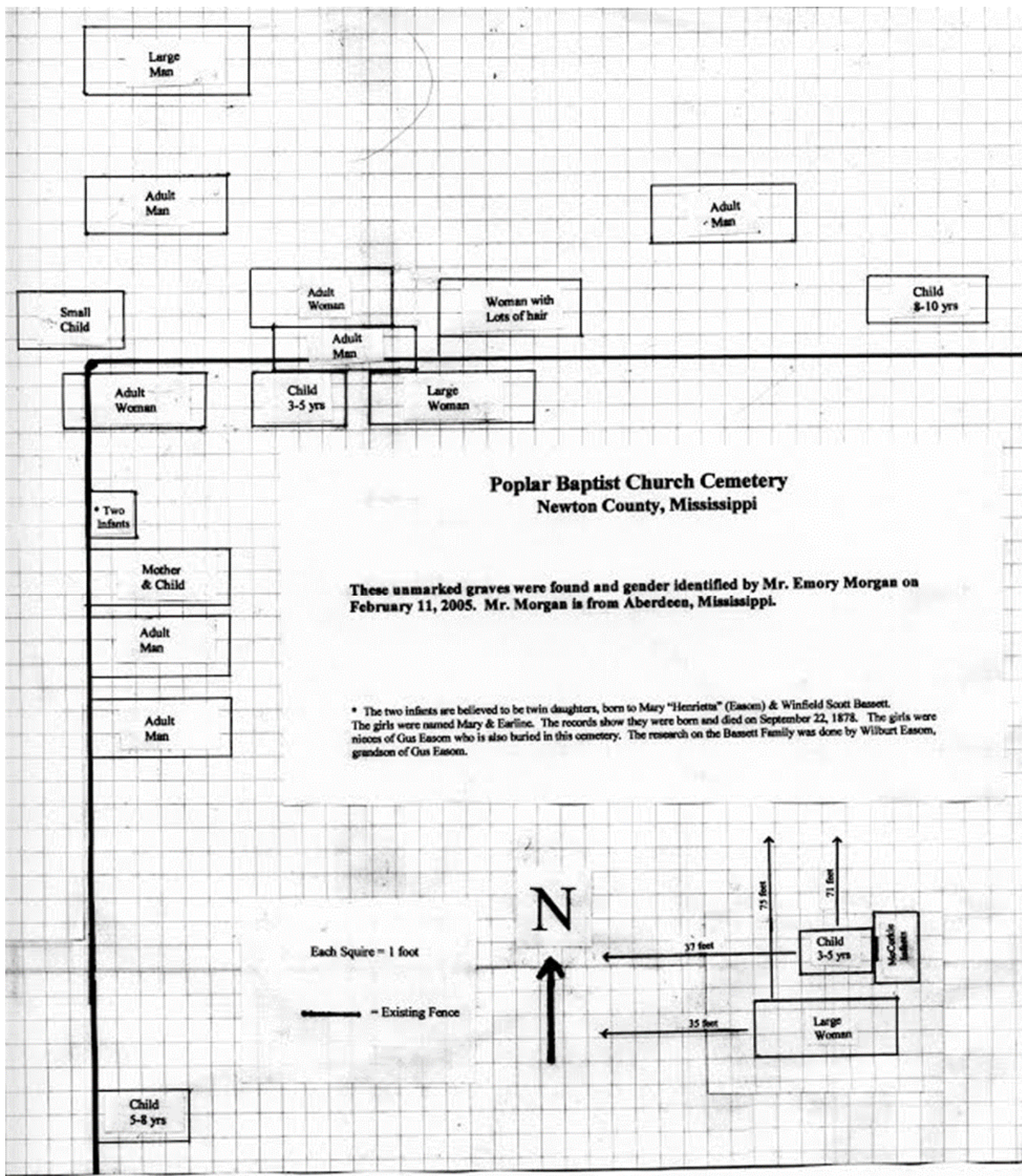
of the church, extending south to where Mrs. Frances Edwards now lives. (Robert Lee Bassett was a son of W. S. and Mary Henrietta Easom Bassett).

“About 1900, Robert Lee Bassett sold the land to Gus & Bettie Easom, the land that is now owned by Mrs. Frances Edwards.

“Robert Lee was a brother to the Bassett twin girls that are buried there in the cemetery. At one time I assumed the Bassett family donated the land to the church, but according to the church records, someone else donated the land. At the moment, I do not remember the name.

“When Mr. Emory Morgan doused the cemetery back in 2005, he found where the twins were located among several other unmarked graves. He, also found a few graves outside the northwest fence. Due to time limitations he did not douse in the adjoining woods. A few weeks later, Tom Edwards and I found several other graves outside the north fence as indicated on the map of the cemetery. When Mr. Morgan doused the cemetery, flags were placed on all unmarked graves that he found, and, also, all the other graves that Tom and I found outside the fence. Tom & I thought that it would be a good idea to make a map of the cemetery that might be of help to someone in the future. A copy of the map has been given to the church for safe keeping. “

See Next Page for a copy of this map.



Duncan Laing, Jr., Scottish Carpenter⁸

By

Dr. Harold Graham

Tradition holds that Duncan Laing, Jr. was the carpenter who built the house known in Newton, Mississippi, as the Hoyer House. This report attempts to identify the movements of Duncan Laing and to indicate when the house might have been built.

According to a descendant of Duncan Laing, he was one of two or more brothers who immigrated to America from Scotland to work as carpenters, but the only one of whom migrated South. Actual records, however, appear to identify Duncan as an only son.

Baptismal records for United Association Burgh Seceders, Limekilns, Fife, Scotland indicates that Duncan Laing, Jr., was born on 7 Nov 1824 and was baptized on 21 Nov 1824, the son of Duncan Laing, Sr., and Mary Ann Howell⁹. This family is shown on the 1841 Scottish Census with the following household members: Duncan Laing, Senr, 41, Mary Anna Laing, 40, Duncan Laing, Jr., 17, Margaret Tennant 19 and Margaret Nicol, 19. The address for this census item was Crichton School House, Crichton Parish, County Midlothian, Scotland. Duncan Laing, Jr., was shown to be an apprentice joiner¹⁰.

Duncan Laing, Jr., immigrated to the United States, arriving from Glasgow, Scotland at the Port of New York City, New York, aboard the Commodore on 3 July 1849. He gives his occupation as "farmer" in the Ship's Manifest¹¹.

Next, we find him in the 1850 Federal Census of Sweden, Monroe County, New York, where he is employed as a joiner¹² in a construction firm owned by John Berry, a native of England and a master carpenter. We believe that he worked for Berry in an apprenticeship role before striking out on his own. Laing was at that time, single, age 25, and shown to have been born in Scotland.

⁸ This is an update of an earlier research paper produced in 2006.

⁹ Scotland, Select Births and Baptisms, 1564-1950 [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2014

¹⁰ 1841 Scotland Census. Edinburgh, Scotland: General Register Office for Scotland. Reels 1-151. General Register Office for Scotland, Edinburgh, Scotland

¹¹ Ancestry.com. New York, Passenger Lists, 1820-1957 [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2010

¹² A joiner is an artisan who builds things by joining pieces of wood, particularly lighter and more ornamental work than that done by a carpenter, including furniture and the "fittings" of a house, ship, etc. Joiners may work in a workshop, because the formation of various joints is made easier by the use of non-portable, powered machinery, or on job site. A joiner usually produces items such as interior and exterior doors, windows, stairs, tables, bookshelves, cabinets, furniture, etc. In shipbuilding a marine joiner may work with materials other than wood such as linoleum, fiberglass, hardware, and gaskets (Source: Wikipedia)

He left New York state later and probably traveled first to Alabama or Louisiana where he married about the year 1857 to his first wife, Mary, a native of Alabama. As newly-weds they struck out to Louisiana, where their first child, Thomas Duncan Laing, was born about the year 1858. Duncan's destination in Louisiana is unknown, but it is most likely he was contracted to build one or more mansions in the plantation country of that state.

Duncan is located in the 1860 Federal Census of Hickory, Newton County, Mississippi, as follows:

Dunkin Lang, 33, carpenter, Scotland

Mary, 28, Alabama

Thomas, 4,

On October 1, 1860, Duncan patented, in partnership with Robert H. W. Thompson, a tract of land in Newton County consisting of 79.44 acres and now located in the eastern portion of the town of Newton including 5th Street and part of the Highway 15 By-Pass.

His skill as a carpenter was needed for the construction of new homes and businesses in the fledgling town of Newton Station. Prominent residents at that time included the Doolittles, the Thompsons, the Wells, and the Watkins. By the year 1860 Dr. Josiah Watkins had set up a medical practice in Newton in conjunction with one of his sons, Maryatt H. Watkins, while another son, Marcette R. Watkins, served as the town's first attorney. The first blacksmith was Henry Blalock. The newly-arrived east-to-west railroad had put a jump start to the town that previously had been a country crossroads and part of the plantation of Roger Williams Doolittle.

Duncan Laing was a Private with Company B, the Newton Rifles, 2nd Mississippi Calvary, during the Civil War, this military unit drawing from a number of citizens of the town of Newton. The war probably ruined him financially and in 1867, "D. Lang" failed to pay his taxes on Lot #6 in Section 2-6, Town of Newton, and the land was put up for public sale in 1873¹³.

Duncan Laing left the South, at least for the time being, and in 1870 we find him in Springfield, Hamilton County, Ohio, with a second wife, Victoria, (likely Syke) and their children, where he was employed as a carpenter.

In the year 1870 we find the following business and professional people in Newton, Mississippi:

Marine Watkins, retail merchant

Jarrold Watts, hotel proprietor

Robert Johnson, retail grocer

Richard (?) Rath, druggist

¹³ *The Weekly Ledger*, Newton, Mississippi, 1867.

William Richardson, retail merchant

Ezra S. Boozer, miller

William Thompson, wagon maker

Flavius J. Turner, blacksmith

Jos. E. Watts, retail merchant

Seth E. Selby, house carpenter

Maryatt H. Watkins, practicing medicine

Josiah T. Watkins, practicing medicine

William Boughton, retail merchant

Thomas Watts, saddler

Eugene H. Reber, retail merchant

Robert Wilson, blacksmith

James W. Thompson, house carpenter

Thomas W. Clark, retail merchant

Thomas H. Thompson, retail merchant

Selby Henry, bookkeeper

Jacob Shofman, retail merchant

Alford J. Brown, retail merchant

E. F. Bunch, shoemaker and saddler

Dr. Josiah Watkins and his wife Mildred Marine Barnett (also) Watkins were married on 1 June 1831, Granville County, North Carolina, and the marriage produced six sons with amazingly similar names, shown here in chronological order: **Maryatt H. Watkins, Marcet R. Watkins, Maerne Maston Watkins, Mildred Marine Watkins, Marcephus Watkins, and Marcellas Watkins.**

Marine Watkins, one of the sons of Dr. Josiah Watkins, is said to have married about the year 1863 to Arabella Dunagin, then about the age of 18. According to the late George Mason, a Dunagin descendant, the house now known as Hoyo House was built for Arabella about the

time of their marriage¹⁴. WPA records, in a report completed ca. 1935, give the following account of the house:

“The Hoyer Home

“The most preserved and substantially built house standing today (in Newton) is the Hoyer Home located just west of the Baptist Church on East Church St. When the house was built in 1861 there was no East Church St., but only a little trail to the house. Marine Watkins built the house of the choicest and best grade of heart pine lumber. The back room of the kitchen was used as a servant room. The small servant house is still standing back of the house. Watkins sold the house to Dr. J. L. McElroy. Dr. McElroy sold it to Hoyer in 1871. Mr. Hoyer added three rooms to the house and painted it red and yellow. In 1921 repairs and renovations were done and the floors were found to be four inches thick. Mrs. Hoyer landscaped the yards herself.”



The Hoyer House, ca. 2007

Dr. M. H. Watkins followed in the footsteps of his father as a physician at Newton after the elder Watkins died in 1872, and he seems to have also experienced a greater level of financial success than any of his brothers. From the Newton Weekly Ledge, we learn that in 1872 he was selling residential lots and building new houses in Newton. He was also a major financial backer of a new academy to be built in Newton.

Duncan Laing is thought to have been one of the carpenters employed in the construction of the new homes built on these lots and it is most likely that the building of the Hoyer House came from this project.

¹⁴ We can find no historical evidence to substantiate these statements. Only the four oldest sons of Dr. Josiah Watkins married, according to our knowledge, and all had married prior to the date given here.

In the year 1880 we find Duncan living at Garlandville in Jasper County, Mississippi. He had given up carpentry and taken up farming according to the federal census. Certainly, carpentry was not a good living for a family man because it involved travelling long distances to a job site. He died some time before the year 1900, his family too poor to put up a permanent burial marker. His wife Victoria lived beyond the year 1910 and is thought to be buried in an unmarked grave in Garlandville Cemetery. From the 1900 and 1910 censuses we learn that she was the mother of 12 children, only 2 of whom were living at that time. The older son, Thomas Duncan Laing, (whose mother was Mary) never married. Victoria's son, Walter Scott Laing, Sr., married Iona Evans and is believed to be the common ancestor to all of the Laings in Newton and Jasper Counties.

The Boose Settlement

By

Dr. Harold Graham

The Boose Afro-American Settlement is located primarily in Sections 5 & 6, Township 6 North Range 13 East, Choctaw Meridian, Newton County, Mississippi. Historically this area has carried a Chunky address and once was part of Moore's Mill Voting Precinct. Access is gained to this community via Tatum Road (See Map on inside of back cover courtesy of Ricky Harrison)

The community is believed to have had its beginning between 1880 and 1885 with the arrival of John Booth and his wife Caroline Travis Booth to this area.

In 1880, John and Caroline Booth were living in Clarke County, Mississippi, with six children: George, Zach, Mary, Carrie, Will and John. In the 1885 Educable Census of Decatur Precinct, Newton County, Mississippi, John Boothe is reported as being the parent of school age--children George, Zacharia, Carrie and Willie Boothe. His immediate neighbor is Henry Booth with school--age children listed as Pomp, Mary, Alice, and Susan¹⁵. Was this John Booth's father? (see Death Certificate for Henry Booth later).

Where was Henry Booth in the year 1880? We do not know. We have not found him in Clarke County, Mississippi, and much of the federal census for Beat 5, Newton County, Mississippi, is illegible for that census year.

One land record we have acquired is a land patent issued by the Federal Bureau of Land Management on 16 September 1912 to Willie Boose (listed above as Willie Boothe) in the amount of 40.25 acres and located in the SW ¼ of NW ¼ Section 5, Township 6, Range 13 East, Choctaw Meridian. An examination of a recent land plat indicates that Boose holdings in this immediate area have been substantially increased since the original land patent was issue.

As we follow the **Booth** and **Boothe** names through the records, by the year 1912, as cited in this land patent, the name of **Booth** or **Boothe** (or in the plural, **Booths**) has been modified to **Boose**.

Boose Cemetery, Chunky, Mississippi

By

Clova Bennett, Surveyor

Rome Boose, 2 July 1902—13 Dec 1996

Gladys Thornton Boose, 18 Sept 19221—19 Nov 1984

Ester Barnett, 26 Nov 1957—2 Aug 1958

Lucile Thames, wife of Rev. R. B. Boose, 12 April 1900—Aug 1940

¹⁵ Dr. Harold Graham, Educable children, Newton County, Mississippi, 1885, privately published by the author in 1992 from original copy at the Mississippi Department of Archives, Jackson, Mississippi.

Florabell, dau. of R. B. & Loucille Boose, Feb 6, 1933—July 8, 1934

John Boose, husband of Caroline Travis Boose, May 1854—8 May 1939	Eliza James Staton, 18 Jan 1911—12 March 12, 2006
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Rubie Lee Coleman, 25 June 1915—12 June 2002	Clarence A. Boose, 15 Aug 1921—5 Oct 1996, WW II
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Grant Lee Boose, 25 Jan 1913—3 Aug 1996	Effie G. Price Boose, 11 Mar 1892—30 May 1996
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Joe N. Boose, 4 Jan 1884—18 Mar 1965	James Booze, 12 July 1918—4 Aug 1955
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Rev. J. W. Ellis, 10 May 1883—16 Mar 1965	Victoria Boose, w/o Rev. J. W. Ellis, died 8 Nov 1942
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Clois “Bud” Thompson, 26 April 1946-5 June 2008	Lott Thompson, 31 July 1911—31 Dec 1975
Donnie Ellie, 3 Oct 1958—3 Nov 1958	Margaret Thompson, 11 Sept 1911—22 Nov 1970

_____ Ellis, 1 Jan 1953—1 Feb 1968	Corean Altman, 10 Nov 1926—March __, 2009
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James E. Ellis, 22 April 1960—28 Jan 1984	Theron Thompson, 24 May 1942
(Wife of) George W. Ellis (no information)	George W. Ellis, 10 June 1915—May 6, 2002

Rev. Henry Thompson, 14 Jan 1864—30 June 1954	Lucy Thompson, wife of Rev. Henry Thompson, July 4, 1868—Oct. 18, 1938 4 July 1868—18 Oct 1938
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Zinnie P. Boose, w/o Zack Boose, 10 Feb 1881—25 Dec 1989	Zack Boose, 8 Mar 1874—13 Dec 1953
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John Albert Boose, 6 Aug 1938—15 Sept 1958	Lawyer Boose, 1912—2002
Milton Boose, 6 Aug 1938—13 Oct 1965	Shirley Jean Hughes Graham, 27 Jan 1949— 21 Feb 2013

Amanda Boose Jones, 6 Aug 1938—23 Nov 1971

Gertrude Boose, 1 Dec 1914—28 Feb 1989, W/o Leroy Boose	Leroy Boose, 7 Sept 1899—28 Feb 1974 H/o Gertrude Boose
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Leavonia J. Boose, 15 April 1914—26 May 1979	Essie Mae Hughes, 24 July 1921—17 Dec 1977
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Hughes Section

John Hughes, 2 July 1900—6 July 1990	Bessie Mae Hughes, 9 Oct 1918—15 Dec 1991
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H/o Bessie Mae Hughes

W/o John Hughes

Willie Frank Hughes, 24 Mar 1906—1 Jan 1976	Grace Hughes Norman, 7 July 1914—26 April 1965
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Charlie Hughes, 1 Mar 1877—6 Feb 1965	Carrie Boose Hughes, 14 April 1879—27 Dec 1952
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H/o Carrie Boose Hughes

W/o Charlie Hughes, Sr.

Charlie Hughes, Jr., 2 June 1909—9 Mar 1963	James Hughes, son of Charlie Hughes, Sr. 30 Sept 1903—22 June 1953
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Ella Hughes Gallaspy, 1 Jan 1900—8 July 1948, - dau. of James and Carrie Boose Hughes	Maurice Lynetta Jones Hodge, 28 July 1965- 28 Feb 2015
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Olletta Jones, 14 Nov 1971—23 Oct 2017

Kaden and Jaden Rowsey, April 29, 2015—July 4, 2015, age 2 mos.

Aretha Morrison Millsap, 2 Oct 1944—July 2004

Ruther Morrison, 24 Dec 1903—17 Oct 1993	Essie L. Morrison, 14 April 1911—1 May 2000
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H/o Essie J. Morrison

W/o Ruther Morrison

Marcus Jerrod Blalock, PFC, US Army, 22 Aug 1971—20 Aug 2001

James Antoine Boulton, 24 Nov 1972—13 Aug 2006

Mt. Carmel Cemetery, Wells Road, Chunky, Mississippi

By

Clova Bennett, Surveyor

Mt. Carmel apparently is the older of the two Afro-American cemeteries in the area and is best reached by turning south from Center Ridge Baptist Church on Wells Road for approximately one mile. There are many unmarked graves in the cemetery. The late Johnnie Ellis was thoughtful enough to place recent markers on graves that had been formerly unmarked.

The earliest recorded burial was in 1888. The cemetery is also identified as Oak Grove Cemetery.

The Mt. Carmel Baptist Church is believed to have also been located near the cemetery. There is no physical evidence left of any edifice, and it is likely that the church was destroyed or abandoned ca. 1914—1918. It appears that the church was replaced by Mt. Vernon Baptist Church which now serves many of the black families in this area. Notes from Dr. Harold Graham

Doll Boose Rodgers

Henry Hodge (died) July 21, 1918

Caroline Travis Boose (died) July 2, 1920

John Wilson

Johnny Tingle

Betty Tingle

Bus Tingle

Dora Rosen Baum Clay

Levi Rosenbaum

Henry Booth, June 5, 1916

Joe Reaves died September 12, 1904,

Emile Hodge, daughter of H. & L.

Age 88 years

Hodge died Oct. 15, 1888.

Albert Reaves, Father, 1860—1920

Camolee Hodge, daughter of H. & L. and L. Hodge,

Died May 1, 1888, aged 8 months

Infant Hughes September 13, 1916

Green Norris

Willie T Croff

Caroline Reaves Norris

Odell Croff Nov. 19, 1916

Joe Reaves Sept. 12 1904

Pat Croff May 27, 1924

John Tingle

Dessie Croff

Lessie Croff

John Franklin Ellis

Adeline _____? Age 20

A. R. Travis?

Janie Reaves Brooks

Evelyn Thompson

Wealthy Lassie

Lookie Hughes

Charlotte Scruggs 1916

Selected Mississippi Death Certificates¹⁶ Relevant to Mt. Carmel and Boose Cemeteries

By

Dr. Harold Graham

Booth, Henry

#10909-1916

Black male, farmer, and resident of Chunky. Marital status not given. Age 80, born Mississippi. Died June 25, 1916. Place of burial not given. Parents not given. Informant: J. W. Gilbert, Chunky, Mississippi. Cause of death: enlarged prostate and cystitis.

Boose, Calline

#13512-1920

Colored female, resident of Chunky, and age 65. Died July 3, 1920 and buried at Mt. Carmel, Cemetery. Father: Frank Travis. Mother: not given. Informant: John Boose, Chunky. Cause of death: paralysis.

Boose, Gracie May

#1047-1932

Black female, born October 23, 1927, Newton County, Mississippi, and age 4-2-11. Died January 3, 1932, Moore's Mill, and buried in Oak Grove Cemetery. Parents: Will Boose (born Newton County) and Mandy Pane (born Lauderdale County). Informant: Murphy Chatman. Cause of death: was thought to be pneumonia.

Boose, James Howard

#9071-1930

Black male, age 0-3-12, born Newton County. Died May 24, 1930, Chunky, and buried at Oak Grove. Parents: Arvin Boose and Mamie Price. Informant: Marvin Boose, Chunky.

Boose, John

#9065-1939

Colored male, farmer, and widower of Caroline Boose. Born about 1854, Richmond, Virginia, and age about 85. Died May 8, 1939, Chunky, and buried in Oak Grove Cemetery. Father: not

¹⁶ Abstracted from Mississippi Death Certificate housed at the Mississippi Department of Archives and History with originals housed at the Mississippi Department of Health, Jackson, Mississippi.

given. Mother: Emerline Boose (born Richmond, Virginia). Informant: J. O. Boose, Route 5, Box 281, Meridian, Mississippi.

Boose, Juanita

#2144-1938

Black female, age 3 months, born Collinsville, Mississippi. Died July 13, 1938, Pleasant Grove, and buried in Pleasant Grove Cemetery. Parents: Saudie Boose and Velma Thames. Informant: Jincy Poole, midwife, Collinsville, Mississippi. Cause of death: "Said to have had an open heart since birth; it was not normal."

Boose, Lucile

#14876-1940

Colored female and married to Rome Boose. Born 1912, Newton County, Mississippi, and age 38. Died August 7, 1940, Chunky, RFD #1, and buried in Oak Grove Cemetery. Parents: Charlie Tims (born Newton County, Mississippi) and Mary _____. Informant: Rome Boose, Chunky, Mississippi. Cause of death: angina pertussis.

Bradford, Minnie

#6544-1914

Black divorced female and resident of Moore's Mill. Occupation: cook. Age 23. died April 30, 1914 and buried at Mt. Carmel. Father: Ed Hill. Mother not given. Informant: J. M. Hodge, Chunky. Cause of death: consumption.

Brinson, Perry

#1048-1932

Black male, age about 70, born Kemper County. Occupation: public work. Died January 9, 1932, Moore's Mill, and buried in Oak Grove Cemetery. Father: _____ Brinson. Mother unknown. Informant: Murphy Chatman, Chunky, Route 1. Cause of death: kidney and bladder trouble.

Brooster, Emiline

#6891-1916

Colored female, widowed, and resident of Moore's Mill. Age about 72, born Alabama. Died April 14, 1916 and buried at Mt. Carmel. Parents: no information. Informant: King David Turner, Chunkey, Mississippi. Cause of death: dropsy

Chapman, Zebrom

#7265-1930

Black male, born October 17, 1929 and age 0-5-17. Died April 4, 1930, Moore's Mill, and buried in Oak Grove Cemetery. Parents: Murphy Chapman (born Newton County) and May Belle Boose (born Newton County). Informant: Jane Johnson. Cause of death: whooping cough.

Clayton, Margerette

#10595-1928

Black widowed female, age about 90 years, born South Carolina. Died May 14, 1928, Moore's Mill, and buried in Mt. Carmel cemetery. Parents not given. Informant: John Ellis, son, Chunky, Mississippi.

Croff, Odell #21100-1916
Colored male and resident of Moore's Mill. Age 2 to 2 ½., born Newton County. Died November 19, 1916 and buried at Mt. Carmel. Parents: Will Croff and Mary Temples? Informant: King David Turner. Cause of death: diphtheria.

Croff, W. J. #1299-1938
Black single male, farmer, born 1917, Newton County, and age 21. Died January 23, 1938, Chunky, and buried in Mt. Carmel Cemetery. Parents: Fred Croff (born Lauderdale County) and Roxie Hodge (born Newton County). Informant: Fred Croff, Chunky, Mississippi. Cause of death: "supposed to be poisoned from whisky. Dead when I got there."

Cross, Unnamed #10381-1920
Black male, born and died December 22, 1920, Moore's Mill, with burial at Mt. Carmel. Parents: Ted Cross and Roxie Hodges.

Curry, Joe Odom #20918-1913
Black male and resident of Roberts. Marital status not given. Occupation: day work. Born 1892, Newton County and age 21. Died November 16, 1913 and buried at Mt. Carmel? Parents: Sam Curry (born Newton County) and Winnie Berry (born Newton County).

Dunagin, Annie #7673-1936
Colored female and widow of Maris Dunagin. Age 42, born Mississippi. Died April 4, 1936, Decatur, and buried at Mt. Vernon. Parents: Frank Lindsey (born Mississippi) and Allie Boose. Informant: Allie Joe Dunagin, Decatur, RFD. Cause of death: pneumonia.

Ellis, David #4694-1914
Black male and resident of Chunky. Born February 19, 1914, Mississippi, and age 0-1-10. Died March 30, 1914. Place of burial not stated. Parents: John Ellis and Victoria Booth. Cause of death: congenital deformity

Ellis, Unnamed #27280-1929
Colored male, born and died December 7, 1929, Moore's Mill, and buried at Oak Grove. Parents: Jno Ellis (born Chunky) and Victoria Boose (born Newton County).

Flucum, Annie Bell #17280-1918
Colored female and resident of Moore's Mill. Born April 26, 1907, Mississippi, and age 11-3-13. Died August 2, 1918 and buried in Mt. Carmel Cemetery. Parents: Will Flucum (born Bibb County, Alabama) and Pearl Spinks (born Newton County, Mississippi). Informant: Will Flucum, Chunky, Mississippi. Undertaker: John Puckett. Cause of death: consumption

Flucum, Mat #5627-1918

Colored female and resident of Hickory. Marital status not given. Neither date of birth nor age given. Died March 4, 1918 and resident of Mt. Carmel. Parents: Handy Gales and Mary Boose. Informant: Will Croft, Chunky. Cause of death: consumption.

Gibson, Amanda #21928-1923

Black female and wife of Lonnie Gibson. Age 40, born Rankin County, Mississippi. Died December 30, 1923 and buried at Mt. Carmel. Parents not shown. Cause of death: high blood pressure.

Gibson, Willis #1174-1923

Black male, resident of Moore's Mill, born August 30, 1922, Newton County, and age 5 months. Parents: Lonnie Gibson (born Rankin County) and Manda Harper (born Rankin County). Died January 30, 1923, and buried at Mt. Carmel.

Hill, Almer #3146-1913

Black female and resident of Moore's Mill, born 27 Jan 1913 and age about 3 weeks. Date of death not given? Buried at Mt. Carmel. Parents: Floyd Hill and Zillie Tingle, both born Newton County. Informant: Laura Hodge, Chunky. Cause of death: "a breaking out like hives."

Hill, Tanner #10438-1921

Black female, born March 16, 1921, and age 1 month. Date of death not given, but April 1921. Burial in Mt. Carmel Cemetery. Parents: Floyd (?) Hill and Julia Tingle. Informant: Louisa Hodge. Cause of death: "not fully developed."

Hodge, Henry #15203-1918

Resident of Chunky and farmer. Gender, Race, nor Marital status not given. Age 98. Died July 21, 1918 and buried at Mt. Carmel. Parents not given.

Houston, George #5509-1936

Colored male, farmer, and widower of Sarah Houston. Age 85, born Newton County. Died March 17, 1936, Wickware, and buried in (Mount) Carmel Cemetery. Parents: Joe Houston and Harriet Houston. Informant: Martin Houston, Newton. Cause of death: cerebral hemorrhage.

Howel, Anna #20763-1914

Black widowed female and resident of Chunky. Born 1874, Mississippi, and age 40. Died November 15, 1914 and buried in Mt. Carmel Cemetery. Father: Henry Hodges. Mother not known. Informant: Will Howard, Chunky. Cause of death: consumption. (See also #20774-1914.)

Howel, Anna #20774-1914

Black married female and resident of Moore's Mill. Neither age nor date of birth given. Died November 15, 1914 and buried at Mt. Carmel. Father: Henry Hodge. Mother not given. Informant: King David Turner, Chunky. (See also #20763-1914).

Howel, Charley #6979-1913

Black male, farmer, age 20 and resident of Moore's Mill. Died May 28, 1913. Buried at Mt. Carmel. Parents: Will Howel (born Newton County) and Ann Hodge (Newton County). Informant: Ida Smith, Hickory. Cause of death: consumption.

Howel, Ida #20549-1915

Black single female and resident of Chunky. Born 1900, Mississippi, and age 15. Died October 26, 1915 and buried in Mt. Carmel Cemetery. Parents: Will Howel and Anna Hodge. Cause of death: tuberculosis. (See also #20559-1915.)

Howel, Ida #20559-1915

Black female and resident of Moore's Mill. Age 15, born Newton County. Died October 26, 1915 and buried in Mt. Carmel Cemetery. Parents: Will Howel and Anna Hodge. Cause of death: tuberculosis. Informant: King David Turner. (Duplicate. See also #20549-1915.)

Howell, Lou Ella #6890-1916

Colored female, single, and resident of Moore's Mill. Neither age nor date of birth given. Born Newton County. Parents: Will Howell (born Newton County) and Anna Hodge (born Newton County). Informant: King David Turner, Chunkey, Mississippi. Died on April 8, 1916 and buried at Mt. Carmel. Cause of death: consumption.

Howell, Mittie #9281-1915

Black female and resident of Moore's Mill. Age "almost 8". Died May 29, 1915 and buried at Mt. Carmel. Parents: Will Howell and Anna Hodge. Informant: King David Turner.

Hughes, Isabella #10505-1914

Colored female and resident of Hickory. Born December 24, 1913, Newton County, and age 0-5-24. Died June 17, 1914 and buried at Mt. Carmel. Father: Floyd Hughes. Mother not given. Informant: Eugene Pace, Newton. Cause of death: colitis.

Hughes, Stillborn #5052-1924

Black female, born and died March 18, 1924 and buried at Mt. Carmel. Parents: Luther Hughes and Bertha Anderson. Informant: Florence Lucy, midwife. Cause of death: "not quiet 8 months; mother hurt herself".

Hughes, Stillborn #18024-1916

Colored male, born and died September 13, 1916, Moore's Mill, and buried at Mt. Carmel.
Parents: Floyd Hughes (born Newton County) and Lokey Reaves (born Newton County).
Informant: King David Turner, Decatur.

Johnson, Claudis May #14337-1929

Black female, age 0-4-8, born Newton County. Died June 19, 1929, Hickory, and buried in Mt. Vernon Cemetery. Parents: Charley Johnson (born Newton County) and Lillie Boose (born Newton County). Informant: Aaron Johnson. Cause of death: acidosis.

Johnson, Elmer #18577-1919

Black male and resident of Chunky. Born December 21, 1915, Newton County, and age 4-9-12. Died September 12, 1919 and buried at "Mt. Cameron". Parents: Charles Johnson (born Newton County) and Lily Boose (born Mississippi). Informant: Charley Johnson, Chunky.

Jones, Curtic #5118-1916

Black male, resident of Moore's Mill, born July 1913, Newton County, and age 2-8-?. Died on March 21, 1916 and buried at Mt. Carmel by Chief Hodge, Chunky, Mississippi, undertaker. Parents: Press Jones and Callie Times. Informant: King David Times, Decatur, Mississippi.

Miller, George #19121-1916

Colored male, farmer, married, and resident of Moore's Mill. Born April 1891, Newton County, and age 25. Died October 30, 1916 and buried at Mt. Carmel. Father not given. Mother: Len Nix (born Newton County). Informant: Henry Tingle, Chunky, Mississippi. Cause of death: consumption.

Reaves, Albert #7708-1920

Black male, resident of Chunky and married. Born 1856 and age 64. Died on April 3, 1920 and buried at "Negro Church". Father: Henry Reaves. Mother: not given. Informant: Joe Reaves.

Rosenberg, Levi #13778-1927

Black male, farmer, and husband of Amy Rosenberg. Age 78. Died July 21, 1927, Moore's Mill, and buried in Mt. Carmel Cemetery. Parents: Toni Rosenberg and Lidy Rosenberg. Informant: A. B. Boose, Chunky, Mississippi.

Scruggs, Charlott #20775-1914

Black married female and resident of Moore's Mill. Neither age nor date of birth given. Born Alabama. Died November 17, 1914 and buried at Mt. Carmel Cemetery. Parents not given. Informant: Georgiann Turner, Chunky. Cause of death: "old age."

Temples, Pearl #19518-1923

Black female and resident of Moore's Mill. Wife of Rufus Temples. Born September 1894, Newton County, and age 29-2. Died November 13, 1923 and buried at Mt. Carmel. Parents: Alex Gooden and Emma Walker (born Jasper County). Cause of death: consumption.

Thomas, Annie #3029-1926

Black female and resident of Moore's Mill. Born August 13, 1925, Newton County, and age 0-5-0. Died February 3, 1926 and buried in Mt. Carmel Cemetery. Parents: Albert Thomas (born Jasper County) and Lid Hodge (born Newton County).

Thompson, Evelyn #21927-1923

Black female, born December 18, 1923, Newton County, and age 7 days. Died December 25, 1923, Moore's Mill and buried at Mt. Carmel. Parents: Martin Thompson and Shebia Adkinson (born Newton County).

Thompson, Lucy #22327-1938

Black female and wife of Henry T. Thompson. Age 69-2-14, born Kemper County, Mississippi. Died October 15, 1938, Chunky, and buried in Oak Grove Cemetery. Parents: Sandy Pool (father) and B. A. Pool (mother). Undertaker: Coffin sale—Holbrook Benevolent Association, Meridian, Mississippi. Cause of death: carcinoma of uterus

Wilson, John #9615-1920

Black male, resident of Newton, age 17 months, born Mississippi. Died on May 17, 1920. Place of burial not given. Parents: Bob Wilson (born Jasper County) and Magnolia Beatty (born Jasper County). Cause of death: colitis. (See further #3171-1937).

Walker, Adline #11427-1915

Black female and resident of Wickware, born April 20, 1914, Newton County, and age 1-?-23. Died June 13, 1915 and buried at Mt. Carmel. Parents: John Walker (born Newton County) and Sarah Chapman (born Newton County). Cause of death: "bowel trouble from teething."

Whitehead, Callie Mae #17788-1943

Colored female, born October 29, 1936, Newton County, Mississippi, and age 7-1-13. Died December 12, 1943, Hickory, and buried in Oak Grove Cemetery. Parents: Smith Whitehead (born Newton County) and Alberta Chapman (born Newton County). Informant: Smith Whitehead, Hickory, Mississippi. Cause of death: "Possibly diabetic."

Whitehead, Smith (Jr.) #1512-1941

Black male and resident of Hickory. Born January 20, 1937, Union, Mississippi, and age 3. Died January 2, 1941, and buried in Oak Grove. Parents: Smith Whitehead (born Newton County) and Alberta Chapman (born Newton County). Informant.

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By

Dr. Harold Graham

I was not around when the number 30 was once used at the end of a telegraph message to let the reader know that the message was over.

That same means of messaging made it way into journalism to let the newspaper editor know that there was no more copy for a particular story.

I am neither finished with researching nor writing, but the pace at which I can adequately work within a timely schedule has been diminished by (a) hands that stiffen and tire easily and (b) eyes that are weakening due to macular degeneration.

It is with reluctance that I present to you, the reader, my last journal. I hope that you have benefitted from this publication in terms of understanding more about our county. I know I have.

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