
FAMILY *Reunion*

News for Descendants of Henry Hodge, Joseph Mobley, Burl Mason & Albert McAfee

In This Issue: *Breakthroughs in Arkansas*

Lucinda Wilcoxon, Editor

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LWilcoxn@onr.com

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NEWSLETTER FINALLY GETS OFF THE GROUND

Most of you know that I have been involved in genealogical research for years. Since 1968, to be exact. I have accumulated a lot of facts (and some fiction) about our family during that time.

Someday I would like to compile the information in a book, but that's a future project. In the meantime, I thought I would try a semi-regular newsletter to share some of the history of our family.

In this issue you will find articles relating to my most recent research successes in Arkansas. To help you identify the people involved, I am including a skeleton family tree on the last page of the newsletter.

I have a lot of information about the Mobleys and Huddlestons, and I'm making a separate hobby of tracking Dr. Hodge's movements around Texas. (The old boy did get around!)

On the other hand, I have very little information about the Mason and McAfee lines. If you remember stories from

conversations with Lucy Mason Hodge or her mother, Nettie McAfee Mason, please send them my way. The littlest clues sometimes open the biggest doors.

I ask for your feedback. If there is something you would like to see (or not see again), let me know. I'm making this up as I go along. CW

McAfees located in Prairie County, Arkansas

From conversations I had with Lucy Mason Hodge, I have known for some time that her grandfather, Albert McAfee, moved to Texas from Arkansas in the late 1880s. How he came to be in Arkansas is still a mystery.

Albert was born in 1849 in Iowa. We do not yet know the names of his parents, but we do know that at age 12, he enlisted in the Confederate Army as a teamster. He served in the Pointe Coupee Artillery out of Baton Rouge, Louisiana. Another

mystery--what was he doing in Louisiana?

From 1861 to 1878, we do not know where Albert was or what he was doing. In July of 1878, however, he married Johnnie Elizabeth Underwood in Prairie County, Arkansas.

That marriage information was hard to come by. For some years, I had checked the index of every Arkansas source I could find for McAfees and Underwoods with no success. Then I remembered another item from my grandmother. Johnnie Elizabeth died of a miscarriage when her daughter Nettie was 9 months old. That placed her death in 1879 and I found that Arkansas took a special mortality census in 1879.

A mortality census sometimes was taken at the same time as the standard federal census. Its purpose was to list all persons who died during the year prior to the census.

So, I was off to the library and fortunately they had a printed copy of the Arkansas 1879 mortality census. No

Johnnie Elizabeth McAfee was to be found.

But that Scottish stubborn streak I inherited from the McAfees kept me on the scent. And so I found Jane Mackfee, who died in October 1879 at age 21 in Prairie County, Arkansas. I was not overly excited, but I decided that it was worth some further checking.

So I headed for the microfilm reader with the 1880 Prairie County, Arkansas, census in hand.

I knew that Albert had left for a period of time after Johnnie's death. While he was gone, he left his daughter Nettie in the care of a neighbor family. I thought I might find Nettie still in the county.

This might be a good point to relate the circumstances of Johnnie's death. She was expecting their second child and had spent the day picking grapes. Afterwards she became ill and Albert decided to go for a doctor.

Not wanting her to strain to lift Nettie into the bed with her, he made a bed on the floor, made Johnnie as comfortable as possible with Nettie on the

floor with her, and went for help. When he returned, he found Johnnie had died from a hemorrhage. Nettie was curled up beside her body. Perhaps he left out of grief, or to look for work, but in any event, Nettie was left behind temporarily.

Most of you have probably not spent any time at a microfilm reader. It is eye-straining, not to mention, nausea-inducing work. But for once, my hunch proved profitable. In Tyler Township, in the home of Richard Fuqua, I found Nettie McFie, age 1, along with Mary Brock, who just happened to end up as her stepmother later that year.

Now I had another goal—find out if Albert and Johnnie were married in Prairie County. No luck at the library, so I went to the Internet.

Luckily, I found a volunteer on the Arkansas GenWeb who had access to early marriage records of Prairie County. It was not long before I hit paydirt. Twice.

Albert had filed a marriage bond to marry E. J. Underwood, age 18, in Prairie County. The marriage of Albert McAfee, age 28, to Mrs. Elizabeth Underwood took place on July 25, 1878.

Mrs. Underwood?? Great. Another mystery. Was Johnnie married previously or is there an

error in the record? I'm still on the hunt for that one.

And Albert married his second wife, Mary "Polly" Brock, on July 25, 1880, again in Prairie County.

It was not long after his remarriage that the family moved to Pine Bluff, Arkansas, and then on to Texas, where he appears on the tax rolls of Travis County in 1887.

Grandmother Lucy remembered that there had been a portrait of Johnnie Elizabeth in the attic of the house at Red Rock, but it was lost somewhere along the way.

I have many questions still to pursue on this family. I still don't know whether Albert's first wife was Johnnie Elizabeth or Elizabeth Jane or Jane Elizabeth. And is she an Underwood by birth or by marriage?

Where did Albert's Confederate pension come from? Lucy Hodge told me how Mary McAfee would send his daughter Nettie to collect his pension check from him to forestall his gambling it away. She knew he could not say "no" to his little girl. But there is no record of a pension from Texas or Arkansas.

And where was Albert after the war? I have not been able to find him on either the 1870 or the 1880 census.

I am currently tracking a McAfee family in Iowa

with a son named Albert born in 1849. Maybe I'll get lucky again! I'll keep you posted.

Albert and Mary McAfee are buried at the Upper Cedar Creek Cemetery in Cedar Creek, Texas, along with their son Jessie. Albert's grave is marked with a Confederate marker.

Huddleston Connection Made - In Arkansas!

We have now extended our Huddleston line back by 4 generations, thanks to a cousin I found on the Internet.

Mary Frances Huddleston married Dr. Henry Hodge about 1882 in Arkansas. A short time later, the couple made the move to Texas. They must have had a touch of gypsy in their souls, because they moved frequently. They even moved back to Dr. Hodge's birthplace of Kentucky for a couple of years.

Their children were born in Cistern, Fayette County, Texas. From a late birth certificate filed by the youngest daughter, Rosa, I learned the full maiden name of her mother.

According to land records and information from the American Medical Association, they also spent time in Brazoria County, Harris County,

Bastrop County, Leon County and Fisher County.

At the time of the 1900 census, the couple and their three children were living in Paige, Bastrop County, Texas. Shortly afterward, the youngest daughter, Mollie, died of congestion.

In 1902, the couple divorced, and the papers filed in District Court of Bastrop County gave me my first clue for finding Mary Frances' family. A brother, Klebe, had moved her and her children to Caldwell County.

Until this information came to light, I was unaware that not only had the Hodges made the move to Texas, so had the Huddleston family. I immediately began searching the 1910 Caldwell County census for Klebe Huddleston.

My efforts had mixed results, so again I turned to the Internet. I discovered a mailing list for the Huddleston family and posted a plea for help.

"Looking for the Huddleston family who lived in Caldwell County, Texas, in 1902, and which included children named Mary Frances and Klebe".

Within two hours I had an e-mail response from a descendent of another brother, Harley. My newfound cousin was kind enough to ship me her data file which gave me not only the remainder of Mary Frances' brothers and

sisters, but an additional 4 generations back.

On my next trip to the library, I finally found my proof. The family of George Washington and Maria Elizabeth Huddleston, with both Mary Frances and Clebourne C. listed as children, were residing in 1880 within Horsehead Township, Johnson County, Arkansas. George's father, Felix Galloway Huddleston, was right next door in Franklin County, Arkansas.

George was born in Lauderdale County, Alabama, in 1841. His father, Felix, was born in Tennessee in 1815. Felix's father, Joseph Slaton Huddleston, was born in 1790 in North Carolina. Joseph's father, Benjamin, was born in 1763 in Virginia.

There is currently a spirited discussion among members of the Huddleston Internet mailing list regarding the possibility that Benjamin or his wife was ½ Cherokee Indian. There are good arguments both pro and con. The debate rages on.

A Little Geography

Prairie County, Arkansas, is located in Central Arkansas, about 45 miles northeast of Little

Rock. The County Seat is Des Arc.

Johnson County, Arkansas, is located in the northwestern part of the State. It is about 40 miles due east of Fort Smith. The County Seat is Clarksville.

If anybody is headed to Arkansas and is interested in doing some field work, let me know.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Some important dates coming up in the next few months....

Anniversaries

July

3 - Bettye & Richard Patton
Linda & Mike
Ging

August

13 - Jo & Luther Butler
19 - Erica & Robert
Ging

Birthdays

July

6 - Janice Williams
22 - Sally Victor

August

3 - Karen Skrhak
14 - Robert Ging
16 - Charles Pekar
21 - H. G. Hodge
29 - David Wilcoxon

September

9 - Justin Voorhis
17 - Tamari Hodge

If I missed anybody or got a date or name wrong, please let me know so I can update my records.

SCOTS WHA' HAE

Many of you attended the recent wedding of David Wilcoxon and Karen LeFevre. You may have wondered about the kilt David wore.

The kilt was authentic, made in Scotland of the MacFie clan tartan. There are two versions of the tartan, the red version worn by David and his mother at the wedding, and a black and white version.

The clan MacFie is a branch of the great clan Alpine. The origin of the name is from the Gaelic **MacDhuibhshith** meaning "dark (one) of peace".

The ancient home of the Macfie clan is the island of Colonsay off the western coast of Scotland. The early history of the clan is unknown, but the clan was prominent in the history of the Western Highlands. Johannes Macdufthi appears as charter witness in Dumfriesshire in the reign of Alexander II, and a Thomas Macdoffy rendered homage in 1296. Macfie of Colonsay was one of the principal chiefs who met Bishop Knox and signed the "Statutes of Iona" in 1609.

In 1615, Malcolm Macfie of Colonsay joined in the rebellion of Sir James MacDonald. In 1623, Malcolm Macfie was killed, along with others of his clan, by Colkitto Mac-

Donald, who took the island of Colonsay for himself. And so, during the course of the 17th century, the island passed out of Macfie hands.

After the Macfies were dispossessed, some of them followed the MacDonalds and others settled in Cameron country and supported that clan at the Battle of Culloden.

Ewen Macphee was famous as the last of the Scottish "outlaws" in the 19th century. He recognized no law and no landowner, resided on the island of Loch Quoich rent free, and defended his home with firearms. In his old age, however, he indulged in sheep stealing and was ejected.

There are numerous variations of the name MacFie, including Macguffie, Machaffie, Macphee, McAfee, Fee, McFee, etc. The motto of the clan is **Pro Rege** (for the king).

Related reading: **The Crofter & the Laird** by John McPhee, an account of life on present-day Colonsay.

Your Civil War Ancestors

We have several ancestors who took part in the Civil War. Eventually, I plan to get the paperwork together and apply for membership in the

Daughters of the Confederacy. In the meantime, I am collecting information:

Albert McAfee, enlisted July 3, 1861, in Baton Rouge, La., present on all rolls to December, 1861. Served in the Pointe Coupee artillery, CSA.

Joseph Sheppard Mobley, enlisted April 1862 in Company A, 12th Georgia Battalion, as a private and served until April 1865. He applied for (and was granted) a Confederate pension from the State of Texas on August 24, 1909. Mary Caroline Mobley, his widow, applied for (and was granted) a widow's pension after his death.

Joseph's brother, Hezekiah Madison Mobley (Uncle Mack) also applied for (and was granted) a pension from the State of Texas. Hezekiah enlisted August 1862 and was discharged in April 1865. He first served in Co. D, 41st Georgia infantry, and later in Co. A, 12th Georgia battalion, as a private.

Joseph and Hezekiah lost 3 brothers to the war.

Mary Caroline Mobley lost her first husband in the war. Mary was married March 6, 1862, in Coweta County,

Georgia, to George Washington Sewell. They had a daughter, Mary Washington Sewell, born May 16, 1864, and died August 19, 1864.

George Washington Sewell was a private on March 4, 1862, later appointed 4th sergeant. He was captured at Vicksburg, Mississippi, on July 4, 1864, and paroled there July 6th. He was killed at Atlanta, Georgia, on July 22, 1864. He served in Co. D, 41st Reg. Georgia Vol. Inf., Army of Tennessee, Coweta County, Ga.

A friend of the family reported to Mary Caroline that the last time he saw her husband, he was sitting against a tree, mortally wounded by a bullet in the head.

George Washington Huddleston also served in the War, but I have not yet found his service record. He is listed in the special 1890 Texas census of Union veterans, living in Bell County. However, his wife applied for a Confederate pension from the State of Texas. Sounds like an interesting story and I hope to have more to report on this later.

Did you know?

Burl Mason's mother, Mary, was reportedly married 7 times. I have found records for her under the names of Cox, Massey & Smith as well as the name Mason.

Mary supported herself at one point by weaving rugs. Her work was on display in many of the finer homes in Smithville.

Tickle your tastebuds

So who among us does not remember going out to visit the folks on the farm and walking into the kitchen to find two roasting pans piled high with fresh cake doughnuts? Try your hand at some nostalgic cooking...

Lucy Hodge's Cake Doughnuts

3 eggs, well beaten
1 cup sugar
3 tablespoons butter, melted
1 tsp salt
4 tsp baking powder
pinch nutmeg
½ cup milk
3 cups flour (then add enough to stiffen the dough for rolling out)
1 teaspoon vanilla
Sift dry ingredients together. Add to eggs, mix well. Roll dough out about 1-inch thick. Cut with doughnut cutter and fry in deep, hot

fat. Shake in bag of cinnamon-sugar, or ice them.

Now, if anybody has the recipe for the icing she used on the doughnuts, I would love to print it here next time.

Family Tree Climbing

On the next page, you will find the first of a series of family trees and family group sheets.

There has been a lot of talk lately in the genealogy arena of the Internet regarding the dangers of providing too much information on a global level that could be used by con artists to invade your privacy.

Just so you know, my policy at this point is to only release information to the public at large if the people involved are deceased.

At present this newsletter is being distributed only to close family members whose addresses I have at hand. My plans are to publish quarterly.

If there are other members of your family who would like to be added to my mailing list, I'll be glad to do so. You can reach me by phone at (512) 303-0638, by fax at (512) 303-1622, by e-mail at LWilcoxn@onr.com or MsLucySue@aol.com, or by snail mail at 803 Jefferson St., Bastrop, TX 78602.