

# PART 9

## Saunders, Rooke, Stanford, Burton, Landreth & Justice

Family Legends: New research makes a few changes

Burned at the Stake

Admiral Sir George Rooke.....and a grand old family legend

The Rookes, Rukes, Ruarks in Ireland and America

The Driskells of Ireland and America

The Stanfords and Saunders in Colonial America

A 'Notorious Pyrate' at age 15

A price on John Sanders' head

Joel Sanders

Benjamin Sanders

Thomas Saunders

Lindsey Saunders

Lindsey Saunders, Jr.

Jennie Justice Saunders

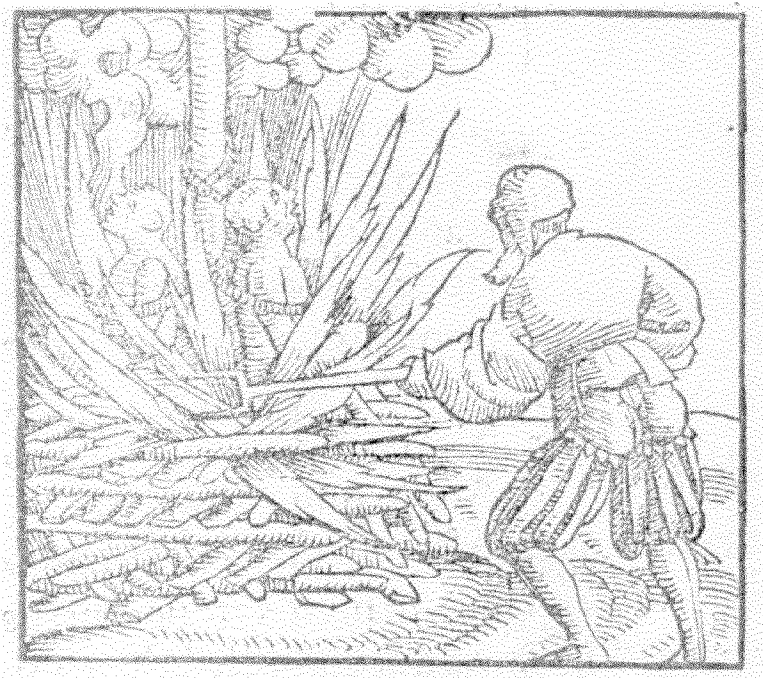
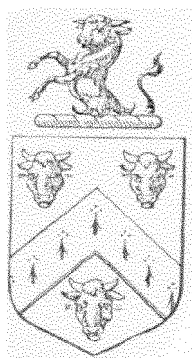
Her poems:

The Buzbees

The Dear Old Home

No room for whining

A Jittery Tale



Victims being burned at the stake were illustrated by woodcut in the 1557 edition of Lycoptheses' *Chronicon Prodigiorum*. This reproduction is from Bill's rare-book collection. The arms are Sanders.



## FAMILY LEGENDS

## NEW RESEARCH MAKES A FEW CHANGES

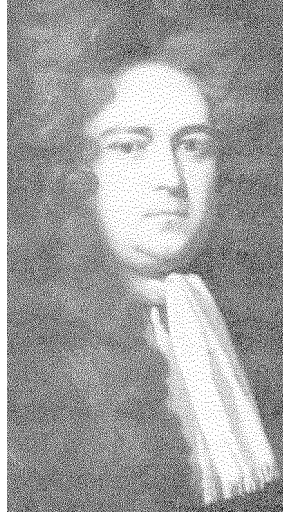
**S**AUNDERS FAMILY LORE HAS LINKED America's Saunders family to one of the 300 victims who were burned at the stake for their heresy under the reign of Bloody Mary in England, just prior to the accession of Queen Elizabeth I. Laurence Saunders was executed at Coventry in 1555, and was part of a large family. Many Saunders emigrated to the new American colonies in the years following Laurence Saunders' execution, but the precise family connection between him and the emigrant Saunderses has not yet been established.

Richard Sanders was living in Virginia in 1623; Thomas Saunders (b. Amsterdam) emigrated to New Amsterdam in 1636. Family legends identified Thomas Saunders as a great grandson of the Rev. Lawrence Saunders, the Martyr. Many members of the Sanders family emigrated to South Carolina and Virginia from 1659 to 1678. In about 1785, Thomas Sanders, great-grandson of Joel Sanders (born ca. 1720, died 2 February 1782), married Elizabeth Rooke.

(Thomas Sanders data: Complete American Army & Blue Book, Matthews, p. 67)

The family also has believed for several generations that Elizabeth Rooke was a descendant of the famous British admiral, Sir George Rooke, whose career was capped in 1704 when his fleet captured Gibraltar.

Likewise, the family has believed that Elizabeth Rooke was a descendant on her mother's side from a younger brother of the English Lord Stanford, and Marie Wills, of Germany. This belief may have arisen from research and an essay, *"A Pioneer Family,"* by Mrs. Jennie Saunders Perkins (b. 1832). Mrs. Perkins was the aunt of Mrs. Jennie Justice Saunders Buzbee (1880-1964), of Fordyce, Ark.



Admiral Sir George Rooke

### **Admiral Sir George Rooke, 1650–1709**

Admiral Rooke was one of England's most celebrated military heroes in his day, as England began to establish a global empire. A primary achievement was his conquest of Gibraltar in 1704, an action that has led to 300 years of British control, and a celebration in 2004 of those 300 British years at Gibraltar.

The *Encyclopedia Americana* summarized his life:

"At an early age, he entered the Royal Navy and in 1689 commanded a squadron at the siege of Londonderry, was knighted for his burning of six French ships at Barfleur in 1692, and in 1694, became one of the lords commissioners of the admiralty, and an admiral." The encyclopedia adds that "he distinguished himself in the fight between the French and Spanish fleets in Vigo Bay (1702), and at the capture of Gibraltar in July, 1704."

Sir Winston Churchill, in his *"History of English Speaking Peoples,"* writes how the year 1704 was good for the admiral:

"In May, 1704, a powerful Anglo-Dutch fleet under Admiral Rooke entered the inland sea. This was the prelude to a lasting naval triumph. Reinforced by a squadron under Sir Cloudesley Shovell, Rooke turned his attention in July to the Rock of Gibraltar. This fortress was then little more than a roadstead, but the possibilities of its commanding position at the gateway of the Mediterranean were already recognized. After bombardment, the Rock was taken on August 4."

"On 13 August 1704, Rooke's fleet fell in with a French fleet of equal strength, under the Comte de Toulous, off Malaga, and a nearly day-long battle ensued. Both fleets suffered severe losses of men and ships in inconclusive action. News of the Malaga "victory" reached England during the celebration over Blenheim, and Rooke's name was put forward for honors with Marlborough's. But being a Tory, he suffered from jealousies of the dominant Whigs."

(History of English Speaking Peoples, Churchill, vol. 3)

### **ADMIRAL ROOKE and the UNFORTUNATE ADMIRAL BYNG**

One of Admiral Rooke's subordinate commanders was an Admiral Byng, who served Rooke well. However, Admiral Byng's unfortunate son became a sad historic footnote to English nautical, as well as literary, history. Admiral Byng's son followed his father in a career in the British Navy, and he, too, rose in rank to admiral. However, after one of many Navy battles, the younger Admiral Byng was accused of not having fought the enemy adequately, and was brought before court-martial proceedings. After a political trial, he was found guilty, and soon thereafter, executed by firing squad. The unfortunate Admiral Byng was memorialized in literature later by the Voltaire in "Candide," when Voltaire's hero raised the question:

"Why shoot an admiral?"

"Because he didn't shoot enough men himself. He fought a battle against a French admiral, and it is thought he did not sufficiently close (attack) him."

"But surely the French admiral was as far from him as he was from the French?"

"That is undeniable. But in this country it is found necessary from time to time to shoot an admiral, to encourage the others."

### **ADMIRAL ROOKE WRITES HIS WILL**

When Admiral Rooke wrote his will, near the end of his life, he surprised those who were present, when he said:

"I do not leave much, but what I have was honestly gotten; it never cost a sailor a tear, or the nation a farthing." He died in 1709.

The Project Gutenberg eBook, The Mirror of Literature, Amusement, and Instruction, Vol. 17, No. 481, March 19, 1831. <http://www.gutenberg.net/dirs/1/2/5/9/12598/12598-h/12598-h.htm>



**FAMILY LEGENDS**

**NEW RESEARCH MAKES A FEW CHANGES**

MANY OF THE FAMILY LEGENDS persisted for generations, until rapid changes in genealogical research in the late 20th century provided vast amounts of data, unknown to earlier generations.

It is now known that Elizabeth Rooke's family originated in Ireland, not in England, and that there cannot have been a direct family connection between Sir George Rooke (1650-1709) and Elizabeth Rooke (1781-1828). Sir George Rooke died in 1709. His one child died in 1739, without children.

To date, no evidence has been found that would confirm the family lore about Lord Stanford or Marie Wills, but it's possible that they could all be kinfolks, of course. If so, it would add to the fascinating stories about burning-at-the-stake, and the nautical fame of one of England's great admirals (as well as events and people associated with him).



## THE RUARKS and ROOKES in IRELAND, AMERICA

(MUCH OF THE INFORMATION ABOUT THE ROOKS AND RELATED FAMILIES WAS RESEARCHED BY GENE BALLENTINE ROOKS, AND POSTED BY HER ON THE INTERNET)

Rooks "is a fairly common name in Wales and Ireland," family researcher Barbara Grady wrote, as relayed by Gene Ballentine Rooks in his extensive work. She continued: "It was the name given to the serf who lived in the master's watch tower, and was responsible for the watch.

"The native black crows, called rooks, lived around the eaves of the tower, lending their name to the watch-man. Another source affirms the name Rooks designates a dark-complexioned person, and the family emblem is a crow.

"Frances Rooks Couch added a note that Rooks could trace back to Rooke or O'Rourke, an Old English name which is derived from a Scandinavian word for leading soldier, or knight, as in a chess game. I've also seen a reference that Ruark was the old Celtic version of the Irish name O'Rourke, derived from Ruarc.

"Family lore has always said that our first Rooks came here from Ireland. There is an important Irish clan with the name O'Rourke, the roots of the family may very well be with them. One history mentioned that at the time of the Cromwellian Revolution, around 1649, many O'Rourke families fled Ireland for the colonies.

"I have recently discovered that our very first emigrant was named Ruark, which became changed to Rooks when later descendant Dennis moved into Georgia. Colonial names were written as they sounded to the clerks and officials who had reason to record them. The legend associated with the Ruark emigrants is that when Lord Baltimore, Cecil Calvert, colonized his land grant in Maryland, he brought over retainers from the Baltimore estate in Ireland. Among them were three Ruark brothers, John, James, and William, who were horse trainers.

"This is most likely unverifiable."

(Internet posting by Barbara Grady. (GENE ROOKS:  
<http://worldconnect.genealogy.rootsweb.com/cgi-bin/igm.cgi?db=generooks>)

## JAMES RUARK

(born 1672 in Ireland, died 1719 in Maryland)

**1672** James Ruark was born in 1672 in Ireland, emigrated to Maryland, and there married **ELIZABETH DAVIS** (b. 1676), in 1702. He died in 1719 in Maryland. Their children:

**1. John Ruark, (b. estimated 1705, m. Mary Driskell)**

**2. James Ruark, (b. estimated 1710, m. Elizabeth Longo)**

**Somerset Co. Tax Lists** show James Ruark in 1734 - in household of John Davie/Davis of Wicomico Hundred. Property of Polehambleton in 14 Jun 1733 William Hayman and wife Mary Hayman sold 100 acres to James Ruark,

**8 Mar. 1753** James Ruark with wife Elizabeth Ruark sold 100 acres to John Jenkins. Worcester Co. Deeds.383 Rook, James, deed from John Jones 1767 Ruark, James & Elizabeth Ruark, deed to Jno Jenkins, Liber B

**1751 Ruark, James, deed** to Robinson Lingo/Longo, Liber C,

1753. Postings say they had two sons, James born 1744 who served in Rev. and left a will; and a John. 1784 - a James Ruark (son of James & Elizabeth?) married Susannah Tucker.  
(GENE ROOKS: <http://worldconnect.genealogy.rootsweb.com/cgi-bin/igm.cgi?db=generooks>)

# JOHN RUARK

(born ca. 1705, died September 1773)

**1705** John Ruark was born in about 1705, and by 1730 was head of household in Monie Hundred. In about 1737, he married MARY DRISKELL.

## THE DRISKELLS

# DENIS DRISKAOL

(born est. 1660 in County Cork, Ireland, died 1721)

**1660** Denis Driskaol was born in about 1660 in Cork, Ireland's largest county and ancestral home of well-known Irish families such as McCarthy, O'Donovan, O'Driscoll, O'Leary, O'Mahony and O'Sullivan. Denis emigrated to America, married WINIFRED, in Maryland, where they raised their large family. He may have been a mariner.

Denis died in 1721. His will:

**IN THE NAME OF GOD AMEN I Denis Driskaol** of Somerset County being weak of body but of perfect memory thanks be to Almighty God for it but calling to mind the mortality of man do ordain constitute and appoint this my last Will and Testament in manor and form as follows

**First** I bequeath to Almighty God my immortal soul as he gave it to me in (certain?) hope of a ...?.. resurrection with my blessed savior Jesus Christ and my body to be buried in the Earth in decent manner as my Executor hereafter named shall see fit And as for such worldly Estate it has pleased God to bestow upon me I give and bequeath as followeth

**First** I will that all my just debts be paid and in due time.

**Item** I give and bequeath to my well beloved wife three hundred and fifty acres of land called Kinsail whereon I now live for and during her natural life and after her decease to my son Richard Driskoal and his heirs for ever.

**Item** I give and bequeath to my son Denes Driskoal one hundred acres of land called Addition joining to the aforsd land to him the said Denes and to his heirs and assigns for ever.

**Item** I give and bequeath to my son James Driskoal two hundred acres of land called Cork to him the said James and his heirs for ever.

**Item** I give and bequeath fifty acres of land lying in Brushey/Driskey(?) Neck among all my sons...Each to have privilege alike to them and their heirs for ever.

**Item** I give to my son James Driskoal two pounds current money

**Item** I give to my son Moses Driskoal One bed (boat?) and furniture lying at the SeaSide.

**Item** I give to my daughter Hannah Holder a (Cour and Colson/Caur and

Calson/four and folson????)

**Item** My will is that if my well beloved wife do Inter marry that after her marriage she shall only possess and enjoy one third part of my land and plantation during her natural life.

**Item** I give and bequeat to well beloved wife all the residue of my personal Estate\_\_or movable during her widowhood or after her marriage or death to be equally divided among all my children

**Item** I do Ordain Constitute and appoint my well beloved wife my whole and Soul Exc. of this my Last will and Testament as witness my hand and seal this day and year first above written

**Denes** (his mark) **Driskoal** (Seal)

Signed sealed and delivered in the presense of us

Peter Watson

Dorothy (her mark) Watson

John Roach

Margaret (her mark) Conner

Somerset County 9 ber ??? 1721 (September 1721?)

Then came John Roach and Peter Watson subscribing witnesses to the within will who made oath upon the Holy Evangelists of Almighty God that they saw the within named Dennis Driskoal the testator Sign and Seal the within ...as his last will and testament That they heard him publish and ordain the same so to be and at that time of his so doing he was of sound disposing mind and memory to the best of their knowledge

Sworn to me the day and year aforesaid

John Tuesdele, Depty Commr

Dennis Driskell's will was filed for probate, 9 November 1721 in Somerset County, Maryland.

(Driskael, Denis Somerset Co., MD 27th Jan., 1720/21; Maryland Eastern Shore Vital Records, F. Edward Wright. (GENE ROOKS: <http://worldconnect.genealogy.rootsweb.com/cgi-bin/igm.cgi?db=generooks>)

## MANY OF THE DRISKELLS WERE SADDLERS

(From *A Somerset Sampler*, by Pauline Batchelder)

"Many of the family were saddlers. William Driskill patented tract Kingsale in 1694. Dennis Driskell (d. 1721), possibly a son or brother of William Driskell, is believed to have been a mariner; owned tracts Cork and Kingsail, among others, at the time of death; earlier he had owned a small island, South Foreland, on north side of mouth of Manokin R., which he sold to Graves and Richard Jarrett."

The will of Denis Driskaol, as it was spelled, was drawn July 1721, not long before his death. He leaves his wife 350 acres during her natural life, or only 1/3 if she marries, then the 350 to son Richard. Sons Denis and James also receive tracts of land, one called Cork, possibly a hint to their homeland. Another tract was called Kinsale, a town in Co. Cork, Ireland. Son Moses:appears to have received a boat and furniture lying at the seaside. Daughter Hannah Holson(?) received a cow and calves. The will is witnessed by Peter and Dorothy Wilson, a John Roach (?) and Margaret Conner. In addition to the children mentioned in his will, Denis also had another son William in 1691 who may have predeceased him. Winifred Driskill died in 1734.

Maryland Colonial Statistics and Indices\_ by Anne Walker Burns, 1936 Folio 754, Bk 12; also Gale Bramlett.

Their children:

1. Richard Driskell (who inherited 350 acres plus share of 50 acres)
  2. Dennis Driskell (who inherited 100 acres plus share of 50 acres)
  3. James Driskell (who inherited 200 acres plus share of 50 acres)
  4. **Moses Driskell, (b. 17 September 1689 in Somerset Co., MD) (who inherited a share of the 50 acres plus a bed (boat?) and furniture**
  5. Hannah Driskell (who inherited a cow and calves)
- (GENE ROOKS: <http://worldconnect.genealogy.rootsweb.com/cgi-bin/igm.cgi?db=generooks>)

## MOSES DRISKELL

(born 17 September 1689, died 1755))

**1689** Moses Driskell was born 17 September 1689 in Somerset County, Maryland, and married KATHERINE ELGATE on 4 February 1713 at the Stephney Parish Church in Somerset Count. Katherine Elgate (Elgin) was born in about 1692 in Somerset County, the daughter of WILLIAM and KATHERINE ELGIN, Maryland. William Elgate had emigrated to Maryland in early 1664 with his wife and sons, John Elgate and William Elgate. The name, Elgate, was used as a first name among his descendants.. The Elgate family was granted 150 acres on 3 June 1664.

*(Old Somerset of the Eastern Shore of Maryland)* (GENE ROOKS:  
<http://worldconnect.genealogy.rootsweb.com/cgi-bin/igm.cgi?db=generooks>)

Moses Driskell was a saddler. He didn't receive much of an inheritance, compared to that received by his brothers from their father. They received 350, 200 and 100 acres respectively, plus a share in 50 additional acres. Moses received his share of the 50 acres, plus a bed (boat?) and furniture. He wrote his will on 11 August 1755, and died before 5 November 1755 in Worcester County, Maryland, where his will was filed for probate. The will:

**IN THE NAME OF GOD AMEN** the Eleventh day of August in the year of our Lord one thousand Seven Hundred and Fifty Five.

**I Moses Driskell Senr** of Worcester County Maryland Saddler being sick and weak in body but of Perfect Mind and Memory thanks be given to God therefore Calling into mind the mortality of my body and knowing it is appointed for all men to die do make and ordain this my Last Will and Testament

**(that is to say Principally) and first of all** I give and recommend my Soul into the hands of Almighty God that gave it - and my body I recommend to the Earth to be buried in Decent Christian Burial at the Discretion of my Surviving friends Nothing Doubling but at the general Resurrection I shall receive the ...?... by the mighty power of God and as touching such Worldly Estate wherewith it has pleased God to (bestow?) on this life. I give Devise and Dispose of in the following manner and form.

**I give** and bequeath to my daughter Rachel Toadvine five shillings current money and she to have no other part or parcel of my estate.

**Item** I give to my son William Driskell five shillings current money as aforesd and he to have no other part or parcel of my Estate.

**Item** I give to my Daughter Mary Ruark five shillings current money as aforesd and she to have no other part or parcel of my Estate.

**Item** I give to my Daughter Comfort Hill five shillings current money as aforesd and she to have no other part or parcel of my Estate.

**Item** I give to my Grand Daughter Sarah Brice five shillings current money as aforesd and she to have no other part or parcel of my Estate.

**Item** I give and bequeath to my son Moses Driskell my Dwelling Plantation and two Hundred and twenty five acres of land at the north west end of my parcel of land called King Sale with all the (rights?) and appertances thereto belonging after the death or marriage of his Mother to him and his heirs for ever.

**Item** I also give and bequeath to my son Moses Driskell one feather bed bedstead and furniture which is already delivered to him and his heirs for ever and he to have no other part or parcel of my Estate.

**Item** I give and bequeath to my son Elgate Driskell one Hundred and twenty five acres of land of the aforesd tract of land being the remaining part of the same with all privileges benefits and appertances after the Death or Marriage of his Mother to him and his heirs for ever.

**Item** I give to my son Elgat Driskell one feather bed bedstead and furniture which is already delivered and he to have no other part or parcel of my Estate.

**Lastly** to my well beloved wife Katherine Driskell my land aforesd with plantation houses and all benefits there to belonging during her natural life or widowhood and also all my movable estate that is not disposed of requiring that she pay all my just debts and have the sole management of all my affairs.

**Lastly** I constitute and ordain this to be my Last Will and Testament In witness whereof I have here unto Set my hand and Seal the day and year above Mentioned.

**Moses Driskell** (Seal)

Sealed and Acknowledged in the Presence of

James (his x mark) Cathell Sen

Jonathan (his mark) Cathell

James Cathell Junr

Moses Driskell's will is recorded in Worcester County Will Bk JW-2, pg 154. Moses Driskell, Sr., Worcester Co., Aug. 11, 1755, Nov. 5, 1755.

The children of Moses and Katherine Elgate Driskell were:

1. Rachel Driskell Toadvine (who inherited 5 shillings)
2. William Driskell (who inherited 5 shillings)
- 3. Mary Driskell Ruark (who inherited 5 shillings)**
4. Comfort Driskell Hill (who inherited 5 shillings)
5. Moses Driskell, Jr. (who inherited plantation, 225 acres)
6. Elgate Driskell (who inherited 125 acres and a feather bed)
7. Ann Driskell --

Katherine Elgate Driskell died after 1755.

(GENE ROOKS: <http://worldconnect.genealogy.rootsweb.com/cgi-bin/igm.cgi?db=generooks>)

# MARY DRISKELL

(born 7 August 1723, died after 1776)

**1723** Mary Driskell was born 7 August 1723 in Wicomico County, Maryland, and was registered at Stepney Parish. In about 1737, she married JOHN RUARK, and may have been his second wife.

# JOHN RUARK

(born ca. 1705, died September 1773)

**1705** John Ruark was born in about 1705, and by 1730, was listed as the head of household in Monie Hundred, though he did not marry Mary Driskell until about 1737. The tax listings, compiled by researcher Gene Ballentine Rooks, show:

**1730-1733:** Head of household in Monie Hundred.

**1734-1740:** Head of household in Pocomoke Hundred.

**1750:** John Ruark was a member of the Colonial Militia before 1750. Others in the group included Peter Owens, whose son married his daughter, a man named Belitha Laws, a name that appears in the family later, and two or three members of the Dennis family, another name that appears later. Deed records for Worcester County show Ruark, John, superseadure, in 1743.

John was a witness to the will of Peter Owens in 1756. He is mentioned in the Nelms store accounts as follows:

1765 - 31 Jan. 1770 Carried from Ledger C plus interest 2/13/6 and charged ginger, tin pan, molasses, linen, and rum for 3/1/0. Paid in part with pork in 1769, in cash in 1770 and carried balance of 0/9/10 to Ledger F.

John Ruark wrote his will four years before he died. His will:

**IN THE NAME OF GOD AMEN** this 20 day of January in the year of our Lord 1769 I JOHN RUKE of Worcester County in the province of Maryland being in good health of body and in perfect mind and memory and knowing it is appointed for all men once to die do make and ordain this my last Will and Testament.

**First** I bequeath my soul to the Almighty God and my body to the earth to be buried at the direction of my executors hereafter named as for my worldly estate I give and dispose of the same in manner and form following --

**I give** and bequeath to my well beloved wife Mary Rook all of my estate, lands, tennants and chatels during her natural life or widowhood my desire is that:

**My son** Ezekiel Ruke may have my dwelling house and plantation, from a maple standing in the edge of the Sivanne (?) to a pesemon tree standing by the mouth of a small branch.

**All the rest** of my land I give to my son James, and at Ezekiel's death the whole of the land to James and if he dies without issue to Ezekiah (Hezekiah), and if he die without issue to Levan (Levin).

Item - I give to my son Ezekiel . (Ezekiah?) Ruk one shilling sterling.

**Item** - I give to my son John Ruke one shilling sterling.

**Item** - I give to my daughter Sarah Owen one shilling sterling.

**Item** - I give the remainder of the estate at the widows death or marriage to be equally divided amongst my six youngest children and my desire is that Ezekiel Ruke may have the third of the apples in the young orchard and Lastly I do hereby confirm this my last Will and Testament. In Witness thereof I have hereunto set my hand and seal the day and year first written.

**John Ruke** his mark

Signed Sealed and Delivered by the said John Ruke to be his last will and Testament in presents of us

John Davis,

James Davis

Isaac Meglamre

Jonathan X Vinson

On 20 sept 1773 came John Davis and the 29th Oct 1773 came Jonathan Vinson two of the subscribing witnesses to the foregoing will and made oath...that they saw John Ruke the Testator sign Seal and heard him publicly declare the same to be his last Will and Testament...of a sound and disposing mind...Subscribed their names at his request.

Mary Ruark, administrator. Security - Peter Owens & Benjamin Cox.

(Hall of Records, Will Book 39:422) JW#4, ff 199/200. Maryland Eastern Shore Vital Records, F. Edward Wright. )

John Ruark died in September of 1773 in Worcester County.

Widow Mary Ruark paid cash in 1776 for cordage and her outstanding balance at the Nelms Store. The tab was 8 shillings 10 pence.

RUCK, Mary (Widow) (1775 - 26 Oct 1776) Carried 0/6/3 from Ledger H and bought cordage which with interest made a balance of 0/8/10. Paid in cash in 1776.

The family of Mary Driskell and John Ruark:

1. Ezekiel Ruark (b. 1737 in Maryland, m. Rachel Esham)

BY GENE BALLENTINE ROOKS

"Ezekiel was the first born, and received the bulk of the family property when his father died. There is a manuscript of memoirs on this line started by Joshua W. Ruark born in 1832, who was a grandson of Seth Ruark who moved from Maryland to Indiana in 1827. Seth was a grandson of Ezekiel. Seth's son, William, was the father of Joshua.

"The information Joshua recorded would have come from Seth's knowledge of his background that his son William passed on to Joshua, who was born about the same time Seth died. Ezekiel is recorded as being a farmer.

"He reportedly had ten sons, four of whom served in the Revolution with the Worcester Militia, according to Henry Peden in *Revolutionary Patriots of Worcester and Somerset Counties, Maryland*. They are Daniel, John, Elget, and Ezekiel, Jr. I do not have



a death date for him. There are two listings for an Ezekiel on the 1783 tax list below, but only one in the 1800 census, so perhaps Ezekiel Sr. died before 1800. Ezekiel Ruark. Forest Land, 50 acres. WO Pocomoke p. 4. MSA S1161-11-10. 1/4/5/54 Ezekiel Ruark. WO Wicomico p. 9. MSA S1161-11-13. 1/4/5/54

**"The following is excerpted from the Nelms Store Accounts,** which include nearly all the known family of his parents.

RUCK, Ezekiel (1765 - 25 Feb 1771)

Due from Ledger C 2/15/4. Bought garters and rum for a total of 2/17/5. Paid in part with 19 weaver's slays in 1768 with the balance of 0/9/11. Paid in cash in 1771. Ruke, Ezekiel, deed to Henry Toadvine, Liber Q, 1794

**"The names of his ten sons have been given as Daniel, William, John, Elget, Ezekiel, Joseph, Jordan, Severon, Belitha, and Elijah. While there is no primary evidence to verify that these are really all sons of Ezekiel, it is interesting that all these names but William and Elijah are shown in the 1800 Worcester Co. census. It is possible that a couple of these 'sons' may belong instead to one of his brothers."**

## 2. James Ruark (born estimated 1740, married Betty Esham)

BY GENE BALLENTINE ROOKS

"James was the second mentioned in his father's will to receive land. From Harry Peden's book *Marylanders to Kentucky*, but there may be errors. James Rook, son of John Rook and Mary Driskell, married Betty Esham and had these known children: Daniel Rook, b. 1763; Shadrach Rook. and Joseph Rook, b. 1775. If this is so, this would be the Daniel being shown under the family of James' brother Ezekiel.

**"The Nelms Store Accounts show this entry for James:**

"RUCK, James (Seaside) (1765 - 1 Apr 1771)

"Brought 0/0/6 from C. Paid in Ledger D. Bought a book of history, linen handkerchief and white linen for a total of 1/0/1. Paid cash of 0/7/6 in 1771 leaving 0/12/7 still due.

"Cow Harbour was patented by Moses Driskell Sr in 1721. I believe Moses sold it to John Ruark. James must have inherited it. Peter Owens is his brother-in-law"

Worcester Co., MD deed Bk R, pg 382-383-August 27, 1796

James Ruke, for 50 pounds current money sold 50 acres of "Cow Harbour" and 13 1/2 acres of "James Luck" to Peter Owens

Witness: Benjamin Dennis, John Cathell

"James was in the 1783 tax list of Worcester Co."

## 3. John (Ruark (b. estimated 1741)

BY GENE BALLENTINE ROOKS

"It is hard to place this man in Maryland records. Henry Peden claims in his second volume of *Marylanders to Kentucky*, I am told, that he is the son John mentioned in the 1769 will of John Ruark/Ruke, and was married to a Mary Mitchell, and that his family consisted of a Dennis, Seth, Isaac, John, Johnson, Priscilla, and Severon.

"There are indeed two different men named Seth and Johnson in the 1800 Worcester Co. census, about a decade apart in age. Some of this information, however, may have been confused with almost identical names given for the children of the John Ruark that other memoirs say was the son of Ezekiel Ruark, this man's brother.

"John was only given one shilling sterling in his father's will, none of the property, and might be included in the six unnamed

'youngest' to receive the balance of the estate.

"He is shown in the Nelms store accounts as follows: For John Jr. there is the following:

27 May 1765 Balance from Ledger C 0/2/19. Unpaid in Ledger D.

"He either left Maryland, or died before the 1783 tax list and 1800 census, as only one slightly younger John is shown in Worcester Co. during that time, although several of the name are there after 1800."

#### 4. Levin Ruark (b. before 1748, d. before 1787)

BY GENE BALLENTINE ROOKS

"Levin is one of the sons named in the will of his father, John, as fourth in line to receive the land if the others died without issue.

Ruark, Levin, Elisha Ruark & others, deed to George Vance, Liber H, 1769- Worcester Co. Deeds. Levin Ruark and wife, Elizabeth, and Comfort Lingo and Comfort James sold 50 acres to George Vance 12 Jan

1771 - New Holland and New Holland Renewed. George Smith, Jr. sold to Levin RUARK 60 acres 12 Jan 1771 - Covington's Choice.

1773 Levin Ruark, witness will of John Shockley, JW#4 f.207.

In the Nelms Store accounts there are listings for Levin:

RUCK, Levin (6 Feb 1767 - 29 Jan 1777) Purchased checked linen, Bearskin cloth, durant and thread, rum and garters for a total of 3/3/1. Paid 1/14/0 in corn in 1768 and carried 1/9/1 to Ledger E. Made payment for Hezekiah Ruck in 1770 and William Driskell, saddler in 1768. Brought 2/6/0 from Ledger H and bought rum, trace ropes and molasses in 1775 for a total of 2/19/1. Interest of 0/7/2 was added and payment of 3/6/3 made in cash on 29 Jan 1777.

Levin died before 8 Jan 1787, when Elizabeth Ruck was described as his widow.

#### 5. Hezekiah Rook (b. 1750 in Worcester Co., MD), m. Elizabeth Stanford, d. in Chatham County, N. C.

#### 6. Belitha Ruark (b. estimated 1752 in Worcester Co., MD)

BY GENE BALLENTINE ROOKS

"I am going out on a limb to include Belitha in this family, but there are two men named Belitha in the 1800 census, and one of them is over 45 years old, which I think is this one. There is another Belitha who is in the 26-45 bracket who is said to be Ezekiel's son. Their father John was in the same militia group with a man named Belitha Laws, and I suspect that this man named after him is one of the six unnamed 'youngest' in his will. It is also interesting that he lives next to the Peter Owens family. His sister Sarah married into that family."

#### 7. Shadrack Ruark (b. ca. 1755)

BY GENE BALLENTINE ROOKS

"It is commonly believed Shadrack is one of the 'six youngest' unnamed children listed in the will of John Ruark. A Shadery Ruark is on the 1781 list of Revolutionary soldiers by Peden. He is not further listed in Maryland records, and indications are he moved to Ohio shortly before the 1800 census was taken.

"The following was posted by Jim Phelps on his family:

"Shadrack Ruark (MD-@1820) married Rebecca. Shadrack was born in Worcester County, Maryland before 1765, but he and Rebecca lived in Geauga County, Ohio, as early as 1804. Shadrack was an itinerant Methodist Minister. He was one of the earliest settlers of Hambden Township, Geauga County, Ohio, but later moved to Mentor Township.

"Children are:

Hannah (Nancy) Ruark - m. Mr. Kneipp  
Elizabeth Ruark (b. 1778-d. bef. 1870) - m. James Rawlings  
James Ruark  
John Ruark  
Arthur Ruark  
Shadrack Ruark Jr. (b. 1792)  
Joseph Ruark  
Reason Pumpery Ruark Sr. (b. 1797) - m. Mary Jane Banks"

8. Stephen Ruark

9. Sarah Rook m. Peter Owens before 1769

## HEZEKIAH ROOK

(born 1750)

**1750** Hezekiah Rook was born in 1750 and married Elizabeth Stanford in about 1773 in Worcester County, Maryland. The Stanfords had been in Maryland more than 100 years at the time. Elizabeth's great great grandfather was JOHN STANFORD, Jr.

### THE STANFORDS

## JOHN STANFORD, Jr.

(born ca. 1660?)

(DATA BY GENE BALLENTINE ROOKS AND  
LORNA SCHINDLER, AS POSTED ON INTERNET)

John Stanford, Jr., was transported to America from England in 1678, and settled in Dorchester County, Maryland. He married ELIZABETH MERCHANT in about 1680. John and Elizabeth Merchant Stanford had one child:

### 1. Jonathan Stanford

## JONATHAN STANFORD

(born in Dorchester County, Maryland)

Jonathan Stanford was born in Dorchester County, Maryland, and bought land there in 1710 and 1723. He may have been an attorney. The Jonathan Stanfords had two children:

### 1. Joseph Stanford (born about 1715)

### 2. Elizabeth Stanford

(GENE ROOKS: <http://worldconnect.genealogy.rootsweb.com/cgi-bin/igm.cgi?db=generooks>)

# JOSEPH STANFORD

(born about 1715)

**1715** Joseph Stanford was born in Dorchester County, Maryland, and married Suzannah-Sarah Whipps about 1737. They patented 50 acres of land in 1746, and bought and sold land from 1754 to 1775 in areas including Wicomico and Somerset counties. Their children:

1. Thomas Stanford (b. about 1738)
2. Joshua Stanford, Sr. (b. 28 October 1740, m. Mary Rook in 1765, d. 1826)
- 3. Jonathan Stanford (b. about 1744)**
4. Joseph Stanford
5. David Vance Stanford (b. about 1748)

# JONATHAN STANFORD, Sr.

(born ca. 1744)

**1744** Jonathan Stanford was born in about 1744. About 25 years later, one of the purchases recorded for him at Nelms Store included an iron skillet, buttons, needles, an almanac, brimstone, padlocks, pins and a meal sifter. He agreed to pay 18 shillings 2 pence, and paid 12 shillings and 6 pence cash that day. His son, Joshua, paid the balance for him in 1770. Then, in 1775, as the colonies headed into the Revolutionary War, Jonathan bought trace ropes for 6 shillings, and paid the bill in cash two years later.

## **From the Nelms Store Accounts:**

STANFORD, Jonathan Sr. (1765 - 25 Jan 1777) Carried 0/3/4 from Ledger C and charged an iron skillet, buttons, needles, almanac, brimstone, padlocks, pins and a meal sifter for 0/18/2. Paid 0/12/6 in cash in 1769 with the rest paid by his son, Joshua in 1770. In 1775 purchased trace ropes for 0/6/0 and paid in cash in 1777.

The children:

## **1. Elizabeth Stanford (m. Hezekiah Rook about 1773)**

## **2. Jonathan Stanford, Jr. (d. 1792 in Columbia, Ga.)**

In 1775, Jonathan Stanford, Jr., bought linen, silk handkerchief, which brought his debt at that point at Nelms Store to 1 pound 7 shillings 6 pence, all of which was paid for him by his brother, Joshua Stanford, in 1779. Jonathan, Jr., had paid some of his earlier debts in 1771, after receiving additional credit from Isaac Crouch.

**From the Nelms Store Accounts:** STANFORD, Jonathan Jr. (14 Feb 1766 - 5 Apr 1779) Owed in Ledger C 0/6/8 plus 2 doz all blades and 2 doz. tacks omitted from the account in C, plus 5 years interest made 0/11/10. Got credit of 0/9/5 by Isaac Crouch and paid balance in cash in 1771. In 1775 bought checked linen, silk handkerchief and with interest owed 1/7/6 which was paid in cash by Joshua Stanford in 1779.

Jonathan Stanford, Jr., died prior to 13 October 1792. He had written his will on 6 May 1792, and at that time mentioned his wife, Nelle; and his children, Betty, Sary, Robert, and Elijah; along with Leah Stanford. Family legend indicates that a Jonathan Stanford, who lived in the area at that time also had a son, Jesse.

LWT Jonathan Stanford, Signed 6 May 1792; Recorded 13 Oct 1792  
Columbia Co., GA Columbia Will Bk. A, p.32 PR 2000

### 3. Joshua Stanford (d. 1826 in Warren County, Georgia)

Joshua Stanford paid the balance of a bill at Nelms Store for his father in 1770. In 1779, he paid on his father's account, and that of his brother, Jonathan, Jr.

**From the Nelms Store Accounts:** STANFORD, Jonathan Sr. (1765 - 25 Jan 1777) Carried 0/3/4 from Ledger C and charged an iron skillet, buttons, needles, almanac, brimstone, padlocks, pins and a meal sifter for 0/18/2. Paid 0/12/6 in cash in 1769 with the rest paid by his son, Joshua in 1770. In 1775 purchased trace ropes for 0/6/0 and paid in cash in 1777.

**From the Nelms Store Accounts:** STANFORD, Joshua (Son of Jonathan Sr.) (6 Jan 1770 - 5 Apr 1779) Paid on father's account in 1770 and on that of his brother, Jonathan Jr. in 1779.

Joshua Stanford died in 1826 in Warren County, Georgia. His will:

#### **The Last Will and Testament of Joshua Stanford**

**I Joshua Stanford** being low of body but of sound and disposing mind and memory do make constitute and ordain this last will and testament.

**1st.** I will that all my just debts be paid.

**2nd** I will unto my beloved son Joseph Stanford the land whereon I live together with all my landed estate without reserve.

**3d** I will & bequest unto my granddaughter Harriet Dashiell one cow and calf.

**4th** After the disposition about mentioned I will and bequest unto my eight children, Levi Stanford, John Stanford, Joshua Stanford, Sophia Draper, Levin Stanford, Mary Williams, Ellender Lazenby and Sarah Ansley each one of them one eighth part of my estate not otherwise disposed off by this my last will to be equally divided amongst them by my Executors herein after mentioned.

**5th** I hereby appoint my son Joseph Stanford my executor to this my last will and testament signed and sealed and delivered on this 1st day of May 1825.

In presence of Joshua Stanford (Seal)

John Willson

Benjamin Harrison

William Harrison

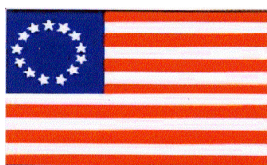
**Probate May 1st 1826**

Georgia Inferior Court Sitting

Warren County for Ordinary Purposes

John Willson Benjamin Harrison William Harrison being duly sworn in open court. John Stanford, Joshua's son, married Delilah Ruark. They were the parents of the Nancy Stanford who married Thomas Baxter 22 Jan 1820

He was survived by eight children: Levi, John, Joshua, Sophia, Levin, Mary, Ellender and Sarah.



# ELIZABETH STANFORD

(married, est. 1773)

# HEZEKIAH ROOK

(born 1750)

**1773** Elizabeth Stanford married Hezekiah Rook in about 1773 in Worcester County, Maryland. Hezekiah Rook served under Capt. Charles Bennett's command in the Revolutionary War militia, and he, too, was a customer at the Nelms Store, where he bought shoe buckles, ribbon, knee buckles and a handkerchief for 1 pound 2 shillings 6 pence, and paid in cash in 1777.

**RUCK, Hezekiah (21 Jun 1765 - 6 Nov 1777)**

Carried 1/9/3 from C including interest. Paid in part with cash payments by Peter Owens and Levin Ruck and by credit on James Trlader. Balance of 0/3/9 paid in cash by Hezekiah in Sep 1770. Brought 0/10/6 from Ledger H and bought shoe buckles, ribbon, knee buckles, handkerchief for 1/2/6. Paid in cash in 1777.

(GENE ROOKS: <http://worldconnect.genealogy.rootsweb.com/cgi-bin/igm.cgi?db=generooks>)

Hezekiah was recorded on the 1783 tax rolls for Worcester County. Thereafter he and Elizabeth moved with their family to Chatham County, North Carolina, where both died before the turn of the century, leaving at least the daughter, Elizabeth, an "orphan," by family records. The children were:

1. Aaron Rook (b. 1774 in Worcester Co., Maryland, d., Missouri)

2. Elizabeth Rook, (b. ca. 1778-1782, m. Thomas Saunders, ca. 1798, d. 1828 in Tennessee)

3. Hezekiah Rook, Jr., (b. 1782)

4. Jonathan Rook (b. 1785)

5. Levi(n)/Lewis Rook, (b. 1793)

6. James Rook

(Another record shows the children only as Aaron, Elizabeth, and James.)



# ELIZABETH ROOK

(born ca. 1778-1782, died 1828)

**1778** Elizabeth Rook probably was born between 1778 and 1782. In about 1798 she married THOMAS SAUNDERS. Family records state she was 16 and an orphan at the time of marriage. He was 18. They started their family in Chatham County, North Carolina, where her parents, Hezekiah Rook and Elizabeth Stanford had died.

## THE SANDERS IN COLONIAL AMERICA

**1623** Richard Sanders was living in Virginia in 1623. Thomas Saunders (b. Amsterdam, Holland) came to New Amsterdam in 1636. At least 17 members of the Sanders family emigrated to Virginia, or were born in Virginia in the mid-1600s. They and the date by which they are known to have been in Virginia, were:

Dr. Edward Sanders.....	1662	Thomas Sanders.....	1668
George Sanders.....	1663	Elizabeth Sanders.....	1668
William Sanders.....	1666	Mary Sanders.....	1668
Francis Sanders.....	1666	John Sanders.....	1669
Henry (Han) Sanders.....	1666	Jane Sanders.....	1678
Hugh Sanders.....	1667	Richard Sanders.....	1679
James Sanders.....	1667	Ann Sanders.....	1671
Mark Sanders.....	1667	Isaih Sanders.....	1684
Robert Sanders.....	1667		

Ann and Thomas Sanders were transported to America by Daniel Jennifer and his wife, Ann; Francis and Henry by Francis Triplett; Edward and William by Henry Pewe; John and Richard by Jno. Grimes, and by Robt. Bolling as well.

(Cavaliers and Pioneers, Vol. 2)

**1659** Members of the Sanders family, Huguenots, fled England in 1659, and settled first in South Carolina, near what today is Charleston.

(William C. Saunders, History of McNairy County, Tenn., early 1900s.)

**1668** By 28 August 1668, Dr. Edward Sanders was a large landowner in Lancaster and Northumberland counties.

MR. EDWARD SANDERS, 206 acs., N'umberland Co., S. side Gr. Wiccocomico Riv., 28 Aug. 1668, p. 164. On N. side of a br. dividing this & land of Thomas Sallisbury, on S. side of a br. dividing this & land of Tho. Lane. &c. Trans. of 4 pers: Mary Morgan, Mary Walker, Kno. Brookes, Leo. Sotherby.  
(Cavaliers and Pioneers, Vol. 2, p. 43)

MR. EDWARD SANDERS, 3747 acs. bet. Lancaster & N'umberland Co.'s upon Dameron's Cr., 14 Dec 1669, p. 270. Adj. land sold by John Hopper to sd. Sanders; on a br. of Coretoman Riv., E'wd from Machotick foot path, &c; 207 acs. on N. side of a br. dividing this from land of Thomas Salisbury, Tho. Lane & his



own; 640 acs. on S. side of Gr. Wiccocomico Riv. 2900 acs granted him 5 Mar. 1662; 207 acs. granted him 28 Aug. 1668; 640 acs. for trans. of 13 pers; Jno. Richard, Jno. Brookes, Susan Wheritt, Edwd. Jacob, Wm. Batts, Eliz. Couchanshaw (?), Rich. Otter, James Allen, Tho. Waltermann, Tho. Harris, Sara ---, Eliz. Jermin, Tho. Prescott.

(Cavaliers and Pioneers, Vol. 2, p. 69)

Francis Sanders owned at least 130 acres by June of 1669.

MR. FRANCIS SANDERS, 130 acs., James City Co., at the head of Jones Cr. of Chickahominy Riv; a little above the Mill. June 1669, p. 246. 100 acs. part sold by Honable. Sir Wm. Berkeley unto Wm. Dubosse, who assigned to Mr. Edward Gannell & by him to sd. Sanders; 30 acs. for trans. of: Hen. Muston.

(Cavaliers and Pioneers, Vol. 2, p. 62)

And by 1683, Francis Sanders had added 600 acres in Nansemond.

FRANCIS SANDERS, 600 acs., Up. Par. of Nansimund, att King Sale, 16 Apr. 1683, p. 260. Beg. at Thomas Titus & Nicholas Dixon; to Reedy Br; crossing Cabbin Sw; adj. Jonathan Robinson & Richard Thomas. Trans. of 12 pers: Cha. Colket, Jos. Bennet, Jon. Coffey, Jon. Butler, Robt. Owen, Edwd. Pickery, Jon. Walker, Tho. Ross, Margart. Clerk, Richd. Hill, Joan Hill, Tho. Hill.

(Cavaliers and Pioneers, Vol. 2, p. 258)

George Sanders (in partnership with William Peawde) received 1000 acres in James City County, 11 February 1663. George Sanders died before 26 September 1678, as Peawde patented the land in his name, as the survivor at that time.

(Cavaliers and Pioneers, Vol. 2, p. 229)

John Sanders and his wife, Susanna (Ravenett), owned 650 acres in Warwick County by 5 July 1669.

MR. JOHN SANDERS, 650 acs. Warwick Co., Mulberry Is. Par. on Skiffes Cr., 5 July 1669, p. 282. On E. side of a Spring called Jacob's Well, a gutt dividing this from land of Capt. Robt. Pyland, adj. Mr. Holy Alsupp's fence near the Cart path., &c. 500 acs. part leased to Jacob Avery 2 Feb. 1630 for 21 yrs., afterwards granted to Wm. Ravenett by 3 pattents; 150 acs. 21 Nov. 1635; 250 acs. 23 Sept. 1636; 100 acs 20 Feb. 1638, who gave to his daughter Susanna now wife of sd. Sanders by his will dated 20 Mar. 1656; 150 acs. for trans. of 3 pers: Tho. Dowin, Edw. Hoard (or Heard), Cisley Jorden.

(Cavaliers and Pioneers, Vol. 2, p. 71)

John Sanders was in partnership with Jonathan Robinson and Richard Thomas, in assembling a 1,650-acre tract in Isle of Wight and Nansemond Counties in 1681.

JONATHAN ROBINSON, RICHARD THOMAS & JOHN SANDERS. 1650 acs. in Is. of W. & Nanzemond Co.'s; S. side King Saile Sw; adj. Tho. Titus & Nico. Dickson; 23 Apr. 1681, p. 72. Trans. of 33 pers; Rand. Hill, Richd. Allen, Jno. Golley (or Gollry), Math. Foster, Bar. Holland, Ja. Gilfred, Wm. Taylor, Kno. Rossier, Jos. Wigmore, Peter Stone, Wm. Mansfeild, Jno. Simons, Jno. Taylor, Ja. Perry, Marg. Curtell, An. Thorne, Ja. Evins, Jno. Bevin, Wm. Nash, Wm. Nodedge, Jno. Ford, Ian. Plumer, Robt. Relph, Cha. Alden, Phill. Pope, Jeffry Pittman, Jno. Critchell, Godf. Davis, Simon Collier, Hugh Edwards, Ja. Peacock, Tho. Blith, Wm. Nash.

(Cavaliers and Pioneers, Vol. 2, p. 217)

John Sanders patented a small tract thanks to his wife, Sarah:

JOHN SANDERS & ROBERT ROBERTS, 7 1/2 acs. of marsh land, on E. side of King's Cr; adj. 50 acs. belonging to them in right of their wives Sarah & Mary; 20 Apr. 1694, p. 380. Imp. of 1 pers.

(Cavaliers and Pioneers, Vol. 2, p. 394)

Richard Sanders patented 300 acres in Nansemond County, 10 July 1680.

RICHARD SANDERS, 300 acs., in the Up. Par. of Nanzemund; at the head of Capt. John Mason, in the W'n br; adj. Michael Hill, now sd. Sanders' land; John Wallis; & Thomas Garnygan; etc; 10 July 1680, p. 39. Trans. of 6 pers.

(Cavaliers and Pioneers, Vol. 2, p. 210)

Thomas Sanders patented 165 acres in Nansemond County, 30 October 1686, the same day that William Sanders patented another 165-acre tract alongside.

THOMAS SANDERS, 165 acs., Up. Par. of Nanzemond Co., 30 Oct. 1686, p. 526. Adj. Gresham Copbell; & Wm. Sanders; by Dumplin Island Cr; down Nanzemond River, to mouth of Hollyday's Cr. 100 acs. part of 200 acs. granted to Epaphraditus Lawson, 1 Nov. 1637, which, after severall surrenders & descents, is in possession of sd. Sanders; 65 acs for tran. of 2 pers: Richard Bonner, Charles Hoggett.

(Cavaliers and Pioneers, Vol. 2, p. 301)

William Sanders had patented 175 acres in Nansemond County on 30 April 1679.

WM. SANDERS, 175 acs., in the Up. Par. of Nansemond Co., by Dumplin Island Cr., at the head of Mr. Jno. Wright's land; neere the Ridge; by the John Murdah; &c; 30 Apr. 1679, p. 678. Being part of 500 acs. granted to Argall Yardley, Esqr., 6 Feb. 1637, which, after severall sales, &c., from diverse persons, descended to & is in possession of sd. Sanders.

(Cavaliers and Pioneers, Vol. 2, p. 196)

William Sanders' 165-acre tract in Nansemond County, 30 October 1686:

WILLIAM SANDERS, 165 acs., Up. Par. of Nanzemond Co., 30 Oct. 1686, p. 527. Beg. on Dumpling Is. Creek, cor. of Capt. Jossy; to Thomas Sanders, &c. 100 acs. part of patt. granted to Epaphraditus Lawson, 1 Nov. 1637, which, after severall surrenders, is in fee possess by sd. Sanders; 65 acs. for trans. of 2 pers: Wm. Nickolls, John Read.

(Cavaliers and Pioneers, Vol. 2, p. 301)

**1678** Benjamin Sanders was granted a ticket to New York 18 March 1678 in the ketch, "Begining," William Play, commander. William Sanders (b. 1663) emigrated to Maryland with a 4-year indenture to Capt. Phineas Hide. The indenture was signed 26 July 1684, and witnessed by William Daniell. William Sanders signed the document.

(Some Early Immigrants to America, Vol. 1, p. 377)

John Sanders was identified as a merchant of London in an indenture in which George Mason emigrated to Barbados. The indenture was signed 3 March 1683.

(Some Early Immigrants to America, Vol. 1, p. 357)

**1691** Henry Sanders' land in Isle of Wight Co., was used to describe an adjacent tract, 20 October 1691. In 1698, he patented 118 acres in the county.

HENRY SANDERS, 118 acs. Low. Par. of Is. of Wight Co., near King Sale, 26 Apr. 1698, p. 148. Adj. Thomas Parker; Edward Felwell; John Bryant; & John Roberts. Trans. of 3 pers: Wm. Woodnot, Jno. Didall, Tho. Spoylet.

(Cavaliers and Pioneers, Vol. 3, p. 21)

**1696** John Saunders was master of the brigantine "Cocke" of Virginia in 1696. The ship was presumably owned by Thomas Cocke, who was listed as security for the performance bond in compliance with the acts of Navigation for the colony, 3 July 1699.

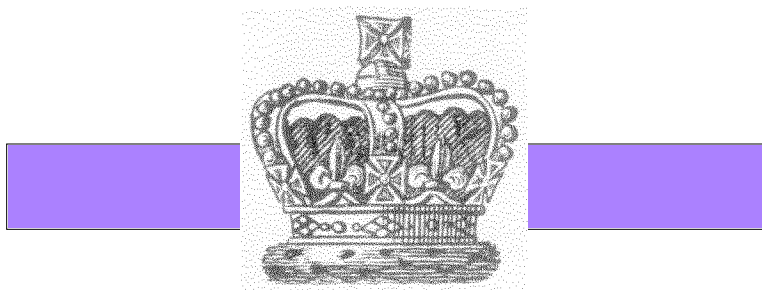
(Executive Journals, Councils of Colonial Virginia, p. 53)

## 'NOTORIOUS PYRATES' IN VIRGINIA

### WILLIAM SANDERS, 15, IS SOUGHT

SOME OF THE SAUNDERS family had a distinctive nautical flavor after the leadership of Master John Saunders on the "Cocke." But the flavor changed: Young William Saunders (b. 1684) was 15 years old in 1699, and fell in with what the Governor of Virginia clearly thought was foul and despicable company. On 20 December 1699, the Governor issued a Proclamation that declared young William was a "Notorious Pyrate" who had participated in seizing the ship, "Adventure," and her cargo worth 13,000 pounds sterling.

The governor put a price of 20 pounds sterling on young William's head for his part in the (alleged) seizure of the ship, and described young William as having ordinary stature, black hair, and "well sett." The rest of William's piratical colleagues, however, were a rum lot, described as being "remarkably deformed," "swarthy," "sickly complexion," "rawboned," or "squint-eyed." All, alas, were described as horrible and heinous offenders:



### By His Excellency A Proclamation

Whereas several Notorious Pyrates that forcibly and pyratically carried away the ship Adventure of London & her Cargo of the value of thirteen thousand pounds Sterling or thereabouts may be suspected to lurk about upon the coast of his Majesty's Colony and Dominion of Virginia and may endeavor to conceal themselves by privily coming on Shore in this his Majesty's Colony and Dominion in hopes of being harboured by wicked and ill disposed Persons and so to avoid the just punishment due by Law unto such horrible and hainous Offenders,

Therefore, I, Francis Nicholson, Esqr., his Majesty's Lieutenant and Governor Generall of Virginia by and with the advice and consent of his Majesty's honorable Council of State Do hereby straitly charge, command, and require all his Majesty's Officers in Chief of the Militia and all Justices of the Peace, Sheriffs, Constables, and all and every his Majesty's good and Loving Subjects whatsoever to use their utmost endeavor to seize, take, and apprehend all or any of the persons hereafter named & described who were some of those that pyratically carried away the aforesd Ship Adventure of London,

To witt, John Loyd of ordinary stature rawboned very pale Complexion dark hair remarkably deformed by an attraction of the Lower Eyelid about thirty years of age. Thomas Hughs tall Lusty Rawboned, Long Visage swarthy about twenty eight years of age. Thomas Simpson, short and small black much squint eyed about ten years of age, James Vanner short very well sett fresh coloured pock fretten about twenty years of age. Tee Wetherly, short, very small black blind of one Eye about eighteen years of age. Thomas Jameson Cooper a Scott Tall Meagre sickly complexion large black eyes about thirty years of age. Wm Griffith, short, well sett, broad faced darkish hair about thirty years of age. Thomas Davis short small sharp chinned reddish hair about two & twenty years of age. Francis Reade short an small reddish hair about Eighteen years of age. Wm Saunders of ordinary Stature well sett fresh coloured black hair about fifteen years of age.

And the sd Person or Persons or any of them having apprehended and taken to carry before some one of his Majesty's Justices of the Peace in the County where such Person or Persons are taken who are hereby required and Commanded to commit such Person or Persons well guarded to the Common Gaol of the County and to give me or some one in his Majesty's honorable Council immediate notice thereof in order to their being brought to Just and condign Punishment.

And for the better encouragement of all and every person & Persons to be dilligent in their search after all and every the aforesd Persons I do promise as a Reward that I will cause to be paid to such Persons as shall take & apprehend all or any of the aforementioned Pyrates the sum of Twenty pounds sterl: for every Person that shall be apprehended and taken and delivered up to me or some one of his Matys Justices of the Peace as aforesd.

And I do also by and with the advice & consent of his Matys honble Council of State Charge & Command all and every his Matys good & Loving Subjects strictly to observe & give due obedience to one Act of Assembly made at James City the 27th day of April 1699 Entituled An Act for the restraining and punishing of Pyrates and Privateers, And I do also command all Officers in Chief of the Militia Justices of the Peace, Sheriffs, Constables and all and every Person and Persons whom it doth or may concern to cause the sd Law to be put in effectual execution according to the purport thereof as they will answer the neglect thereof at their perills.

And I do likewise command all his Matys Officers Civil & Military and all others whom it doth or may concern to give due Observance and Obedience to a former Proclamation dated the 26th day of October 1699 against Pyrates & Privateers & two orders of Council relating thereto Viz: One dated the 18th of April and the other the 8th of June Last past as they will answer the contrary at their perills, and I command and require all Masters of Ships and Vessells that they do not presume to take on board their sd Ships or Vessells any of the aforementioned Person or Persons or any other Person or Persons suspected of Piracy as they will answer the doing thereof at

their perills. And I command all Sheriffs to cause this Proclamation to be published in all Churches, Chappells, Courthouse and other publick places in their respective Countys.

Given under my hand and his Matys Seal of the Colony this 20th day of December 1699 in the Eleventh year of his Matys reign.

Fr. Nicholson

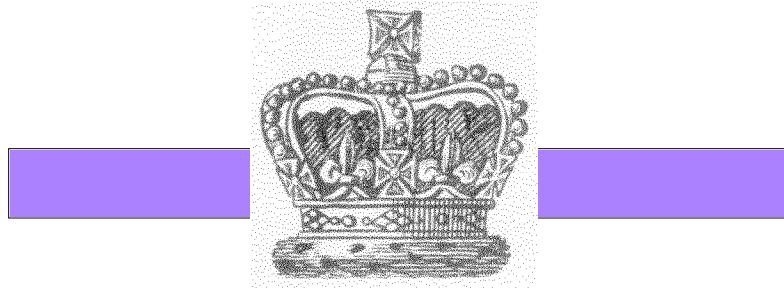
A Proclamation for the apprehending of  
Pyrates & Privateers

## *GOD SAVE THE KING*

(Executive Journals, Councils of Colonial Virginia, Vol. 2, pp. 38, 39)

(Some of the abbreviations in the Proclamation have been written in full for easier reading. Most of the abbreviations are represented, however, in some parts of the Proclamation. Most commonly, "th" is abbreviated as "y".)

**S**HORTLY AFTERWARD, another Sanders was accused of piracy: On 9 July 1700, the Governor of Virginia declared officially that John Sanders was a "Pirate." The Governor put a price on his head, and ordered that the Proclamation of Piracy be published "in all churches, chappells, Court Houses and other publick places." The price on John Sanders' head, as on William Sanders' head, was 20 pounds sterling (quite a price for those days).



### By His Excellency A Proclamation

**W**HEREAS I have received an Order fro ye Right Honourable ye Lords of ye Council of Trade & Plantations dated at White Hall ye 21st day of February 1699-1700, yt some time in ye moneth of November last a Merchant Ship called ye John Hopewell of London whereof one Henry Munday was Commander was plundered by a Pyrate named Henry King who formerly used ye Pensylvania trade, and yt nine of he sd Mundays men voluntarily forsook him and ran away with ye said Pyrate upon is Pyratical designs, therefore, I, Francis Nicholson, Esqr., his Majesty Lieutenant and Governor Generall of Virginia by and with ye Advice and Consent of his Majestys Honorable Council of State doe straitly charge and command all his Majestys Officers, Civil & Military, and all other his good and loving Subjects whatsoever to use their utmost endeavor to take, seize, and apprehend all and every ye said Pyrats so as they may be brought to condigne Punishment, whose

names are Henry King ye grand Pyrat, Nicholas Gellibrand, John Burton, Leonard Rawlings, Edwrd Atterbury, Emanuel, a Portugese, John Sanders, William Barker of Sunderland, John Harris of London, Francis Bacon, a Negro, being those who deserted ye sd Monday. And I doe promise as a reward to any Person or Persons that shall take, seize and apprehend all or any ye sd Pyrat or Pyrats so as such Pyrat or Pyrats be brought to justice for ye sd offences, such Person or Persons shall have and receive ye Sume of twenty Pounds Sterling for every Pyrat so taken & brought to condign Punishment. And I likewise straitly charge all Sherriifs to cause this Proclamation to be published in all Churches Chappels Court House and other publick places in their respective Countys. Given under my hand and his Majestys seale of ye Colony at James Town this 9th day of July 1700 in ye twelfth year of his Majesty's Reign.

A Proclamation for ye

Apprehending of Pyrats

F. Nicholson.

## *GOD SAVE THE KING*

(Executive Journals, Council of Colonial Virginia, pp. 100-101)

**1717** By 1 April 1717, John, Richard, and Robert Sanders owned land adjacent to each other in the upper part of Nansemond County.

ROBERT SANDERS, of Is. of Wight Co., 150 acs. (N. L.), Up. Par. of Nansemond Co., near place called King Sale; adj. his own, Richard Sanders; & Land of John Sanders; 1 April 1717, p. 314 15 Shillings. ROBERT SANDERS, 18 acs. (N. L.), Up. Par. of Nansemond Co; on N. side of a br. of Cabin Sw. of Sumerton Cr; 1 Apr 1717, p. 313. 15 Shill.

(Cavaliers and Pioneers, Vol. 3, pp. 188, 189)

Also on 1 April 1717, Richard Sanders patented 121 acres in the same area.

RICHARD SANDERS, 121 acs. (N. L.). Up. Par. of Nansemond Co; near the Cypruss Sw. of Sumerton Cr; adj. cor. of John Lee, in line of patent granted his father, John Lee; & Paul Pinder's land; 1 Apr. 1717, p. 311. Imp. of 3 pers: Dennis Drishill, Edward Daubert, & Richard Hampton.

(Cavaliers and Pioneers, Vol. 3, p. 188)

Richard had patented 127 acres in the upper part of Nansemond County.

RICHARD SANDERS, 127 acs., Up. Par. of Nansemond Co; SW side of the W. br. of Nansemond River; adj. Maj. Henry Baker; on head of Ellis' Creek; 24 Apr. 1703, p. 537. Trans. of 3 pers: Margtt. Harve, David Bevin, Mary Williams.

(Cavaliers and Pioneers, Vol. 3, p. 72)

Christopher Sanders patented 176 acres in Nansemond County 12 July 1718.

CHRISTOPHER SANDERS, 176 acs. (N. L.), Up. Par. of Nansemond Co; adj. Michael King's land; 12 July 1718, p. 388. Imp. of 4 pers: James Monrow, Nicholas Smith, Grace Thomas, & John Standard.

(Cavaliers and Pioneers, Vol. 3, p. 205)



# JOEL SANDERS

(born ca. 1720, died 1782)

**1720** Joel Sanders was born about 1720. In about 1762, he traveled with his son, Joel, Jr., to Cane Creek, South Carolina. During his youth, other Sanders' land acquisitions in Virginia included: John Sanders, Essex County, Henrico County, Hanover County, and Goochland County, in 1715, 1725, 1727, and 1730. Benjamin Sanders in Hanover County, 1724; Nathaniel Sanders, Spotsylvania County, 1728; Hugh Sanders, Spotsylvania County, 1728; William Sanders, Surry County, 1723; Edward Sanders, Prince George County, 1730; and Thomas Sanders, Henrico County, 1725.

(Cavaliers and Pioneers, Vol. 3)

In 1720, Joel, Sr., and his wife, CHARITY, were received on certificate from Nansemond Monthly Meeting (Virginia). In 1775, Joel and his family were granted certificate to Wrightborough Monthly Meeting, Georgia, and received from Nansemond. The children and their dates of birth were:

1. Miriam Sanders (b. 1744 (O.S.))
- 2. Benjamin Sanders (b. 1746 (O.S.))**
3. John Sanders (b. 1748 (O.S.))
4. Joel Sanders, Jr. (b. 1751 (O.S.))
5. Dempsey Sanders, (b. 1753)
6. Lydia Sanders (b. 1753)
7. Hollowell Sanders (b. 1755)
8. Ferribe Sanders (b. 1756)
9. Thomas Sanders (b. 1759)
10. Josiah Sanders (b. 1761)
11. Abraham Sanders (b. 1763)
12. Mordecai Sanders (b. 1764)
13. Sarah Sanders (b. 1767)

Joel Sanders, Sr., died 2 February 1782.



# BENJAMIN SANDERS

(born 1746, died 1822)

**1746** Benjamin Sanders was born 10 June 1746 (Old Style), and married LEAH SMITH 19 May 1768, according to Cane Creek Monthly Meeting (Orange, now Alamance, County in North Carolina.) The names of the children were not recorded as such, but can be presumed since they comprised the only Sanders family in Cane Creek, M. M. They were:

**1. Thomas Sanders (b. ca. 1780)**

2. Mary Sanders (m. 1789)
3. Sarah Sanders (m. 1792)
4. John Sanders (m. 1792)
5. Miriam Sanders
6. Joel Sanders
7. Lydia Sanders
8. Benjamin Sanders
9. Rachel Sanders

Benjamin Sanders died in 1822. His will, recorded in Chatham County, N. C., names only his wife, Leah. It was witnessed by two Phillips.

# THOMAS SAUNDERS

(born ca. 1780, died 1848)

**1780** Thomas Saunders was born in about 1780, the oldest son of Benjamin and Leah Smith Sanders, in North Carolina. When he was 18, he married Elizabeth Rook, 16, whose parents Hezekiah and Elizabeth Rook had died at young ages.

Thomas and Elizabeth started their family in Chatham County, North Carolina, but moved in 1816 to the Clinch River, Granger County in East Tennessee. In 1826, the large family moved to West Tennessee. William C. Saunders wrote of the family for an early 1900s history of McNairy County, Tennessee:

“Thomas Saunders, who emigrated to McNairy county, Tennessee was of a very ancient family in England, having descended from Laurence Saunders, who suffered martyrdom in Queen Mary’s reign, for preaching the gospel,” William C. Saunders wrote in an early 1900s history of McNairy County. He continued:

“Thomas’ great, great-grandparents were Huguenots, emigrated from England in 1659 to South Carolina and settled about where Charleston now stands. They died in Savannah, Georgia, before the Revolutionary war.

“He married Elizabeth Rook in his 18th year; she was in her 16th year. She was also of English descent; her mother was a Stanford,

related to Lord Stanford of London. She was born in Maryland. Their offspring were 17 children --- 9 sons and 8 daughters --- 16 raised families. They emigrated from Chatham county, N. C., in 1816 to Granger county, East Tennessee; settled on Clinch River; emigrated to West Tennessee in 1826."

Further details and comments about the Thomas Saunders family were made in an essay by their granddaughter:

## ***A PIONEER FAMILY***

*MRS. JENNIE S. PERKINS*

WRITTEN IN 1900

"NEAR THE CLOSE of the eighteenth century, Thomas Saunders and Elizabeth Rook were married and settled in Chatham county, North Carolina. The young husband was the son of Benjamin Saunders, a staunch Quaker; the wife was a lineal descendant, on the father's side, of Admiral Rook, of the English Navy; on her mother's side, of a younger brother of Lord Stanford and Marie Wills, of Germany. Thomas had violated the rules of his society by uniting himself with one of a different faith, and was promptly excluded and denied its temporal benefits as well.

"Elizabeth was an orphan whose only dower was industry, intellect and great personal beauty. With only youthful strength and energy to rely upon, they began the arduous task of rearing a family on the worn-out soil of their native State. Their children increasing faster than their means, they removed to Tennessee, whose natural advantages gave superior promise to the unrequited toilers in the older States.

"They stopped for a while amid the wild mountain scenery and rich valleys of the eastern division, but the climate being rigorous they sought further, and finally decided upon McNairy county as their permanent home. This was about the year 1825. Their family had increased to 17 children, 16 of whom were living; sons and daughters were married, and with their growing families were settled near them. Here a most encouraging prospect opened before them.

"A virgin soil of great fertility, landscapes of marvelous beauty made up the green savannas and towering forests of the finest timber, in whose coverts game was swarming, affording the hunter delightful pastime; while the streams teemed with fish tempting the angler to while away a pleasant hour on the green mossy banks beneath the spreading beeches that hung over the bright water. The hardy sons of the toil-worn family began to look about them, and build up homes and reputations for themselves. Although their early opportunities had been very meager, the "Old Field School" of former times being the only institution of learning ever open to them, they had most assiduously tried to educate themselves, their excellent mother sparing no pains to impress upon their minds the necessity of self-culture.

"They succeeded so well in overcoming their early defects, that they

were called to fill many positions of honor and trust, which they did in a creditable manner. Meanwhile their families increased with health, and competence smiled on the pleasant homes they had reared in this land of promise. The gifted mother had passed away; but the aged father sat in the midst of his numerous descendants, like a patriarch of old.

"A few years before his death, which occurred in 1848, his children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren numbered 120. As a family, their traits were strongly marked, being ambitious, proud spirited, energetic, deeply devotional and strongly attached to each other and home. Their personal likeness was very striking, so much so that the most unobserving stranger rarely failed to perceive it. In religious faith, the whole family were Baptists, and all were believers. In politics, the father and six of his sons were Democrats, the other two sons were Whigs.

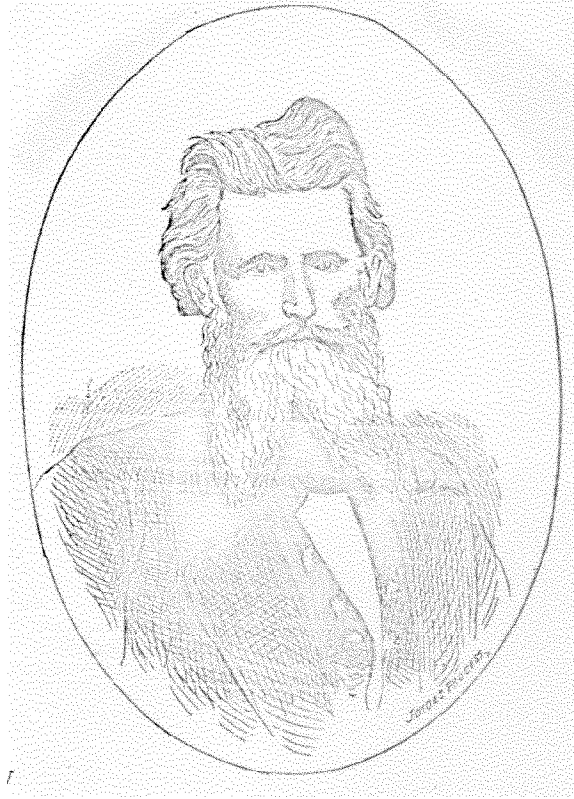
"During the war, the surviving brothers were divided, three espousing the cause of the South, and three remaining loyal to the United States Government. They were unyielding in their principles, and vehement in their advocacy, and were ready to make great personal sacrifice for their belief.

"Few families have added so much to the population of the section of their choice, or have sent out so many representatives to other states; and fewer still retain through so many generations the mental and physical characteristics of their forefathers, as the descendants of these pioneers of McNairy county."

(Mrs. Jennie S. Perkins was the aunt of Jennie Justice Saunders Buzbee, who married Edgar Farrior Buzbee. Jennie Saunders Buzbee had been named after the aunt, Jennie.)

Elizabeth Rook Saunders died in 1828. Thomas Saunders died in 1848. The children:

1. Stanford L. Saunders (b. 1799) married Martha Lebo
2. Benjamin F. Saunders (b. 1802) married Catherine Lebo
3. Hezekiah Saunders (b. 1803) married Polly Lebo  
(Hezekiah named after his grandfather, Revolutionary War Patriot Hezekiah Rook?)
4. Joel K. Saunders (b. 1805) married Mahala Thornhill
- 5. Lindsey Saunders (b. 1806) married Martha Ann Landreth (b. 1810)**
6. Thomas Saunders (b. 1809) married Olivia Lebo
7. Aaron A. Saunders (b. 1815) married Elizabeth McKee
8. William C. Saunders (b. 1817) married --- Moore
9. John Saunders (killed by a horse when small)
10. Leah Saunders (b. 1810) married James Cardwell.
11. Ellen Saunders, married -- Ingraham.
12. Elizabeth Saunders, married --- Ramsey
13. Nancy Saunders, married --- Anderson
14. Sarah Saunders, married --- Cardwell
15. Katherine Saunders, married John McGraw.
16. Rachel Saunders, married --- Tennyson
17. Polly Saunders, married --- Maness
18. Mahala Saunders



Lindsey Saunders,

## LINDSEY SAUNDERS

(born 1806, died 1865)

**1806** Lindsey Saunders was born in North Carolina in 1806 and came with the family to Tennessee when he was 10. According to an account written by his eldest daughter, Elizabeth, he was “endowed by nature of sound judgment and indomitable will. He had a feeble frame, but began holding public office as soon as eligible, and was in various positions of official trust until increasing infirmities compelled him to retire.” His daughter, Mrs. Elizabeth (Jennie) S. Perkins, continued:

“*H*AVING BY SHEER FORCE OF WILL and untiring energy wrested fortune from an adverse fate, he had little charity for the failure of others. He possessed great sincerity of character, and a stern, unyielding temper, was a devoted friend, and decided enemy, inclined to befriend the weak and oppose the strong, and like his Quaker ancestry, opposed to slavery. Before the war, he was an ‘old line Whig’ and during the Civil War, a staunch adherent of the Union, and was ready to make any sacrifice for the principles he conscientiously believed to be right.

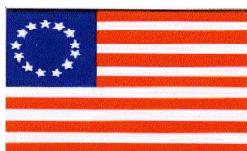
“He was neat and methodical in all he did, and very careful of his dress. In person, tall and commanding, very dignified in manner and conversation, of august presence, the face and expression indicating the man. He was strictly temperate; and by exercising great care prolonged his life to his 59th year, then

quietly passing away, leaving an example of truth and integrity worthy to be emulated by the rising generation.”

He was associated with his brother, Aaron, in business (as a merchant), as well as in political belief. Each resembled the other. Aaron was longtime county clerk, as well as minister. However, he was for the South in the war.

**1831** Lindsey Saunders and MARTHA ANN LANDRETH were married in 1831. Martha Ann Landreth (1810-1881) had been born in Guilford County, N. C., and was a daughter of Thomas Landreth (1780-1847) and Martha Patsy Bburton Landreth (1784-1852). Martha Patsy Burton was one of about 11 children of John Pleasant and Susannah Stamper Burton.

## THE BURTONS, STAMPERS, AND LANDRETHS



# JOHN PLEASANT BURTON

(born 8 July 1758, died 4 July 1836)

BURTON FAMILY RESEARCHERS traced the first Burton emigrants from England and Wales, though the first definitive record is of four brothers who settled in what is now the Richmond, Virginia, area in 1655. The brothers were John, Richard, Thomas and Allen Burton. One of RICHARD BURTON's sons was John Pleasants Burton, who was born 8 July 1758 in Virginia.

During the Revolutionary War, Pvt. John Pleasants Burton served in Joynes Company of the 9th Virginia Regiment, commanded by Col. George Mathew. After the war, John's father, Richard Burton, moved the family to Ashe County, N.C., where John Pleasants married Susannah Stamper (22 August 1767-10 August 1845).

In 1826, Susannah and John Pleasant (who had changed the spelling of his middle name from Pleasants, his mother's maiden name) moved their family to Lawrence County, Indiana, where they raised not only their own 13 children, but six orphans. John Pleasant Burton died 4 July 1836.

## HE WANTED TO BE BURIED IN STANDING POSITION

SEVERAL FAMILY STORIES detail possible reasons, but one thing seems certain: John Pleasant Burton didn't want to be buried lying down....and he wasn't.

**One family story** has it that he was buried erect as he wished because he had said that "Burtons will hold their heads up." **A more skeptical family member** later rejected the old story and declared that he was buried "slanted a little" because of the sandstone underlying the land in Lawrence County.

**However, a newspaper's account** of the burial records a young girl's second-hand remembrances about the time of John Pleasant's death:

"Mr. Burton knew that the Grim Reaper was hovering over him for days and he accordingly made his plans and wishes known. He wanted a Masonic service and he wanted to be buried standing upright with his face toward the east; we can vision that solemn scene, as with

the dew of death damp on his brow, he renewed his faith in his Creator and the Masonic order... so that when Gabriel first sounded the trumpet call he would be ready to answer that call at dawn on Resurrection day.

"This story was told to the granddaughter by the woman who laid out Mr. Burton (it will be recalled that in those days there were no skilled morticians to prepare the body for burial and as a rule women near the family took care of these rites, and neighbors and friends carried the casket to the graveyard and it was laid away in the grave that their hands prepared and while the mourners surrounded the grave it was filled by those kindly hands.)

"We can vision the awe as the wishes of the deceased were carried out. The crude handmade casket was carried into the death chamber, in the back about fourths up were two auger holes one on each side, and after the body was placed in the casket a broad band of cotton material was drawn across the chest, under the arms, the ends drawn through the auger holes and tied and he stood upright, his eyes closed in death until the clarion call of Gabriel's trumpet would open to view the glories of the Lord."

On 6 June 1941, a reporter on *The Denver Post* gave more details:

**VETERAN OF 1776  
BURIED UPRIGHT  
AT HIS OWN REQUEST**

"John Pleasant Burton, a soldier in the Revolutionary War was buried here in a standing position, at his own request. And that position has not changed in 105 years.

"The reason for this strange request: Burton who was a high ranking Mason in North Carolina and George Tincher made an agreement that Tincher would be buried horizontally at Burton's feet. This agreement was made in respect for their relative Masonic positions, Burton's descendants believe.

"When Burton died, he was buried standing, with the funeral services performed by Tincher, later Tincher was buried at Burton's feet according to the agreement. To accomplish this vertical burial, holes were bored in the back of the coffin and Burton was roped upright. The coffin was then lowered foot first into the grave.

"Burton was born in Virginia July 8, 1758 and died in Lawrence County, Indiana at the age of 78. He fought through the Revolutionary War as a private in Joynes Company, 8th Virginia Regiment."

## THE STAMPERS

STAMPER family research puts the early Stampers in Middlesex County, Virginia, where on 10 April 1798, Powell Stamper (1690-1727) married Mary Brooks.

One of their sons was Jonathan Stamper, who married Rachel (Parks?). Jonathan was a "constable in the King's service in Surry County, N.C., in 1772, and in 1778 he was granted a license to keep an Ordinary (tavern.) He died in about 1799. He wrote his will on 17 December 1793; it was submitted in court in 1799. The will:

"Jonathan Stamper, Sr. of Wilkes County, being very old but in good health.

To wife Rachel Stamper all my estate during her life or widowhood, then I give my son Jesse Stamper the land and plantation where I now live, one Negro boy named James, and the bed said Jesse now lyeth on.

If said Jesse Stamper died without lawful heirs, my will and desire is that his estate be brought in and equally divided between his brothers and sisters. After my wife's death the residue of the estate is to be equally divided amongst all of my children. The Negroes shall not be sold out of the family.

Executors: Jonathan Stamper (Jr) & Jesse Stamper."

The children of Jonathan and Rachel Stamper included Jesse, James, Joshua, Joel, Jonathan Jr., Frances, Jacob, and **Susannah** (who married John Pleasant Burton).

Susannah Stamper Burton died 10 August 1845. As the family put on the Burton

tombstone, children were: "Our sons: Richard, Allen, John, David, William, Hutchins, Hardin, Zachariah, Eli and his twin Isom. Our daughters: **Patsy, Mary and Ann.**"

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Ancestry.com: savannah533added this on 8 Aug 2007. Also:[http://content.ancestry.com/Browse/BookView.aspx?dbid=20683&pageno=1\\_1](http://content.ancestry.com/Browse/BookView.aspx?dbid=20683&pageno=1_1)  
<http://trees.ancestry.com/tree/3857102/person/-617913833/story/d4918ba9-2412-4e61-b89e-e5b8fb647ac?src=search>  
<http://www.ingenweb.org/inlawrence/BurtonCem.html>. Also: Stamper: submitted ancestry.com by LindaBrad  
From the North Carolina State Dept of Archives and History, Wilkes Co Wills, Inventories and Sales of Estates, 1779-1852

Martha Patsy Burton (1784-1852) married Thomas Landreth (1780-1847). One of their daughters was Martha Ann Landreth (1810-1881), who married Lindsey Saunders.

## BACK TO THE SAUNDERS

**1831** Lindsey Saunders and Martha Ann Landreth (b. 1810, in Guilford County, N. C.) were married in 1831. By 1840, their family included:

**1840: LINDSEY SANDERS, U. S. CENSUS, McNAIRY COUNTY, TENNESSEE**

Lindsey Sanders, aged 30-40; 1 Female (30-40); 2 Males (Under 5); 1 Male (5-10); 1 Female (Under 5); 1 Female (5-10); 1 Female (15-20)

By 1850, the family had grown significantly, and so had their land holdings. Lindsey Sanders valued the Sanders farm at \$5,000 when the census taker came by.

The \$5,000 farm in 1850 would be worth about \$952,000 in 2005, in a comparison with the unskilled wages of then and now. With a consumer price index comparison, the \$5,000 value would be about \$129,000 in 2005.

(<http://www.measuringworth.com/calculators/compare/result.php>)

**1850: LINDSEY SANDERS, U. S. CENSUS, McNAIRY COUNTY, TENNESSEE**

Lindsey Sanders, 43, Farmer, \$5,000 value of real estate owned, born in North Carolina.

Martha Sanders, 40, born in North Carolina.

Jane Sanders, 17, born in Tennessee

Byron Sanders, 15, born in Tennessee, attended school within the year.

**Lindsey Sanders, 13, born in Tennessee, attended school within the year.**

Stanford Sanders, 11, born in Tennessee, attended school within the year.

Martha Sanders, 9, born in Tennessee, attended school within the year.

Clark Sanders, 7, born in Tennessee, attended school within the year.

Aaron Sanders, 6, born in Tennessee, attended school within the year.

Mary Sanders, 5, born in Tennessee

Griffin Sanders, 3, born in Tennessee

Thomas Sanders, 1, born in Tennessee

The children of Martha Ann Landreth and Lindsey Saunders:

1. Elizabeth Jane Saunders Perkins (b. 8 April 1832)
2. Byron Lafayette Saunders (b. 4 August 1834)
3. **Lindsey Saunders, Jr., (b. 3 June 1836, d. 3 December 1897)**
4. Stanford Landreth Saunders (b. 27 November 1837)
5. Martha Ann Saunders (b. September 1839) m. Bradley
6. William Clark Lamare Saunders (b. March 1841)
7. Arion Latimore Saunders (b. April 1843)
8. Mary Frances Isabelle Saunders (b. April 1845)
9. Griffin Wright Lorenza Saunders (b. 1 February 1847)
10. Thomas Lamertene Saunders (b. 3 February 1849)
11. John Jessie Saunders (b. 3 June 1851)
12. Sarah Catherine Elinor Saunders (b. April 1855)

"Notice the 'L' in the name of each boy," an account possibly written by Mrs. Annie Saunders Wilkins relates. "The new home grandpa (Lindsey, Sr.) built along about 1846 had an ell to it, that he had built. He moved it into the new home when Aunt Mary was a baby, and (after) she had cried nearly all the first night wanting to go home.





WOODBLOCK PRINT, JAPAN, 1955

THE STRONG BAPTIST religious interests of the family continued in the occupations of at least two of the Saunders. H. C. Saunders, a son of W. C. L. and Amanda Saunders was a doctor and minister in McNairy county in the early 1900s.

He visited the Baptist World Alliance in Stockholm in 1924, and from there continued on through Europe, Palestine, India, China, Japan, visiting and seeing the fields and activities of the church's missionary work. He later sold his car and had his telephone taken out, trying to leave off his heavy medical practice, but people still came to him for medicine and treatment. He still made calls over the country on horseback.

"He had an uncompromising dislike for drugs, tobacco, intoxicants, and like," his pastor wrote about him. "He considered it an inexcusable sin for a preacher to use tobacco, and many times, he took his pastor and preacher friends to task for using it."

J. R. Saunders, son of Stanford Saunders, in 1901 went to China as a missionary under the Foreign Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention. J. R. (Roscoe) was among the first missionaries to be sent to the Hak Ka section of southern China.

He learned the dialect, and later translated the New Testament into it, a task that took two years. When forced to leave the station, Shin Chow, because of the war, he was president of Hak Ka seminary, the training school for Chinese preachers. He was acquainted with Gen. Sun Yat Sen and other leaders. Other than the translation of the New Testament, he was author of "The Cross and the Reconstruction of the World," "Men and Methods that Win in Foreign Fields," "The Chinese as They Are," and "China's Children."



Lindsey Saunders, Jr., and Mary Elizabeth Justice Saunders

*Mary E. Justice*

MARY ELIZABETH JUSTICE

(born 1841, died 1898)

*Lindsey Sanders*

LINDSEY SANDERS, JR.

(born 1836, died 1897)

**1836** Lindsey Saunders, Jr., was the third child and second son of Lindsey and Martha Ann Landreth Saunders, and was born near Purdy, McNairy County, west Tennessee, 3 June 1836.

A family record indicates that he was born "to affluent parents, and in his youth was called the handsomest young man of his native county." He was remembered as being popular and was educated at Madison college, west Tennessee.

Ultimately, he became a teacher....but first he was a farmer, then a Civil War soldier, then again a farmer:

**1862** As the Civil War deepened, Lindsey Sanders, Jr., was 26, and like his many relatives in Purdy County, a "Union man," but in a border state where communities just as states, were split. He volunteered to serve as a Union scout; on 31 December 1862, he was shot.

Long after the battle, Lindsey Sanders went to court to make his claim for compensation because of the injury, an injury that left him with a lifelong limp, and which finally may have proved fatal. Here is his testimony in court, 20 June 1871, about the 1862 engagement and its subsequent effect on him:



"BEING DULY SWORN according to law (Lindsey Sanders) declares that he is the identical Lindsay Sanders who was wounded while voluntarily serving the United States as a Scout under orders from Post Headquarters of Bethel, Tenn., Col. I. N. Haynie, commanding, in an engagement with Rebels on the 31st day of December AD 1862.

"In the line of duty as a Scout under orders as referred to above, he was wounded by a gun shot from the enemy on the 31st day of December 1862 in the county of Hardin the state of Tennessee about three miles from Hamburgh in said county.

**MADE A LEG TWO INCHES SHORT**

"The bullet took effect in the upper third of my thigh, passed through, and fractured the bone. My leg is about two inches too short and my foot turns out too much Makes it difficult to walk. That since leaving the said service the applicant has Resided in the County of McNairy in the State of Tennessee from the time I was able to travel from said (wound?) I lived in Kentucky & Tennessee inside of Federal lines, traveled around, had no permanent home during the War. Have lived in said County since the Surrender of the Rebel Army. It was my home before, and is now, having been born and Raised in said county.

**TWO-THIRDS DISABLED**

"That Prior to his entry in the Service above named, he was a man of Good Sound physical health, being a farmer, that now he is two-thirds Disabled from attaining his subsistence from Manual Labor in consequence of his above injuries Received in the service of the United States.

"He makes this declaration for the purpose of being placed on the Invalid Pension Roll of the United States by reason of the disabilities above stated." Lindsey named a Washington, D. C. lawyer, A. Hart, Esq., to represent him and "prosecute his demand."

**1863** After he was shot, Lindsey Sanders went home to Bethel Springs, in McNairy County. Soon thereafter, Lindsey watched from the front yard of his home, as other Union soldiers finished their confiscation of a mule and two wagon loads of corn from the home of his uncle and neighbor, Pvt. William Laughlin. At the time, Laughlin was attached to the Union's Tennessee Cavalry.

Pvt. William Laughlin had not been at home when the troops came to take his corn and animals, but everyone knew where the mule and corn went. Later on, Lindsey Saunders helped his uncle recover the value of the mare and corn. Laughlin enlisted witnesses and then, in early 1868 filed his claim, under the post-war U. S. program, *"Claims of Loyal Citizens for Supplies Furnished during the Rebellion."*

Lindsey's Uncle William, however, would have to wait a while before his loyalty and his loss were recognized by the government. Saunders, however, did his best, when he went to court five years later to add his recollections about the event:



**Lindsey H. Saunders:** "I am 32 years of age. I live at Bethel Springs in McNairy County, Tenn. I have lived at the Springs 10 years. I was raised near Camden in this County and was liveing near Camden (Rose Creek P. O.) during the war. I am farming.

"I am a Nephew of Claimant. I am not in any manner interested in his claim

"I was not and do not know anything about the actual taking. And all I can say about the taking of any of the property is that Some time in the year of 1862, or 1863, I had heard that one of Claimant's mares had been taken by some federal soldiers, and in a few days, some federal Soldiers came in the neighborhood and had the mare in their possession.

"The Mare had broke loose from them, and was trying to get back home. And the soldiers followed her to Our house and called to us at the house to Stop the mare at the Gate.

#### SAUNDERS BROTHERS STOPPED MARE

"And some of my brothers and myself went out and stoped her, and the Soldiers caught her, and thanked us for our assistance. Stateing that only for our help they would have had to of followed her back to Claimant's house.

"I knew at the time that the mare was claimant's. It was one that was claimed by one of Claimant's sons, who however was under age. I can't say what Regiment the men belonged to though they were of the Command then stationed at Chewalla down 15 or 16 miles from Claimant's.

"Those men were frequently in our neighborhood, and my impression is that they were of the 18th Missouri Mounted Infantry.

"I can't state the value of the mare at that time, but at the close of the war such mares were worth \$140 at least. "

(NATIONAL ARCHIVES via "footnote.com," Civil War 1860-1880; various images, e. g. 258107740, for first page of Lindsey Sanders deposition, 1868; for William Laughlin/Joel Sanders). (The copy of the affidavit shows that Lindsey H. Sanders made his mark at the end of it, but it seems incongruous that the schooled [census 1850], and future teacher, would not have been able to sign the document with his name. REB.)

Laughlin sought \$225 from the U.S. government, which had authorized the paying of legitimate claims by Union sympathizers who had suffered losses by confiscation during the war.

Laughlin had the extra burden of proving his Union loyalty, however. Though he had served in the Union Army as a private for years, he also had been drafted into the Confederate Army and held by the Confederates until he was able to escape.

Joel D. Saunders, 40, a cousin of Laughlin, who lived a mile and a half from each other, told the claims commissioners that they served together in the 6th Tennessee Cavalry (Union) in late 1862.



**Joel Saunders:** "We talked often about the war, and the cause of it. I was a Union man of course, and the Claimant (*Laughlin*) certainly considered me as such. Claimant said the war was wrong, and that he was in favor of the Old Government, and that he was in sympathy with the Union Cause.

"And that he intended to adhere to his principles.

"We had frequent Conversations when alone, and very frequently in the presence of others. He was generally known as a Union man. And the Union men of our entire Section regarded him as a true Union man.

"And when he was forced off in the rebel army, the Union people in the neighborhood all regretted it and spoke of it as a bad thing, and with the appearance of great sympathy for him.

#### THREATENED WITH DEATH

"I remember hearing of his being threatened with death, and various things, after he got back home from the Confederate Camp at Corinth. I do not know what he done while he was at Corinth, but I think he told me that he was kept under guard most of the time he was gone from home, but about 4 or 5 weeks, according to the best of my knowledge. If he ever contributed anything to the Confederate Government or even owned any Confederate bonds, or done anything to sustain the Credit of the Confederate States I never knew or heard of it.

"I think his language, his conduct in leaving the rebels when drafted, and his servis in the Federal Army might have prevented him from establishing his loyalty to the Southern Confederacy if it had been maintained as a Separate Government.

"I was not present (*at the taking of the mare*); all I can say is that Lieut Donnally of the 18th Missouri Mounted Infantry came to my house with a company of men belonging to his regiment and camped all night, and went away next morning.

#### LIEUTENANT WAS SORRY ABOUT IT

"And in a few hours they returned to our house from the direction of Mr. Laughlins and had his Bay mare, and a Small mare that belonged to claimant's brother (Calvin T. Laughlin), and when they road up to the gate one of my brothers called my attention to the horses and we went out and looked at them, and I talked with Lieut. Donally about them, and he said that he was sorry to have to take horses from Union Men but that if they would come to HeadQuarters they could get a voucher for their stock.

"He said that the 18th Missouri had been ordered to be mounted and that they were also ordered to get up all the horses from the Country that could be found fit for servis.

"I was then a Union Soldier and had on my Uniform, and was recognized by the Lieut. as such. I was home by permission from my officers, to stay a few days. I told the Lieut that Mr. Laughland was a Union man ought to be paid. This was about the first of March 1863.

(NATIONAL ARCHIVES via "footnote.com," Civil War 1860-1880; various images, e. g. 258107740, for first page of Lindsey Sanders deposition, 1868; for William Laughlin/Joel Sanders).

(Pvt. Joel D. Sanders was hospitalized in Nashville, from January 1865 until he was discharged "on surgeon's certificate" 18 May 1865. He had remained in Company B, 6th Regiment, Tennessee Cavalry.)





**William Laughlin** testified that his mare had been sound, healthy and “well broke to work and ride,” and worth \$175 at the time the Union troops took him. He said the 60 bushels of his confiscated corn were worth \$45.00.

(During the war, Pvt. Laughlin had been hospitalized at General Hospital, Memphis, before returning to duty in 1864. He was discharged at the end of the war in 1865, but only after he had to pay \$3.10 for a poncho blanket.)

Laughlin and the family were successful, but it took a while. His claim was approved 3 March 1875, and the warrant for \$225 was issued 19 April 1875 by the Treasury Department. The effort had taken 7 years.

In the years to come, Lindsey Saunders would petition the U. S. government in his own cause, the war injuries, but Lindsey was not to have the delayed but good fortune that Uncle William had found with the federal government. Perhaps that is why he signed an Oath of Allegiance on 14 October 1864. In that oath, taken at Louisville, Sanders described himself as being 5 feet 9 inches in height, with blue eyes, and dark hair and complexion.

#### UNITED STATES of AMERICA

I, **Lindsay Sanders** of the County of McNair, State of Tennessee, do solemnly swear, in presence of Almighty God, that I will henceforth faithfully support, protect, and defend the Constitution of the United States, and the Union of the States thereunder; and that I will, in like manner, abide by and faithfully support all acts of Congress passed during the existing rebellion with reference to slaves, so long and so far as not repealed, modified, or held void by Congress, or by decision of the Supreme Court; and that I will, in like manner, abide by and faithfully support all proclamations of the President made during the existing rebellion having reference to slaves, so long and so far as not modified or declared void by decision of the Supreme Court. So help me God. I also pledge my parole of honor to remain north of the Ohio river during the existence of the present rebellion.

(NATIONAL ARCHIVES via “footnote.com,” Civil War 1860-1880; various images, e. g. 258103805 for the federal document approving the payment of \$225 to Laughlin.)

(The copy of the affidavit shows that Lindsey H. Sanders made his mark at the end of it, but it seems incongruous that the schooled [census 1850], and future teacher, would not have been able to sign the document with his name. REB.)

**1865** On 1 September 1865, Lindsey Sanders, Jr., married MARY ELIZABETH JUSTICE, who was a native of Hardeman county, Tenn., having been born there 11 October 1841. She was the daughter of WILLIAM JUSTICE (1808-1854) and MARY E.---- (1809-1844). She may have been the granddaughter of WILLIAM JUSTICE, Sr., and MARY JUSTICE.

William, Sr., 83, and Mary Justice, 63, and their family lived next door to the widowed William Justice, Jr., 42, in 1850.

#### THE JUSTICE FAMILY

##### **1850: WILLIAM JUSTICE, U. S. CENSUS, HARDEMAN COUNTY, TENNESSEE**

William Justice, 42, Farmer, \$1,050 value of real estate owned; born in North Carolina

Martha Justice, 21, born in North Carolina

James Justice, 20, Farmer, born in Tennessee

William Justice, 18, born in Tennessee

Issabella Justice 15, born in Tennessee

Alexander Justice, 11, born in Tennessee

**Elizabeth Justice, 8, born in Tennessee**

William McSwain, 17, Laborer

(The \$1,050 farm in 1850 would be worth about \$200,000 in 2005, in a comparison with the unskilled wages of then and now. With a consumer price index comparison, the \$1,050 value would be about \$27,000 in 2005.)

(<http://www.measuringworth.com/calculators/compare/result.php>)

**NEARBY WAS:**

William Justice, 83, Farmer, born in Virginia  
Mary Justice, 63, born in North Carolina. Blind.  
Daniel Justice, 32, Farmer, \$500 value of real estate owned, born in North Carolina.  
Delila Justice, 25, born in North Carolina  
Mary Justice, 23, born in Tennessee  
Lucretia Justice, 21, born in Tennessee  
Nancy Justice, 7, born in Tennessee

(The \$500 farm in 1850 would be worth about \$95,000 in 2005, in a comparison with the unskilled wages of then and now. With a consumer price index comparison, the \$500 value would be about \$12,900 in 2005.)

(ALSO: NEARBY WAS: ZACARIAH JUSTICE, 45, and Household of 10.)  
(<http://www.measuringworth.com/calculators/compare/result.php>)

At the time of the 1865 marriage of Lindsey Sanders, Jr., to Mary Elizabeth Justice, other children in the family of William and Mary Justice were Martha Ann, born in 1828; James W., 1830; William, 1833; Isabella M., 1835; Alexander, 1839; and Nannie, 1844. Her father having died when she was 12, her mother when she was 3, Mary Elizabeth Justice had been living with the family of Dr. Wallis Brown.

**1860: MARY ELIZABETH JUSTICE, U. S. CENSUS, TENNESSE, McNAIRY COUNTY, DISTRICT 10, TENNESSEE**

Wallis Brown, 45, Phisician and Farmer, with \$1,200 value of personal property and \$1,600 in real estate

Eliza Brown, 40  
William H. Brown, 20, Farm laborer  
Willy L. Brown, 18  
Rufus Brown, 16  
Ily W. Brown, 5  
Mary Justice, 18

"She was slender and delicate, with a dainty prettiness and modesty very attractive," a family account states. Also included in a list of relatives is a Rev. Obadiah Dodson, described as a noted evangelist and home missionary. Soon after the marriage, he resumed teaching and later was superintendent of public instruction for several years.

(A memorial written 5 January 1900 by Mrs. Jennie Saunders Perkins, 408 Rhode Island Ave., N. W., Washington, DC., "In memory of Lindsey Saunders, Jr., and of his wife, Mary Elizabeth Justice Saunders." Jennie Saunders Perkins was the older sister of Lindsey Saunders, Jr. In 1900, she was 68.)

**1870** Lindsey and Mary Elizabeth Sanders, Jr., were running a farm valued at \$700, and had a family of two youngsters, Annie E., 4., and Egbert C. Sanders, 2 months, in 1870. They lived next door to W. L. Sanders and his family:

**1870: LINDSEY SANDERS, U. S. CENSUS, McNAIRY COUNTY, TENNESSEE**

Lindsey Sanders, 34, Farmer, \$700 value of real estate, born in Tennessee  
Mary E. Sanders, 26, Keeping House, born in Tennessee  
Annie E. Sanders, 4, born in Tennessee  
Egbert C. Sanders, 2/12, born in Tennessee

The \$700 farm in 1870 would be worth about \$77,500 in 2005, in a comparison with the unskilled wages of then and now. With a consumer price index comparison, the \$700 value would be about \$10,800 in 2005.

(<http://www.measuringworth.com/calculators/compare/result.php>)

**NEXT DOOR WAS THE FAMILY OF W. C. B. (L.) SANDERS:**

W. C. (L.) Sanders, 28, Farmer, \$900 value of real estate. All born in Tennessee  
Amanda E. Sanders, 30, Keeping House  
William H. Sanders, 2  
Adison Sanders, 2/12

The \$900 farm in 1870 would be worth about \$99,600 in 2005, in a comparison with the unskilled wages of then and now. With a consumer price index comparison, the \$900 value would be about \$13,900 in 2005.

(<http://www.measuringworth.com/calculators/compare/result.php>)



Jennie Justice Saunders Buzbee kept this photo (now faded and heavily damaged) in her family collection, but the family was not identified. If it shows her Saunders family, it could have been taken in about 1874. If so, the family, left to right, may have been: Egbert Saunders, Thomas L. M. Justice Saunders, William S. Saunders, Lindsey Saunders, Jr., Annie E. Justice Saunders, Mary E. Justice Saunders, and the young Mary N. J. Saunders. Later arrivals would be the twins, Jennie Justice Saunders and R. S. Saunders; and Aubrey Saunders.

**1871** When the Lindsey Saunders family included the parents and three children in 1871, Lindsey made another attempt to receive a pension for his continuing disability as a result of the Civil War injury. On 20 June 1871, Lindsey went to his county court with two friends, and made an application. He was 35.

But Lindsey did not get his pension. This 1871 petition was rejected by the Army. U. S. Army records of 1888---17 years later---show that apparently another request for the pension had been studied, beginning 22 March 1888.

Referred by the War Department to the Quartermaster General's office, the request received this finding by the quartermaster general. It amounted to a NO.

"The records of this office show that on July 16, 1867, an account certified by Lt. Col. Owen Haney, 2nd Tenn. Mt'd Inf., in favor of Lindsey Sanders for services as Scout at, and near Clifton, Tenn., from May 1 to June 4, 1864, amounting to \$160 was filed by Wolf, Hart & Co., attorneys, to whom it was returned on August 30, 1867, by authority of the Secretary of War, at their request, and upon their statement that the case was filed in this office through error. No other information concerning this matter is found."

**1880** Jennie Justice Sanders was recorded in her first census, at the age of two months, in McNairy County, Tenn., in 1880:

**1880: LINDSEY SANDERS, U. S. CENSUS, McNAIRY COUNTY, TENNESSEE**

Lindsay Sanders, 40, Farmer, born in Tennessee; father born in North Carolina; mother born in North Carolina.

Mary N. E. Sanders, 38, Keeping House, born in Tennessee; father born in Tennessee; mother born in Tennessee

Annie E. Sanders, 18, at home

Egbert C. Sanders, 10, work in home

Mary N. E. (J) Sanders, 6, at home

Robt. L. (S) Sanders, 3, at home

**Jennie J. Sanders, 2/12**

Next door to the Lindsey Sanders household was that of B. L. Sanders with a household of 7

**1892** Lindsey Sanders moved his family from McNairy County to Arkansas. He continued teaching, still with the grievous injury.



On 8 May 1892, Mary E. Justice Saunders transferred her membership in Tennessee's Good Hope Baptist church to Arkansas:

We the Baptist Church Worshipping at Good Hope  
do certify that our Beloved sister Mary E. Sanders is a  
Member with us an in full fellowship an is  
hear By dismissed from us when joined to another  
Church of the same faith an order done in  
conference an Signed By order of Church  
May the 8th 1892  
M. C. Parker modr pro tem  
Thos. Inman C. Clk pro tem

We the Baptist Church Worshipping at Good Hope do certify that our Beloved sister Mary E. Sanders is a Member with us an in full fellowship and is hear By dismissed from us when joined to another church of the same faith, an order done in conference and Signed By order of Church.

May the 8th 1892

M. C. Parker Modr pro tem

Thos. Inman C. Clk pro tem

(The document was preserved over the years by Mary Elizabeth Justice Saunders; her daughter, Jennie Justice Saunders; her grandson, Edgar Andrew Buzbee; and her great grandson, Richard E. Buzbee.)

**1896** In either 1896 or 1897, the family moved to Thornton, Ark. In 1897, Lindsey made yet another attempt to secure the pension. This time his request went to the Department of the Interior, bureau of pensions. The answer:

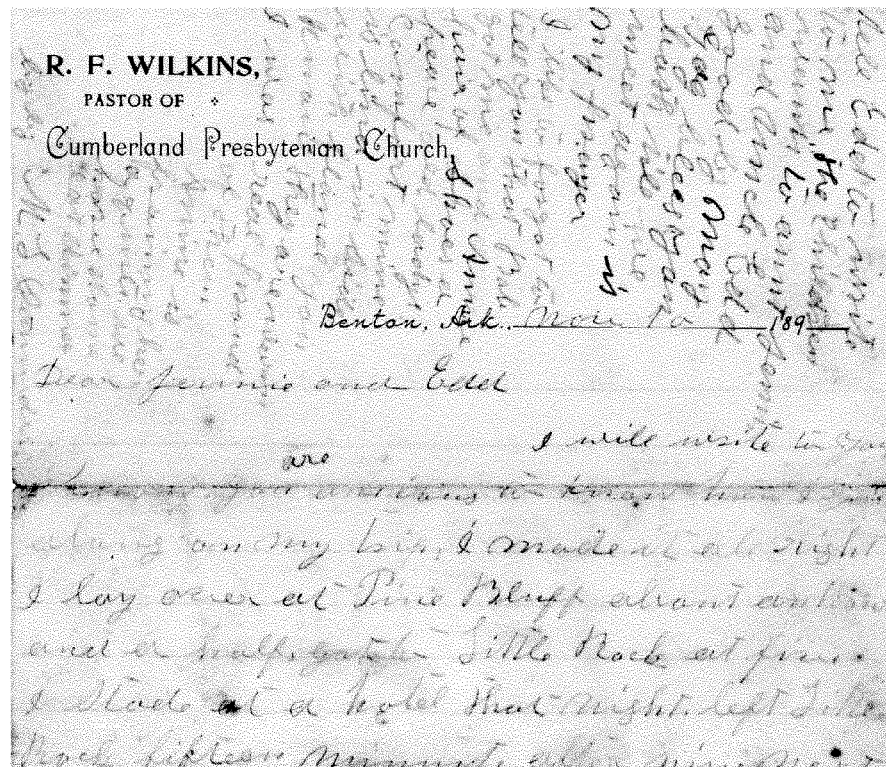


"The name Lindsey Sanders has not been found on rolls of any Co. 7 Tennessee Cavalry."

**1897** The final rejection was dated 22 June 1897, in Washington. In less than six months, Lindsey was gone. He died 3 December 1897, and was buried in Temperance Hill cemetery, about three miles from Thornton.

**1898** In the autumn of 1898, Mary Saunders traveled by train from Thornton to Benton, to live with her daughter, Annie and her husband, the Rev. R. F. Wilkins. Rev. Wilkins was pastor of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church, Benton; he and Annie were parents of two children, one of whom was O. L. Wilkins.

After her arrival in Benton, on 10 November 1898, Mary wrote to Jennie and Edgar F. Buzbee, at their Fordyce address, and to her son, Lucius, wherever he was. In the two letters, she told of the trip, the tonic she was taking for a "cold," her love for the family she left behind, and her concerns about Lucius and his activities. She also ardently hoped they would all come see her next month, the Christmas of 1898:



Dear Jennie and Edd

I will write to you (as) I know you are anxious to know how I got along on my trip. I made it all right. I lay over at Pine Bluff about an hour and a half. Got to Little Rock at five. I staid at a hotel that night. Left Little Rock fifteen minutes after nine next morning. I was considerably weared, but I never let on that I felt bad.

I am still puney but I think I will get to feeling better.

I am taking a tonic. I found Annie's folks well. I can't tell you how glad I was when I got there. Tongue can not express my glad feelings. I can't say how I like Benton, for I have been in the house ever since I got hear. I have seen but little of Benton so far. The children look like they did when you last seen them, only larger.

Annie looks very well. She is fleasher than she was when you seen her last.

Bob looks just the same. He is the picture of health. People look so much healthier here than they do there. You can see red in their cheeks here.

I hope you and Edd are well, and also, Lucius, have you got Eclo. If you have, be good to him. I intend to get him when I can.

Jennie, I will send you what I owe you when I can. I hope it won't be long until I can.

I was (drained?) of cash when I got hear; having to pay my hotel bill set me back, but I had enough left to get to Benton.

I don't want you to fail to come at Christmas. I want you try and get Lucian to come too. I want to see you all now. I will write Lucian a letter. You can give it to him. I don't know where he is. Talk to him and get him to save his money and come with you.

That is a bad place for a boy to be (Xmas?). You know what I mean. (---) W-. Give my love to Miss Prost. I seen Mrs. Pefie, she got on the train at Rison. They are living at Elexander, the next station from Rison. She seemed glad to see me.

Give my love to Mrs. Bush and Delia and Mattie. Be good to your self. Have you quilted any yet. I have helpt Annie with her carpet some. She is done tacking, got it to the weaver. I am writing and Annie is geting dinner. She is baking sweet cakes, you know. I am geting hungry. Linis(?) is a grate big sweet boy, but he is distant toward me yet.

Give my love to Edd and exsept a hand full your self. Visit just as soon as you get this.

I want to hear how you all are. Let me know where Lucian is and how he is geting along.

I will close, and wish a mother's love to you and Edd.

M.L.S.

Tell Edd to write to me. The children want to (tell) Aunt Jennie and Uncle Edd goodbye. May God bless you both till we meet again in my prayer.

I like to forget to tell you that Bob got me and Annie pair of shoes, a peace old lady's comfort, mine is lined inside with flanel. You know they are warm. I was real proud of them.

Annie is framing her a quilt. We have done eat dinner.

by by

M. L. Saunders

Dear Lucian:

I will write you a few (---). I think I am improving. I am taking a tonic, my mouth is not well yet. I taken cold and it got worse, but it is better than it was a few days ago.

I made the trip all right. I got with a lady at Pine Bluff going to Little Rock so I passed on the time nicely with her. At the hotel at Little Rock I met another Lady going to Hot Springs for her health. She was from Kansas so I had compney to Benton.

My money just did hold out. I am thankful I got all so well. The Conductor on the train got off, went into the depot with me, seen that I got to a hotel. A young man that belong to the hotel promised to see me on the train next morning. So he did.

I hope you are well and doing well. My thoughts are on you often. I want

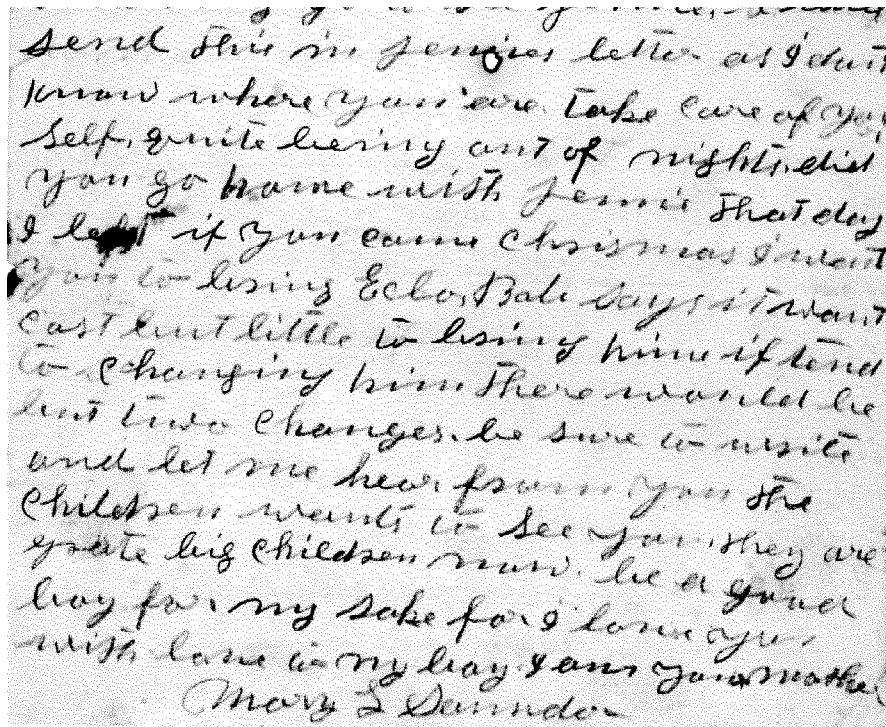
you to be a good boy, be Sober in all things and save your money and come to see me Christmas with Jennie and Edd. Write to me and let me know what you are doing. Go to see Jennie. I will send this in Jennie's letter, as I don't know where you are.

Take care of yourself, quit begin out of nights.

Did you go home with Jennie that day I left. If you come Christmas I want you to bring Eclo. Bob says it won't cost but little bring him if (---) to changing him. There would be but two changes. Be sure to write and let me hear from you.

The children want to see you. They are quite big children now. Be a good boy for my sake, for I love you.

With love in my boy, I am, your mother,  
Mary L. Saunders



Send this in Jennie's letter as I don't  
know where you are. Take care of your  
self, quite being out of nights. Did  
you go home with Jennie that day  
I left if you come Christmas I want  
you to bring Eclo. Bob says it won't  
cost but little to bring him if tend  
to changing him. There would be  
but two changes. Be sure to write  
and let me hear from you. The  
children want to see you. They are  
quite big children now. Be a good  
boy for my sake for I love you.  
With love in my boy, I am your mother.  
Mary L. Saunders

(Mary's letters were carefully preserved by her daughter Jennie Saunders Buzbee; then by her grandson, Edgar F. Buzbee; and then by her great-grandson Bobby Dale Buzbee. It appears, however, that the letters were preserved inside envelopes different from the one originally used in November 1898. The letters about her move to Benton were preserved in envelopes in which she had addressed letters to Jennie when she was still living in Thornton. The postmarks were 28 July 1898, and 12 August 1898. In each case, the envelopes had been mailed at Thornton, and then received in Fordyce on the same day.)

There was to be no family Christmas celebration in 1898. Mary died 10 December 1898, exactly one month after writing her letters to Jennie. She was 57.

Mary E. Justice and Lindsey Saunders, Jr., had eight children:

1. Annie E. Justice Saunders (b. 23 June 1866, d. 17 January 1939)
2. Thomas L. M. Justice Saunders (b. 7 December 1868, d. 1909)
3. Egbert C. Saunders ( b. 23 May 1870)
4. William S. Saunders (b. August 1872)
5. Mary N. J. Saunders (b. 26 April 1874, d. August 1881)
6. R. S. Saunders (b. 26 March 1880, d. 6 May 1909)
- 7. Jennie Justice Saunders (b. 26 March 1880, d. 9 June 1964)**
8. Aubrey Saunders (b. 3 March 1885, d. August 1893)

At the time of the deaths of Lindsey and Mary, the surviving sons were:

1. Egbert Saunders (b. 23 May 1870)
2. Lucius (Thomas L. M. Justice) Saunders (b. 7 December 1868).  
Lucius was recalled by his nephew, Edgar Andrew Buzbee:

### **UNCLE LUCIUS WAS A DRIFTER**

"I remember one time Pappa and I were down in the woods in front of the old house (near Thornton). I wasn't over 4 or 5 years old and we sat down on a log. Pappa was telling me about Uncle Lucius--and I believe he was at our house, then--down with TB which he had contracted in the Arkansas River bottoms.

He was more or less a drifter, didn't stay anywhere long at a time. I have got some old letters in my box at the bank, of Mamma's, that grandma wrote Mamma before she died asking Mamma to be sure and watch after Uncle Lucius, as she said she wasn't able to take care of him any more."

Lucius (Thomas L. M. Justice) Saunders died at the Buzbee home in 1909, and was buried at Chambersville near the graves of other members of the Buzbee family. The relatively modern gravestone reads: "W. L. Saunders 1868-1909."

The two surviving daughters at the time of the death of their parents:



1. Annie Elizabeth Justice Saunders who married the Rev. Robert Wilkins, a Presbyterian minister

### **2. Jennie Justice Saunders (26 March 1880-9 June 1964)**



26 March 1898: Jennie Justice Saunders is 18

*Mama B.*

## JENNIE JUSTICE SAUNDERS

(born 1880, died 1964)

**1880** Jennie Justice Saunders was born 26 March 1880 in McNairy County, Tenn., and lived most of her school days in and around Adamsville, Tenn. She completed as much high school study as was offered. With her parents, she came to Arkansas at the age of 12 (in 1892), and later with her father, taught school at Lonoke. She later told her family that she had taught grown men to read and write. In 1896 or 1897, they moved to Thornton, where, on 3 December 1897, her father died.

She was married, 29 June 1898, to the widower, Edgar Farrior Buzbee, in Thornton, and less than six months later, her mother, too, had died. Six months

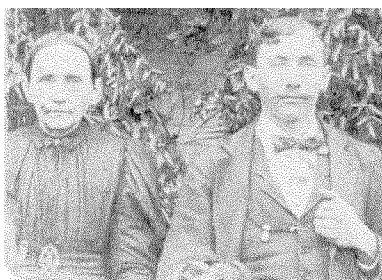
thereafter, the first child of Edgar Farrior and Jennie Saunders Buzbee was born. It was a son, stillborn, 20 June 1899. The poignant data was recorded in 1900:

**1900: ED BUSBY, U. S. CENSUS, DALLAS COUNTY, FORDYCE TWP., ARKANSAS**

**Ed Busby, 30, born August 1869**, born in Arkansas; father born in Arkansas, mother born in North Carolina. Married 2 years.

**Jennie Busby, 20, born in March 1880**, mother of 1 child, none living; born in Tennessee, father born in Tennessee, mother born in Tennessee. Married 2 years.

A month and a half after the census taker called, the first daughter of Edgar F. and Jennie Saunders Buzbee was born. Maudina E. Buzbee arrived 30 August 1900. She died, 4 June 1902, 12 days before the birth of Mary Buzbee, 16 June 1902.



About 1900: Edgar Farrior, Permelia Buzbee

Edgar Farrior, Jennie and Mary moved from Thornton to what the family came to know as the Old Home Place, 2 1/2 miles southeast of Thornton (or 4 1/2 miles southwest of Fordyce), in 1903. There, Edgar Farrior began farming 68 acres (of the original 70-acre tract. He and his mother had sold the other 2 acres to Pilgrim's Rest Church for church purposes and cemetery.) Cash crops were corn and cotton. He also worked at the Stout Lumber Co., in Thornton. In 1910:

**1910: EDGAR F. BUZBEE, U. S. CENSUS, CALHOUN COUNTY, MORO TWP., ARKANSAS**

Edgar F. Buzbee, 40, farmer, owner of farm, born in Arkansas, father born in Virginia, mother born in South Carolina. Widower.

Jennie Buzbee, wife, 30, born in Tennessee, father born in Tennessee, mother born in Tennessee

Mary Buzbee, daughter, 7, born in Arkansas; father, Arkansas; mother, Tennessee.

Annie Buzbee, daughter, 6, born in Arkansas; father, Arkansas; mother, Tennessee.

Edgar Buzbee, son, 4, born in Arkansas; father, Arkansas; mother, Tennessee.

Doris Buzbee, daughter (*recorded as son*), 2, born in Arkansas; father, Ark.: mother, Tennessee

Ruth Buzbee, daughter, 5/12, born in Arkansas; father, Arkansas; mother, Tennessee.

Their neighbors were families of William and W. H. Hearnberger, Harry Zimmerman, and two Gray families. The family has believed that Edgar F. had provided a home for his mother after she conveyed the farm to him in 1892, and that, shortly before her death, she came back to live with her son and family; and at the old farm home, which was three miles from where she had been raised. She was still living with the widow, Delia Wilman and her family in Fordyce in 1910. She died in 1912.

“ONE of the funniest things I can remember was on a cold, winter day, when Pappa (Edgar Farrior) decided to kill a hog,” Ruth Buzbee Yeager recalled. Edgar always helped. I was about 5 or 6 years old. Pappa had shot the hog, stabbed him, and was scalding it. He and Edgar pulled the pig out of the scalding barrel, then they proceeded to scrape the hair off. The old cats were standing around, of course, to get a share of blood or fresh meat, whichever came their way.

“Pappa’s fingers were cold, and he couldn’t use the knife too well. The knife slipped, and cut his finger pretty bad. He said not a cuss word, but a little nasty one. Mamma came running with the Iodine bottle. She poured the medicine on the cut; knowing Iodine, it really can set you on fire. Pappa grabbed his hand and began to dance a jig. The oldest and biggest cat was in his way --- and he kicked that cat over the fence! We kids were afraid to laugh, so we ran every way to get out of sight where we could laugh.”





1911: Edgar Farrior Buzbee holds Doris, and Jennie Saunders Buzbee holds Ruth in this early photo of the family, before the birth of Bonnie Mae. Others are Edgar Andrew, Mary, and Annie. Jennie mailed a copy of the post card "To my dear aunt, Mrs. Jennie Perkins, from her loving niece, Mrs. Jennie Buzbee: Dear Aunt Jennie, I am sending this picture of myself and family. It is not a very good picture, but I will send it. I am just up from a bad spell of sickness. Hope you and family are well." (Elizabeth Jane Saunders Perkins was her father's sister. She was the oldest child of Lindsey and Martha Ann Landreth Saunders, b. 8 April 1832.)

## THE BUZBEES

By Jennie Justice Saunders Buzbee  
(Written in 1934)

There's Mary with her perky smile  
And eyes of heavenly blue.  
A dearer girl has never lived  
Nor yet a heart more true.

Then there comes my Annie girl  
She too has eyes of blue  
A winsome girl from heaven sent



She is so staunch and true

And now for my Edgar boy  
Your eyes of brown, your curly head  
Your loving ways, your sunny smile  
Has brought great joy to me and to your Dad

And Doris with her sunny grin  
And with those eyes of blue  
A great big dimple in her cheek  
And with a heart so true.

And Ruth with her curly hair  
And eyes of lovely brown  
My dear you are a precious girl  
Some time you'll wear a crown.

Now Bonnie Mae the baby chick  
She has two eyes of blue  
A dimple cheek, my baby girl  
We love and bless you, too.

**1919** Beginning in 1919, and continuing until the late 1930s, the Buzbee land was leased with great hopes to oil exploration companies, during what then was an oil boom in Southwest Arkansas, especially around El Dorado. On 16 June 1919, part of the tract was leased to Maurice Scott and Combination Oil Co., who leased the project to Penn-Ark Oil Corporation; and 24 October 1921, to Harry Evans for exploration.

On 5 June 1937, Edgar F. and Jennie transferred 40 acres to Edgar A. Buzbee, and the remaining 28 acres to Ruth Buzbee. The search for oil had been, and was, fruitless.

(I have a vague recollection of seeing oil exploration equipment in about 1936 or 1937 near the site. Later on, in the 1970s, in the aftermath, nationally, of the Arab oil boycott, the tract was leased, with great expectations once again, for the mining of lignite, a low grade of coal. Edgar A. Buzbee inquired during the leasing process about the extent of the lignite deposits in the area, and was told that the leasing company's tests had shown a band of lignite about 10 feet in depth. In the leasing process, Edgar ensured that the leasing company guaranteed to restore the land surface to a good condition, after the mining had ended. Once again, however, the search for minerals on the land was to prove either fruitless or non-economic. There was no mining.....*REB 1998*)

The 1920 Census:

**EDGAR F. BUZBEE, U. S. CENSUS, CALHOUN COUNTY, MORO TWP., ARKANSAS**

Edgar F. Buzbee, 50, Farmer/General Lumber, born in Arkansas, father born in Virginia, mother born in South Carolina

Jennie S. Buzbee, 39, born in Tennessee, father: Tennessee; mother: Tennessee

Mary M. Buzbee, daughter, 17, Laborer, Home/Farm, born in Arkansas, father born in Arkansas, mother born in Tennessee.....as all the other children were recorded:

Annie B. Buzbee, daughter, 15, Laborer, Home/Farm,

Edgar A. Buzbee, son, 13, Laborer, Home/Farm,

Doris Buzbee, daughter, 12, Laborer, Home/Farm

Ruth Buzbee, daughter, 10, Laborer, Home/Farm,

Bonnie M. Buzbee, daughter, 3 and 5/12,

**1923** In 1923, Edgar Farrior, Jennie, Edgar Andrew (who was 17), and the five daughters, Mary, Doris, Ruth, Annie, and Bonnie Mae, left the farm, and moved to Fordyce. Edgar Farrior worked first as a lumber checker in the saw mill at what came to be Fordyce Lumber Company.



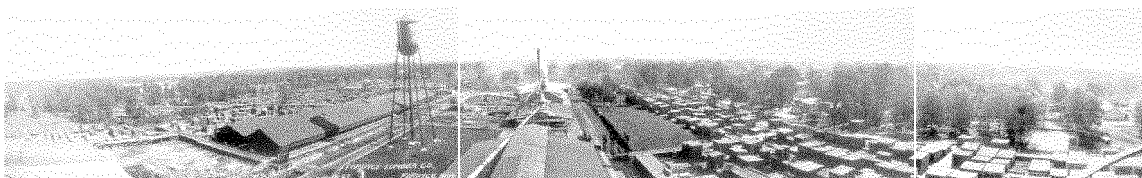
The Saw Mill, Fordyce Lumber Co., 24 October 1927

**1927** On 24 October 1927, a panoramic photo of the Fordyce Lumber Company was taken, showing 360 degrees of a company that would dominate Fordyce's economic landscape, just as company owners and managers would dominate Fordyce's political, civic, and cultural landscape for virtually the rest of the 20th century. The mill's whistle would set the time for Fordyce, as well as the rhythm of work within the mills.

Both Edgar Farrior Buzbee and Edgar Andrew Buzbee were working for the company in 1927. They preserved the two 180-degree photos of the 1927 mill, which showed the extensive size of the operation, and a few other major landmarks of Fordyce at the time, such as the entrance tower to Fordyce Grammar School, which towered over the many trees.



1927: Not especially a landmark, but one of the Fordyce Lumber Co. services of 1927 was the mill's tennis court (middle right) which was virtually the only tennis court available in Fordyce. Helen and Edgar used it, and the court remained for a generation.



### 24 October 1927: Fordyce Lumber Co.

This panoramic view begins north at rail cars, then east, over the flooring mill, then south at College Street (where the Edgar Buzbee family moved in 1938), and ends near the tennis court, which Helen and Edgar used. In the enlargement below, the entrance tower of Fordyce Grammar school is at far right,



### THE COMPANY IN COMPANY TOWN



Looking east over the Flooring Mill, with Fordyce Grammar entrance tower at the far right, on College street.



Fordyce Lumber Co.: Panoramic view continues at the tennis court, south, then southwest, then west, showing the Saw Mill, then northwest over the huge Mill Pond, and back again to the rail road cars at north.

1934 The lumber company's administrative offices were south of the plant, facing West College street, on which also was located the Company Store, where the employees shopped for essentials. In later years, Jennie and Edgar F. Buzbee, who had been promoted by then to foreman of the saw mill, lived in a company-owned house on Russell Street, which intersected West College street. In 1934, however, Jennie longed for the old home in the country near Thornton (as did Edgar throughout his life). Jennie remembered the old place and wrote of it, poignantly and elegantly:



1911: The old home place of the Buzbees before the family moved to Fordyce: On the porch, left to right, are Judson Hearnberger (a neighbor), Jennie Justice Saunders Buzbee and Edgar Farrior Buzbee. At the fence, left to right, Mary Hearnberger holding Ruth; Mary; Annie; L. Hearnberger; Doris; Edgar Andrew Buzbee. The home site is still owned by the family, 28 acres by Ruth's son, Ronald Yeager; and 40 acres by Bobby Dale Buzbee. Part of the lumber from the old home was used in the 1940s by Edgar at his home in eastern Fordyce, near the city's airport.

## THE DEAR OLD HOME

Gaunt and weather beaten you stand  
Your window panes gone, your doors sag  
Old and forsaken and lonely  
No one to enter and stand

To admire the flowers or stately pines  
No children to rush about with happy cry  
Old and forsaken you stand alone  
As the years roll swiftly by.

As a girl bride I entered your portals  
For long years you were my home  
I planted and set out flowers  
And grubbed in your soft rich loam.

I bore my babies within your walls  
But God taken three of them away  
The others are not with me any more  
Like you, old home, I'm lonely today.

If you could talk, dear old home  
Some wonderful stories you'd tell  
Of high hopes and of ambition  
Of love, and of heartache as well.

In my heart I haven't forgotten  
The long years you were home to me  
I, too, am old, forgotten  
The days will never more be

When I shall walk within your halls  
Or pluck the sweet-smelling rose.  
My day like yours is almost ended  
The night is drawing close.

Today, old home, I am longing for you  
Ah me, with a heart that's sore, For  
babies I've loved and tended with care  
They think of me no more.

Jennie's despair was premature. Though, as she wrote these poems in the midst of the tragic Great Depression, with all her children leading their own lives and building families, and her fear that "my day.....is almost ended," she still was to have 30 years of active living stretched ahead. She was to live to see her grandchildren have children.

In a letter, presumably, to her sister Annie at about the same time, she wrote:

"Here is another thing I did. You are responsible for it by saying what you did about us not whining about our lot in life.

"I'd always thought I was a whiner, and when you said I wasn't, it thrilled me so I gave birth to this, whatever you want to call it:"



## NO ROOM FOR WHINING

Aw shucks! What's the use of whining  
And wearing a great long face?  
Smile and the world smiles with you  
And walk with upright grace.

We're told, 'Laugh and world laughs with us  
Weep and we weep alone'  
So meet life with a great big grin  
And not with a whine or a moan.

And soon we'd all be smiling  
With never a faint lament  
We'd be enjoying the sunshine  
And the flowers that God has sent.

So let us all be cheery  
And smile our way thru life  
Then there'd be no room for whining  
And no such a thing as strife.



### 1939: The Buzbees on Russell Street in Fordyce (after Sunday dinner)

Front Row: Dick, Bobby, Rex, Martha Jane Wilkins, Rosemary Wilkins, Max, Ruth Carolyn. 2nd Row: Helen, Aniece, Mama B., Papa B., Bonnie Ruth, Annie. 3rd Row: Edgar, Bonnie Mae, Mary, Ruth, Doris, Edward, Bonnie Wilkins. Top: Nathan Rogers, Sam, Frank, O. L. Wilkins. The family had gathered on the steps at Mama and Papa Buzbee's company-owned home on Russell Street. The youngest was Bonnie Ruth Jordan, who is on the lap of her mother, Annie, 2nd row.

# A JITTERY TALE

I'm all aflutter  
A jittery and asputter,  
Cause I seen a rat in a gutter  
All I can do is moan and mutter,

If you can make sense of this,  
it's more than I can do.  
The rat riz up on his hind legs and flew  
He bellered and he mooed  
And begosh! That's all he do'ed.

My tale is all told  
I fear it's not worth much in gold  
It turned my hair white  
And bugged out my sight.

But still I'm sure of all I've told  
And I'm sure I have no gold  
But still I'm a flutter  
Over that rat in the gutter.

He neither jingled or jangled  
He neither talked or wrangled  
He just bellered and moo'ed  
And riz up and fleewed.

This is senseless and silly  
No rhythm or rhyme  
Just to give you the willies  
And take up my time.

This is the end of the story  
I'm seeking neither fame nor glory  
Blow cold or blow hot  
And believe it or not.

# Touch of bitter, dab of sweet

(21 October 1934)

Life is real, yes, darn real.  
Especially on a cold winter morning  
When we have to jump out of bed  
Before the day is dawning.

When our feet hit the cold icy floor  
And the shivers run up our spine  
We make a high dive for the stove  
And grab a stick of fat pine.

We ram it into the fire box  
By now our back teeth are loose  
Our body is covered with goose bumps  
Our nose is running a sluice.

We wish for the good old summer time  
You see we're never content  
We've forgot how we cussed in August  
The heat the weather man sent.

Oh, yes, life is real darn real  
I've experienced all this before  
Even to shivering my back teeth loose  
And hitting the cold icy floor.

You can't tell me a thing  
About the hard bumps of life  
Whether it's administering to babies  
Or whetting the old butcher knife.

Life is real, thank goodness  
I'd like it no other way  
It holds just lots of happiness  
No matter what others may say.

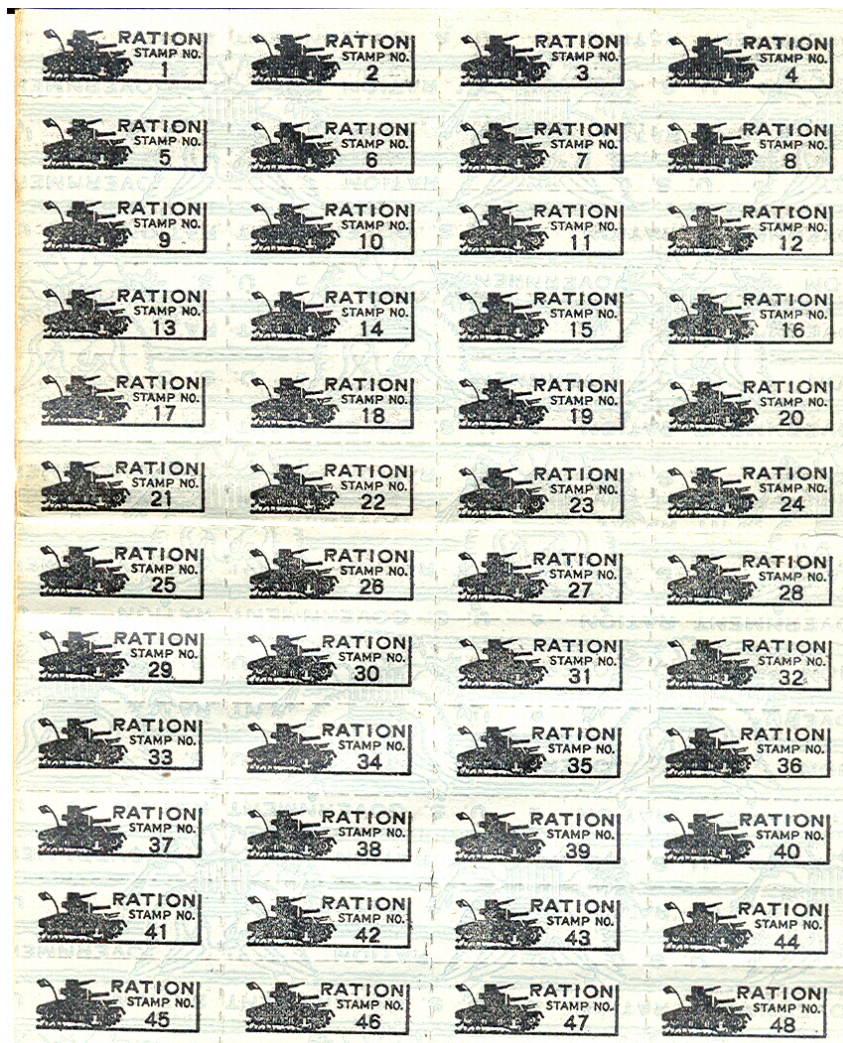
It takes a touch of bitter  
Along with a dab of sweet  
To ease us over the rough spots  
And make our lives complete.

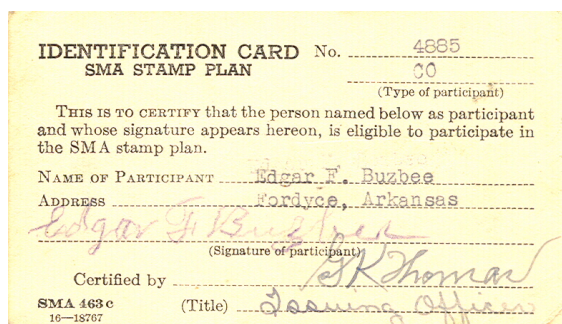
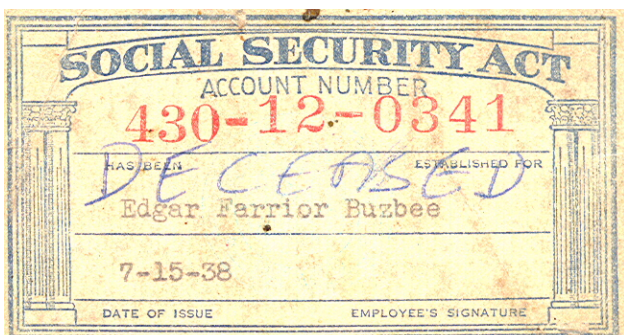


**1940** Edgar Farrior was employed 17 years by the Fordyce Lumber Co. or its predecessor firm. He retired in 1940 as foreman of the saw mill. He was 71. The company gave him \$100, but did continue his salary for a few weeks while he was waiting for his first Social Security check under the new Social Security system. Daddy, Helen, Bobby Dale and I traveled with him to Little Rock (*probably in 1940*), to complete the paper work leading to his getting Social Security benefits. In those days, Social Security was all the retirement income there would be.

I remember the trip. I was about 9. I was already eager to get out of Fordyce, and was astonished to see how city folks lived. It was in Little Rock that day that I went to my first real restaurant.....but the most impressive thing about the restaurant wasn't the food, it was the machines into which you could feed nickels to hear music. Unfortunately, I didn't have a nickel to test the machines, but I noticed how other folks operated the devices.

**1941** After the Depression and Retirement, came the War. His ration stamps:





### Edgar F. and Jennie Buzbee: Social Security, War, and Ration Stamps

Edgar F. Buzbee's SMA identification card, used to obtain "food and cotton" stamps (right), and his Social Security card (left) showing issuance 7-15-38 to Edgar Farrior Buzbee. War Ration Book No. 3 includes some of the ration stamps that weren't needed by the Buzbees before War Ration Book No. 4 was delivered to them. (I collected ration stamps, whenever I sold gas, etc., for Dale, at the Service Station in the wartime summers.)



GOLDEN WEDDING ANNIVERSARY: 1898-1948

**1948** FOR THEIR 50th ANNIVERSARY in 1948, Mama and Papa Buzbee posed for Fordyce's professional photographer, Mr. William Alexander, and presented their children with a formal portrait. By then, he was becoming increasingly frail.

A small, slightly-framed and stooped man, Edgar F. Buzbee was active also in retirement. When he left the employ of the Fordyce Lumber Co., he had to give up his company-owned house on Russell Street, which he and Jennie had rented, and in which countless family Christmases and other gatherings had been held for many years. They moved into the home with Ruth and Lloyd Yeager, about a block away, on West Fourth Street. As long as he was able, he would frequently walk from West Fourth street across town about two miles to the home of his son, Edgar. There, he delighted in working in the yard, and in clearing the constantly-encroaching pine trees away from the house on the 10 acres, even at his advanced age.

**1951** He died 15 July 1951 at the Ruth Yeager home, 606 West 4th street, Fordyce, after a desperate surgical effort failed. He was 81. He was the only surviving child of Joshua Buzbee, the two generations having spanned 145 years.

The obituary:

## Edgar F. Buzbee, Retired Sawmill Man Is Buried

Edgar Farrar Buzbee, 81, most of whose life was spent in Dallas and Calhoun counties, died Sunday at his home in Fordyce. He had been ill for some time.

Mr. Buzbee was born near Hampton, in Calhoun county. He formerly worked for the Fordyce Lumber company.

Included among his survivors are: His wife; a son, Edgar Buzbee, Fordyce; five daughters, Mrs. Frank Jordan, Mrs. Edward Jordan, Mrs. L. H. Yeager, and Mrs. G. N. Rogers, all of Fordyce, and Mrs. S. L. Ederington of Banks.

Funeral services were held at 2:30 o'clock, Monday afternoon at the Fordyce Methodist church, conducted by Rev. Louis W. Averitt, assisted by Rev. Joseph A. McGehee and Rev. J. T. Eliff. Burial, under direction of the Benton Funeral Home, was at Oakland cemetery.

Active pallbearers were: Rex Ederington, Dick Buzbee, Bobby Buzbee, Max Jordan, J. L. McGriff, Lloyd Yeager, Floyd Yeager and O. H. Darling.

Honorary: Dr. H. H. Atkinson, Dr. E. E. Estes, Dr. T. E. Rhine, Howell Easterling, Walter Jordan, Henry Brandon, O. S. McDaniel, B. A. Mayhew, Henry Russell, Walter Bryant, Bill Porter, Bruce Dedman, George Rogers, Joe Jordan, Lem Bradley, Lewis Smurl, Albert Abernathy, E. C. Benton, Ben Smith, C. C. Darling, John Selman, Calvin Spain, H. B. Crowder, Ed Moore, H. E. Bigford, O. H. Darling, Bill Tanner, Jack Wood, Henry Hearnberger, William Gresham, Roy Gresham, Frank Knight, Carlton Webb, Barney Adams, Clarence Heinley and J. L. Hammonds.

*(The Fordyce News-Advocate, ca. 18 July 1951)*



(The pallbearers were four grandsons and others in the Buzbee-Darling-Yeager-McGriff families. Honorary pallbearers included many of his old friends from the Fordyce Lumber Co., as well as the town's leading citizens. Among the latter were the three doctors, Atkinson, Estes and Rhine. Rhine, especially, was a legend in the community, having served throughout much of the history of Fordyce at the time as the classical, country doctor.

(B. A. Mayhew ran the Fordyce Lumber Co. and much of the town from that vantage point. E. C. Benton presided over the Bentons' financial empire. Lumberman Henry Hearnberger had been an honorary pallbearer nine years earlier at the funeral of H. H. Darling. And most of the others from the lumber company...Bigford, Hammonds, Heinley, especially.....would remain family friends throughout their lives.)

Jennie continued her active life well into her 80s. Always conversant on any subject, she never ceased wanting to know more about the rapidly-changing world events around her, and curtailed her extensive reading only with the gradual onset of blindness in her 80s. She changed as the times changed, and remained intensely devoted to her family, which, like the large family she came from, grew constantly larger.

**1964** Thirteen years after Edgar Farrior died at the Yeager home, she died on 9 June 1964. She was buried alongside her husband in the Buzbee-Yeager lot at Fordyce's Oakland cemetery. Her obituary was published by Dick in *The Olathe News*, and in *The Fordyce News-Advocate*:

## Funeral Services Today For Mrs. Jennie Buzbee

Mrs. Jennie J. Saunders Buzbee, age 84, of Fordyce, died Tuesday, June 9, at her home.

She is survived by one son, Edgar Buzbee of Fordyce; four daughters, Mrs. Mary Jordan, Mrs. Ruth Yeager, Mrs. Bonnie Rogers, all of Fordyce, and Mrs. Doris Ederington of Warren; 13 grandchildren and 14 great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were held (today) Thursday, June 11, at 2 p.m. in the Benton Funeral Chapel by Rev. Charles Ashcraft and Rev. Cline Ellis.

Burial was in Oakland Cemetery by Benton Funeral Home.

*(The Fordyce News-Advocate, p. 1, Thursday 11 June 1964)*

Before leaving Olathe for the funeral, I had written a personal column for publication on her funeral on 11 June:

## SPANNING MANY GENERATIONS

A personal note today, as, in a small Southern town, a white-haired dear friend of long standing is laid to rest. She is my grandmother, the last of her generation in a family that has long since scattered in a tradition that has been America itself.

She never knew her grandmother, and scarcely her parents after joining the great westward movement before the turn of the century. For, once separated, families' ties with the older generation ceased. She came to live in a small Southern town that was to be her home for decades, past former slave huts, where there were no longer slaves, and where today little remains but flowers that have multiplied so over the years that they no longer bloom.

But the fragrance of a love spanning generation---that is the beauty one recalls today.

My grandmother found a vast amount of joy in an ever-changing world, but she never had the wonderful experience of going to visit her grandmother, and little of going home to mother's, even.

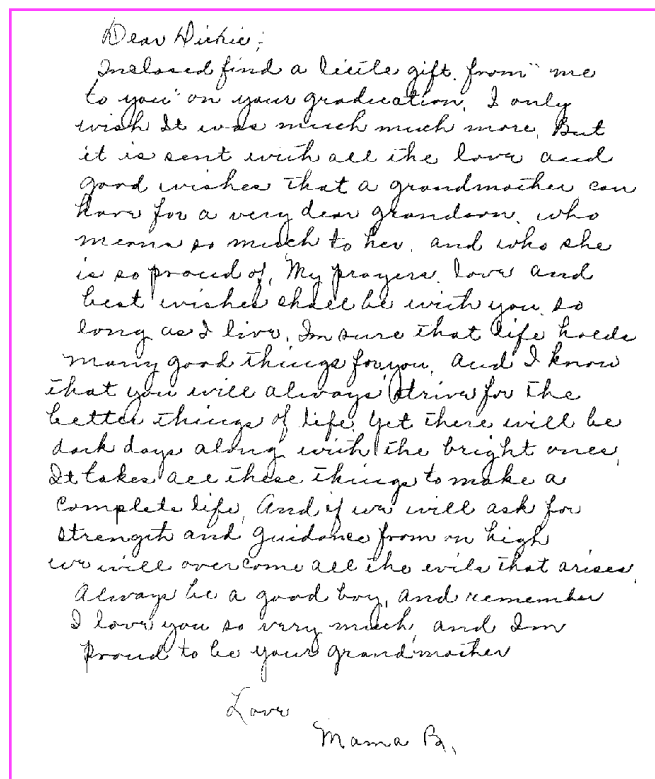
The next generation was more fortunate. For a brief time, there was a grandmother; and for these many years, there was a mother's to visit.

My generation, the next, was vastly more fortunate. For all my life there has been not only a mother, there has been a grandmother to share love.

And the next generation encompassing my sons, for a glimpse of a lifetime, has been blessed enough not only to know their mother and a grandmother, but to love a great-grandmother as well.

This is one of the greatest beauties in this fast-moving world there could be. For in such a way is the world made a far more beautiful place to live.

*(The Daily News, Olathe, Kansas, 11 June 1964)*



Dear Dickie;  
I enclose find a little gift from me to you on your graduation. I only wish it were much much more. But it is sent with all the love and good wishes that a grandmother can have for a very dear grandson, who means so much to her, and who she is so proud of. My prayers, love and best wishes shall be with you, so long as I live. I am sure that life holds many good things for you. And I know that you will always strive for the better things of life, but there will be dark days along with the bright ones. It takes all these things to make a complete life. And if we will ask for strength and guidance from on high we will overcome all the evils that arise. Always be a good boy, and remember I love you so very much, and am proud to be your grandmother.  
Love  
Mama B.

14 May 1949: Mama Buzbee's letter to me on graduation from FHS

# THE CHILDREN of Edgar Farrior and Jennie Justice Saunders Buzbee:

## 1. Son, stillborn 20 June 1899



Maudina Buzbee,  
a drawing, ca. 1902

## 2. Maudina Buzbee (b. 30 August 1900, d. 4 June 1902)

## 3. Mary Permelia Buzbee (b. 16 June 1902), married Frank Jordan on 27 July 1924.



James Franklin (Frank) Jordan (19 August 1894-11 October 1978) was a son of Ben E. and Liza Jordan, Fordyce. Single, at 22, he registered 5 June 1917 for World War 1. He served, but the war ended before he was sent overseas. Later, he was active in the Fordyce American Legion. He also registered for World War 2 at age 46, while employed by Fordyce Lumber Co., but was not called. He operated a pool hall in Fordyce. Mary Buzbee Jordan died 17 October 1982. Their daughter:

a. Mary Aniece Jordan (24 May 1925-2 August 2006) m. James Lacey "Cutter" McGriff (b. 5 September 1924) in Fordyce. Their daughter:

(1) Dona Kaye McGriff (b. 29 June 1949) m. Gary Talley. Their daughter:  
(a) Stephanie Talley (b. 23 August 1985)

## 4. Annie Berniece Buzbee (b. 28 March 1905), married Edward Franklin Jordan (b. 5 September 1905) on 25 January 1925. They farmed northwest of Fordyce.



Edward Jordan near his back porch; Edward, Annie, Max and Bonnie Ruth

In 1957, Edward Jordan was diagnosed with incurable cancer, and hospitalized in Little Rock. Annie Buzbee Jordan traveled regularly from Fordyce to visit him, in what was expected to be his final days. On her visit, 3 April 1957, her car was involved in a traffic accident south of Little Rock. She was killed. Edward recovered, and remarried twice. He died 23 May 1974. The children of Annie and Edward Jordan:

- a. Max Edward Jordan (26 March 1929-1 January 1993). Did not marry.
- b. Bonnie Ruth Jordan (b. 11 January 1939), married Marvin Edward Potter (b. 27 July 1932) on 30 August 1957. They live at 9601 Stardust Trail, Little Rock.

She writes:

“**I** WAS NAMED after my aunts, Ruth Yeager and Bonnie Wilkins/Bonnie Mae Rogers. I grew up on the farm with the beautiful countryside, deer, birds, etc., which I never appreciated much back then.

“We raised basically what we ate: Corn, peas, beans, okra, potatoes, onions, peanuts, watermelon, and cantaloupe. We had cows for milk; chickens for eggs; and pigs for meat. I almost forgot those turnip greens.

“I went to school at Fordyce Grammar and High School. I rode the school bus. We lived about 4 miles from town. I sure looked forward to the summers—going barefooted and fishing in the pond. I actually caught a fish now and then.

“We went to town on Saturdays and church on Sundays, pretty cut and dried. Upon graduation, I received a scholarship to Draughon’s School of Business in Little Rock. I remember O. L. Wilkins worked there. While attending school there, I met Marvin Edward Potter. I met him at Troy’s Roller Rink one night, when a bunch of girls from school went skating. He was assigned to the Jacksonville Air Force Base at that time.

“He was the son of Joseph Randolph Potter and Ada Bell Haley Potter of Wagoner, Okla. He was born July 27, 1932. He grew up in Oklahoma and attended school there. He enlisted in the Army and spent most of his service time in New Jersey and the Marshall Islands. There he participated in “Operation Ivy,” atomic tests at Eniwetok proving grounds by the Atomic Energy Commission.

“After his time in the Army, he enlisted in the Air Force and was stationed at Jacksonville, Ark. This was 1957.

“April 3, 1957 was a devastating day in my life. My mother was accidentally killed in an automobile accident.

#### **MARRIED IN PINE CREST BAPTIST CHURCH**

“I continued on at Draughon’s during the week-days, and rode the bus home week-ends to wash clothes, cook, and do what I could for my Daddy and Max. Potter and I dated during this time and he became pretty special to me. We got married August 30, 1957, at Fordyce in the little Pine Crest Baptist Church that I had gone to as a kid growing up. My Daddy was a deacon and my Mother had been church clerk.

“We lived in Little Rock for a while and moved to Fordyce after he got out of the Air Force. A few months after Michael was born, we moved to Oklahoma. There were not many jobs around Fordyce. Potter went to work for Safeway at Wagoner, Tahlequah, and then on to Okemah as assistant manager.

“Later, Potter was transferred back to Arkansas, where we bought our first home at 7701 Arch Street Pike, Little Rock. He continued working for Safeway. We spent most of our week-ends at the race track where “Cherokee” Potter (#77) owned and drove his race car. He actually won a little money now and then.

"Our oldest son, Mike, got hit by a car while we lived on Arch Street. He survived, badly beat up and many stitches. It scared us so badly we decided to sell our house and move to the country to raise the kids. Again, months later, not enough work and the kids were allergic to every blade of grass (ivy), so we moved back to Little Rock. We bought a house at 9601 Stardust Trail in 1970. Potter worked at Canteen Corp., vending machines. I went to work for Avon.

#### **CAMPING, SKIING AND SWIMMING**

"All the kids went to school in this area, worked for fast-food places, and graduated from schools in this area. I felt like a taxi driver, plus working and holding the home together with paste. Poor Potter just went to work every day and patiently took each day with a grain of salt. We spent our summers at Lake Ouachita, camping, skiing, and swimming. We started out with a tent, and later on we bought an old motor home that Potter refurbished. We took a few vacations to Florida, Disney World, and out West as far as New Mexico and over into Mexico.

"We never made it up North. We ran out of years and the motor home got sold. Potter had to work on it too much.

"On to the next phase: Potter worked real hard and got his pilot license. He thought it would be a neat way to travel. Forget that!

"The kids all got married one at a time. They all had nice weddings. They just didn't take the first time. For one reason or another, they all had second marriages. We refused to pay the second time. They all seem to be happy enough, I guess, working and raising their families. It is a chore.

#### **RETIREMENTS in 1997 and 1998**

"Many years down the road, with remnants of what the kids left, grey hair and shattered nerves, we are going to retire! I plan to retire before summer and Potter next Spring.

"My first project will be to clean my house and see if I can salvage anything. It might be just as simple to donate it all and start over. I have so many things I would like to do. My family research books, pictures need to be in albums, paint the inside walls of the farm house at Fordyce, lose weight and spend time in the pool. We have had an above-ground pool for about 14 years and I am always too busy to enjoy it."

*Bonnie Ruth Jordan Potter, Little Rock, Ark., 22 May 1997*

#### **Their children:**

(1) Michael Jordan Potter (b. 24 June 1958) m. (1st) Debra Ann Davis on 28 March 1981 (divorced), and (2nd) Deborah Lynn Rigsby on 20 December 1985. He had been the second baby born in the new Dallas County Hospital, Fordyce. He is assistant manager of Harvest Foods, and has worked for them for more than 20 years. He and his family live in Bryant, Ark.

#### **Two sons:**

- (a) Justin Michael Potter (b. 18 May 1986)
- (b) Aaron Christopher Potter (b. 21 March 1988)

#### **Step-son:**

- (a) Mark Louis Cone (b. 31 May 1981)
- (2) Jacqueline (Jackie) Anita Potter (b. 17 December 1959), at Okemah, Okla., m. (1st) Joseph Hobart Crippen on 7 February 1981 (divorced), and (2nd) Dan



Schuh Ederington on 14 April 1994. She has worked as a beauty operator, dental assistant, and has owned a gift shop, "Whistle Stop." She is now a homemaker. They live in Benton, Ark.

Two children:

(a) Crystal Nicole Crippen (b. 7 November 1981)

(b) Joseph Zachary Crippen (b. 22 July 1988)

(3) Carolyn Denise Potter (b. 18 June 1962), in Little Rock, Ark., m. (1st) Vincent Joseph Mayer on 12 July 1986 (divorced), and (2nd) Marvin David Amerson on 11 March 1994. David is a professor of radiology at University Medical Center. Carolyn has worked as a secretary for Roach Paper Co., and the University Medical Center, then worked as an office manager for an oral surgeon at St. Vincent Hospital. She is a homemaker. They live in Conway, Ark.

One daughter:

(a) Lindsey Michelle Mayer (b. 22 May 1988)

Two step-daughters:

(a) Evan Elizabeth Amerson (b. 17 January 1986)

(b) Lauren Kathryn Amerson (20 September 1987)

(4) Charles (Charlie) Edward Potter (b. 11 September 1964), in Little Rock, Ark., m. (1st) Melody Kay Chambliss on 11 October 1986 (divorced), and (2nd) Sheila Denise Roberts on 28 January 1989. Charlie has worked as a roofer and an apprentice electrician, and currently works for Best Buy.

Three children:

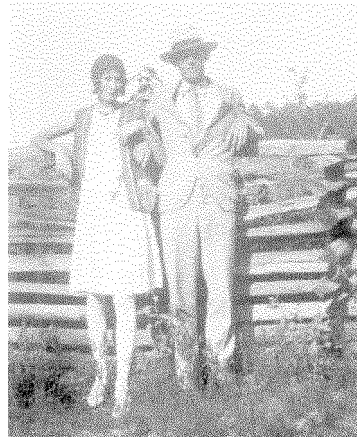
(a) Lacey Marie Potter (b. 22 May 1989)

(b) Steven Andrew Potter (b. 26 November 1990)

(c) Jessica Michelle Potter (b. 14 January 1994)

One step-daughter:

(a) Tonya Daralane Roberts (b. 29 August 1987)



Frank and Mary Buzbee Jordan. Ruth Buzbee and Edgar Buzbee


**5. \_ \_ Edgar Andrew Buzbee (16 February 1906-23 April 1978) m. Helen Koester Darling (27 July 1910-9 April 2007) on 14 June 1930.**

**6. Janie Doris Buzbee (21 December 1907-12 February 1967),** married Sam Ederington on 2 October 1928, and farmed in the Banks, Ark., area of Bradley County.



Samuel Lafayette Ederington was born 30 July 1894 in Bradley County, Ark., and registered 5 June 1917 at age 22 for World War I. He was a private in the Army. Sam also registered at age 48 for World War 2. He died 4 July 1963, a year before their only son would die. Doris died 12 February 1967.

Their children:

a.  Rex Edgar Ederington (14 April 1927-29 August 1964) was a Seaman 1-C in the Navy, and reported to the USS YFD 21, on 24 January 1946. After completion of his tour of duty, he was a newspaper advertising salesman. He was buried at Childs Cemetery, Warren, Ark. Four children: (1) Sammy Ederington (2) Cathy Ederington (3) Rexanne Ederington (4) Carolyn Ederington. Step children: (1) Jimmy (2) Linda.

b. Ruth Carolyn Ederington, m. Ray McLeod. She has been a teacher. Their children: (1) Butch McLeod (2) Debbie McLeod

**7. Ruth Elizabeth Buzbee (b. 21 October 1909),** married Lloyd Yeager (b. 1 April 1908) on 2 June 1940. Lloyd was injured in a railroad accident that left him partly paralyzed. However, he equipped his Oldsmobiles so that he could drive, and was able to travel outside the home. He died 12 October 1963 at age 55.

Ruth taught school 39 years in the Fordyce Public Schools. She died 11 April 1997 in Pine Bluff, and was buried in Oakland cemetery, Fordyce. Their children:

a. Suzanne Elizabeth Yeager (b. 28 October 1944), m. Herman Horton Ginger (b. 9 March 1942), on 27 November 1964. She writes:



Suzanne Yeager, Mama Buzbee

*"I* GUESS THAT GROWING UP when I did, times were basically good and easy going.

"Even though Daddy was in a wheel chair, we were able to have vacations and family trips just like everyone else did. Maybe the fact that he was in a wheel chair was a mixed blessing---we were able to see more of him than most kids saw their dad. I still can see him sitting in the den with his feet on a table by the window with a radio on, listening to a ball game, and he was also watching one on the TV. I never understood how he did that, and now I find myself doing the same thing.

#### **SUPERB ORGANIZATION**

"Mother would go by the Fabric Center on her way home from school and get a pattern and material for a dress, cut it out before she cooked supper, make it after supper and I would wear it the next day. She really had to be organized to teach school, take care of us and go back and forth to Texarkana with Daddy.

#### **THEY SEEMED STRICT AT THE TIME**

"I always thought that Mother and Daddy were very strict with us, but now that I have grown up, I know that they really did us a great favor.

"I really don't remember much of **Papa Buzbee**---he died when I was only 6 years old.

"**I remember that Mama Buzbee** loved to watch the wrestling on TV and she had to sit real close to the screen. When Ronald and I first got our driver's licenses we would always see if Mama needed us to go to the store for her. (Usually she would come up with something.)

"Because Mama and Papa lived with us, the rest of the family seemed always to meet at our house on special occasions. This was great because we got to see our uncles and aunts and have cousins to play with. At Christmas, we always had a house full and lots of good food.

"**Uncle Edgar** would come over to the house after work, to see Mama. I was amazed that he could roll his cigarette and chew his gum at the same time. Aunt Helen had the neatest washing machine---sometimes it was in the back yard, and sometimes it was on the back porch and it had a big roller on the top. There is one taste that I remember from my childhood that will be with me forever: **Aunt Helen's** fudge!

"**Uncle Frank** always had gum in his pants pocket and there was always enough for everyone no matter how many there were of us. **Aunt Mary** was the one aunt who was always on the go, but she kept the house spotless and I was afraid I would get something dirty.

"**When we went out to Uncle Edward's and Aunt Annie's** we would use pump water from the well (It was so cold) then sit in the swing on the back porch and eat cold cornbread and tomatoes or onions.

"**Aunt Bonnie Mae** always had the time to stop and talk to me or just sit and listen to our problems---she may not have the answers I wanted to hear, but she would never make fun of me. She also helped me get my first part time job....working at Matthew's during Christmas holidays. I think that by the time the job was over, I owed more than I made.

#### AFTER THE TORNADO

"I really don't remember much about going to **Uncle Sam's** and **Aunt Doris'** house. When they lived in Warren, we went down to see about them when the tornado took about half of the town away. When they moved to Banks and the farm, Rex and Ruth Carolyn had already gone to college. The farm was out in the country so far, I was scared when we went down there.

"**Looking back on growing up:** We had a wonderful time and a wonderful family that kept us straight. That was one thing about having all the family in the same town...there was always someone around to see that we did what was right. Today I am thankful for all of the care and love we got."

*Suzanne Yeager Ginger, Pine Bluff, Ark., July 1997*

Suzanne Yeager Ginger and Dr. Herman H. Ginger live in Pine Bluff, Ark., where he is an optometrist. Their daughter:

(1) Amanda Suzanne Ginger (b. 8 September 1974)

b. Ronald Ell Yeager (b. 6 June 1946). He lives in Bartlett, Tenn.

#### 8. Otis Lindsey Buzbee (b. 1912, d. 1913)



Nathan Rogers and Bonnie Mae Buzbee Rogers

**9. Bonnie Mae Buzbee (b. 18 July 1916),** married George Nathan Rogers on 23 June 1934. Divorced. She worked at Matthew's, a Fordyce clothing store, for many years, and died 19 July 1987. She was buried in a Buzbee-Yeager plot, Oakland cemetery, Fordyce. Their children:

a. Jean Carolyn Rogers (10 May 1940-5 November 2010), m. (1st) Clifton Clyde Cain (b. 7 February 1943) on 14 December 1962, and (2nd) Ronald Ellis Green (b. 26 December 1939) on 22 October 1979. She died 5 November 2010. She wrote:

**"I WAS NAMED** after 'Mama' Buzbee, Jennie Justice Saunders

Buzbee. The first few years, I grew up around Ivan, Ark. I started my first year of school at the Cooterneck school. All grades were all in the same classroom. Each morning we would walk the miles to school. I was one of the younger ones and I remember how scared I would get when we cut through the woods. Of course, the older ones enjoyed scaring the smaller ones. The Cooterneck school consolidated with the Fordyce schools and I finished my first year in Fordyce.

#### **AUNT RUTH TAUGHT WELL**

"I remember us having dancing in the halls at Grammar school. On May Day we had plays and did the Mayday Pole. I remember Mrs. Fran's stories, what a great storyteller she was. Oh, yes, we cannot forget the operettas. They were great fun. We must remember the Grid Kids and Chiggers football teams. I remember Aunt Ruth as my teacher, and how hard I thought she was. She was hard, but I did learn lots.

"Then I became a 'Topwater' (7th grader). Scared at first, but then was a breeze. I always enjoyed and had loads of fun at the 'sock hops' in the gym at Fordyce High School. Home Ec was never my strong point; just couldn't master straight seams. Making it through that class was a blessing.

"During my high school years, I was active in the band. We performed at all the football games, parades and competitions. I enjoyed all my school years, staying active in the band and on the *Hi-Times* staff and helping Miss Cash in her office. We walked to school since we didn't have other transportation. Also enjoyed my years in the Girl Scouts. Worked at the Dallas Theater. I was a very good pop corn popper! In the summers, I enjoyed swimming, going to camp, fishing, visiting family and friends. Also our bike trips and picnics to

Jordan Mill Pond. Boy, were the gravel roads hard to pedal.

"Church was a big part of our lives. We were there when the doors were open.

#### **SENIOR TRIP WAS TO BILOXI**

"Graduation day was wonderful and kinda sad, but we made it. Graduation was May 18, 1958. That night we left on our Senior trip to Biloxi, Miss. We had a great time and still think, remember and talk about it even today.

"You know we thought times were hard. And they were, but they were also good times. Looking back now, I am proud to those times, who I was and who I am.

"After graduation, I moved to Tulsa to work. On weekends, I enjoyed bowling, plays, and my church groups. In Tulsa, I met Cliff Cain and we were married in December of 1962. He was in the U. S. Army and we moved to Kitzingen, Germany, where he was stationed.

"Sonja Jean Cain was born June 10, 1964 in Wurtzburg, Germany. We lived there until she was two years old. Then back to the States.

"Farrin C. Cain was born March 14, 1967 at the Dallas County Hospital in Fordyce. Moving back to Europe when Farrin was a little over a year old. Stationed at Crailsheim, Germany for the next three years. Toured all of Europe and saw everything possible.

"Moving back to the States again, I then attended Arkansas State University at Jonesboro. After several years, I was divorced and moved with the children back to Fordyce. There I worked and raised my children, enjoying them and our lives together. Things were made easier with the help and love of family and friends.

#### **SPECIAL REUNION AT THE 20TH REUNION**

"At my 20th class reunion in Fordyce, Class of '58, I was reunited with a former classmate. After many letters, lots of phone calls, and visits, I was married to Ronald Ellis Green at the First Baptist Church, Fordyce, in October 1978.

"We then moved to Katy, Tex. Ron worked for Shell Oil Co., in the Computer Center, Houston. I worked for First Bank, Katy, for 14 years. We stayed very active, keeping up with Sonja and Farrin and all of their activities.

"We enjoyed our family and friends. Our vacation trips were great fun, from the East Coast to the West Coast, making many craft shows on weekends, where we made many friends. In 1993, Ron retired from Shell. After lots of thoughts we moved to Wynne, Ark., in 1994. We have a home on a small lake. I enjoy rocking on the patio and watching the ducks swim. Ron enjoys the fishing. I work at Southern Paramedic as secretary, office manager, or whatever needs to be done. It's owned by Sonja and her husband. Ron is doing some contract painting, and recently tested and received his Arkansas real estate inspectors' license.

"We are enjoying a slower pace of life. Our greatest joy is our grandchildren. They are such a joy and we love them very much. We seem them real often, and they love each other, which makes them a greater joy. Sonja's two live only two houses away, and Farrin's, about one hour, but we seem them all often, which makes life worthwhile.

"We also have a travel trailer, which we enjoy very much. We like just getting away and running around.

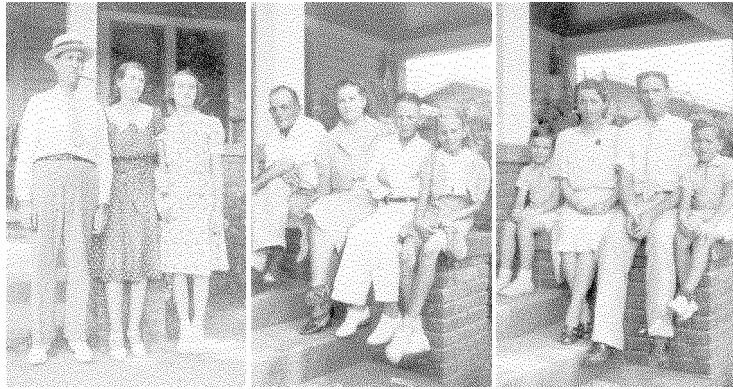
"My Mother was a wonderful mother and how I still miss her, even today. She was so good and kind; she was my idol. Even though she went to her heavenly home, July 19, 1987, I still consider her my best friend. I pray to be half the lady she was. She was a great inspiration to me. I know she is keeping a watch over me and my family every minute.

### THOSE FRECKLES

"When I was younger, people would tease me and make remarks about my freckles. Of course, at that time of my life, it just crushed me and I would cry. I would run to Mama Buzbee, who would take a dip of snuff, sit back and say, 'Come here, 'my precious redhead.' I'd run over, sit down, and she would say, 'Don't cry, freckles are promises from heaven.' Things seemed to be okay at that moment.

"Oh, how I remember our family gatherings at Christmas. Really do miss them.

"We also enjoy reading and collecting books, especially Stephen King, Grisham, Sheldon, Ann Rice. Computers are a must in our home and business. Also pleasure.



1939: At the porch on Russell Street, after Sunday dinner: Frank, Mary, Aniece; Sam, Doris, Rex, Ruth Carolyn; Dick, Helen, Edgar, Bobby Dale

### THE FAMILY

"**Papa Buzbee** never said too much that I can remember. I always enjoyed his stories. I have many fond memories of our families. Some of my Aunts and Uncle are:

**Aunt Mary:** Sewing my feedsack skirts and making me stand so very still while she marked the hem, and taking me on shopping trips to Little Rock.

**Aunt Doris:** Her free spirit. She was her own person and lots of fun.

**Uncle Edgar:** His quietness and his big, wonderful grin that could make you melt.

**Aunt Annie:** What a wonderful cook she was, and so full of goodness and kindness.

**Aunt Ruth:** She was a very classy lady and example to all.

**Bonnie Mae** (my Mother): Her smile, guidance and abundant love for her family and friends and her love for her church and God.

**Mama and Papa Buzbee:** Dipping snuff, of course. Only a certain tree could produce the limbs for the snuff brushes. I remember they

were small people with lots of love. Seems like our family had lots of love, at least that's the way I remember.

"Remember Uncle Edgar's birthday cake, that when he cut it, all the icing ran out, since it sank in the middle and was iced even to look smooth."

#### A WISH COMES TRUE

"Another memory: I remember the day Jerry Dale Rogers was born. August 15, 1948. I had wanted and prayed for a little brother. My wish came true. I am, and always will be, thankful for the brother God send me.

"I think we as part of the Saunders-Buzbee clan have lots to be thankful for---a great family. To each of you, I'll always have a place in my heart and love for you. We are truly family."

*Jean Carolyn Rogers Green, Wynne, Ark., July 1997*

#### The children:

(1) Sonja Jean Cain (b. 10 June 1964), m. Jerry Allen Medlin (b. 8 August 1964), on 22 November 1985. After marriage, both continued college at Henderson State University, Arkadelphia, Ark. She graduated with a teaching degree. They lived in Mena, and later bought Southern Paramedic, Wynne, Ark. Their children:

- (a) Kyle Fabien Medlin (b. 26 November 1988)
- (b) Taylor Nicole Medlin (b. 10 December 1992)

(2) Farrin Clifton Cain (b. 14 March 1967), graduated from University of Arkansas, Monticello, with a degree in physical education. He worked in Little Rock, and Crossett, where he m. Melissa Anne Hackworth on 28 December 1993. They live in Carlisle, Ark., where he is parks and recreational director. Melissa works for Dillards. One daughter:

- (a) Katy Anne Cain (b. 7 July 1994)

b. Jerry Dale Rogers (b. 15 August 1948), m. Becky Ann Vineyard (b. 22 February 1951), on 29 May 1971. He writes:

"***J*** REMEMBER that Mama Buzbee always had her snuff. She had a little metal can and always had a stick.

On Saturday morning, you could find me sitting with Mama Buzbee watching wrestling on TV.

Mama Buzbee died while I was in New York City at the World's Fair with the Boy Scouts. I wasn't called and told of her death. In fact, I didn't know until I got home. They wanted me to enjoy the trip.

I was too young to remember Papa Buzbee. The only thing I remember is standing beside my father looking at the casket at Aunt Ruth's house.

(I remember that while I was growing up, we walked everywhere we went.)

#### AUNT RUTH

She was a tough 6th grade teacher. I couldn't do anything at school because she would always tell my mother before I could get home in the afternoon.

Skipper Ledbetter and I went into the 6th grade the same year. Skipper was supposed to be in Aunt Ruth's class and I was to be in Mrs. (Adrian) Ledbetter's class. Aunt Ruth got wind of the plan and got together with Adrian. When school began, I was in Aunt Ruth's class

and Skipper was in his aunt's class---Mrs. Ledbetter.

I helped Aunt Ruth to grade papers at night.

When I was in Vietnam, the family sent me a Christmas family picture taken at Aunt Ruth's house. It looked like everyone was in the picture.

I remember one night while we were sitting on the front porch, Ronald was riding his bicycle up Uncle Lloyd's wheelchair ramp. Ronald caught a spot on the ramp and had a wreck. In the process, he broke his toe. We had to take him to the hospital.

One Christmas, Ronald, Paul Osbourn and I went riding around Tri-County Lake. We were lighting cherry bombs and throwing them out the car windows. I thought that I would be really big and throw one also, the only problem was that I forgot to roll the window down. You should have seen me trying to get out of that back seat.

#### **AUNT DORIS**

Frequently on Sunday afternoon, Uncle Frank, Aunt Mary, Mother and I would travel to Aunt Doris' house for the afternoon. No one else would sit in the front seat with Uncle Frank, so I got to sit up there with him every time. Years later I learned that everyone said that I was the only one who didn't know any better than to ride in the front with Uncle Frank.

I remember that Aunt Doris always had a pan of cornbread on the stove when we arrived. Mother would always tell me not to eat as I had just eaten lunch, but Aunt Doris would always reply, 'Bonnie Mae, be quiet.' I would then eat at least half the pan of cornbread, and most of the time I would eat all of it. That is still the best cornbread I've ever eaten.

I remember running through the field barefoot with Butch and some other kids. I can recall stepping in warm, fresh manure.

Aunt Doris had a well. I thought that it was really fantastic! That water was better than any to be found.

I remember that one time when I was visiting Aunt Doris that she let me go in the woods to shoot wild hogs. She instructed me to shoot them in the stomach so that they would go off and die somewhere else.

One time Aunt Doris had a lump in her bed. When she finally pulled back the mattress, she found a snake in her bed.

#### **AUNT MARY**

Fantastic cook.

I would go to her house after school to wait until Mother could get off work. She knew that I liked peach cobbler, so each afternoon when I walked into her house she had a fresh peach cobbler just out of the oven waiting for me. To this day, I am very picky about peach cobbler.

Aunt Mary could bake great pies. Uncle Frank worked at Harry's Pool Hall. Mother would only let me go down there when Uncle Frank would be there to keep an eye on me.

Uncle Frank liked fried chicken. His favorite piece was the leg. I have seen him gnaw on that children leg until there wouldn't be much left. Uncle Frank and Aunt Mary sat behind us in church every Sunday. Uncle Frank would always slip me a piece of gum or a mint at the beginning of the service. One Sunday I was really excited when Uncle Frank slipped me a whole Snickers Bar. To my disappointment, Mother wouldn't let me eat it in church. She said that I didn't have



enough to share with everyone in church, so I would have to wait until I got home to eat. That Snickers was really good---but I sure had a hard time trying to wait until after church.

Aunt Mary couldn't see very well, but she could see a piece of lint on the floor across the room.

I remember getting to read stories from their Reader's Digest Condensed books. The stories that I liked best dealt with Hunting, Safari, Lion Hunting, etc.

#### **UNCLE EDGAR and AUNT HELEN**

I remember that there was a tire swing on the big oak tree. I loved swinging in that tire.

I remember talk of a black panther that came through. We couldn't get very far from the house. The woods were off limits.

I remember in August 1973 when Jamie was born. We had named him James Edgar Rogers. Of course, the Edgar was for Uncle Edgar. My favorite memory of him at this time was watching him stand in the hall at Dallas County Hospital looking in the nursery room. Any time you didn't see him in the crowd, you could always find him standing there looking in the window.

Uncle Edgar was the first family member to arrive at the hospital when Jamie was born.

Every Halloween, Uncle Edgar and Aunt Helen would have a 'special' treat for Jamie and Jennifer. They couldn't wait to get to their house to 'trick-or-treat.'

Aunt Helen always had a case of Cokes.

#### **AUNT ANNIE**

Mother and Aunt Annie were gathering eggs one day. I decided to help. When they started getting chickens, to cook, I knew that I could do that, too. I picked up a chicken, swung it around by the neck, and threw it down. That chicken got up and chased me all over the yard.

I remember catching my first fish in a creek behind Aunt Annie's and Uncle Edward's house. We brought it back and put it in a tub, but I wouldn't let them clean it and cook it.

Aunt Annie always had fresh cold milk in the cooler.

Ronald and I went swimming in the pond. After we got out, we saw 3 water moccasins swimming in the same area where we had been.

I remember that Uncle Edward let me help him plow the field one day. The only problem was that I didn't know whether to say 'Hee' or 'Haw.' I didn't know which one meant left and which meant right. Boy, was I confused. So was the mule.

The first time I went deer hunting was at Aunt Annie's. The night before, I slept on the couch. She had a wood stove in the house. Since the fire would die down during the night, she piled at least 6 quilts on top of me.

*Jerry Dale Rogers, Fordyce, Ark., August 1997*

The children of Jerry Dale Rogers and Becky Ann Vineyard:

- (1) James Edgar Rogers (b. 24 August 1973)
- (2) Jennifer Mae Rogers (b. 7 July 1976)

### **NEXT: EDGAR ANDREW BUZBEE**



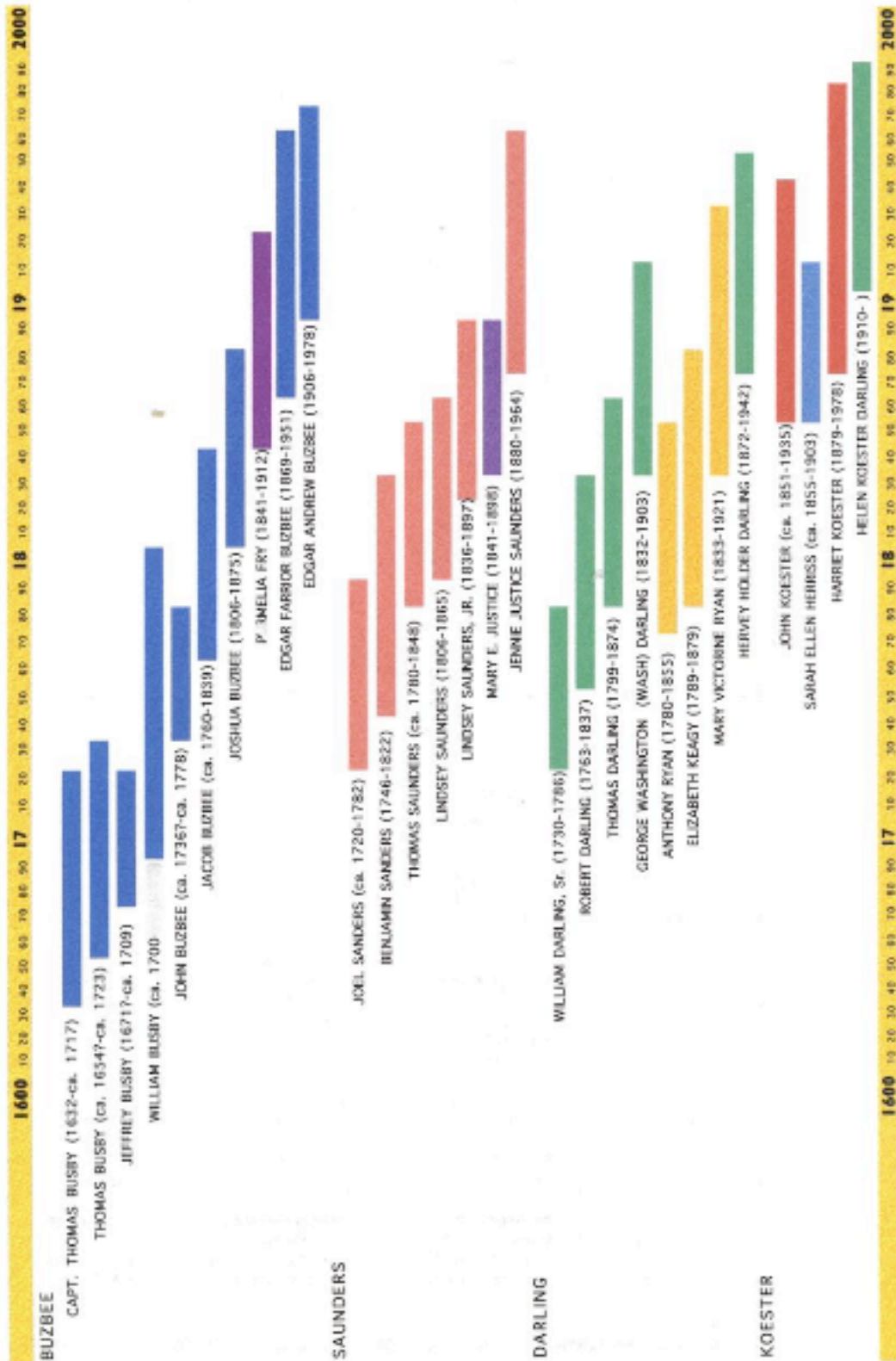
Edgar Andrew Buzbee

## BEST FRIENDS: SOME OF THE CONNECTIONS

BUZBEE	SAUNDERS	JUSTICE	FRY
	Joel Sanders (ca. 1720-1782)		
William Buzbee (ca. 1700-ca. 1860)	Benjamin Sanders (1746-1822)		
John Buzbee (ca. 1736-ca. 1778)	Thomas Saunders (ca. 1780-1848)		
Jacob Buzbee (ca. 1760-1839)	Lindsey Saunders (1806-1865)	William Justice (1808-1854)	
Joshua Buzbee (1806-1875)	Lindsey Saunders, Jr. (1836-1897)	Mary Elizabeth Justice (1841-1898)	Parmelia Fry (1841-1912)
Edgar Farrior Buzbee (1869-1951)	Jennie Justice Saunders (1880-1964)	Jennie Justice Saunders (1880-1964)	Edgar Farrior Buzbee (1869-1951)
Edgar Andrew Buzbee (1906-1978)	Edgar Andrew Buzbee (1906-1978)	Edgar Andrew Buzbee (1906-1978)	Edgar Andrew Buzbee (1906-1978)
Richard Edgar Buzbee (1931- )	Richard Edgar Buzbee (1931- )	Richard Edgar Buzbee (1931- )	Richard Edgar Buzbee (1931- )
Robert Edgar Buzbee William Bruce Buzbee James Palmer Buzbee John Richard Buzbee	Robert Edgar Buzbee William Bruce Buzbee James Palmer Buzbee John Richard Buzbee	Robert Edgar Buzbee William Bruce Buzbee James Palmer Buzbee John Richard Buzbee	Robert Edgar Buzbee William Bruce Buzbee James Palmer Buzbee John Richard Buzbee

LANGFORD (?)	SMITH	LANDRETH	ROOKE
	Leah Smith (ca. 1745-after 1822)		
	Thomas Saunders (ca. 1780-1848)		Elizabeth Rooke (1781-1828)
Jane (Langford?) (ca.1770-1842)	Lindsey Saunders (1806-1865)	Martha Ann Landreth (1810-after 1855)	Lindsey Saunders (1806-1865)
Joshua Buzbee (1806-1875)	Lindsey Saunders, Jr. (1836-1897)	Lindsey Saunders, Jr. (1836-1897)	Lindsey Saunders, Jr. (1836-1897)
Edgar Farrior Buzbee (1869-1951)	Jennie Justice Saunders (1880-1964)	Jennie Justice Saunders (1890-1964)	Jennie Justice Saunders (1880-1964)
Edgar Andrew Buzbee (1906-1978)	Edgar Andrew Buzbee (1906-1978)	Edgar Andrew Buzbee (1906-1978)	Edgar Andrew Buzbee (1906-1978)
Richard Edgar Buzbee (1931- )	Richard Edgar Buzbee (1931- )	Richard Edgar Buzbee (1931- )	Richard Edgar Buzbee (1931- )
Robert Edgar Buzbee William Bruce Buzbee James Palmer Buzbee John Richard Buzbee	Robert Edgar Buzbee William Bruce Buzbee James Palmer Buzbee John Richard Buzbee	Robert Edgar Buzbee William Bruce Buzbee James Palmer Buzbee John Richard Buzbee	Robert Edgar Buzbee William Bruce Buzbee James Palmer Buzbee John Richard Buzbee

# Some of the Buzbees and their Best Friends: A Timeline



### TIMELINE: SOME OF THE BUZBEES AND THEIR BEST FRIENDS

Timelines of the families are designed to show life spans and comparable generations in England and America, and not always direct heritage. Dr. Busby did not have children. A direct link with Capt. Thomas Busby, Thomas Busby, Thomas Busby the Indian, Jeffrey Busby and William Busby has not been established, though they were certainly in the neighborhood.

# PART 10

## Edgar Andrew Buzbee

He liked to hunt.....and his old Home Place

He wrecked his car and broke a hip

Searching for the right job

Correspondence School

The Old Home Place

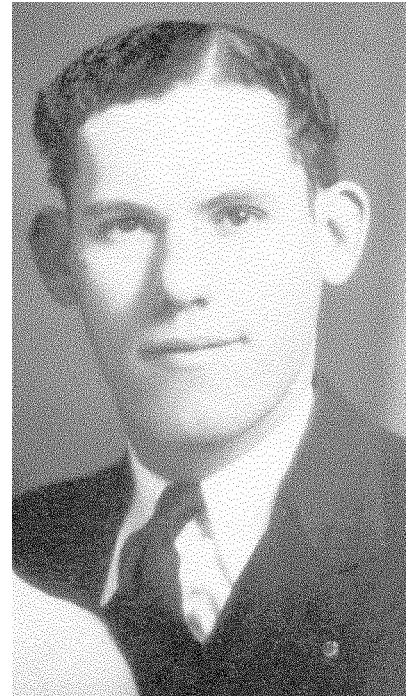
South Arkansas: The Buzbee 'Old Home Place'

After the Louisiana Purchase, by Bobby Dale Buzbee

Ruth Buzbee Yeager remembers the 'Old Home Place'

Area and National Maps, 1830-1998

Edgar returns from Business College.....to a wedding soon thereafter



# EDGAR ANDREW BUZBEE

(born 1906, died 1978)

“MY LIFE ON THE OLD PLACE was pretty rugged at times, but I enjoyed it more than anywhere I ever lived. It was a big settlement there then. As a little boy I always loved the woods. We all worked hard on the farm, and when I was six or seven years old --- not big enough to reach the handles of a regular plow stock -- Pappa had one made for me, small enough for me to use a horse and plow.

## DRIVING A TEAM OF HORSES AT 8 or 9

“I would drive the team of horses and wagon to Thornton to get groceries when I wasn’t over 8 or 9 years old, by myself. We always had dogs, as everyone else did, on the farm down there. I always loved hunting. Pappa had a double barrel shotgun that I learned to shoot when I was very young. It has kicked me down flat of my back many times. *(Bobby Dale has the gun today.)*



Dick: My life on the old place was pretty rugged at times but I enjoyed it more than anywhere I ever lived. It was a big settlement there then as a little boy I always loved the woods. We all worked hard on the farm when I was six or seven years old not big enough to reach the handle of a regular plow. Papa had one made for me small enough for me to use a horse and plow. I would drive the team of horses and wagon to Thornton to get groceries when I wasnt over 8 or 9 years old by myself - we always had dogs as everyone else did on the farm down there I always loved hunting. Papa had a double barreled shot gun that I learned to shoot when I was very young. It has kicked me down flat on my back many times rained days and when it was too wet to work in the field was the days we all congregated and rabbit and squirrel hunted negro and white. I did lots of opossum and coon hunting at night. Some times meet a bunch of boys a mile or two from home then have to come home in the dark by myself with a oil lantern for a light. Couldn't see anywhere with it except where you was walking and when I had to pass the old graveyard I could feel chills running up my back before I got to it I would get a good running start and run as

EDGAR looks back: In the summer of 1967, Edgar responded to Dick's first request for recollections about growing up in the South. His letter was published in the first edition of the family book, Christmas 1967, and set the stage for the subsequent editions. Many of his later letters are included in Vol. 2, Redbug Country (The Darlings, Buzbees and Fordyce, Ark., in the 1900s).

### **FAST TRIPS BY THE CEMETERY AT NIGHT**

"The rainy days, and days when it was too wet to work in the field, were the days we all congregated and rabbit and squirrel-hunted, negroes and whites alike. I did lots of possum and coon hunting at night. Sometimes I would meet a bunch of boys a mile or two from home, and then have to come home in the dark by myself with an oil lantern for a light. Couldn't see anywhere with it except where you were walking and when I had to pass the old graveyard, I could feel the chills running up my back. Before I got to it, I would get a good running start and run as fast as I could, past it.

### **THE POSSUM KEEPS, IN THE CHURCH'S WOOD HEATER**

"I went to school at Chambersville, and would take my gun and hunt as far as the Baptist church, which was about 200 yards from school. I would hide my gun in the church until school was out, then hunt all the way back home. One time I caught a possum before I got to the church, and couldn't think of any place to hide it except in the old wood heater in the church. After school, I went back to get my possum, and there was a man in the church tuning the piano, so I had to hide for about an hour before he left. Then I got my possum and gun and went home.

"I never got to go to school regularly because when there was something to be done on the farm I had to stay out of school to do it. I worked at little cross-tie mills on off-times to get a little spending money.

In 1920, when I was 14 years old, they put an oil drilling rig close to our place to drill for oil. I went and asked for a job, and I still remember what he told me: 'You don't have time to work.....you hunt too much.'

### **CONFLICTS WITH SORGHUM, BASKETBALL, WORK**

"In 1923, I was in the 10th grade. I started to school at Thornton, rode a horse part time, and walked back and forth part time (4 miles) until November, and had to be out to work at home, making sorghum molasses for 3 or 4 days. Went back to school and the superintendent got on me, so I quit and came home. Then, later on in November, Pappa went to work in Fordyce and we moved there. I got a job at the mill, age 17, worked until Friday about noon, laid off, and went back to Chambersville to play basketball games (as I had stayed on the team).

All that season, the boss at the mill would tell me every Monday morning that the next time I laid off he was going to fire me, but I kept laying off, and he never did fire me. He was Clyde Well's daddy, a good old man.

### **THE OIL FIELDS WERE TOO ROUGH IN THOSE DAYS**

"In 1924, I got a job at Smackover in the oil field. Laid off at the mill, went down there, but it looked like it was too rough a place for me, so I caught the train back home, went back to my job at the mill, and they never knew where I went. In 1925, I got a job close to Ellisville at a mill. Laid off and went down there to work at 7 a.m., and tried to quit at noon. The boss talked me into keep working but about 3 p.m., I walked off and came home. Went back to my job at the mill, and they never knew at the mill that I had tried another job out.

### **A LASTING LOVE AFFAIR WITH 'THE OLD PLACE'**

"I never could get the old home place and friends off my mind and began to run around with a rough bunch. Then Pappa and Mamma agreed that if I would settle down they would move back to the farm. I knew Mamma's health could not take that, so I quit the bunch I was running with and adjusted myself but I still love the old place

I was reared on. I enrolled in a correspondence school in civil engineering and studied that for about two years at night. Then, in 1930, I went to Oklahoma City and enrolled in a business college for bookkeeping. I stayed there two months and came home. I had gotten a leave of absence for that from the mill, so when I came back, I went back to my job grading flooring."

*Edgar Andrew Buzbee, Fordyce, Ark., Summer 1967*



1957: Another generation at the 'Old Place.' Bob makes his first visit, and that makes it 5 generations of Buzbees at the site. Harriette Jane, Edgar, Helen, Bob, Joy, Betty Jo and Bobby Dale. (Right) Daddy, four years earlier at the same stack of pulpwood logs that marked the spot where Daddy, Bobby Dale and Dick abandoned the hot project in the Summer of '52.

## SOUTH ARKANSAS: THE BUZBEE 'OLD HOME PLACE'

THOUGH the "Old Home Place," which four generations would preserve, would not be assembled until land sales in the later 1800s, the Buzbees had arrived in South Arkansas in about 1850. Edgar's grandfather, Joshua Buzbee, was an early arrival. Prior to the 12 January 1850 birth of his son, Wesley M. Buzbee, Joshua brought his first family from Alabama to what is now Calhoun County. Later, on 1 July 1859, Joshua applied for, and received 40 acres from the federal government. That tract may still be owned by a Buzbee family. However, it was the purchase by Joshua's second wife, Permelia Fry Buzbee, that the first part of the "Old Place" near Thornton was acquired. "

**8 August 1878** Permelia Fry Buzbee buys 40 acres at land sale for Calhoun County. The deed was dated 24 January 1883, and filed in the circuit court 2 April 1883. The deed noted only that "all purchase money and interest has been paid." (*Did they belatededly file the deed because they were getting ready for their first mortgage ?*)

**16 February 1883** Permelia J. Buzbee mortgages the land for a \$110 loan from E. A. Acruman. Interest rate: 10%.

**26 January 1884** Permelia Buzbee mortgages the land for a \$110 loan from E. A. Acruman. Interest rate: 10%.

**2 April 1886** Permelia Buzbee mortgages the land for a \$100 loan from J. W. Frost. Interest rate: 10%.

**4 June 1886** Permelia Buzbee sells 1 acre to Deacon J. J. Harris, for Primitive Baptist Church. \$10.

**2 March 1887** Permelia Buzbee mortgages the land for a \$100 loan from Ederington & Dunn. Interest rate: 10%.

**10 March 1892** About two years after the marriage of Mary L. and Edgar Farrior Buzbee, his mother and sisters, Permelia J. Buzbee, P. D. Wilman, Ida Draher and Mattie I. Carroll agree to turn over the 39-acre "Old Place" to him.

**23 April 1892** Edgar Farrior sells another acre to the now-named Pilgrims Rest Church, for a cemetery. \$10.

**11 April 1894** Shortly after the birth of their daughter, Ida M. Buzbee, Edgar Farrior Buzbee buys 30 adjacent acres from H. J. and Martha E. Easterling. \$75.

**9 November 1913** Edgar Farrior and Jennie Buzbee mortgage the land for a \$100 loan from J. M. Cupp. Interest rate: 10%.

**19 February 1915** Edgar Farrior and Jennie Buzbee mortgage the land for a \$200 loan from R. W. Mays. Interest rate: 10%.

**13 December 1915** Edgar Farrior and Jennie Buzbee mortgage the land for a \$200 loan from D. C. Ellis. Interest rate: 10%.

**16 June 1919** Edgar Farrior and Jennie Buzbee lease the natural gas and mineral rights on the 68 acres to Maurice Scott. The 30-year lease provided that the Buzbees would get 1/8 of all oil produced and \$25 for each gas well. Maurice Scott and his wife, Myrtie, assigned the lease to Combination Oil Co., Little Rock, on 23 April 1920. Combination Oil assigned the lease to Penn-Ark Oil Corp., 30 April 1921.

**17 February 1920** Edgar Farrior and Jennie Buzbee mortgage the land for a \$400 loan from First National Bank of Fordyce, with proceeds to Mays Mercantile Company. Interest rate: 10%.

**24 October 1921** Edgar Farrior and Jennie Buzbee lease the natural gas and mineral rights to Harry Evans for 5 years.

**1 December 1922** Edgar Farrior and Jennie mortgage the land for a \$500 loan from the Federal Land Bank of St. Louis, a federal farm lending agency. The principal and interest would be paid in 68 semi-annual installments of \$16.25, and a final payment of \$16.21. Interest rate: 5.5%.

**10 April 1930** The last census in which Edgar Andrew Buzbee was recorded at home with parents, Edgar F. Buzbee and Jennie Buzbee; and sisters:

Edgar F. Buzbee	Head	R. 12	40	N	W	60	M	28	NOV 1887	Permelia J. Buzbee
Jennie Buzbee	Wife	H	40	F	W	50	M	18	NOV 1887	Permelia J. Buzbee
Ida M. Buzbee	Daughter		16	N	W	23	S		NOV 1894	Edgar F. Buzbee
Richard E. Buzbee	Son		16	F	W	23	S		NOV 1894	Edgar F. Buzbee
Bessie M. Buzbee	Daughter		16	F	W	13	S		NOV 1894	Edgar F. Buzbee

**5 June 1937** Edgar Farrior and Jennie Buzbee transfer a life estate in the 40 acres to Edgar A. Buzbee. The remaining 28 acres would be transferred to Ruth Buzbee Yeager.

**5 April 1976** Edgar Andrew writes his will, which assigns 20 acres each to Bobby Dale and Richard E. Buzbee. After Edgar Andrew's death on 22 April 1978, Richard E. conveys a life estate to his 20 acres to Bobby Dale. Ruth conveyed her 28 acres to her son, Ronald Yeager.

### The formal description of the 'Old Home Place'

The 40-acre start: SE 1/4. NW 1/4. Sec. 16, Twp. II. South, Rge. 13. West.

The final 68-acre tract: SE 1/4. NW 1/4. and the W 3/4 of SW 1/4. of NE 1/4. Sec. 16. Twp. 11. South. Rge. 13 West, (less the 2 acres for the church and cemetery).



AMERICA: An oil sketch of a mural that apparently was never executed. In Marie and Dick's art collection, Hutchinson. The artist is not known.

## After the Louisiana Purchase

By BOBBY DALE BUZBEE  
Maumelle, Ark., June 1997

The "Buzbee Old Place" is located in the 16th Section, which is unique as far as ownership is concerned.

When the original survey for the Louisiana Purchase was begun in 1815, the starting point for this survey was established at a spot which is now the intersection of Lee, Monroe and Phillips Counties in east central Arkansas. From this point, a north-south line was run (the 5th Principal Meridian) the length of the state and then an east-west (Base Line) line was run approximately mid way of the north-south line. Then parallel lines were run approximately six miles apart beginning at the Principal Meridian and Base Line. This resulted in a grid, each about six miles square covering the entire state. These six miles squares are known as townships.

Each of these townships contain 36 "Sections." Each is 1 mile square. When the Convention of Delegates in Little Rock in 1836 petitioned Congress for admission as a state they must have asked for money, or something which Congress rejected. Congress countered with a proposition "for their free acceptance or rejection".

### A FEDERAL 'OFFER'

The first part of this "offer" was that ownership of each section numbered "16" (of which there was one in every township) would become the property of the state (all other lands to be sold with receipts going to the federal government) with all receipts from the sale of the state land to be used for setting up and operation of schools.

That is why Joshua, John D., and Martha J. bought their land from from the (Federal) General Land Office. Don't know if this applied to all States resulting from the Louisiana Purchase, but it did apply to Arkansas, Illinois, Louisiana and Tennessee. After gaining statehood in 1836, the Arkansas Legislature didn't get around to doing anything about this 16th Section state land until either 1875 or 1885 (*I have conflicting records of this from the Abstract*) when the General Assembly passed and Governor signed an Act providing for the procedure for disposing of this land.)



The first owner, after purchase from the state, for the 30 acres, eventually coming down to 20 to Dick and 10 to me was J. M. Gresham. He purchased it in 1887, then sold to H.J. Easterling in 1891 who sold to Papa Buzbee in 1894.

### THE 30 ACRES WERE KEPT IN TIMBER

The 30 acres, which Papa Buzbee bought from H. Easterling, (which includes Dick's 20 acres) was mostly always left in timber, and according to Dad, only some ten or so of these acres were ever farmed. The remaining 40 (where the house stood) was always the farm land. I suspect also that the old "wire road" (Princeton-Little Bay road) separated this farming land from the timber land.

To the best of my recollection, from what Dad indicated, it would have separated this land by having 40 - 50 acres on one side of the road (where the house was) and 20 - 30 on the other side of the road which was not farmed. There is not any indication in the record of any of this land being lost (after they purchased it), either through non payment of taxes or any other action.

### AT THE INTERSECTION

The site: Locating the roads of the time, from the two deeds to the church:

**1. The Permelia deed:** The one-acre tract is described as beginning at the intersection of the Chambersville-Princeton road with the Camden-Smith Crossing road.

**2. The Edgar Farrior deed:** "Where the Princeton and Little Bay road crosses the Pine Bluff and Camden road." These would be the same roads, as the second deed merely extends the distance the roads are named for. That is, the Chambersville-Princeton road (which runs north and south is extended to Princeton-Little Bay (*Little Bay being a settlement on the Ouachita River Southwest of Hampton*) and the Camden-Smith Crossing on Moro Creek road (which runs east and west) is extended to 'Camden-Pine Bluff road.

Many times, in talking about the "Old Place," Dad would refer to the "Old Wire Road." It is identified in the deed as the Princeton-Chambersville (and on to Little Bay) road. I remember Dad showing me (probably 50 or so years ago) where this original intersection was, although there is no sign of it now. The road which now runs near where the old house originally stood is not the original road. The original road was a little east of where the road is now. As the original Camden-Pine Bluff road and the cemetery are still discernible, it is pretty easy to generally compare the roads to the map. The Pilgrims Rest Church building itself was on the south side of the road and the cemetery was south of it. When we now park there, we park on the north side of the cemetery, which, as Dad showed me, would be about where the Church building originally stood.

When the land lines for Dick and Bobby Dale's property (the 40 acres) were run several years ago, our north line ran through the cemetery, so apparently P. J., and Papa Buzbee deeded some land to the Church that they didn't own, as this referred-to beginning point (this cross road) for the two acres would be some 20-30 yards north of the property (that Ronald now owns.)

### WHERE ARE THE LOST CANNON?

This, too, had to be the road of the retreat of the Union troops after the battle at Poison Springs, west of Camden. The 1864 military road map pretty well coincides with a road, probably long gone, going across here and lining up with the area of the Mark's Mill battlefield. This would have put the (Smith?) crossing on Moro Creek somewhere in the general area where the Tri-County Lake is now.

I remember hearing stories of how, when the Union troops had crossed Moro Creek, they had lost some of their cannon in the deep water. And so, back in the '40s, every time Troy, Wendell and I went over there to fish, hunt or whatever, we always spent quite a bit of our time walking up and down the creek banks looking for those cannon. We usually went to the (now gone) Fordyce-Pine Bluff road crossing on Moro Creek, but we didn't know that the actual crossing for the Union troops was probably several miles south of there (the Smith Crossing?).

### **FEARS OF A NEGRO UPRISING**

There were three old houses that used to be about a half mile south of the "Old Place." Don't really know anything about them, or who lived there as I just remember the houses.

Not too many years before Dad died, he and I were down there and he wanted to go over to what had been a fairly large Negro settlement when he was growing up. It was located some quarter to half a mile west of the three old houses.

We found the old road going over to the settlement and he remembered where the Negro houses stood. The old shade trees (which were large) were still there. We found a lot of old broken bottles, jars, miscellaneous pieces of iron, etc.

He also talked a lot about how, when he was growing up how, very year or so a wild rumor would start and go around among the whites that the Negroes were planning an uprising. From, or about what, he didn't know. He said that all the white men would get their guns and gather with all the women and kids at the Chambersville Church to, if necessary, defend themselves.

Usually it must have started early in the day and by nightfall the church would be full of women and children with the men scattered outside with their guns. Can imagine what would have happened had a black, or a stranger, happened by. By the next morning, everything would have quieted down and all would start back to their homes.

From the way he described it, it must have happened a number of times in his early youth (prior to his age 12 or so) and the women and kids who, as could be expected, were terrified each time it happened.

You can imagine the stories that would have accompanied such an occurrence, however, as he told me, there was probably never anything to it, just someone starting a wild rumor for some unknown reason.

### **THE FEDERAL LAND BANK LOAN**

Interesting also that the loan from the Land Bank was for \$500, with semi-annual payments of \$16.25 for a total of 34 years. Final payment was due in 1956. Don't know, but I'd almost bet that this is what Dad paid off for them in exchange for the promise that he would get the land upon their (Papa and Mama B's) death. I knew about the "promise" but never knew what the debt was, although had assumed, and which could have been, the involvement of unpaid back taxes.

### **LOCATING THE LAND FROM EARLY ARKANSAS MAPS**

Among the early maps of the area are:

1. 1855 Arkansas Map
2. 1936 Arkansas Transportation Department Map

The 1855 Arkansas map shows relative land locations of purchases from the Federal land office by Martin V. Ratliff, the Frys, the Moores, the Sanders, and the Buzbees. Also some Smiths.

The locations I have colored in on these maps are not exact as far as actual



locations within each Section (1 mile square) are concerned, but do show the Sections in which the individual tracts are located. Land records (researched in 1998 via the Internet) just show Sections; to get specific locations within the Sections would require the sale documents. For instance, on the 1855 map, I have colored in the entire section where the land is located. As in several cases only 40 acres is involved, but there are 640 acres in a Section, actual locations could vary by up to 3/4 mile. Don't know that having the specific location would shed any additional light on the matter, though. Dates shown are dates of land purchases from Federal Land Office.

#### **RATLIFF BOUGHT THE 40 ACRES IN 1859**

Federal land records show that Martin V. Ratliff purchased 40 acres from the Federal Land Office in 1859 (some two years after his marriage to Permelia Fry; and Alexander Fry and a George Fry purchased land also in this area in 1860 and 1861. Would appear possible that these were brothers of Permelia and in particular, Alexander, as the land he purchased either adjoins or is very near the 40 acres purchased by Martin V. Ratliff. This could be the explanation of the old story of Permelia losing land to carpetbaggers after the Civil War. Could assume that Permelia and Ratliff lived on this 40 acres (which is some 5 or so miles from what we call the "Old Place") up until his death in 1864.

After the war, it would be quite possible that being by herself with one child, Permelia would have been unable to obtain the money (where and how would she have been able to obtain the "Yankee dollars?") necessary to pay the taxes and that this 40 acres was the land that was lost for non-payment of taxes. Any money she might have had would probably have been Confederate, which became worthless in 1865. Would presume also that, under those conditions, she would have had to, at least partially, rely on her brother(s) just to exist, and would presume they would not be in much better financial condition than she was. As Alexander Fry (her brother?) lived on what must have been adjoining property to that purchased by Ratliff, it would seem that the arrangement would have been quite likely.

#### **SEVERAL MOORES LIVED NEARBY**

There were several Moores who purchased land around the same time in the same general area also. Were they relatives of Susan (Moore) Buzbee? It would appear likely, as four of them (Andrew, Elisha, John and Labetha) lived with 5 to 6 miles of the land purchased by Joshua Buzbee in 1859.

Notice that all, Joshua Buzbee (also John D.), the Moores, Frys, and Ratcliff, although having lived there for several years apparently, purchased their land from the Federal Land Office in a 22-month period from July 1, 1859 to May 1, 1861. Suppose they saw a war coming and wanted to get ownership before it occurred?

There apparently was a procedure for purchasing this (Federal) land from the Federal Government as soon as Arkansas was admitted as a State in 1836. One of the purchases by Washington Smith was for 40 acres in 1839, so their delay in these purchases must have been for some other reason. (Lack of money?)

It would appear that most of the roads, creeks, rivers, etc., on the 1855 map are incorrect relative to actual location as determined by land lines. For instance, the Smith land in Cleveland County as shown on this map indicates the location of Moro Creek to be some 2+ miles west of this Smith land. The actual location as shown in the 1836 map would be the Creek is probably the west boundary of the land.

### **VERIFYING THE 'SMITH CROSSING' NAME**

Have included this land (Smith) as it would seem possibly to verify the description as shown on the Permelia deed for the 1 acre to the Pilgrim Rest Church, which described the road as Camden-Smith Crossing road. Washington Smith obtained the first of this land in 1839, and subsequently he and Cleveland Smith (brother, father, son?) amassed over 1,000 acres in the immediate area up until 1861.

While my illustration of this land on the map is not completely accurate in that I don't know the precise location within each section, the areas I show are the actual sections where the lands are located, so it would not vary over 1/4 to 1/2 mile in any event. This would be in the same area (Tri-County Lake) I had previously mentioned might be the location of the old Camden-Smith Crossing-Pine Bluff road that crosses on the north side of the "Old Place."

It would seem to be reasonable that since the Smiths were in the area since 1839, and owned a considerable amount of land on Moro Creek that he (they) had a road crossing on the Creek and it would eventually be called "Smith Crossing." Also as the location of the three tracts of their land generally run in a SW-NE direction, it would also seem to be reasonable that a road connected all these tracts.

The "Mark's Mill Civil War Battleground" is only about 2-3 miles east and a little north of this land; it would seem possible that this old road ran east from the Buzbee "Old Place," crossed Moro Creek at the Smith land, and then ran northeast (from Moro Creek) for about 5 to 7 miles to Mark's Mill. A 1914 Arkansas map shows a road from Camden going roughly by the "Old Place," and crossing Moro Creek in the general area of the "Smith" land, then intersecting the road to New Edinburg in the Mark's Mill area. This is a different road, and different crossing on Moro Creek, from the current Fordyce to New Edinburg road, which also is on this 1914 map.

### **FORDYCE WAS BUILT AT INTERSECTION OF 2 RAILROADS**

This "old" road crossing Moro Creek (on the Smith property?) doesn't show up on any later map that I have. Presume that the current Camden-Pine Bluff road did not exist until the building of the railroads through the area and that Fordyce was a result primarily of the Cotton Belt Railroad running east to west, and the Rock Island Railroad running north and south. The current Camden-Bearden-Thornton-Fordyce road in particular parallels and is only a short distance from the Cotton Belt tracks. An 1882 map of railroads (and towns and cities) in Arkansas doesn't show either of these railroads, so presume this road did not exist at that time, either. This map does show Chambersville, but not Fordyce or Thornton, so Chambersville must have been a fairly good size (at least relatively speaking) town at the time.

### **MOST OF THE SANDERS ARRIVED AFTER THE WAR**

On the 1936 map, I show several Sanders land purchases made in the area after the war in 1889 and 1897, although a James Sanders had purchased some land here in 1855 and 1861. Most was located primarily either in or adjoining present day Thornton, except for George Sanders, whose land was located some 6 miles south of there. Presume Thornton existed at that time of purchases by James and William primarily as a result of the Stout Lumber Company setting up operations at that location. (Don't know exactly when, but would presume in the mid-late 1880s, as Papa Buzbee worked there in 1892.)

There is no record of Lindsey, Jr., having purchased land from the Federal Government. It would also seem logical that the presence of George, James and

William (whatever the relationship) already being there may have been what brought him to the Thornton area.

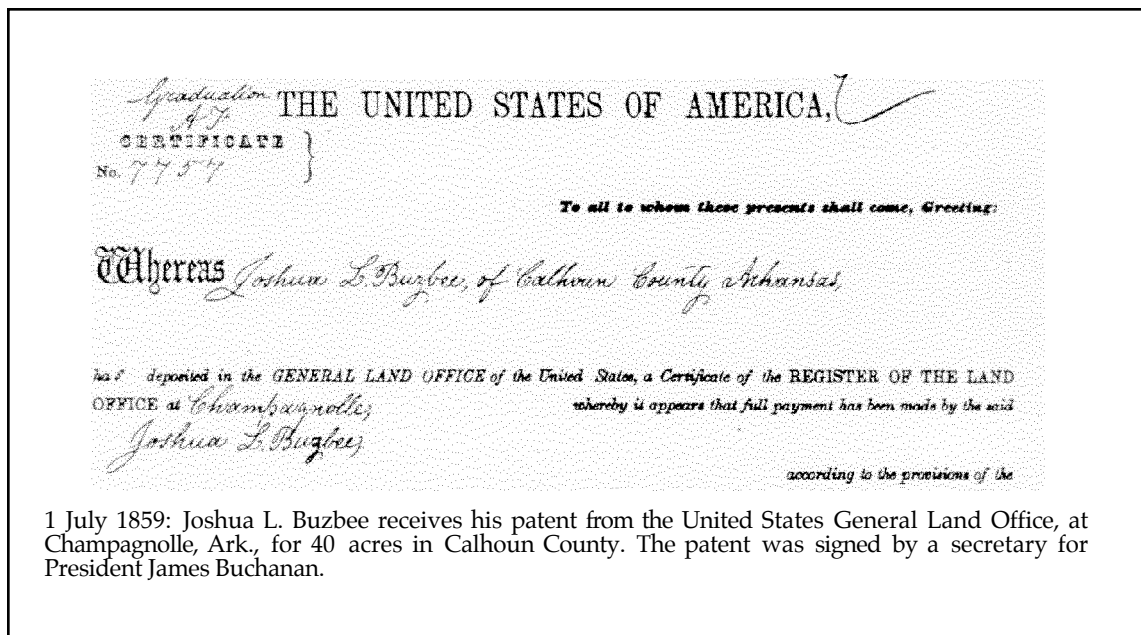
All these Federal land purchases were made with the spelling, "Sanders," and would think that it could be reasonably assumed that there was some relationship to Lindsey, Jr. There was one listing of a land purchase with the name, "Saunders." It was by a Samuel Saunders in 1856-57, for 80 acres, some 12 to 15 miles northwest of present-day Thornton.

#### AN INTRIGUING DIFFERENCE IN SPELLING

Rather intriguing to me in the way they spelled their name, and why. Lindsey, Sr., spelled it "Saunders." Lindsey, Jr.'s, wife spelled it "Saunders," all their children (Lindsey, Jr. and Mary E.) were (I presume) spelled "Saunders," but Lindsey, Jr., spelled it "Sanders."

Why would a wife spell her married name, and ultimately her children's the way her father-in-law spelled it and not the way her husband spelled it? As Lindsey, Jr., was, for the time, a very well educated man, he certainly knew how to spell, so for some reason, he must have consciously made the decision to change the spelling to "Sanders." Also, what, if any, was his relationship to George, William, and James Sanders, or Samuel Saunders, who preceded him to the Thornton area?

*Bobby Dale Buzbee, Maumelle, Ark., June 1997  
and 20 February 1998*

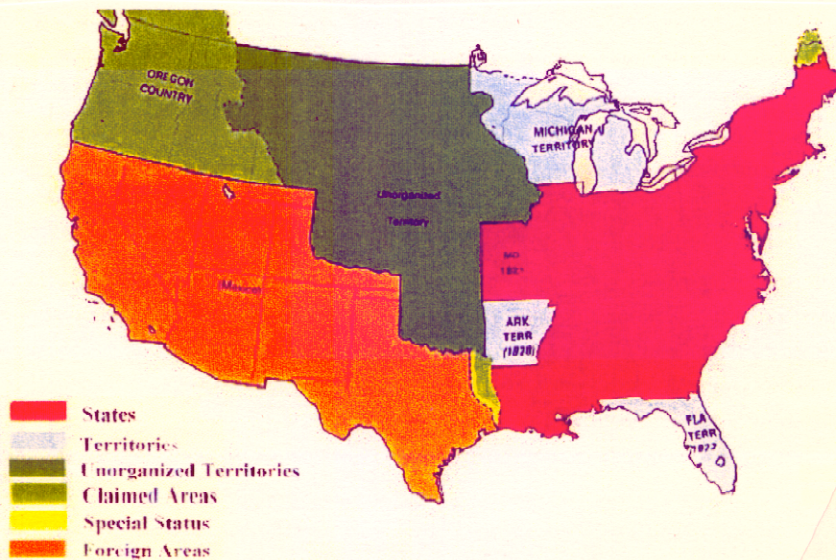


#### Locating the "Old Place" and the farms of the other kinfolk:

National and Thornton-Fordyce area maps: 1830, 1840, 1855, 1895, 1936, 1998:

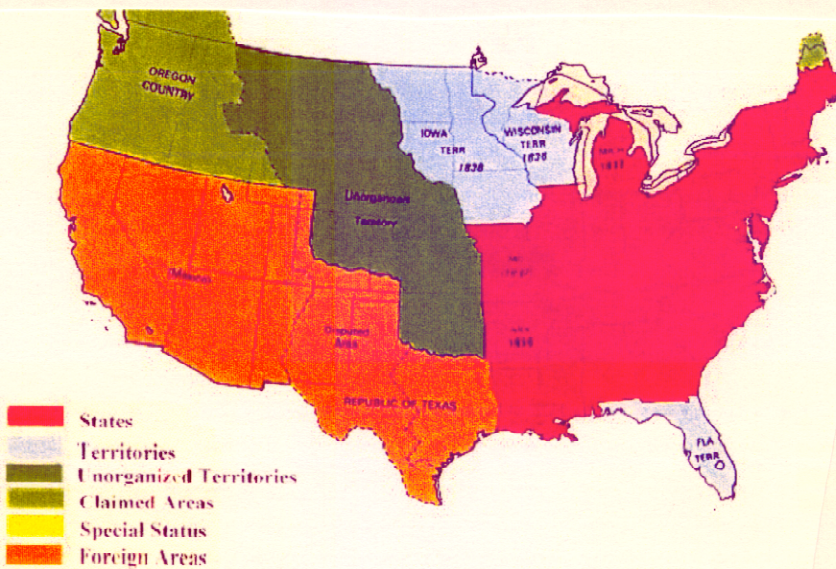
# 1830: U. S. TERRITORIAL MAP

UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA, VIA THE INTERNET



# 1840: U. S. TERRITORIAL MAP

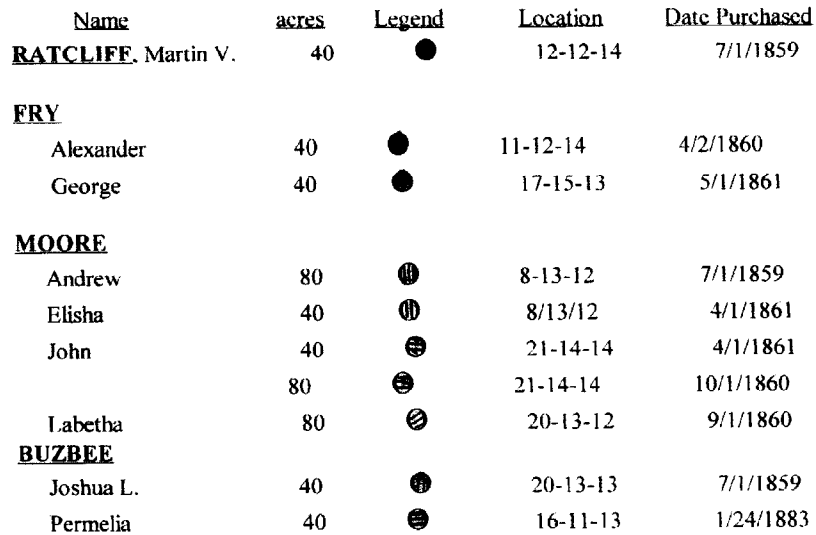
UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA, VIA THE INTERNET



*Compiled by Bobby Dale Buzbee, Maumelle, Ark., February 1998*

SCALE: 1 inch = 6.5 miles (approx.)

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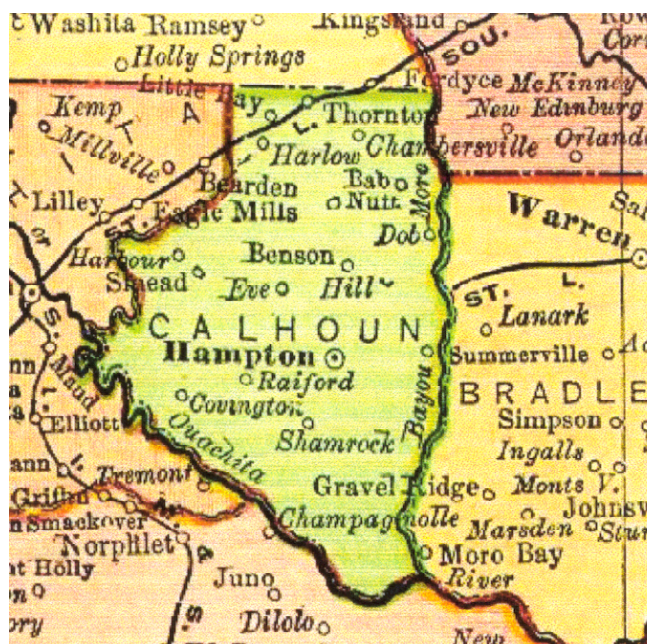


SOME OF THE BUZBEES AND THEIR BEST FRIENDS 521 VOLUME 1: BEYOND THE OLD WORLD



# 1895: CALHOUN COUNTY, ARKANSAS

(Also showing Fordyce, and adjacent counties)



## THE BUZBEES, FRYS, SAUNDERS, RATLIFFS & MOORES

By 1895, Fordyce had grown to 908. Thornton had a population of 406, Chambersville, 75. 1895 was a tragic year for the Buzbees. Edgar Farrior's wife, Mary L (Evans?), died on 29 April. She was 24. A year earlier, on 22 July 1894, Edgar F. and Mary Buzbee's young daughter, Ida M. Buzbee, had died. She was almost 5 months old. In either 1896 or 1897, however, another Saunders family, that of Lindsey Saunders, Jr., moved to the Thornton area. Jennie Justice Saunders, a daughter of Lindsey and Mary E. Justice Saunders, was still a teenager, but already a teacher who had taught grown men in the Lonoke, Ark., school system.

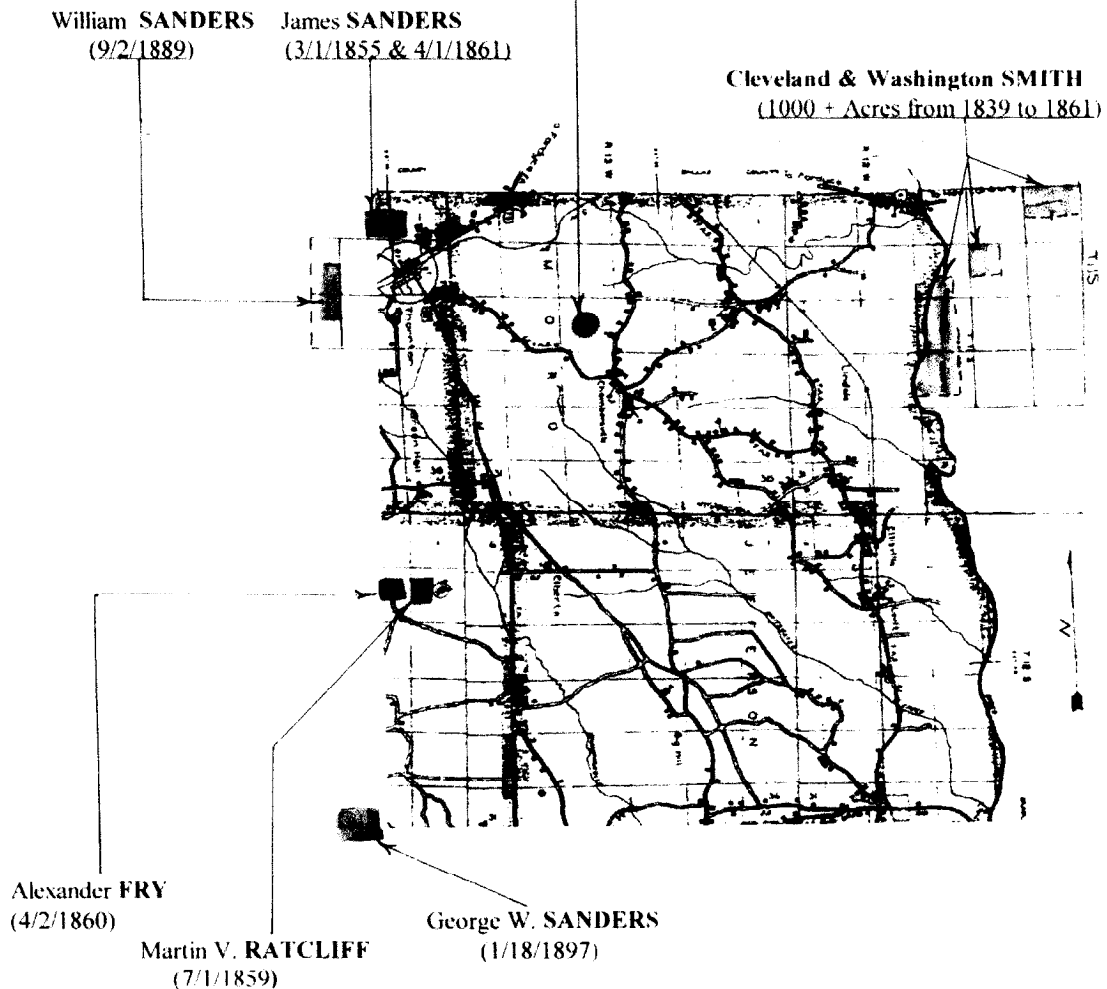
Fordyce is in Dallas County, close to the Calhoun County line, in which is located Thornton, Chambersville, Hampton, and other sites that were familiar to the Buzbees, Saunders, Frys, Ratliffs, Moores, and Smiths. In 1895, Fordyce High School's first class was graduated. There was a faculty of 5 for the 9 graduates, one of whom, Ed Rhine, stayed on in the Fordyce area to become a famous country doctor....and at whose countywide recognition day in about 1947, Bobby Dale and Dick were members of the Fordyce High School Band that performed in his honor in Thornton.

# 1936: TRANSPORTATION DEPT. MAP

SCALE: 1 inch = 2 miles (approx.)



**BUZBEE "Old Place"**



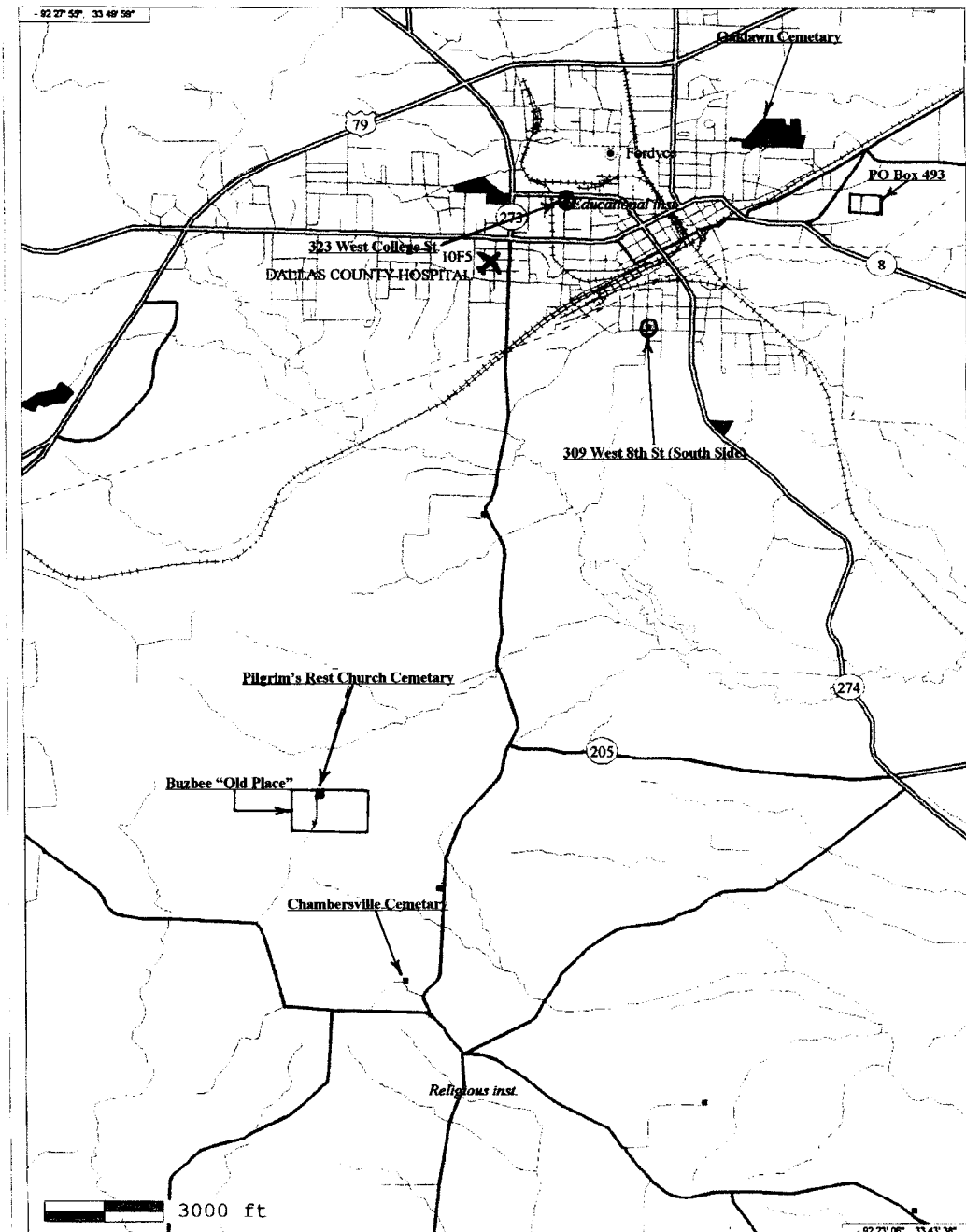
*Graphics added by Bobby Dale Buzbee, Maumelle, Ark., February 1998*



# 1998: ARKANSAS TODAY

(With Buzbee landmarks: "Old Place," Southside home at 309 West 8th, 323 West College Street, and East Fordyce (Box 493)

SCALE: Size as indicated = 3,000 feet



*Graphics added by Bobby Dale Buzbee, Maumelle, Ark., February 1998*  
Precision Mapping, via Internet



**R**UTH BUZBEE YEAGER recalled some of the early days with her brother, Edgar Andrew Buzbee; her father and her mother; and life on the Old Home Place near Thornton, and on and near West Fourth street in Fordyce:

**About Mama Buzbee:** "Mama was one of the best-read people I have ever known. She could converse with you on any subject. She never ceased to want to know more. However, when blindness came on, her reading was curtailed considerably. She was a person who really changed as times changed. Her thoughts were always about her family."

**About one of Mama Buzbee's relatives:** "Frances Perkins, first woman Secretary of Labor, was an offspring of, I think, Mary Frances Saunders (Jennie Justice Saunders' aunt)."

**About Mary Justice Saunders (her Grandmother):** "She was of French descent; she was an orphan and her name was Justice. That is why mother's middle name was Justice".....

**About Edgar and his Ford:** "As all boys, he bought a Ford -- got smart with it, and had a wreck in which he broke his hip. I helped him when he was able, to work the thing over."

**About his school:** "Edgar went through the 9th grade at Chambersville, where he participated in sports as they had there--- baseball and basketball. Then went into Thornton to high school. While there, he played basketball. In one game he knocked his shoulder out of place. An excellent player.

"In school, he never had trouble with any study excepting English. He did not graduate. Don't remember but think he quit in 10th or 11th grade. When came to Fordyce, Mr. McDaniels, planer mill foreman, took him "under his wing" and trained him to be one of the best hardwood graders in the South.

"(Studied at) O. L. and Bobby's (Wilkins) Business College (*Correspondence, and then at Oklahoma City.*) Didn't stay too long as he was too much in love with Helen to be away from her. Came home and short time later married.

"You know the rest.

"Love, Ruth."

*(P. S.....and a note of the events of those days in Fordyce: It was 15 July 1967:)*

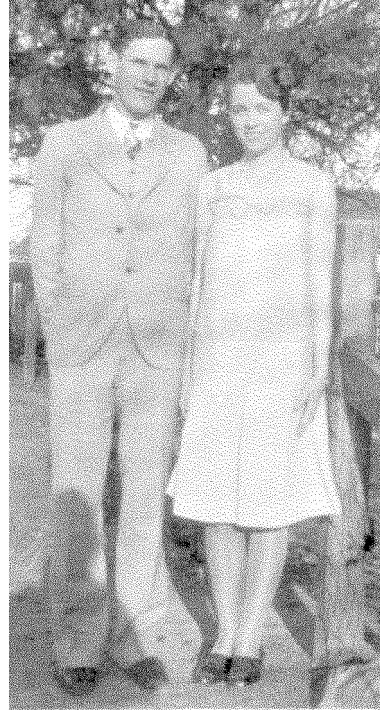
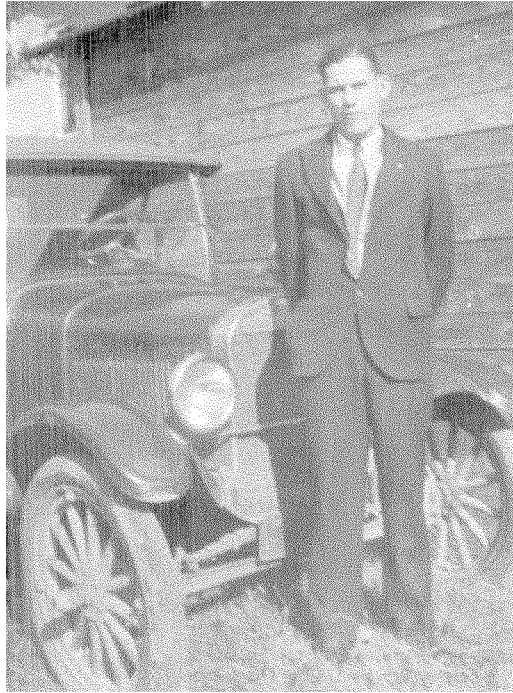
"Everything here is about as usual. The weather is queer. I slept

under my electric blanket last night. Today the temperature is 77. Isn't that something for the 15th of July? Do hope that Marie and the boys are fine. Poor Marie; I know those boys really keep her on her toes, but she's young and can take it. Jean's (*Jean Carolyn Rogers*) husband, Cliff, is home from Vietnam. They are moving to Fort Polk in Louisiana.

"Ronald will start in new semester Monday. Spring semester, he made 3.07 out of 4.00, so guess he's doing o.k.

"Love, Ruth."

*Ruth Buzbee Yeager, Fordyce, Ark., Summer 1967*



Edgar and his Ford, and 1930: Edgar and Helen

**EDGAR RETURNED** from the business college to the Fordyce Lumber Company and the Buzbee home in March of 1930.....just in time for the 10 April 1930 Census:

**EDGAR F. BUZBEE, U. S. CENSUS, DALLAS COUNTY, FORDYCE, ARKANSAS**

Edgar F. Buzbee, 60, Manager Saw Mill at the Lumber Company

Jennie Buzbee, 50

Edgar A. Buzbee, 23, Lumber Grader, Flooring Mill (*He had turned 24 two months earlier*)

Ruth E. Buzbee, 22

Bonnie M. Buzbee, 13

The Buzbee family lived near Henry I. Bigford and his wife, Elaine. Irvin and Elaine were to remain best friends of the Buzbees throughout their lives. Irvin worked for Edgar when he was foreman at the Fordyce Lumber Co., and then for Edgar when he was foreman at the Fordyce Picture Frame Co.

Two months after the Census of 1930, on 14 June 1930, Edgar Andrew Buzbee married Helen Koester Darling. She was 20. He was 24.

**NEXT: HELEN K. DARLING**



Next: VOLUME 2: Redbug Country:  
The Darlings, Buzbees and Fordyce, Ark., in the 1900s



SOME of the **B**UZBEES and THEIR **B**EST **F**RIENDS  
(To Be Continued)