

## STEWART FAMILY HISTORY

BY MISS NELLIE STEWART.....BLACKSHEAR, GEORGIA

I will commence my Family Tree that I have been working on for so long. I will commence with my Father's side of the Tree. I wish I could go back to my Great Great Grandfather and Mother, and tell how old they were and what part of Scotland they came from, but I can go no farther back than my Great Grandfather and Mother.

On the paternal side, his name was James Stewart...He was in the line of General Daniel Stewart. He married Miss Elizabeth Bates in Scotland about 1779 or 1780. There was born to them three known children. The eldest was my Grandfather, James Bates Stewart. Second was Henry Stewart and the third was Elizabeth Stewart.

My Great Grandfather moved to North Carolina. My Great Grandmother died in North Carolina and her husband married again, but did not live long. Then his widow married again. The step-parents treated the children mean. The boys James B and Henry, left North Carolina and came to Savannah, Georgia in 1804. Then cousin James Fort moved from North Carolina to Wayne County Georgia, and my Grandfather's sister, Elizabeth came with her cousins, the Forts, as her Mother and Father were dead and her brothers were in Georgia.

I wish I could say more about my Great Grandparents and to which Church they belonged. I guess they were Presbyterians. My Father's sister, Catherine, said that her Grandfather was First Cousin to the "ROYAL HOUSE OF SCOTLAND" It must have been Charles Edward Stewart....."BONNIE PRINCE CHARLIE". He lived in 1717.

My Great Grandfather, James Bates Stewart and his brother, Henry, parted in Savannah. James stayed in Savannah and learned the Brick Mason Trade and his brother, Henry went up the Country somewhere around Atlanta Georgia. My Grandfather, after leaving Savannah, went to pay a visit to his cousin, James Fort, who was living in Wayne County Georgia, near the Satilla River. Near the border of Glynn County Georgia he met Miss Courtney Keightley, a daughter of Mr Peter Keightley and Mrs Catherine Colquitt Keightley of South Carolina. She was at this time a Governess for her cousin, Mrs. James Fort, who was a Miss Gibson before marriage. My Grandfather James Bates Stewart fell in love with Miss Keightley and they were married in Wayne County Georgia, June 18, 1816.

Of my Grandfather's brother Henry, I don't know who he married or where, only that he had two boys and their names were James and Preston. During the Civil War my Grandfather's sister, Aunt Catherine Waldron of Florida went to see Uncle Henry.

She carried her Father's comb. It was a horn comb that had his initials on it. Uncle Henry recognized it and the tears came to his eyes. Aunt Catherine gave it to him. He is dead now. I don't know when he died or anything about him, only that his son, James, was living at White Springs, Florida in 1883, but where he is now and his brother, Preston, I don't know.

My Grandfather's sister, Elizabeth Stewart, and Mr. John Gillett, married in Wayne County, Georgia. There were two sons born to them, James and John. The Father and Mother of them died very young and they were raised by an Old Lady, but I don't know who she was. She may have been their Father's Mother, as I saw a good many Gilletts in the old Wayne County Georgia records. When James and John got up to be large boys, she told them who they were and who their Mother was before she married. James took his Mother's maiden name (James Stewart) and John kept the Gillett name. When my Father and Mother were living about 9 miles from Blackshear Georgia, John came to see them, but I have no record of them, where they lived or if they married or what Church my Aunt and her boys belonged to. (I hope it was Methodist)

And now about my Father's Maternal Grandfather and Grandmother. His name was Peter Keightley of Santee, Charleston District, South Carolina. He married Miss Catherine Colquitt of North Carolina, who was probably the same line as Ex Governor Colquitt of Georgia. There were only three children, that I have record of: Peter, Courtney, and James C Keightley. I have no record of who my Great Uncle Peter or Jamec C Keightley married...or if they married.

Now I will describe my Grandfather and Grandmother. My Grandfather had blue eyes, sandy hair, a "Typical Scotchman" My Grandmother had dark hair and brown eyes. I know she must have been beautiful as my youngest sister, "Courtney" resembles her and is very beautiful. To my Grandfather and Grandmother, four children were born, three boys and one girl. The oldest was my Father: Elias Fort Stewart, born December 17, 1817. The second child was: Catherine Stewart, born in May, 1820. The third child was: Newton Stewart, born 1822. The fourth child was: Franklin Stewart born 1824. My Grandfather: James Stewart served his Country as Major. He died in 1827. His death was caused from a fall, while building a brick house for his cousin, James Fort. He was buried there at his cousin's home. My Grandmother married the

second time to: Jacob Raulerson, a widower with seven children, September 8, 1828. Four children were born to them. The oldest was Harriet Raulerson: born May 5, 1831. Isabella Raulerson was born 1833 or 1835. Wade Hampton Raulerson was born May 1838. My Grandmother was a member of the Methodist Church.

She was a true Christian and all her neighbors loved her. The first Cyclone to come to that part of the Country was in 1834. It took off the roof of my Grandmother's House. She was standing at the door, watching the cloud, when she saw the trees falling. She shut the door, but it was right on them. I don't think it hurt any of them, but my Mother told me, it may have hurt Aunt Catherine some. I think her Husband was away from home at the time. There was only one Pine Tree and one Peach Tree left standing. My Grandmother and the Children had to stay in old Aunt Pender's House, (an old Negro Woman) until they could fix the House. My Grandmother gave each of the Children something from their Father (James Stewart) As my Father was the oldest, she gave him all of His papers. She gave Aunt Katie, His comb. She gave Uncle Newton, His Sword. To Uncle Franklin, she gave His Silver Snuff Box. The Snuff Box was an Heirloom. In the last years of my Grandmother's life, she was a great sufferer of Cancer. It was cancer of the face that caused her death. My Father carried her to Thomasville, Georgia to a cancer Doctor, who removed it, and gave her Medicine for her blood, but it came right back, and worse than it was before. She is buried at old Mr. Samuel's place near the Satilla River.

Now I will describe my Father as well as I can. He was about Medium height and had dark eyes and black curly hair, and a high forehead with a straight nose. He possessed natural talents and a love for Science, but lacking an opportunity for culture, he was mainly self taught. He studied Medicine at Home and became a successful Practitioner within his own Family and among the people of this section, who preferred his treatment to a regular Medical Doctor. His Practice was largely for friendship and charity, it was not remunerative and he depended for his support of his Family, upon his Farm and his Business, which was Merchandizing. His Stock, which was normally bought in Savannah, Georgia and brought back in Wagons, consisting of General Supplies for a Farming Community. My Father, Elias Fort Stewart married Miss Nancy Strickland, daughter of James and Eleanor Smith Strickland, October 14, 1834, where Blackshear Georgia is now located. They were both quite young, both under 17, when they were married. My Grandfather Strickland gave them a large Wedding. As my Father was from Wayne County Georgia, there was a large crowd from Wayne County and Ware County Georgia. My

Mother's Wedding dress was White Muslin. Her Bridesmaids were Miss Rebecca Thomas and Miss Lydia Waldron. As in the olden days, the second night after the Wedding, they gave a big "Infair" at the Bridegroom's Home. So they gave my Father a large one. There were nine children born to them. Three boys and six girls. My Father's first home was about five miles from Blackshear.

It was the old Newborn Place, where long years ago, a Mr. Newborn came there from South Carolina and camped, and liked it so well, he came back and built at the same spot, where he camped. It was close to a little Creek, which has always been called "Newborn's Creek". It was there that their first child, James was born in 1835. It was while living there that the Indian War was going on, and the neighbors within five to six miles would collect at one house, while the men would go and fight the Indians. One night, while there were so many gathered at my Mothers, and the Children made so much noise, my Mother took her baby and old Aunt Bridgett (My Father's old Colored Woman), and went down to the Creek. She was afraid if the Indians came that night, they would go to the house. They stayed by the Creek all night, until just before Day Break. After my Father and Mother left this place, I don't know who bought it. A Mr. James Johnson built in another location on the Farm and then sold it to a Mr. Harrison. The next place my Parents moved was in Wayne County, Georgia, near the little Buffalo Creek. Three more Children were born there. The oldest was Catherine, a little blue eyed, fair, pale, golden haired girl. She was born February 16. 1838. Next was Elizabeth, another beautiful black haired girl, born May 16, 1840. She died March 16, 1841 with pneumonia. She was buried in a shroud made from my Mother's Wedding dress. It was while there that my gifted Brother, James, went to his first School. He went with my Father's youngest brother "Franklin Stewart" to study for the Ministry. He was about 17 years old. Maria was born July 19, 1842. She had black hair and eyes. The third place my Father, Elias Fort Stewart lived was about 5 miles from Blackshear in Ware County Georgia, about one mile from Mr. Wynn's place. There were two children born there. Colquitt was born April 23, 1845 and Eleanor was born November 8, 1847. In October of 1848 my Father swapped places with Mr. George Davis and moved two miles from Blackshear. It is where Mrs. Edith Bennett now lives. It is this place where my Father had the Merchandise Business. There were three more children born there. Isabelle, was born February 21, 1850, with black curly hair. Keightley was born December 11, 1852, a little blue eyed, light haired boy.

I will now tell about my Father's faithful old Horse. His name was "Pony". He was a dark bay with black mane and tail. He was blind in one eye. He was the Horse that Father used to drive to

Savannah so many times to buy goods, and he rode him horseback as well. One time my Father drove "Pony" all the way to Florida, near New River, where his brother, Newton, was living, and the children were sick. Aunt Mary was out in the yard, when he drove up. She was so Happy she could cry. He carried them back home to Georgia.

Uncle Newton bought a home two miles from our home, where Mr. John Baxter lives.

I remember when my Father and sister Katie went to visit my Father's sister, Catherine Waldron, in Florida, near the Suwannee River in Columbia County. Her Post Office address was Columbia Shoals. I think it was in the Spring of 1856. He went there to make arrangements to put up a Store at my Aunts Place, and my brother James was to keep the Store.

I remember when my Mother's brother, Uncle Joel Strickland, married Miss Amanda Hodges of Clinch County Georgia. It was in July or August of 1854. Among the guest from out of Georgia, was my Father's sister, Aunt Catherine Waldron, her little baby girl, Courtney, and her nurse, Tina (A Mullato Girl) Courtney was a beautiful baby. My brother James, brought Aunt Catherine. James was living at Aunt Catherine's house. On Saturday, Aunt Katie, her baby, and Negro, and Uncle Newton and his family (He had four children, Franklin, Catherine, James and Mary) all went home with us. Oh, How Happy we all were!!, My Father and Mother, brother James, Aunt Katie, Uncle Newton and Aunt Mary and we children. If only Uncle Franklin could have been there, but he was a Methodist Preacher and had a large circuit. He was living in Florida. Oh, How we children played that night in the yard, until late bed time. In a few days Aunt Katie and my brother James went back to Florida.

After the last of August or first of September, my Father went to Savannah to buy goods to carry to Florida for the Store. When he arrived at Savannah, late one afternoon, he found that there was a Yellow Fever outbreak. He left early the next Morning. There were two or three men who went with him. Before they got home they all took the Fever. My Father didn't appear to be very sick at first. My Mother said he didn't have much to say, but read the Doctor book. My Mother wanted to send for the Doctor in Waresboro, but he didn't want her to. He said it wouldn't do him any good. I remember the night before he died, as if it was yesterday. My Mother and i were walking in the yard and heard him groan and hiccough. He died on the 10th of September. He was buried in Shiloh Cemetery in the old Primitive Baptist Church

about a quarter of a mile from home. My Mother didn't feel she could go to the burial, so Aunt Maria (Her sister) carried us children. She tried to get us to look at our Father, but I couldn't bear to look at the dead. My Father was the first dead person I could remember seeing. Before he died, he bought my two sisters, Maria and Katie, two beautiful silk bonnets. Maria's was trimmed with white silk and ostrich plums. Katie's was trimmed with blue silk and blue ostrich plums. Katie kept her bonnet as long as she lived.

My Father's Funeral was preached by Reuben Crawford, a Primitive Baptist Preacher, the Pastor of the Shiloh Church. My Father wasn't a member of any Church. He was of Methodist belief, but there were no Methodist Churches anywhere around. My Grandmother Strickland was a member of the Shiloh Church and wanted her Preacher to preach the service. My youngest sister, Courtney, was born May 16, 1855. She never saw her father, and it was always a great want of her life to have known him. She was more like my Father, than any of the children. She had such pretty black hair and eyes. She and brother Colquitt resembled each other.

The School we went to was Mr Lugg, near Big Pond and later called Beaver Dam. We went to School with Uncle Newton's children. The way we went to School was by Uncle Newton's house. Every Sunday, either we went to Uncle Newtons, or they came to our house.

It was Christmas of 1857, people came to lay out the town of Blackshear. There was My brother, James Stewart, James Sweat, our cousin and his brother William, Uncle Newton Stewart, Uncle Allen Strickland, and Uncle James Harper. Uncle Matthew Aspinwall and Uncle Ben Howard. Mr Allen Brown and Mr JJ Henderson and his brother Mike. Mr. George Davis was also there, but he was so drunk and sleeping, that they didn't know what to do with him.

In July of 1859 Maria and Colquitt went to Florida to visit Aunt Katie Stewart Waldron, with Old Talt (Mother's horse) and the Buggy. It was over a hundred miles. They went along with Mr. Asbury Waldron, brother of Aunt Katie's husband. On the 19th of July, Maria's 17th Birthday, Maria, Keightley Waldron and a young man by the name of Thompson started to go to White Springs on horse back. Maria was on "Talt" (He wasn't safe for a woman to ride) He was gentle in the Buggy, but had been a racehorse, before Mother bought him. Mr. Thompson told her to get on his horse, as he was safe and gentle. They were galloping along, Mr. Thompson's horse getting faster and faster and it ran away with her. It came near killing her, as she brushed against a tree, broke her ear rings and scratched her cheek. She was thrown off in the woods.

As they were nearer White Springs, Mr. Thompson went on to get a wagon and carried her to the Springs to a Doctor. After she got to where she could move, Aunt Katie sent for her and Colquitt and they stayed at Aunt Katies, until she could walk about the house.

In the Winter of 1859, Franklin bought Uncle Newton's place and moved there. Uncle Newton moved to Blackshear. By 1860, Uncle Newton had moved back to Florida again.