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COLLAGE OF CAPE COUNTY



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Genealogical Society and
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CAPE GIRARDEAU COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY
204 Union Street, Jackson, Missouri 63755

Volume 1 number 1

March, 1981

GREETINGS,

1981 is off and running, we are happy to report that our members have really been working. At our November meeting it was announced that the society had been given fourteen items, an Index to Brides Marriage Book C and D, the Chaffin Baker ancestor charts, Adams and Related Families, Robins Family, the Apple Creek Church Book, St. Johns Church of Focahontas, the Memorial Park Cemetery records, a nice book on the Poindexter Family, Brinkhoff-Bowell, Walthers, McCombs, Cracraft-Miller, and Denecke-Laird Funeral Homes' records.

At the January meeting it was announced that Mr. Kenneth Inman gave the society a four-drawer filing cabinet. Thank you, Mr. Inman. The records of the County Poor Farm and Cemetery was offered for sale at the January meeting, this being the Society's first publication, the Birth and Death Records are still in progress. Other gifts were from Mrs. Hazel Sanders a nice book on the Sanders genealogy. Seventy-three copies of American Heritage 1954-1971, and seventy copies of the Mo. State Historical Review 1951-1974. Thank you ladies, I am sure we will enjoy the books.

Our membership continues to grow, we now have fifty-three members. We have had some excellent speakers, in November Scott Browning gave a program on abstracts, in January Helen Jo Brown gave the program on the War Between the States, both were outstanding programs.

Director of Riverside Regional Library, Earl Oldham has helped us so much. This quarterly is made possible through the joint efforts of the Library and the Genealogy Society.

We, of the Cape Girardeau County Genealogy Society, sincerely hope you will enjoy our efforts in this, the first publication of COLIAGE OF CAPE COUNTY.

Jean Ellen Adams, President

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Deaths recorded in BETHEL CHURCH MINUTES 1806-1867. Abstracted by Alma Lee Slinkard. Copy of the minutes in the Genealogical Library, Riverside Regional Library.

Leanna Green-Dec. 28, 1806	Nancy Labry-Jan. 23, 1840
Rev. David Green-Dec. 9, 1809	Thomas Bull-arch 22, 1840
Enos Randol-Oct. 27, 1811	Jane English-Apr. 5, 1842
Mary Randol-April 10, 1814	Mary A. Wilkinson-Feb. 5, 1843
James Tatum-April 22, 1814	Nancy Sheppard-Aug. 5, 1843
Allison Williams-May 4, 1814	Robert English-Dec. 26, 1844
Alexander Murphy-July 4, 1814	Rachel Hill-Dec. 3, 1846
Sarah Randol-Jan. 13, 1816	Ezekiel Hill-Jan. 14, 1847
Abigail Dowty-April 19, 1816	Amey Cox-July 1, 1851
James McLaughlin-July 5, 1816	Sarah Randol-July 7, 1851
Ebenezer Hubble's wife-Jun 13, 1818	Trans Hitt-July 17, 1852
Hannah Vicker-Aug. 12, 1818	Tempy Gipson-Sept. 29, 1852
Jonathan Hubble-March 19, 1819	Viccy V. Peely-Dec. 31, 1851
Flora, African sister-May 8, 1819	Lucy Canterbury-July 25, 1853
Robert Vicker-Jan. 2, 1821	Phillip Young-Aug. 20, 1853
Isaax Stout-Aug. 22, 1821	Benjamin Thompson-Dec. 31, 1853
Thos. Isbell-Dec. 12, 1821	M. Wilkinson-Aug. 12, 1856
Mary Hubble-Dec. 12, 1821	Mary English-Oct. 22, 1856
Rachel Daugherty-Feb. 8, 1822	William Hill-Nov. 20, 1856
Margaret Sheppard-Sept. 7, 1822	Jamimah Wilkinson-Jan. 20, 1857
Violet, Black member belongs to Mr. Bird-Sept. 8, 1823	Eliz Hall-Sept. 6, 1858
Thomas English-May 16, 1829	Catherine Canterbury-Nov. 1858
Mary Johnson-March 1, 1830	Eliz Mary Hanly-Aug. 9, 1859
James Brooks-March 15, 1830	John Canterbury-Feb. 19, 1861
Jonathan Johnson-Nov. 13, 1830	Amanda Thompson-Aug. 1861
James Cox-Dec. 27, 1830	Mary Thompson, wf of Benj.-Aug. 1862
Joel R. English-May 31, 1835	Mary Roberts-1862
John Sheppard-Nov. 22, 1836	Chartemates Aethis-1863
Matilda McFarland-Dec. 8, 1836	John Billings-1864
John Hitt-Nov. 2, 1839	Lick Green (B) age 103-1864
	Adaline Williams-Nov. 25, 1866

BOOK REVIEW

On the 19th day of July, 1806, Rev. Daniel Green organized Bethel Baptist Church at the house of Mr. Thomas Bull, near Hubble Creek in Cape Girardeau District.

On October 1806, the congregation resolved to build a house of worship, and this resolution was put into effect by erecting a small log structure on the land. The members were Thomas English, Leanna Green, Jane English, Agnes Ballow, William Smith, Thomas Bull, Edward Spears, Anderson Rogers, John Hitt, Clara Abernathy, Catharine Anderson, Rebecca Randol, Frances Hitt and William Athews.

Bethel Church Book Minutes of the Proceedings of the Bethel Church 1806-1867 prepared by Mo. Historical Records Survey in 1940. The transcription of the minute book shed much light on the religious life, customs, and conditions to pioneer times in early Missouri during territorial days and west of the Mississippi River in the Louisiana Territory.

All that remains at the Old Bethel site now is a cemetery, a monument erected in 1906, and a few stones which may have been part of the foundation of the church building. In 1876, the old log church was torn down and the logs removed to the Shepard farm.

* * * * *

The following deaths were taken from the DEATH REGISTAR recorded for the years 1883 through 1895 in the County Clerk's office at the Cape Girardeau County Courthouse in Jackson, Missouri. These records will show the name, date of death, age, marital status, birthplace (if other than Cape Girardeau County), number of years a resident of this county and the place of burial.

ALEXANDER	Nellie Miller-d. Nov. 12, 1883 (25-5-0) Cape Girardeau, Mo. Bd: Linn Cemetery
AUFENBERG	Maria Adelheid-d. Jan. 7, 1884 (57-2-26) Widow, b. Germany Res: 31 yr. Bd: SW of Jackson, Mo.
AUBERDS	August-d. Apr. 12, 1884 (30-0-0) Single b. Union Co. Ill. Res: 3 wk. Bd: Drabee Chapel * Moelyslanding, Mo.
ALLFORD	Elwine-d. Sept. 27, 1884 (7 mo) Single Bd: Eadem
ADAMS	Andrew Hardin-d. Sept. 25, 1884 (2-6-29) Single Bd: Lorimer Cemetery Cape Girardeau, Mo.
ADAMS	Elam-d. Aug. 18, 1884 (30-0-0) Married Bd: Applecreek Cemetery, Pocahontas, Mo.
ALLEN	Elizabeth-d. Dec. 29, 1884 (43-5-10) Married Bd: City Cemetery Cape Girardeau, Mo.
ATES	Arthur M.-d. Dec. 29, 1884 (2-2-10) Single Bd: Old Salem Cemetery, Millersville, Mo.
ASTHOLZ	Autonius-d. May 19, 1885 (17 da) Single Bd: Lorimer Cemetery Cape Girardeau, Mo.
ABERNATHY	Bettie (colored)-d. May 4, 1885 (28-4-3) Married Bd: Cape Girardeau, Mo.
ARBUCKLE	Christian Columbus-d. Sept. 5, 1885 (5-6-7) Single Burial place not shown
ABERNATHY	Arnetto R. (colored)-d. Aug. 18, 1885 (21 yr) Single Bd: North of Jackson, Mo.

ALEMA Marche (colored)-d. Mar. 31, 1886 (89 yr) Widow
 b. North Carolina Res: 56 yr. Bd: City Cemetery
 @ Cape Girardeau, Mo.

ALLERS Charles Henry-d. May 10, 1886 (25-7-8) Married
 Bd: Luthern Cemetery @ Cape Girardeau, Mo.

ABERNATHY Harry (colored)-d. Aug. 9, 1886 (1 yr) Single
 Bd: 5 miles North of Jackson, Mo.

ANGST Ferdinand-d. July 12, 1886 (55-8-12) Married
 b. Baden, Germany Res: 20 Yr. Bd: City Cemetery
 @ Cape Girardeau, Mo.

ADAMS L.D. (Second-Mate)-d. Oct. 6, 1886 (46 yr) Single
 b. Rochester, Pa. Bd: City Cemetery @ Cape
 Girardeau, Mo. Scalded by steam in explosion of
 steam "LaMoscotte"

ALLEN Louisa-d. Feb. 28, 1887 (74-4-15) Widow
 Bd: Gladish Cemetery near Millersville, Mo.

ALMSTEDT Henry-d. Sept. 23, 1887 (65-4-16) Married
 b. Brunswick, Hanover, Germany Res: 33yr.
 Bd: Lorimier Cemetery @ Cape Girardeau, Mo.

ALLERS Henry Theodore-d. Jan. 20, 1888 (57 yr) Married
 b. Buckheim, Germany Res: 44 yr. Bd: Lorimier
 Cemetery

AMELUNKE Herman-d. Mar. 31, 1888 (1-9-27) Single
 Bd: City Cemetery @ Cape Girardeau, Mo.

ABERNATHY Norton (colored)-d. April 9, 1888 (8 mo-1 da)
 Bd: Lorimier Cemetery @ Cape Girardeau, Mo.

AHRENS Lena Christina-d. Oct. 24, 1888 (6 da) Single
 Bd: Ger. Methodist Church @ Gordonville, Mo.

ALBERS John Frederick-d. Nov. 19, 1888 (59 yr)
 b. Hanover, Germany Res: 17 yr. Bd: City
 Cemetery, Cape Girardeau, Mo.

AMELUNKE Sophia-d. April 17, 1889 (33-21-9) Single
 Bd: Home graveyard

AHRENS Henry C.-d. July 22, 1889 (52-9-17) Married
 b. Germany Res: 45 yr. Bd: Lutheran Cemetery
 @ Gordonville, Mo.

ACKENHAUSEN Henry-d. Dec. 7, 1889 (15-6-7) Single
 b. St. Louis Bd: Lorimier Cemetery @ Cape Girardeau

LETTERS OF INTEREST

These letters were received by Linda Fitzpatrick. They tell an interesting story of early pioneers.

Thank you so much for your prompt research on JOHN TANNER'S will. This Rev. JOHN TANNER was my great, great, great, grandfather. His son, John Tanner, would have been my great, great, great uncle. I believe I have the right number of greats. Anyway, this little boy, John, was stolen by the Shawnee Indians in 1789, when he was 10 yrs. old. In his middle years, he went back to see his white relatives. He wasn't received too well - his relatives made fun of his Indian wife, and his half-Indian children. So, he returned to his Indian life. But he wasn't completely accepted by the Indians, so he died a sad and disillusioned man. We have a book about his life entitled, "Indian Captivity of John Tanner".

In our research, we have turned up many interesting facts that we had never known about. It is all so much fun. We didn't start soon enough. We started two years ago, but we should have started 20 years ago.

Thanks again, Mrs. Leon Baird - Suquamish, Wash. 98392

* * * * *

In a letter from Mrs. Valena Baird, a recently found distant cousin, she included your name and address.

As the roots of some of my ancestors go deep into Cape Girardeau soil I feel the urge to write to you. My first ancestor into that area was ROBERT GREEN, a native of Maryland and a soldier in the Rev. War. After the war he married - went into what is now West Va. and in 1799 he moved westward, crossed the Mississippi.

Luke Byrne and his two sons, Morgan and Moses also arrived in that Spanish territory before the announcement of the La. Purchase. LUKE BYRNE was involved in the Irish Uprising of 1798 and when the rebellion was put down by the British he escaped, as the tradition says, with a price on his head. How and when he got to Mo. is unknown. Morgan Byrne married Jane, the daughter of ROBERT GREEN. MOSES BYRNE married REBECCA COX, daughter of JAMES COX, also an early arrival in Cape Girardeau. Probably the first American in that area was CHRISTOPHER HAYS and his son, JOHN HAYS. The first sheriff of Cape Girardeau. ELEANOR GREEN, ROBERT GREEN'S daughter married the widower JOHN HAYS and his daughter ZERILDA married PETER BYRNE. Those early families intermarried and there are little stories about some of them. My grandfather said - everybody in New Madrid County is peppered by MORGAN BYRNE'S descendants, but no one today bears the name of BYRNE.

Later the Tanners came into my picture. I have already published the account of "JOHN TANNER, Baptist Preacher". He crossed the Mississippi from Ky. and settled in New Madrid about 1808. He went

through the earthquakes of 1811 - 1812 and then accepted the call from the Bethel Baptist in Cape Girardeau County to assist in the ordination of its pastor, Mr. Wilson Thompson. In the early spring the Tanners moved to Cape Girardeau. In April REV. JOHN assisted at the ordination and preached the sermon. His text was "Simon, son of Jonas, Lovest thou me". That summer, June 1812, the old preacher died. I like to think that he was buried in the church yard of Bethel Church.

Since I published my account of Rev. JOHN TANNER, I find there are some early records of Bethel Church. I did make some inquiry but my letter was not answered and to tell the truth I was tired of the Tanners and went on to other fields. I often wonder if Bethel Church records tells of that ordination and what, if any, mentioned of JOHN TANNER. Maybe you have access to these records and if there is any mention of JOHN TANNER you might be willing to copy that portion, for a fee of course.

I guess I am a sentimental old fool, but these people have become part of my life. I have collected lots of interesting material but writing is a hard task for me. I have tried to preserve for the young generations growing up something of their ancestors. Missouri is the scene of the early 19th century. My grandparents - NAPOLEN BONEPART BYRNE and his wife MARY TANNER, left Mo. in 1859 and settled on the east side of SAN FRANCISCO BAY. This is another story! I hope this doesn't bore you, but I find genealogists curious, loved winded people.

Cordially and best wishes for genealogical findings.

Mrs. Henry A. Hussey - Walnut Creek, Calif.

* * * * *

HOW TO PRESERVE OLD NEWSPAPER CLIPPINGS

Experts at the National Archives suggest the following method of preserving old newspaper clippings: Mix two teaspoons of magnesium carbonate and a quart of club soda in a large plastic dish. Sandwich the clippings between two pieces of screen or pellon and soak for 30 minutes, remove and pat dry. DO NOT MOVE until completely dry. Estimated life: 200 years.

* * * * *

DO YOU KNOW -----

The 1900 Federal Census will give you the following information. Address; name; relationship to family head; sex; race; age, marital status; number of years married; for women, number of children born and number now living; birthplace of person and parents; if foreign born, year of immigration, and whether naturalized; occupation; months not employed; school attendance; literacy; ability to speak English; whether on a farm; home owned or rented; if owned, whether mortgaged.

**** QUERIES ****

HENSLEY

I have been unable to find the birth or death date of WILLIAM HENSLEY. Mr. Hensley married my father's oldest sister. I am not sure, but I think he was born in Mo., perhaps Ill. He died while living at McClure, Ill. early in this century. I would appreciate any help anyone can give me regarding this individual.

Marvin Campbell
401 Independence, Cape Girardeau, Mo. 63701

* * * * *

DAVAULT

I am seeking parents, grandparents, dates, etc. of CHRISTIAN JACKSON DAVault b. Dec. 19, 1837, d. Oct. 1, 1899, married Agnes B. Walker Sept. 5, 1887. She was born Jan. 18, 1840 or 1846 (Perry Co., Mo.) d. July 24, 1921. I would like to try to trace him back to Henry DeVault/Dewalt/DeWald, a Huguenot born in France and married Catherine Maria Graver of Ger. Henry served in Rev. War.

HOPKINS

I am also seeking parents, grandparents, dates, etc., of JOHN H. HOPKINS b. May 15, 1830 and d. at Marble Hill, Mo., on Jan. 30, 1877. He married Mary Jane Smith on June 15, 1852. Mary Jane was born March 30, 1834 and d. July 30, 1889. We think John H. Hopkins father was William Hopkins and mother Elizabeth (Holman?), but have nothing for sure.

Mrs. Wm. H. Davault
1508 Highway 72 W., Jackson, Mo. 63755

* * * * *

SCUDDER
HOLDEN
GAINES

Researching family of Wm. H. SCUDDER, b. 1814 NY d. 27 Dec. 1858 in Perryville, Mo. md. 8 Oct. 1851 to Margaret HOLDEN, dau. of Edward HOLDEN, lawyer of Perryville, Mo. Edward HOLDEN married Ellen Elizabeth GAINES.

Mrs. Roberta Kloos
2630 Shady Valley Lane - La Habra, Ca. 90631

* * * * *

KEITH
RAMSEY

Researching the James & Elizabeth (Perry) KEITH family. They had a son, Perry KEITH b. 13 Dec. 1842 who married Eliza Margaret RAMSEY in April 1861.

Mildred Clemmons
2301 W. Fourth St. - Joplin, Mo. 64801

* * * * *

JESSEMAN
QUINN

Searching for information on Mollie JESSEMAN QUINN who spent a few years in an orphanage in Cape Girardeau, Mo. (ca 1890-1896)

Jessamine Lajouesse
533 No. Lombard Ave. - Lombard, Ill. 60148

NEWBURN

Searching for information on her great grandfather, Harvey NEWBURN, reportedly buried in a cemetery in or near Allenville, Mo. He was born in Indiana ca. 1842.

Diane Schueller
1115 South Nineth - Parkin, Ill. 61554

* * * * *

DIAMOND
ZWEIFEL

Searching for information on her great grandmother who came from either Cape Girardeau or Ste. Gen. Co., Mo. Name either Clementine or Bertha Diamond, b. Jan. 1850, md. at age 9 yr. to a man by the name of Long, but ran away during the night, going to St. Louis where she later married Jacob ZWEIFEL. Her mother was said to have been a Cherokee Indian.

Mrs. Rita Hawkins
409 Koelling Ave. - Union, Mo. 63084

* * * * *

LEE
MEGGETT

Searching for the first wife of John LEE, of Ste. Genevieve, Mo. He had 2 children by this marriage, then in 1847 married Elizabeth MEGGETT in Ste. Genevieve, Mo. and started another family. Any information on this first wife would be appreciated.

Frank H. Bryant
1570 Silver Trail - Napa, Calif. 94558

* * * * *

There is something extremely narrow-minded, unnatural and ungrateful in us of the present generation, who feel no interest in the shining lives and noble acts of our ancestors ---- Records of Colchester, Connecticut by Charles E. Taintor, 1864.

* * * * *

Go-no-al-o-gy -- 1. A record or table of the descent of a family, group, or person from an ancestor or ancestors. 2. Direct descent from an ancestor; lineage; pedigree. 3. The study or investigation of ancestry and family histories.

* * * * *

The Providence Oath of Allegiance and its Signers. 1651/2 by Richard L. Bowen. "This book is dedicated to those historians who know that without an understanding of the genealogical relationships of the people, no adequate town history can be written".

* * * * *

We have heard of a lady who spent \$2,000 to uncover her ancestors - and \$5,000 to cover them up.

CAPE GIRARDEAU COUNTY - BIRTH REGISTER

"An Act to provide for the Registering of Births" was approved by the General Assembly of the State of Missouri 21 March 1883 to go into effect on the first day of May. The following records were copied from the original register, in the office of the County Clerk, Jackson, Missouri. The registry of births, giving the name, profession and domicile of the father, maiden name of mother, the name, sex and date of birth of the child.

AUFDENBERG	f. John Henry; Wagonmaker; Burfordville, Mo. m. Rosine Caroline Lange c. (no name listed); female; Oct. 11, 1883
ATES	f. William; Farmer; Kinder Township m. Sarah C. Helderman c. (no name listed); Female; Nov. 23, 1883
ATKINS	f. William Henry; Farmer; Byrd Township m. Martha Jane Johnson c. (no name listed); female; Dec. 23, 1883
ALLISON	f. George W.; Sawyer; m. Catherine Farrow c. George Washington; Male; Feb. 12, 1884
ANGEL	f. James; Farmer; Apple Creek Township m. Clauscy Elizabeth Helderbrand c. Bertha Elizabeth; Female; March 3, 1884
AMOS	f. Nicholas; Farmer m. Mary Elvira Robins c. Charles William; Male; March 8, 1884
ATCHISON	f. Jacob B.; Farmer m. Louise Caroline Brooks c. Ida May; Female; April 5, 1884
ABERNATHY	f. Robert Henry; Farmer; Randol Township m. Martha Caroline Ward c. (no name listed); Male; March 16, 1884
AIJIN	m. Elizabeth c. (no name listed); Male (colored); Feb. 27, 1884
ARNOLD	f. Thomas; Laborer m. Emma Ann Thornton c. (no name listed); Male; April 28, 1884
ACKMAN	f. Issac; Cooper; Shawnee Township m. Elizabeth Wingate c. Charles; Male; July 21, 1884
ADAMS	f. Andrew; Farmer; Apple Creek Township m. Belle Fullbright c. Hattie Florida; Female; July 26, 1884

ABALUMKE f. Henry; Cooper
m. Julia Koechig
c. Martin; Male; August 19, 1884

ADAMS f. Miles; Farmer; Shawneetown
m. Emma Stevenson
c. (no name listed); Female; Sept. 20, 1884

ALLGOOD f. Mathew; Farmer; Byrd
m. Nancy Elizabeth
c. (no name listed); Male (negro); Oct. 5, 1884

ARNOLD f. Thomas; Farmer; Jackson
m. Bertha
c. Louisa E.; Female; Sept. 22, 1884

AUGE f. Alvis; Wagonmaker
m. Louise Buckner
c. (no name listed); Female; Nov. 6, 1884

ASHLEY f. Frank
m. Maggie
c. (no name listed); Nov. 13, 1884

ARMSTRONG f. William Jack; Farmer; Shawnee Township
m. Hattie Ophelia Hughes
c. Harry; Male; Oct. 5, 1884

AULSBERRY f. Stephen; Laborer; Jackson, Mo.
m. Lucy Orrell
c. Norman; Male; Jan. 20, 1885

AHRENS f. John H.; Farmer; Cape Girardeau Township
m. Jane M. Mason
c. Minnie L.; Female; March 7, 1885

ALLERS f. Charles; Tinner; Cape Girardeau
m. Sarah Engolmann
c. Oscar; Male; Feb. 27, 1885

ARMSTRONG f. Albert; Farmer; Indian Creek
m. Nancy Jane Young
c. (no name listed); Male; Feb. 8, 1885

ALLERS f. Charles Allers; Cape Girardeau, Mo.
m. Gertrude
c. (stillbirth); no name listed; Male; Mar. 27, 1885

AHUFELD f. Frederick; Farmer & Taylor; Byrd Township
m. Jane Young
c. Minna; Female; Dec. 11, 1884

ASHOLTZ f. Henry A.; City Marshall; Cape City
m. Augusta Brause
c. Artemesia; Female; May 2, 1885

GEORGE H. LEWIS: MYSTERY MAN NO LONGER

by

Catharine Lewis Bock

At last 'tis known who George H. Lewis is -- or rather, was. This is the Lewis buried 1874 in Old Lorimier cemetery - on whose tombstone is inscribed! "He was a second cousin of the President George Washington". Those words have intrigued viewers for over 100 years, particularly viewers named Lewis. From the time I first saw that stone I wondered about the man beneath it, but not until recent years did I make any effort to "uncover" him.

On occasion the local newspapers have reminded readers that a kinsman of our first president lies buried here in Cape Girardeau. Even so, thru the years George H. Lewis remained a kind of mystery man. Then in 1938 somebody thought to examine probate records. These revealed that Lewis had owned a farm near Allenville, a wagon and team and other farm equipment, and that he was survived by a widow and three children. Interesting, but this information did not furnish clues as to the man's origins or as to how he and his famous cousin were connected.

The Bicentennial gave impetus to the idea of "running down" George H. Lewis. Knowing that George Washington's sister had married Fielding Lewis, I made the mistake of looking first in that direction. Of course! Any male descendant of Betty Washington would be her brother's nephew, grandnephew, great-grandnephew, and so on, but never a cousin. My mistake proved profitable, however, a valuable book for background information.

There were Lewises in Washington's background, though not as direct ancestors. His paternal grandmother Mildred Warner Washington, had a sister, Elizabeth, who married John Lewis. The sons of John and Elizabeth Warner Lewis produced prolifically so it follows that George Washington had second cousins by the dozens -- cousins surnamed Lewis! Of the Lewis second cousins, 17 were male, and all but two of these were within ten years of Washington's age. No wonder that I could not find George H. among them. He wasn't born until 1801, a good three generations later!

At this point doubts began to arise regarding the accuracy of the gravestone inscription. The existence of kinship between the two Georges was never questioned - but second cousins? I was certain - I still am - that everyone of Washington's second cousins named Lewis had been accounted for, who, then, was George H. Lewis?

Came the dawn!! No, the antecedents of George H. were not revealed in a blinding flash. I just realized that the words second cousin held a different meaning for the inscription writer than they held for me. I know that the children of first cousins are second cousins to each other, but did she/he know it? Perhaps 'first cousin twice removed'. Could be, since there was no evidence to support the second cousin claim. Semantics! Here was a perfect example of semantic confusion.

George Washington had one own cousin named Lewis - Catherine "Kate" Washington, first wife of Fielding Lewis. Kate died leaving little Johnny. Johnny grew up and married five times. I pinned my hopes on John (ny) for any child of his would be Washington's first cousin twice removed. Surely George H. would show up here as John Lewis' son.

Alas, George didn't! That fact (and the names of all John's children) was determined only after I had gained access to a remarkable new compilation, Cook's Pioneer Lewis Families. Having exhausted all leads, I dug into Cook's books hoping to find the elusive George H. some other place.

The effort was rewarded - I found George Harvey Lewis! He was born March 26, 1801, died July 31, 1874 (these dates identical to those on his tombstone). His parents were John and Elizabeth Harvey Lewis, and his birthplace was Bon Homme, St. Louis County, Mo. His wife was Catherine _____ and their children were George E., William and Anne E., same as the names in the probate papers except there Anne was Ann E. Morris. Ancestrally, he was five generations removed from a Northumberland County, Virginia in 1697. That's it - only the bare bones - no followup on survivors.

No further record in that book, but in a 1974 newspaper article a tiny ray of light was shed. On February 22, that year, the Miami Herald printed an article concerning a cousin of George Washington who was buried in Cape Girardeau, Mo. The story came from Mrs. Eunice Lewis Reynolds of Pompano Beach, Florida, and was a reprint of a piece appearing in the Missourian on February 22, 1938. The clipping had been sent to her father, Thaddeus M. Lewis of Fort Lauderdale, son of George W. Lewis and grandson of George H. Lewis (George H. had four sons according to Mrs. Reynolds).

So the identity of the man was now established, but who had married whom away 'back' when to bring about a cousinship to George Washington? Perhaps a scrutiny of the Balls - Washington's mother was a Ball - might provide the answer.

It did, and promptly, Mary Ball Washington had a younger sister, Sarah. Sarah Ball married William Harding. Two Harding daughters, Hannah and Frances, married brothers, John and Samuel Lewis. A check of the pedigree of George Harvey Lewis (in Pioneer Lewis Families) revealed that he was the grandson of John and Hannah Harding Lewis!

So - Hannah Harding was Washington's first cousin, her son, John Lewis, was his first cousin once removed, her grandson, George H. Lewis was his first cousin twice removed! Strictly speaking, the two Georges could not have been second cousins (a fact of little importance to anyone except me - I had a point to prove). If only the inscription had told it like it was, the man beneath the stone could have been put in his proper place with a lot less trouble!

Can't conclude this without mentioning Mrs. Courleux, a 90 year young lady whose step-father lived and worked with George H. Lewis for five years. Of course it all happened before her time, but she remembers well the account given by "Papa" Nichols, her step-father.

She says that after the Civil War the Government planned to construct permanent buildings at Jefferson Barracks. Cypress lumber was needed, and the best source was the swamps of southern Cape Girardeau County. Being a war veteran (Mexican War - she thinks) Mr. Lewis was hired to procure the timber.

It was a good-paying job, but because of the ever-present water and malaria, getting the logs out was hard, unhealthy work. The natives he hired seemed immune to mosquito bites, but before long Lewis had "chills and fever". Whiskey was said to be a remedy so he doctored himself with generous doses of that commodity! Eventually he failed to meet his quota, then another man was sent in to assist him. The year was 1869, the new man was D. A. Nichols.

Lydia Hayes Courleux remembers well hearing "Papa" Nichols speak of George Lewis, his one-time working and "batching" partner. Nichols was unmarried, and Lewis' family remained in St. Louis except for occasional visits when Mrs. Lewis would stay at the St. Charles Hotel where the Lewises kept a room. The young man and the old man got along well together.

According to Nichols' account, George H. Lewis was a man of some education; at least, he owned books and he read them, one being a law book. He was also a man of industry and ingenuity for he had built himself a sturdy little house set on cypress stumps high above the ground - or water. After his death this unusual dwelling was shipped intact to Jefferson Barracks where it remained on display many years.

George Lewis died at the St. Charles, probably from a combination of age, malaria and alcohol. All the funeral arrangements were made by Mr. Block, the hotel owner who was also a family friend. Mrs. Lewis and children came for the services, stayed long enough to tie up some loose ends, then departed to go "back east" reportedly, and that was the last "Papa" Nichols ever saw or heard from them.

HOW TO USE OUR SURNAME FILE

Your surname is listed on an index card followed by numbers. The numbers indicate the ancestor charts on file. They have the name and address of the compiler, whom you can contact and exchange information.

Federal Census of Cape
Girardeau County, Mo.

\$15.00 ppd.

Mrs. C. A. Fitzpatrick
1027 Stewart Drive
Cape Girardeau, Mo. 63701

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