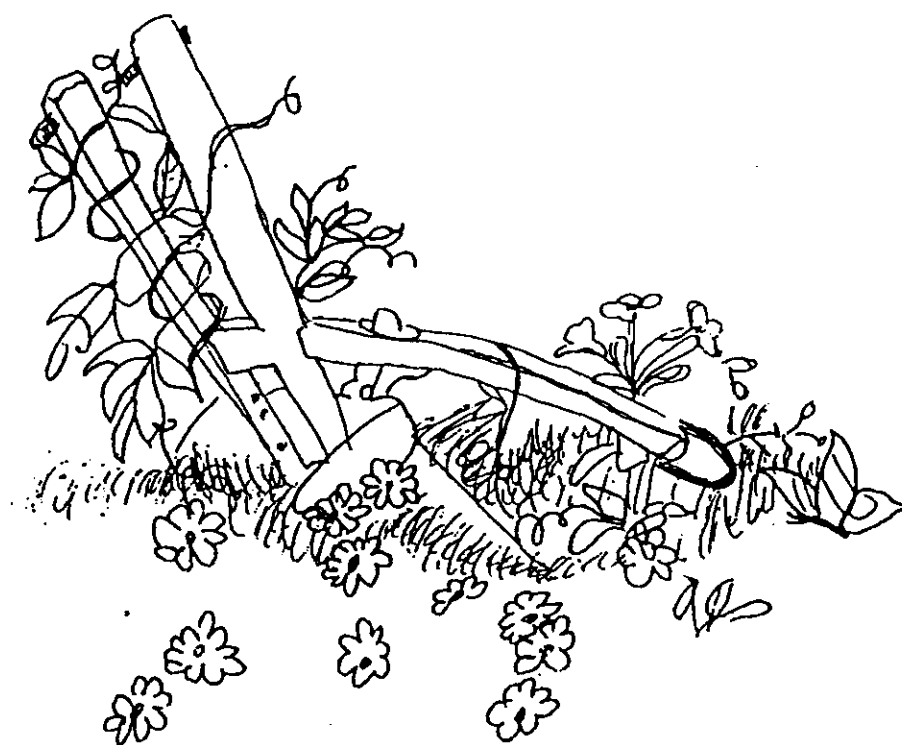


SEAY and ALLIED LINES OF WESTERN WASHINGTON COUNTY, ARKANSAS



BY
BILLIE JINES
and
RUSSELL and GWEN SEAY

Obediah Seay - was
father of

Columbus Seay - was
father of

Ola Seay Farley - was
mother of

Alton Farley

Fern Farley Pratt

Russell Seay
Springdale, AR 72764
222 So. Pleasant St Phone 7563138

SEAY AND ALLIED LINES

. . . of Western Washington County, Arkansas

The story of the Seay ancestry from the 1829 date when Obediah came to Arkansas to the present in regard to the line down to Russell Jarva Seay of Springdale, Arkansas and his children and grandchildren. Many other descendants of the Seays are also to be found in this book.

The story includes, too, the allied lines who are direct ancestors of Russell J. Seay and who also settled in Western Washington County, most while Arkansas still was a territory. These chapters also include some of the other descendants of these, who include families of Sanford Foley Gray, the Rev. Jacob Sexton, James Drake, William H. White, Harvey Henderson Edmiston, Thomas Kimbrough, Ambrose Hunley Sevier Little, Jackson Graham and others.

By Billie Jines and
Russell and Gwen Seay

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222 South Pleasant Street
Springdale, Arkansas 72764

This, the first edition
of this book, has been
limited to 75 copies.

This book is No. 67.

Cover Design by Ashley Seay

P R E F A C E

The preparation of this book was requested by the author's brother-in-law and sister, Russell J. and Gwen Seay of Springdale, Ark. They, themselves, assisted in numerous ways, and they financed the research, the writing and the publishing of the book.

The aim was to learn more about the ancestry of Russell and of their children and grandchildren. With this goal in mind, an effort was made to follow directly the various lines down to Russell and his descendants. When other descendants of these forebears became known, they were included. Thousands of others were not searched out. To have done so would have caused this book to grow into the proportions of a set of encyclopedias and would have required far more than the two years devoted here.

This family history is not so much aimed at scholarly researchers as it is at the family for whom it was intended. The purpose was three-fold: to be as accurate as possible, to be able to substantiate facts - and, likewise, to make the book enjoyable to read.

Rejecting the customary format of footnotes, the author elected to use charts only when necessary. A decision was made to itemize sources on which the findings were based. These appear at the last of the book.

The author is indebted to Russell and Gwen for their full cooperation and assistance throughout the research and writing. As an in-law in the family, Gwen is no less a part of the heritage presented here. She, as the mother and grandmother of blood-line Seays, adds her own genetic heritage equally to that of her children's paternal lines.

The unique angle to this story is the fact that so many of Russell's ancestors came to what is now Western Washington County, Ark. so early and so many of them, it appears, actually immigrated together. Most were in Arkansas some years before it became a state in 1836 - 150 years ago this year.

Strangely, Russell, himself, had not known that he was a descendant of some of these ancestors until work progressed on this project. Now, he realizes that he was being more truthful than he knew 40 years ago when he told my sister at the time of their marriage that he had to get out of Bush Creek Valley to seek a wife, for everyone else there was related to him.

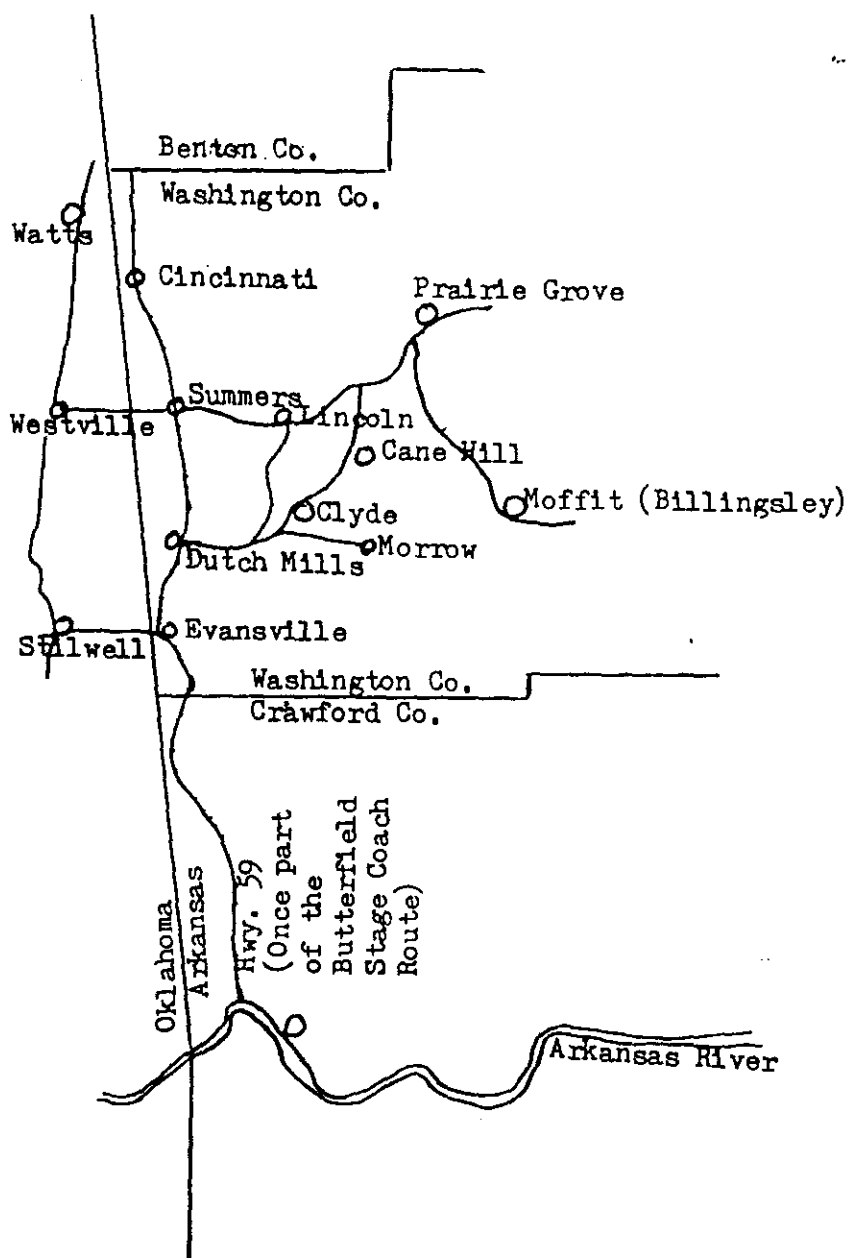
It is the author's wish that you will enjoy the book and that you will realize that any errors you chance to find will have resulted from human frailty and not from malicious intent.

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To Allen, Laura Lynn, Tommy and Leslie,
who have brought so much joy to our
lives. May they take pride in getting
better acquainted with these, their
paternal ancestors.

- Russ and Gwen Seay



Chapter I

OBEDIAH SEAY

Sometime between 1790 and 1800, Obediah Seay was born, probably in Tennessee or Georgia. His oldest son, Rufus, thought it was Tennessee, while his second son, Columbus, always said Georgia. Other reports said North Carolina or Virginia.

A record was found placing him in McMinn Co., Tenn. on Mar. 3, 1829, when he was on a jury list. It was later that year that Obediah immigrated to the Arkansas Territory.

Obediah Seay was a great-great-grandfather of Russell J. Seay of Springdale, Ark., who commissioned the research and writing of this book. Russell and his wife, Gwen Allen Seay, are the publishers of this book, and the lineage from Obediah will be kept in direct perspective of them.

Goodspeed's 1889 HISTORY OF NORTHWEST ARKANSAS contained a biographical sketch of Rufus Seay and, through it, some information on Rufus' parents, Obediah and Sallie Rice Seay. It stated that they had moved "from Tennessee to Van Buren, Crawford Co., Ark. in 1829, and here the father (Obediah) left the remainder of the family and went on foot to Washington Co., of the same State, in order to find a good location. With an ox team he moved to Cane Hill, of the last named county and lived for some time in a log house, 16 X 18, feet, the logs of which he carried on his back."

In 1829, Arkansas Territory was only 10 years old. It would be another seven years before Arkansas became a state, and, even then, the counties set up would shift and make room for other counties to be added. Three years before Obediah and Sallie were found in Arkansas, construction had been started on a road from Memphis to Little Rock. It was so difficult to travel, though, that for several years, it still required 20 days to make the trip from Memphis to Little Rock.

The school textbook, HISTORIC ARKANSAS by Ferguson & Atkinson, states that "Those who came to Arkansas in the early days found the rivers the easiest routes of travel into the interior. During much of the year canoes, rafts, and even

larger craft could go up and down streams such as the St. Francis, the White, the Arkansas, the Ouachita and the Red. Moving a large boat upstream against the current was difficult, but it was far easier than trying to penetrate the swamps and mountains by land."

Since Obediah and Sallie were first located at Van Buren, which was a major stop on the Arkansas River, it is likely that they travelled by boat. From a point in Tennessee, they likely went down the Mississippi River to enter the mouth of the Arkansas River, travelling upstream completely across Arkansas east to west to reach Van Buren.

In 1830, the censustaker found them in Washington Co. Obediah was in the age category 30 to 40, and Sallie was between 20 and 30. No others were listed in their household, so it probably was that next October, 1830, that their first child, Rufus Rice Seay, was born. This is in conflict with Rufus R.'s marker at Dutch Mills Cemetery, which gives his birthdate as 1829.

Not far from Obediah and Sallie in Washington Co. in 1830 was the household of David Rice, aged 40 to 50. He may have been her father or some other relative.

In 1820, an Act of the U. S. Congress had opened up public lands. Obediah, like numerous others, acting on this law, homesteaded in Washington Co. His first claim, Certificate No. 1956, was paid up on Sept. 20, 1839 and signed by President Martin Van Buren. Containing over 78 acres, it was in Cane Hill township. On Mar. 10, 1843, Obediah received title to his next claim, No. 3251, containing 40 acres and signed by President John Tyler. President James K. Polk signed Obediah's third homestead, No. 2598, on May 1, 1845. It contained 80 acres. Both the second and third homesteads were in Dutch Mills township.

Those early plats at the Washington Co. Courthouse show that the Seay lands were surrounded by the homesteads of many families, whose names still are associated with that area. Some of these would, in time, blend their families with that of Obediah and Sallie's descendants to also become ancestors of Russell J. Seay and his descendants. These include James Drake, Sanford Foley Gray, Jackson Graham, Rev. Jacob Sexton, Harvey Henderson Edmiston, James Little and others.

All three of the children of Obediah and Sallie were born in Washington Co., the last in 1835. Sallie, a native of Tennessee, died about 1835. At Cane Hill, about May, 1836, Obediah remarried, that time to Nancy Emily Dyer, a native of North Carolina. Their four children were born between 1838 and 1845, also in Washington Co. Goodspeed had said that Obediah was the father of eight children, but the names of only seven show up in the records. It must be assumed that an eighth child died very young, between censuses.

The seven children of Obediah were:

(By his first wife, Sallie Rice)

1. Rufus Rice Seay
2. Columbus C. Seay
3. Sarah Ann Seay

(By his second wife, Nancy Emily Dyer)

4. Joseph Seay
5. Mary Seay
6. Nancy Emily Seay, 2nd
7. Martha Rebecca Seay

A farmer by occupation and a Democrat in politics, Obediah and his first wife, Sallie, were members of the Methodist Episcopal Church.

Sometime between 1845, when his last child was born, and 1847, when his second wife remarried, Obediah died. Neither his grave nor that of either of his wives was found in Washington Co. It is believed that they may have been taken back to Crawford Co. for burial,

Or, again, they could have been buried in a private lot on their farm.

On May 2, 1847, Nancy Emily Dyer Seay married Elijah Leach. That same year, as the widow of Obediah Seay, she filed in Washington Co. Probate Court against all of Obediah's children, including her own, seeking her dower's right. Obediah had died intestate (without a will). The record says:

"Nancy E. Seay vs Elisha Dyer, administrator of the estate of Obediah Seay, deceased, and Rufus R. Seay, Columbus Seay, Joseph Seay, Mary Seay, Sarah A. Seay, Nancy E. Seay and Martha R. Seay, minor heirs of the said Obediah Seay, deceased, defendants."

Pointing out that Nancy Emily Seay had since married Elijah Leach, the probate record was adjusted later to include him in the suit. P. R. Smith was named guardian of the children for the hearing. Smith and the administrator, Dyer, agreed that Nancy Emily should have her dower in the estate. Four tracts of land were thus divided to give her a third. The four tracts included those that Obediah had homesteaded, plus another 80 acres.

Nancy also was to have the "one-third part of the following named Negro slaves, to wit, Media, Martin Van Buren, Lafayette, Cullin and Caroline." The document went on to say that Nancy E. Leach, "late Nancy E. Seay," and Elijah Leach (were) to have and recover of and from the said defendants the one-third part of the personal estate.

When the 1850 census was taken, four or five years after the death of

Obediah Seay, all seven of his children were living in the household of Allen Seay in the Cane Hill township of Washington Co. Nothing had been found in the records before that of Allen Seay. He had not shown up in the 1840 census records. In the 1850 census, he was listed as 60 years of age, a farmer and a native of Virginia. His age indicates that he might have been a brother of Obediah. He had no wife. No one was living in the household but he and the seven children of Obediah.

The children were listed as follows: Rufus Seay, 18; Columbus Seay, 16; Sarah Seay, 14; Joseph Seay, 12; Mary Seay, 10; Nancy Seay, 7; and Rebecca Seay, 5.

The same year - 1850 - Nancy Emily Seay, aged 39, who was the stepmother of Rufus, Columbus and Sarah, and the mother of Joseph, Mary, Nancy and Rebecca, was found by the censustaker in the household of Elizabeth Leach, aged 33, next door to Allen Seay. She had one child, Malvana, by Elijah Leach.

Neither Nancy Emily's second husband, Elijah Leach, nor the husband, if one existed, of Elizabeth Leach, was listed in the household, nor in some other household in Washington Co. This leads to speculation that, perhaps, Elijah and others may have gone to the 1849 Gold Rush in California or on some other out-of-the-area mission. (See chapter on Columbus Seay for one other possibility, the cattle drives being undertaken by men of that area to California.)

In 1850, according to the Arkansas Farm Schedules at the University of Arkansas Library, Allen Seay was farming 200 acres. He was not listed as a homesteader. Since Obediah had owned 278 acres at his death and a third of that went to his widow, it seems likely that Allen was farming the other approximately two-thirds of Obediah's land. One parcel had been a 78-acre tract, possibly the one going to Obediah's widow, leaving the other parcels intact for the minor heirs.

The 1850 document shows that 30 acres was improved and 170 unimproved. Of that, Allen reported the following that year: 80 pounds of wool, 20 bushels of Irish potatoes, 100 bushels of sweet potatoes, 120 pounds of butter, five tons of hay, 400 bushels of Indian corn and 150 bushels of oats. He had four horses.

A "Memory Will" filed Aug. 25, 1852 by Executor, Nancy Emily Seay's second husband, Elijah Leach, showed that Allen Seay had died. The probate record in Washington Co. showed that Nancy and Elijah sought to sell or otherwise dispose of "real estate for use and benefit of the 3 following

-children, Mary, Nancy Emily and Martha Rebecca Seay."

By 1860 when the next federal census was taken, the children of Obediah were dispersed. Four of them, Joseph Seay, 22; Mary Seay, 20; Nancy Seay, 17; and Rebecca Seay, 15, were living with their mother and stepfather, Nancy Emily and Elijah Leach at Boonsboro (Cane Hill). The Leaches had had two daughters, Malvana, who was 11 in 1860, and Alice, who had died in infancy.

Rufus Rice Seay, Obediah's eldest child, was not found on the 1860 census. Columbus Seay, the second oldest, had married and was heading his own household. Sarah Ann Seay (Whinery) also had married and was in her own home.

That 1860 census was the last document found in which Joseph Seay was mentioned. He would have been 23 the next year when the Civil War broke out. Certainly at his age, he would have in some way been affected by the Civil War. Perhaps, he failed to survive it.

By 1870, all but two of Obediah's children, about whom records were found, had married. The two unmarried ones were living in someone else's household. Nancy Emily Seay, the 2nd, was working as a housekeeper in the home of a Cane Hill wagonmaker, R. M. Combs, and his family. Martha Rebecca Seay, 25, was living in the home of her half-brother, Columbus Seay, and his family.

That decade between 1860 and 1870 had seen the deaths of both Obediah's second wife, Nancy Emily, and her second husband, Elijah Leach. Nancy Emily died in 1867 at the age of 57. Three years earlier, Elijah had been killed as a part of Civil War activities in the area.

The story of Elijah Leach's death is documented in records concerning the war claims filed at Fayetteville, Ark. between Apr. 3, 1871 and Aug. 11, 1874. An attempt had been made to gain the claims for his one living heir, Malvana. These records were combined to form an article that was published in the Feb., 1985 issue of THE BACKTRACKER. It said:

"Elijah Leach, claimant deceased, his claim was for Forage taken by the U. S. troops at Fort Smith his money came to the Quartermaster there in the summer of 1864. he was afraid to go and he sent his stepdaughter and they would not pay it to her only to him in Person. He was killed by Col. Jameson's command in the fall of 1864 and he never did get the money. He has one living heir, His daughter wife of T. A. Edmiston. Frank Dyer is Adm. of Leaches Estate his claim was \$600.00. T. A. Edmiston's P. O. is Boonsboro, Ark. I wrote E. B. French 2 Auditor Oct. 20th 1873 in regard to his claim I am to have 10 percent for collecting." It was signed, "G. Reed, Atty."

The daughter of Nancy Emily and Elijah Leach, Malvana, was born Sept. 23,

1845. She, of course, was a half-sister to Obediah's children by his second marriage. Although Malvana had a different father, she and Joseph, Mary, Nancy Emily and Martha Rebecca Seay had the same mother.

Malvana was married July 1, 1866 in Washington Co., Ark. to Thomas Alexander Edmiston, son of Harvey Henderson Edmiston and Louisa Caroline Gray. Thomas was a Civil War veteran, having served with the Confederates in the 34th Arkansas Infantry. Thomas was born in 1845 and died in 1875, according to his marker at the Edmiston Cemetery. No record was found of Malvana's death date.

Their children, based on cemetery and his published military biography:

1. Montgomery Edmiston - lived in California in 1911
2. Looney Edmiston - lived in California in 1911
3. Infant Son - died Aug. 11, 1871 at age six days. Buried at Edmiston Cemetery.

In the following chapters, information on the children of Obediah Seay will be given in more detail.

M I S C E L L A N E O U S

Although it is not known whether or not he was related to Obediah Seay, Abraham Jefferson Seay was the second Governor of Oklahoma Territory. The first governor of the territory was George Washington Steele, who served in 1890-91. Robert Martin was Acting Governor of Oklahoma Territory in 1891-92, and on Jan. 5, 1892, Abraham Jefferson Seay was appointed by President B. Harrison as the Governor. At the time, Seay was serving at Guthrie, I.T. (Oklahoma) on the Oklahoma Territory Supreme Court.

A native of Virginia, Seay moved to Missouri when three, and in time, he became a teacher and lawyer in Missouri. Never married, Governor Seay died in 1915 in California. His old home at Kingfisher, Okla., referred to as the Seay Mansion, is open to the public. At one time, he owned two hotels in Kingfisher and president of three national banks. He is buried at Kingfisher.

The name of Governor Seay is pronounced SAY, while, of course, those of Western Washington Co., Ark. place the emphasis on the first vowel of the the name and pronounce it SEE.

Chapter 2

OBEDIAH'S SON

RUFUS RICE SEAY AND HIS DESCENDANTS

Rufus Rice Seay was the eldest child of Obediah Seay and Sallie Rice. He was born Oct. 12 at Boonsboro (later renamed Cane Hill), Washington Co., Ark. His grave marker says that he was born in 1829, but Goodspeed's HISTORY OF NORTHWEST ARKANSAS gives his birthyear as 1830. The latter probably is the correct date.

Rufus Rice (Rufus R.) Seay and his wife, Jennie, were great-grandparents of Russell J. Seay.

Goodspeed's history said that Rufus R. was a merchant, miller and blacksmith. It pointed out that he was reared to farming and had been educated in the old subscription schools. His training as a blacksmith began in 1848 at age 18 and he continued to practice this trade until 1880.

The Civil War began when Rufus R. was about 31. Goodspeed said this about him: "In the fall of 1861, he (Rufus R.) enlisted in Capt. Buchanan's company, Arkansas State troops, and served about three months. A year later, he hired as blacksmith for Col. Waitey's regiment, but was soon released, returned to Cane Hill, this county (Washington) and here followed his trade."

The Col. Waitle, to whom the history referred, was Col. Stand Watie, a participant in the Battle of Pea Ridge. It was the only major battle of the Civil War in which Indian troops were used. It was fought in Benton County on Mar. 7-8, 1862. A thousand Cherokees from just over the line in the Indian Territory (Oklahoma) were with the Confederates in this, the most decisive battle west of the Mississippi. Stand Watie, then a colonel, went on to become a general before the war was over. He reportedly was the only Indian to become a general and was the last Confederate general to surrender after the war had ended.

It is known that Rufus R. must have attended a reunion of Confederate veterans in 1901 in Memphis, Tenn. A souvenir medal that had belonged to him

is still in the family. It reads: "United Confederate Veterans, May, 1901, 28th, Memphis, Tenn."

Rufus R. did not marry until after the Civil War. At the age of 38, on Jan. 20, 1869 in Washington Co., he was married to Miss Jane (Jennie) Kimbrough, the daughter of Elizabeth Austell and Thomas Kimbrough. The marriage took place at the home of "T. Kimbrough," with a Baptist minister, T. R. Ferguson, officiating.

The book, THOMAS KIMBROUGH 1805 - 1886 AND HIS DESCENDANTS, was published in 1956 by the Washington Co., Ark. Historical Society. It had been researched and written by Ethel Kimbrough. It traces the Kimbrough family to John Kimbrough, who came to America from England and was of Irish descent. His son, Bradley Kimbrough, was born in Virginia. A son of Bradley and his wife, Sarah Thompson, was Duke Kimbrough (1762 - 1849). One of the 14 children of Duke Kimbrough was Thomas, the father-in-law of Rufus R. Seay.

The book also traces back to Europe the lineage of Thomas Kimbrough's mother, Eunice Carlock, third wife of Duke Kimbrough. Eunice was a daughter of Hanchrist Carlock and his second wife, Sarah Whitman. Hanchrist was born in Holland in 1715 and reached America between 1725 - 1727. His father, David Carlock, was born in Germany, near the Franco-German frontier, about 1679, and had fled to Holland in 1685, showing up in Virginia in 1741.

Jennie was born Aug. 25, 1840 in Tennessee. Following her marriage to Rufus R. Seay, they resided at Cane Hill for over a decade. A booklet, EARLY SETTLERS OF CANE HILL, by Mrs. Ellen Earle Richardson, is in the Fayetteville Public Library. In it, Mrs. Richardson states that the house built by Rufus R. for his family at Cane Hill used to stand just east of the Earle home.

All of the children of Rufus R. and Jennie were born at Cane Hill before the family, in 1880, moved to Dutch Mills. There Rufus R. became a store owner, owner of half of the mill and the owner of 240 acres of land.

While still at Cane Hill, Rufus R. had been actively involved in the leadership of the historic old Cane Hill College. It later was moved to Clarks-ville, Ark. and is still an active, Presbyterian-supported college known as the College of the Ozarks. In the spring of 1987, the name will be officially changed to the University of the Ozarks. Some descendants of Rufus R. and Jennie attended that college. One was a great-great-granddaughter of theirs, Laura Lynn Seay. It had been about 90 years earlier that Rufus R. had been a trustee for the Cane Hill College in 1877-78.

The town of Dutch Mills, also in Washington Co., had been settled in 1850



THE RUFUS R. SEAY FAMILY prior to 1906. Seated from left: Rufus R. Seay, Jennie Kimbrough Seay and Mary Ellen Seay. Standing, from left: Bettie (Sarah E.) Seay, Thomas Obediah Seay, Belle Seay and Joseph Austell Seay. The girl at the right side unknown, but may be a German girl, who worked for the family. Photo probably taken inside the old log house that stood a mile from Highway 59.

by a group of German immigrants led by the Hermann brothers. They established mills and a store and in 1853, secured a post office there called Hermannsburg. The settlers fled north during the Civil War and never returned. After the war, the post office was re-established with the name Dutch Mills.

In 1894, Betty Seay, eldest child of Rufus R. and Jennie, became postmaster at Dutch Mills, a position she held for four years. She was succeeded in 1898 by Rufus R., who served as postmaster until 1902.

Seven children were born to Rufus R. and Jennie Seay:

1. Sarah Elizabeth (Betty) Seay
 2. Joseph Austell Seay
 3. Thomas Obediah Seay
 4. Felix Columbus Seay
 5. Columbus Felix Seay
 6. Jennie Belle Seay
 7. Mary Ellen Seay
- } - born Oct. 8, 1874; died in infancy.

Each of these will be discussed further later in this chapter.

Rufus R. was a man known for his careful business dealings and for strong family loyalty, both to his family and to his sister, Sarah, who was widowed young and left with children to rear. He was a Democrat and a Master Mason.

Rufus R. died May 14, 1906 at Dutch Mills, and Jennie died Mar. 5, 1908, also at Dutch Mills. Both are buried at the Dutch Mills Cemetery.

Three years before his death, Rufus R. had made out a will. That was Apr. 24, 1903. Witnesses were W. R. McCaleb and W. W. Kimbrough. The will was proved on May 23, 1906. Here follows the wording of the will:

"First, I give, devise and bequeath unto my oldest Son Joseph Austell Seay the sum of fifteen hundred dollars, consisting of one hundred and sixty-three and three-quarters acres of Land More or Less, known as the A. G. Walker place near Bethesda meeting house on which he now resides, with all the houses tenements and improvements thereto belonging; to have and to hold unto my said son his heirs and assigns forever. Not transferrable, and if sold or any part thereof the whole reverts to the Rufus R. Seay Estate.

"Second: I give devise and bequeath unto my second son Thomas Obediah Seay The sum of Twenty five Hundred dollars, consisting (of) lands and tenements on which I and my family now reside known as the Ira Williams place of Two hundred and thirty three and one quarter acres more or less on condition that one-third of the crop be paid to my wife Jane Seay and Sister Sarah Whinery provided they outlive me.... (The farm willed to each of his five children carried the same stipulation about not being transferrable.)

"Third: I give devise and bequeath unto my three daughters To Wit: Sarah Elizabeth Ewing, Jennie Bell Chandler and Mary Ellen Edmiston fifteen hundred dollars each consisting of lands houses and improvements of Two hundred and Ninety Acres more or less now undivided known as the Sam Alberty place. I devise and will that the above described lands be divided among the three daughters above named equally share and share alike by three disinterested persons selected by my two sons Joseph Austell Seay and Thomas Obediah Seay.....

"Fourth: I devise and will that each one of my said children to pay up their indebtedness to the Estate and then divide the same among them share and share alike. I now appoint my two sons J. A. Seay & T. O. Seay to execute this clause of my will and testament.

"Fifth: I devise and will that a public sale be made of all my personal effects and the proceeds thereof by divided share and share alike among my five children.

"Sixth: I nominate and appoint as executors of this my last will and Testament Joseph Austell Seay and Thomas Obediah Seay. I further direct that my debts and necessary funeral expenses shall be paid from any money and property now in my possession..."

Several items owned by or made by either Rufus R. or Jennie Seay are owned by Russell and Gwen Seay. Some of these were given to the Russell Seays by his cousin, Gail Snow of Clovis, N.M. These include Rufus R.'s "Russell Knife." It has the name on it and an "R" with an arrow through it. The two-bladed knife still is in fairly good shape, although it now has been 80 years since Rufus R. died. Gail also gave Russell and Gwen a clay smoking pipe and the souvenir medal mentioned earlier, plus several valued old photographs.

Jennie's possessions that Russell and Gwen have include a tall, elegant white teapot and a blue and white quilt that Jennie made. Still in excellent condition, the quilt depicts the tiny stitches with which it was pieced and then quilted. This is proudly displayed over a dust ruffle on the guest room bed in the Russell Seay home.

Two of the heirlooms also can be seen in old family photos. One is an organ stool from the Jarva Seay home that shows up in a photo of the home of Rufus R. and Jennie Seay. A pair of Jennie's reading glasses also are seen with her wearing them in another old photograph.

KNOWN INFORMATION ABOUT THE FIVE CHILDREN OF RUFUS R. AND JENNIE SEAY

SARAH ELIZABETH (BETTY) SEAY (dau. of Rufus R., son of Obediah Seay)

Born Dec. 12, 1869 at Cane Hill. The Cane Hill College catalog of 1876-77 listed Betty as a primary department pupil. She was married in Washington Co.,

on Oct. 17, 1897 to Albert McC. Ewing. He was born Mar. 22, 1867 at Evansville, Washington Co., the son of the Rev. Young Ewing and Lucinda Chandler. Betty died Nov. 1, 1926 and Albert on Dec. 25, 1930, both at Stilwell, Okla. Their child:

1. Jennie Louella Ewing - born Apr. 29, 1900 at Dutch Mills. She married Grover Alberty. Louella was a schoolteacher. It is known that she and Grover had a son, Grover Alberty. Louella died Apr. 5, 1974 at Sapulpa, Okla. and is buried at the Stilwell, Okla. City Cemetery.

* * * * *

JOSEPH AUSTELL SEAY (son of Rufus R., son of Obediah Seay)

Obviously named for the maternal line of his mother, Austell was born Mar. 20, 1871 at Cane Hill. He was about nine years old when his family moved to Dutch Mills. Like his brother and three sisters, he undoubtedly attended the Dutch Mills Baptist Church and the Dutch Mills School.

His first wife, Emma Elizabeth Little, was the mother of Austell's two sons. He and Emma were married in Washington Co. on Jan. 29, 1891. She was born Mar. 21, 1869 in the Illinois Township of Washington Co., the daughter of a Civil War veteran, Ambrose Hunley Sevier Little and Sarah M. Jane Graham. Emma died Oct. 2, 1928, according to her marker at Bethesda Cemetery.

A year later, on Nov. 24, 1929, Austell remarried, that time to Anna E. McClure. His Bible gives this information. It is believed that the marriage took place over the state line in Adair Co., Okla.

Austell and Anna lived at Westville, Okla., Adair Co., until their deaths. She was born Nov. 19, 1880. Part of the land Austell farmed at Westville presently is owned and farmed by Billy Jack Smith, a descendant of Austell's uncle, Columbus Seay.

Austell died Aug. 2, 1937 and is buried at Bethesda Cemetery, which adjoins the Washington Co. farm, where he and Emma reared their two children. Their children were:

1. Jarva J. Seay
2. Rufus H. Seay

JARVA J. SEAY (son of Austell, son of Rufus R., son of Obediah Seay)

Born Feb. 5, 1892 on his parents' farm near Morrow, Ark., Jarva was a life-long farmer. He tilled the soil that had been farmed before him by his father and before his father, by his grandfather, Rufus R. Seay. When Austell Seay died, he left the land divided between Jarva and his brother, Rufus H. Seay.

For many years, the old Bethesda schoolhouse stood on property adjoining the farm. When it was abandoned in the 1920's in favor of a consolidated school that had been established at Morrow, Jarva purchased the old school building. It was

utilized as part of a barn on his farm, and still exists today.

Near the site of the old schoolhouse, Russell Seay said, he could dig down into the earth and still find the charcoal remains of the fires that were used in the blacksmith shop of his great-grandfather, Rufus R. Seay.

Jarva converted the farm into a dairy farm, which he still was operating not long before his death. Through the years, he had added additional land to the ancestral land of his father and grandfather. Part of it includes a mountaintop adjoining the other land, and for years, the Russell Seays have held family outings there. It has long since come to be known as "Pa Seay's Mountain" by those who visited it. The Russell Seays sometime ago moved a used mobile home to the mountain to use as a retreat. Friends know that they, too, are welcome there. Sometimes, the guestbook in the mobile home has been signed by friends who had gone there for solitude and a visit with the beauties of nature. The Jarva Seay land is owned still by Jarva's descendants, which now include Russell and Gwen and the sons and daughters of Russell's two sisters, who are deceased.

On Nov. 10, 1912, Jarva Seay was married to Miss Martha Elnora (Nora) White. They sat in their buggy while the marriage was performed at the home of the Rev. Polk Crozier. Jarva and Nora were Presbyterians.

Nora was born Apr. 29, 1892 near Morrow, a twin daughter of Mary Isabel Edmiston and Hugh Lawson White. Five children were born to her and Jarva, of whom three reached adulthood. Nora died Aug. 8, 1952 at their home, and is buried at Bethesda Cemetery.

A few years later, Jarva remarried, that time to Mrs. Kate Jones Johnson, whose first husband had been Jake Johnson. Kate was born Mar. 9, 1893 and died Feb. 17, 1979. She is buried at Bethesda Cemetery.

Jarva died at a Stilwell, Okla. hospital on July 28, 1969 and is buried at Bethesda Cemetery.

Children of Jarva and Nora:

1. Alma Louise Seay
2. Joe White Seay
3. Russell Jarva Seay
4. Cleo Martha Seay
5. Bobby Hugh Seay - born and died June 30, 1933. Buried at Bethesda.

ALMA LOUISE SEAY (dau. of Jarva, son of Austell, son of Rufus R., son of Obediah)

Born Dec. 7, 1913 at Morrow, Alma was married Jan. 28, 1934 at Cane Hill Presbyterian Church to Carl Hubert Umberson. The Rev. S. E. Marrs officiated. Carl was born Apr. 21, 1912 near Dye, Montague Co., Tex., the son of George Washington Umberson and Julia Burgess. When Julia, a native of Missouri, was a child,

Mr. Burgess died and her mother married Albert A. Sappington. On the birth certificate of Julia's son, Carl Umberson, it gives Julia's name as Julia Sappington. Julia's mother, Maggie, and stepfather, Albert A. Sappington, are buried at Bethesda Cemetery. George Umberson was a native of McLennon Co., Tex.

Alma and Carl moved to California soon after their marriage and remained there until the late 1940's. At that time, they purchased a farm near Dutch Mills and returned there to live and farm.

Alma died Apr. 2, 1975 and is buried at Bethesda. Carl still resides on their farm. Their children:

1. Alma Carlene Umberson
2. Donald Carl Umberson
3. Howard Russell Umberson
4. Carolyn Sue Umberson
5. Ginger Gail Umberson

ALMA CARLENE UMBERSON (dau. of Alma, dau. of Jarva, son of Austell, son of Rufus R., son of Obediah Seay)

Born Jan. 10, 1938 at Fullerton, Calif., Carlene was still in elementary school when her parents brought the family back to Arkansas to live. On July 10, 1955, she was married to George Vernon Hale at Dutch Mills. He was born Aug. 5, 1935 at Dutch Mills, the son of Troy E. Hale and Clara Gladys Walker. They are dairy farmers. Their children:

1. Vernon Wayne Hale
2. Carla Jayne Hale
3. Vickie Jean Hale
4. Jim Gregg Hale

VERNON WAYNE HALE (son of Carlene, dau. of Alma, dau. of Jarva, son of Austell, son of Rufus R., son of Obediah Seay)

Born Sept. 14, 1956 at Harrison, Ark., Vernon Wayne was married Nov. 1, 1975 at Dutch Mills to Debra Ann Kinion. She was born Jan. 14, 1958 at Prairie Grove, Ark., the daughter of Dixie Geraldine Wright and Harold Thomas Kinion. They reside at Evansville, Ark., where they are dairy farmers. Children:

1. Trina Kay Hale - born Feb. 25, 1977
2. Michael Wayne Hale - born Sept. 18, 1980
3. Kimberly Diane Hale - born June 17, 1983

CARLA JAYNE HALE (dau. of Carlene, dau. of Alma, dau. of Jarva, son of Austell, son of Rufus R., son of Obediah Seay)

Born May 8, 1958 at Harrison, Ark., Carla Jayne was married Aug. 12, 1977 at Dutch Mills to Terry Allen Kopacek. He was born Oct. 11, 1957 at Livingston,

Mont., the son of Madeline Callais and Leslie Kopacek. Child:

1. Sai Leslie Kopacek - born Sept. 18, 1984

VICKIE JEAN HALE (dau. of Carlene, dau. of Alma, dau. of Jarva, son of Austell, son of Rufus R., son of Obediah Seay)

Born Dec. 12, 1959 at Harrison, Ark. Married (1st) at Dutch Mills to Teddy Charles Holcomb, who was born in September, 1957, the son of Dorothy Calico and Charles Holcomb. Married (2nd) on Dec. 22, 1985 at Knob Hill, Ark. to Everett Dwayne Sizemore. He was born Feb. 16, 1957 at Springdale, the son of Dorothy Johnson and Raymond Sizemore.

JIM GREGG HALE (son of Carlene, dau. of Alma, dau. of Jarva, son of Austell, son of Rufus R., son of Obediah Seay)

Born Feb. 22, 1961 at Harrison, Ark. Married Mar. 23, 1985 at Dutch Mills to Diana Lea Butler. She was born Aug. 28, 1958 at Springdale, Ark., the daughter of Mona Beatrice Frazier and Moda Frank Butler.

And, so, the grandchildren of Carlene Umberson Hale are the eighth generation of the Seay family to have resided and farmed in the Dutch Mills-Morrow-Cane Hill area of Washington Co., Ark. Some are still associated with the Dutch Mills Baptist Church, which their great-great-great-great-grandparents, Rufus R. and Jennie Kimbrough Seay, helped start over a century ago.

DONALD CARL UMBERSON (son of Alma, dau. of Jarva, son of Austell, son of Rufus R., son of Obediah Seay)

The information on Donald's family failed to reach the author at this point in the writing of the book. It will be found on page 28.

HOWARD RUSSELL UMBERSON (son of Alma, dau. of Jarva, son of Austell, son of Rufus R., son of Obediah)

Born Apr. 19, 1946 in Fullerton, Calif., Howard was married Sept. 19, 1964 at Lincoln, Ark. to Donna Faye Smith. She was born Sept. 14, 1948 at Lincoln, the daughter of Elsie Katherine Whitely and William Fred Smith. They reside at Fayetteville, Ark., where Howard owns and operates Umberson Masonry. Children:

1. Brian Don Umberson

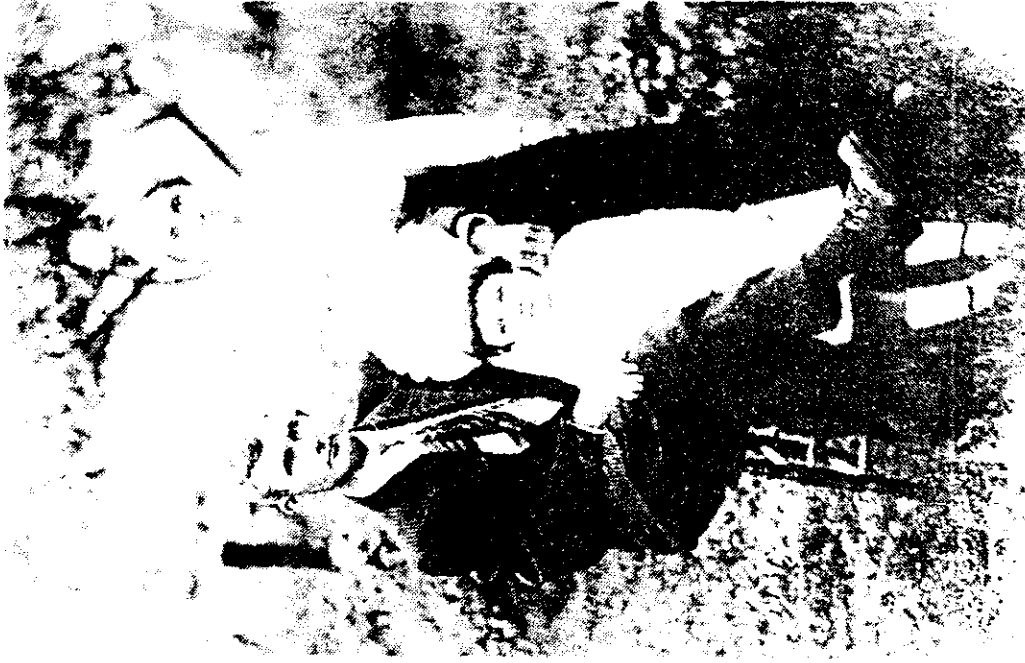
2. Melanie Louise Umberson - born Jan. 22, 1975 at Fayetteville, Ark.

BRIAN DON UMBERSON (son of Howard, son of Alma, dau. of Jarva, son of Austell, son of Rufus R., son of Obediah Seay)

Born Aug. 27, 1965 at Fayetteville, Brian was married Aug. 17, 1985 at Fayetteville, Ark. to Kristen Carol Claybaker, She was born June 15, 1967 at Omaha, Nebr., the daughter of Richard William Claybaker and Carol Janet Cikanek.



AUSTELL SEAY and Emma Little Seay and their sons: Jarva, standing, and Rufus.



JARVA SEAY and Nora White Seay and their daughter, Almi, and son, Joe, about 1916.

CAROLYN SUE UMBERSON (dau. of Alma, dau. of Jarva, son of Austell, son of Rufus R., son of Obediah Seay)

Born Dec. 6, 1949 at Prairie Grove, Ark., Carolyn was married June 14, 1968 to John Robert Hart. John was born Sept. 10, 1949 at Prairie Grove, the son of Dorothy Rose Hyler and Everett Milton Hart. John is a dairyman at Prairie Grove, where he, Carolyn and their children reside. Their children:

1. John William Hart - born Mar. 31, 1970; died Aug. 27, 1970
2. Julie Renee' Hart - born Jan. 28, 1972 at Fayetteville, Ark.
3. Wesley Ryan Hart - born July 27, 1974 at Fayetteville, Ark.

GINGER GAIL UMBERSON (dau. of Alma, dau. of Jarva, son of Austell, son of Rufus R., son of Obediah Seay)

Born Aug. 25, 1952, Ginger was married Mar. 5, 1971 to Ronnie Ray Keith Reynolds. He was born June 2, 1950, the son of Raymond Junior Reynolds and Doris Gale Gabbard. Children:

1. Shelly Ann Reynolds - born Apr. 20, 1974
2. Kevin Ray Reynolds - born Apr. 28, 1977

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JARVA'S CHILD, JOE

JOSEPH WHITE SEAY (son of Jarva, son of Austell, son of Rufus R., son of Obediah)

Born Sept. 5, 1915, Joe died of diphtheria at age six on Sept. 19, 1921. He is buried at Bethesda Cemetery. One of the stories handed down in the family about Joe was an incident that occurred when he was about four. He was not allowed yet to go to neighboring farms alone, but one day he decided to go down to the adjoining farm of his Uncle Rufus H. and Aunt Ruby. Surprised to see him alone, his aunt asked if his mother had sent him on an errand. Joe looked around and saw some goose eggs, so he told her his mother wanted to borrow some goose eggs.

"Goose eggs!" she said in surprise. "What is she going to do with goose eggs?"

Joe had a ready answer: "She is going to make some gooseberry pies," he said.

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JARVA'S CHILD, RUSSELL AND HIS DESCENDANTS

RUSSELL JARVA SEAY (son of Jarva, son of Austell, son of Rufus R., son of Obediah)

Born Mar. 31, 1918 on the family farm there between Morrow and Dutch Mills, Russell attended the old Bethesda School, later transferring to the newly established Morrow Consolidated School. There he was graduated from high school, then went to California for a time before the outbreak of World War II. He was a S/Sgt. in the U. S. Army Infantry, with 43 months of service in the Pacific Theater of War. He was in Hawaii, the Fiji Islands, Guadalcanal, New Zealand, New Caledonia,

Soloman area and the Philippines.

On July 14, 1946, he was married at Springdale, Ark. to Miss Gwendolyn Allen. She was born Jan. 5, 1922 at Cave Springs, Ark., the daughter of H. Robert Allen and Nella Lynn. Russell took his apprenticeship training as a bricklayer from Gwen's brother, Dean Allen, and founded Seay Masonry Contracting Co. Gwen is a career homemaker. Now retired, Russell and Gwen continue to reside in Springdale, where they have lived throughout their married life. They are active members of the Covenant Presbyterian Church of Fayetteville, an affiliate of The Presbyterian Church of America. Children:

1. Allen Russell Seay
2. Laura Lynn Seay
3. Tommy Lowell Seay
4. Leslie Layne Seay

ALLEN RUSSELL SEAY (son of Russell, son of Jarva, son of Austell, son of Rufus R., son of Obediah Seay)

Born May 26, 1947 at Fayetteville, Ark., Allen was graduated from the Springdale High School. He earned both a bachelor's and a master's degree from the University of Arkansas, Fayetteville. During the Vietnam Conflict, he served in the U. S. Navy and was aboard the Kitty Hawk Aircraft Carrier on his mission to Vietnam and other Pacific areas. He married Cecilia Altice Meiser Fuller Adams, who had a young son, Jamey Adams, by a previous marriage. Jamey was born Sept. 9, 1970. Known to family and friends as Ceci, Cecilia is a graduate of the University of Arkansas School of Law and was admitted to the bar in 1982. Allen took his bricklayer's apprenticeship from his father, and worked at that trade and in masonry contracting. He presently is a construction manager for Wal-Mart stores. Allen, Cecilia and family reside in Fayetteville, Ark.
Child:

1. Ashley Anne Seay - born Feb. 5, 1974.

LAURA LYNN SEAY (dau. of Russell, son of Jarva, son of Austell, son of Rufus R., son of Obediah Seay)

Born May 27, 1948 at Fayetteville, Ark., Laura Lynn was graduated from the Springdale High School. She attended the College of the Ozarks at Clarksville, Ark. She earned both a bachelor's degree in music and a bachelor's in education from the University of Arkansas, Fayetteville. She married (1st) Mohammed M. Taheri, who was born July 15, 1945 in Tehran, Iran. One child. Divorced in 1972. She was married (2nd) on June 13, 1981 at Springdale, Ark. to Carol D. Chitwood of New Bloomfield, Mo. He, too, had been previously

married and had two sons and two grandchildren. They reside at Viburnum, Mo., where Carol is high school principal and Laura Lynn teaches both in the school system and private piano students. Child:

1. Ruksana Courtney Taheri - born May 18, 1971 at Springdale, Ark.

TOMMY LOWELL SEAY (son of Russell, son of Jarva, son of Austell, son of Rufus R., son of Obediah Seay)

Born Feb. 3, 1953 at Springdale, Ark. A graduate of Springdale High School, Tommy took his bricklayer's apprenticeship from his father. He married Donna Dickinson Salamack, who had a daughter, Autumn Salamack, by a previous marriage. Autumn was born in October, 1977. Tommy is a masonry contractor, and Donna is a career homemaker. They reside at Winslow, Ark. Child:

1. Amery West Seay - born Aug. 9, 1983 at Fayetteville, Ark.

LESLIE LAYNE SEAY (dau. of Russell, son of Jarva, son of Austell, son of Rufus R., son of Obediah Seay)

Born Mar. 17, 1957 at Springdale, Ark. Leslie is a graduate of Springdale High School and attended the University of Arkansas. In a woodland wedding atop "Pa Seay's Mountain" (Sugar Hill) between Morrow and Dutch Mills, Leslie was married Oct. 16, 1976 to Lowell Addison Wetherbee. He was born Aug. 24, 1954 at Fort Smith, Ark., the son of Lowell Addison (Jim) Wetherbee and Mollie Jean Reed. A graduate of the University of Arkansas School of Architecture, Lowell is employed by Hight-Jackson-Associates in Rogers. Leslie is a career homemaker. They reside in Rogers, Ark. Children:

1. Lynn-Seay Wetherbee - born Dec. 6, 1981 at Boulder, Colo.
2. Ross Thompson Wetherbee - born Jan. 23, 1984 at Fayetteville, Ark.
3. Sadie Ellen Wetherbee - born Dec. 6, 1985 at Rogers, Ark.

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JARVA'S CHILD, CLEO, AND HER DESCENDANTS

CLEO MARTHA SEAY (dau. of Jarva, son of Austell, son of Rufus R., son of Obediah)

Born July 31, 1920 near Morrow, Ark., Cleo was married Jan. 30, 1938 at Cane Hill to Calvin Ross Reed. He was born June 25, 1917 near Morrow, the son of Joseph Hugh Reed and Medda Eva Glidewell. Cleo died May 29, 1953 at a Fort Smith hospital and is buried at Bethesda Cemetery. Ross resides at Stilwell, Okla. Child:

1. Connie Ross Reed

CONNIE ROSS REED (son of Cleo, dau. of Jarva, son of Austell, son of Rufus R., son of Obediah Seay)

Born Feb. 7, 1941 at Prairie Grove, Ark., Connie Ross was married May 25,

1963 to Rachel Marie Tomlinson. She was born Oct. 31, 1942, the daughter of Ethner Clem Tomlinson and Mary Avis Brown. Connie Ross is a bricklayer. They reside at Springdale, Ark. Children:

1. Shawn Lamar Reed - born Dec. 2, 1964. Is assistant manager of McDonald's in Springdale, Ark.
2. Eric Donovan Reed - born July 3, 1966. Is in the U. S. Navy

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AUSTELL'S OTHER SON, RUFUS H. AND HIS DESCENDANTS

RUFUS H. SEAY (son of Austell, son of Rufus R., son of Obediah Seay)

Born Oct. 18, 1898 near Morrow, Ark., Rufus H. was a lifelong farmer. Like his brother, Jarva Seay, he farmed his half of the ancestral land that had been left to him. Thus, the two brothers - the only children of Austell - were next-door neighbors as they reared their families and grew older. Rufus H. was married July 23, 1919 at Cane Hill to Miss Ruby Mae Morris. She was born Sept. 21, 1902 at Morrow, the daughter of James Franklin Morris and Maggie Lee Simpson. Rufus died May 30, 1962 and is buried at Bethesda Cemetery. Ruby lives at Fayetteville, Ark. Children:

1. James Preston Seay - born June 26, 1920; died Aug. 3, 1923.
2. Emma Thada Seay - born Aug. 25, 1922; died Apr. 27, 1926.
3. Betty Mae Seay
4. Linda Jay Seay

BETTY MAE SEAY (dau. of Rufus H., son of Austell, son of Rufus R., son of Obediah Seay)

Born July 14, 1927 at Morrow, Betty Mae was married May 25, 1952 at Fort Smith to Jack Newsom Howell. He was born Nov. 22, 1927 at Kerens, Tex., the son of John Columbus Howell and Irene Mae Newsom. Jack and Betty reside at Dallas, Tex.

LINDA JAY SEAY (dau. of Rufus H., son of Austell, son of Rufus R., son of Obediah Seay)

Born Dec. 20, 1943 at Prairie Grove, Ark., Linda was married (1st) Mar. 25, 1965 to Jimmy Leroy Sellers. One child. Divorced in 1968. She and Danny Dwayne Worley were married May 26, 1978. Danny was born Aug. 17, 1952 at Fayetteville. They reside at Fayetteville. Child:

1. Shawn Jay Sellers - born Oct. 18, 1967.

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RUFUS R.'S THIRD CHILD, THOMAS OBEDIAH SEAY AND HIS DESCENDANTS

THOMAS OBEDIAH SEAY (son of Rufus R., son of Obediah Seay)

Born Dec. 1, 1872 at Cane Hill, Thomas Obediah Seay was married (1st) on Aug. 25, 1898 in Washington Co., Ark. to Della Shannon. He was married (2nd) in July, 1904 to Ida E. Whillock. It is known that he was the father of four children, with two reaching adulthood. They were Etta A. and Chester Seay, both of whom were in the West at last report.

Thomas Obediah's first wife, Della, and their first child, Willie, were in the household of Thomas Obediah's parents, Rufus R. and Jennie Seay, when the 1900 census was taken of Washington Co., Dutch Mills Township. Thomas Obediah, himself, was not found in that county's census that year, but is reported on in the 1910 census.

The 1900 census had this: (H.H. No. 82)				where born		
				Self	father	mother
Seay, Rufus	- head -	b. Oct., 1829 -	age: 70	AR	TN	TN
" Jennie	- wife -	Aug., 1840 -	59	TN	"	"
Whinery, Sarah	- sister -	July, 1834 -	65	AR	"	"
Seay, Della	- dau.	May, 1884 -	16	TN	"	OH
" Willie	- grandson -	Oct., 1899 -	8/12	AR	AR	TN
Gahagen, Mary	- boarder -	Jan., 1889 -	11	AR	"	AR

In the column where each of the three women were asked how many children she had been the mother of and how many were living, they answered as follows:

Jennie said seven, with five living; Sarah said six, with six living; and Della said one, with one living.

Willie died the next year, though. His marker at the Dutch Mills Cemetery says: "Born Oct. 9, 1899 and Died June 9, 1901."

Also at the Dutch Mills Cemetery is the grave of another child of Thomas Obediah. It reads: Anna Oral Seay, dau. of T. O. and Ida, born Feb. 17, 1905 and died July 19, 1906.

Thomas Obediah's children were: (according to family reports and markers)

1. Willie O. Seay
2. Anna Oral Seay
3. Agnes Seay (probably Etta Agnes Seay)
4. Chester Seay

Thomas Obediah, himself, died under mysterious circumstances on May 13, 1923 at Aquilar, N.M. Word handed down in the family contends that his second wife was accused of poisoning him. Reportedly, she was charged and taken into custody on the matter, but either was released or found not guilty. Reliable older members of the family recall that members of the family from Arkansas went to New Mexico at the time to look into the situation. Thomas Obediah's niece,

FROM THE CATALOGUE of Cane Hill College for the scholastic year 1876-77. Rufus Seay and others whose names are associated with the Seay family history are seen as instrumental in the historic college. Now the College of the Ozarks, it is located at Clarksville.

Chapter 3

Obediah's Son

COLUMBUS SEAY

Columbus Seay was the second child of Obediah Seay and Sallie Rice. He was born at Cane Hill, Ark. Apr. 14, 1833, and was educated in the Cane Hill schools.

His mother died when Columbus was three or four years old, and his father died when he was 12 or 13. As he grew up, Columbus, like his brothers and sisters, lived first with Allen Seay, who probably was their uncle. Columbus was about 18 when Allen died in 1852. It was the next year, when he was 19 in 1853, that Columbus embarked on a noteworthy cattle drive to California.

That cattle drive story is known today only because Columbus, upon his return to Arkansas, wrote up his experiences for The Cincinnati ARGUS, a newspaper then published by A. J. Edmiston and Son at the town of Cincinnati, Washington Co., Ark. One copy of the news clipping still exists, and is in the hands of Billy Jack Smith of Westville, Okla., a great-grandson of Columbus Seay. In 1985, Billy Jack took the brittle old clipping out of his lock-box and allowed the editor of THE GOINGSNAKE MESSENGER to reprint it. That publication is published by The Goingsnake District Association headquartered at Westville. Both the editor, Virgil Talbot, and Billy Jack Smith have given permission for the 133-year old news article to be reproduced here.

THE 1853 CATTLE DRIVE By Columbus Seay

"Editor, ARGUS:

"At your solicitation I will give you a sketch of my trip over the plains to California in the year 1853. I and five other boys, viz; L. Hill, D. Crumley, Sam Kelley, F. A. Licklyter and John A. Tennant made arrangements with John W. Carter of Cane Hill to drive stock for him to California. Mr. Carter and William Shores had gone to California in 1849, and returned the winter of 1852 to purchase a drove of cattle and drive them to California in 1853.

I was then 19 years old, and Mr. Carter agreed to pay me \$8 per month. I started with two small mules of my own. We left Cane Hill on the Morning of

April 9th and went to Mr. Shores who lived near Fayetteville, where we remained four days. On the fourth day we loaded our six wagons hitched four yoke of cattle to each wagon and moved out about 150 yards from the house and struck camps. This was done in order to see that everything was in readiness to make an early start the next morning.

"All things being ready, we drove our heard of cattle, consisting of 550 head, and made a good days travel, camping that night on the Lindsley Prairie. Then we crossed to the Indian Territory, crossing (Grand?) River at the Salt works, thence to Verdigras. There were no settlements after crossing Grand River. At the Verdigras we lay over for a few days so that we might get better grassing for our stock. Here we got 150 more head of cattle. We then had 700 head of cattle and about 50 head of horses and mules. Again renewing our journey, in a few days had many sorefooted cattle caused by walking over the fresh burned stubs.

"When we left the Verdigras we took what was then known as the Lewis-Evans trail. (Evans crossed the plains in '49.) (We) travelled a few days passing through skirts of timber. One evening we camped on the open prairie and found no wood for fuel. Timber was in sight, so some of the boys said they would get on their mules and go bring some wood. Mr. Shores said, 'Boys it is at least ten miles to that timber.' Then they concluded to not go. We just walked out on the plains and gathered 'Buffalo' chips for fuel, and in order to keep the wind from blowing our fire away we dug pits in which to make the fires.

"About this time some emigrants fell in with us and it was amusing to see the ladies gathering buffalo chips in their aprons to cook their meals with. In a few days we came to Walnut Creek. Here we had plenty of wood. The next night we camped on Cottonwood Creek and next morning struck out on the open plains in earnest, occasionally we could find a little willow brush for fuel. So far plenty of good water and grass. Then we came to an Alkali pond once in a while, occasionally losing a cow from drinking too freely of the water. In a few days we came to a U. S. fort, then called fort Man, and in a short time after leaving there came to the Buffalo range,

"They seemed to have a line or trail drawn extending north, and I couldn't see a track 50 yards east of the trail. They would consume all the grass west of the line and then move further east. We were among them 2 or 3 days and as far as eye could see the whole plain was black with them. In some herds there looked as if there were thousands. The first evening after we came to the buffalo our horses, about twenty head, ran away with the buffaloes and we had to run

in ahead of them and circle them back to the train. They must have ran 12 or 15 miles. When we stopped to camp that evening Mr. Shores got off his fine mule which he had purchased at a high price to ride across the plains, when it broke loose from him and ran away with the bridle and saddle, and the last we saw of the mule he was tearing across the prairie with a heard of buffaloes. We had a pretty bad time keeping the buffaloes from stampeding our cattle, and were glad when we got out of their range.

"I killed only one buffalo as we had but little time to fool with them. Just as we were camping the day after we had passed the buffaloes we saw a band of wild Indians coming in a line of battle, all in a sweeping gallop over the plain. I will here say; that there was (a) scared boy for a little while. I heard someone say something to Mr. Shores about them and he said he thought them to be a hunting party after the buffaloes, and so they were. They came in 150 yards of us and halted, and the leader rode out in front of them and made some signs. Mr. Shores motioned him to come up, when he said they were after the buffaloes and wanted something for his men to eat. Shores told him to bring up his men which he did and ordered them to dismount. Mr. Shores then brought out some Sugar and Hardtack, and the leader issued it to them. They all got on their knees in a straight line and in this position ate their bread and sugar. I judge there were fifty of them. When it began to get good dusk they mounted and left for their own camp.

"The next morning as were leaving they passed us, all mounted on good ponies. About this time we struck the Santa Fe trail, or rather roads, as there were two broad well beaten roads about 30 feet apart. Here we found the finest mosquite grass that we saw on the plains. On the night before two of our horses got loose and started back for Arkansas. We found where they had come into the road about two miles from camp, and four of us started to follow them, while the train moved on. We found them about 2 o'clock about a quarter of a mile from the road, and when we left the road to go to them they jumped up and ran like wild antelopes. I suppose we ran them five miles before catching them, and if it hadn't been for the long ropes with iron stake pins which they had tied around their necks, we would not have got them at all. We then had to go to the train that night, as there was no chance to get anything at eat until we did. We caught up with it between 11 and 12 o'clock hungry and nearly worn out.

"In a few days we struck the Arkansas River and traveled up this stream to the Rocky Mountains. I have carried wood many evenings across the river on my mule. We left the mountains to our left and came to a very cold swift stream,

called the Cash la Tudy and had to make a raft to cross it. Here a little incident occurred that was amusing to all of us save one; Uncle Cal Shores pretended to be sick. He didn't want to get wet, he said. So as we had to wade in about three feet of water, Uncle wanted some one to carry him across. About 20 of us proposed to do this, but he was afraid to risk any of us, so a man by the name Fritz proposed to carry him out dry. Uncle Cal thought he could be trusted so he got on his shoulders with many an admonition to walk carefully. Fritz started out but his feet became tangled and down he went carrying Uncle to the bottom. Then there was some nice apologies made by Fritz.

"We had hard work getting our cattle across the river, and had to crowd (crowd) some of them into the water before we could get them started, and then four steers broke away and ran off and we never did get them back into the river. We heard of several trains trying later to make them cross but they failed. Right here I will speak of another hard ride I and four other boys had to make while on the Arkansas. (When there was any hard riding to be done those of us who owned our own horses or mules had to do it.) We were ordered back and look among droves of cattle that were behind us for any stock that we might have lost, as we would lose some occasionally, and any drover coming across lost stock would bring them along until the drover called for them.

"We started after an early breakfast, passing trains every few miles until about noon we came to no more trains that day, but about dusk we thought we heard bells and travelled on till about 8 o'clock, still hearing those bells. But no train could we find, so we turned off the road into the prairie and camped, but had to go to sleep without supper. At daybreak the next morning we mounted and started down the river again after those bells which we could still imagine we heard. We travelled until 8 o'clock then having sighted no train we turned back and reached the last train we had passed the day before, at dark. We spent the night with them and were treated like brothers. We reached our own train after dark the next night.

"After we got across the Cash la Tudy, another train came up, but they had no cable rope so the boss wanted to borrow ours promising to bring it on after getting his train across. The boss of that train was a Baptist preacher and when he got across he just sold the rope to another train for \$25.00 and pocketed the money. Then he rode around hunting cattle we had lost, and found several head, so we heard. Shores sent some men back to find them but they failed to come across him.

"In a few days after leaving the Cash la Tudy the Indians stole some horses

and mules from us. One night a severe storm came up and the water ran into our tent so we had to set up most of the night but one of the boys kept us in good spirits preaching Baptist sermons. When day came there was not a cow to be seen, but we found them about five miles from camp behind a large mountain.

"I will just say that driving cattle over the plains is the laziest work I ever did. I would go to sleep every day after noon, on my mule and very often when I would wake up would be near the front of the heard of cattle. The next stream that was of any size was the South Platt river, which we forded but when we came to the North Platte we spent nearly two weeks making a ferry and getting across it. Several head of our cattle were drowned in crossing. After leaving this stream, we could find only bad water, and used sage brush for fuel. When we came to a patch we loaded in our wagons for fear we could not find any at night. Good grass so far.

"The next stream of size was called Medicine Bow Butte, and when we crossed it was fordable but heard three days later that it was one half a mile wide. Along here we came to some snow drifts and one cow ran into one of these drifts and bogged down. This was on the 4th of July. Flowers were in bloom within two feet of the snow. The next place of importance was Green River which was wide, deep and very swift. We were detained several days at this stream and finally crossed by lashing two wagon beds together. They made a very good boat and we got across dry and alright. In a few days we struck the head waters of Bitter Creek. It certainly has the right name, for the water is very bitter. Traveled down this stream over 100 miles and then passed a U.S. Fort, the name of which I have forgotten. It was about 50 miles from Salt Lake City.

"We struck Salt Lake Valley about the 20th of July. Lay over one day and went to the city. The prettiest town I think I ever saw. Here some of my comrades got mad at Mr. Shores and left the train. They were intending to walk to California, but I could not stand to see them start afoot so I turned my mules over to them, telling them if we ever met in California they could pay for them. I then drove a wagon on to California.

"We passed through the city leaving the lake to our left, thence through the settlement for about 40 miles, when we came to Bear River. Here a Mormon had a ferryboat for the accomodation of immigrants. We got there at noon and had to wait until 1 o'clock next day before our turn came. His charge for ferrying a wagon across was from \$5 to \$8, owing to the weight of the wagon. He would lift one wheel of each wagon then make his charge, receive the money, go to his tent and sit down and we did the work.

"In a few days we struck the Humbolt River. At first the water was clear and cool, but it did not remain so as we traveled further down it became impure from so much dead stock in the river. When we camped at night and went to the river for a bucket of water to drink and cook with there was no use to go above a carcass to get water for you could look up the river and see more of them. All there was to do was to dip up the water as quickly as possible and hurry away.

"After traveling down this river we came to the trail that led to Oregon, known as the Losson Trail. As we were going to Northern California we took this trail, which we had to cross. The first day we traveled 25 miles when we came to a small spring. Found water enough to cook with and by working till late at night and getting at it early the next morning, (we got) enough to fill our water kegs, but none of our stock. The next water was 50 miles further on. We traveled all day and until 8 o'clock in the night when we stopped to rest our teams. There wasn't 50 head of loose stock with the train. They must have scented water and deserted the train in their haste to get to it.

"Mr. Carter rode on and reached the spring at daybreak. Most of the stock was already there. At daybreak the train moved on and got to the water about 10 or 11 o'clock. Here we found plenty of grass and water, but the water was boiling hot and stock had to go a mile or so down the brench before they could drink the water. The spring was the largest I ever saw. It must have been 40 or 50 feet across and the water would boil up every little bit 3 or 4 feet high. Don't know how deep it was. We tied two 40 foot ropes together and let them down but found no bottom. The next day we traveled about 3 miles passing many springs, though not as large as the first one. Neither were they so hot, and stopping to rest our men and cattle.

"Renewing our journey the next morning we came to a small creek which we traveled up to its head. Before we came to the head of this creek, we passed through a narrow rough canon (canyon) about two miles in length. The canon was not over 100 yards wide at any place, with almost solid rock walls about 100 feet high. Then we came out on the high plains.

"The next important place was the Great Sierra Nevada Mountains. It took us one whole day to get over the mountains and we had to hitch eight yoke of cattle to each wagon, to get up, and the wagons were nearly empty, too. It was nearly two miles up the mountain and about three down. We then struck a fine level timbered country and came to a lake called Goose Lake. Here a company of U. S. Cavalry was stationed to protect emigrants from hostile Indians. These

Indians had massacred a train of emigrants a year before. Some of the soldiers went with us for three days as guards. After leaving Goose Lake we passed many smaller lakes. One day we had some cattle give out on us near one of these lakes and the next morning (we) could see smoke where the stock was left. The Indians had come from their hiding place, killed the stock, and were cooking them. Some of our boys and the soldiers went back with a determination to kill some of the Indians, but they failed, as the Indians hid in the lake. I think these lakes are in Oregon.

"We then came to Lost River. It was about 50 yards wide, the water cold and clear. We crossed this river on a natural bridge as the river was somewhat swollen. The bridge was under about two feet of water. After passing over some rough country we arrived at Yreka City in the Northern part of California. We then crossed the Scotts Mountain into Scotts Valley. On the western slope of these mountains was the tallest and most beautiful timber I ever beheld. Scotts Valley was Mr. Shores' journeys end and Mr. Carter lived about 100 miles further south. So Shores and Carter settled, Shores kept all the wagons as there was no wagon road through the mountains to Carter's. Nothing but a pack trail. Five of us boys accompanied Mr. Carter on. After taking our departure we went up Scotts River to its head, going up the mountain. Right on top of the mountain there are two springs not more than ten feet apart. One is the head of Scotts River, the other the Trinity River. We started down the Trinity.

"We were ten or fifteen days making the trip and had to live on salt meat and slap jacks till we got near Weaverville, when Mr. Carter went to the town and brought some provisions back to camp. We were tired of living on what we had been eating and we got away with that grub in short order. The next day we passed Weaverville and across (the) Trinity Mountains to Mr. Carter's Ranch which was located in a small valley on Trinity River.

"We reached our journeys end on the 10th day of November 1853, having been on (the) road five months and twenty-seven days. I will just say that such a trip as that is enough to try any man. I must say that Mr. Carter came nearer being the same all the way from Arkansas to California than any of us. He was a wholesome man."

And, so, ended the newspaper article written by Columbus Seay. Years later, his obituary stated that "In 1853 he went to California and stayed until 1857."

On Feb. 17, 1858, Columbus Seay was married to Sarah White Edmiston, who was born Mar. 14, 1841, the daughter of David Crawford Edmiston and Rebecca Thornton of Cane Hill. The marriage was solemnized by the Rev. John Carnahan, a Cumberland Presbyterian minister, in Washington Co., Ark. The couple moved to his farm near Cincinnati in Western Washington Co.

Columbus and Sarah lost their first child, Victoria Seay. According to her marker at the Cincinnati Cemetery, she was born Nov. 21, 1858 and died Apr. 16, 1860.

When the 1860 census was taken of Illinois Township in Washington Co., it listed "Columbus Sea" as being 27, Sarah Sea as 18, and a Mary Pogue as 13.

Two years later, Columbus and Sarah and their infant, J. H. Seay, were separated by the Civil War. Columbus served in Co. B (Capt. Earle's company) of Brooks Regiment, known as the "Fighting Thirty-Fourth." It was organized in September, 1862 at Mount Comfort near Fayetteville, Ark. Columbus served three years - to the end of the war - and was a blacksmith for the Confederates. Among battles in which the "Fighting Thirty-Fourth" fought was the Battle of Prairie Grove, also in Washington County. Today that battlefield is preserved as an Arkansas state park.

The story of Columbus' regiment and company were published in the February, 1983 issue of THE BACKTRACKER. Originally prepared by Clem McCulloch of the state auditor's office, the article was published in the Oct. 9, 1904 issue of THE ARKANSAS DEMOCRAT at Little Rock. It was contributed to the BACKTRACKER by Russell P. Baker, archivist, Arkansas History Commission.

The 34th Arkansas Infantry of the Confederate Army was part of Fagan's Brigade, Churchill's Division, Trans-Mississippi Department. Among the over 1,200 men in the regiment are found names well-known in the Seay locale of the county. Indeed, many are names that became a part of the family history, some of them direct ancestors: Edmiston, Gray, Sexton, Scott, White, Shannon, Leach, Buchanan, Carnahan, Crozier, English, Herron, Kelleam, Morrow, Feed, Simpson and others.

The regiment was in three states, Arkansas, Louisiana and Texas. In February, 1865, the camp had been moved from Minden, La. to Shreveport, then, later that spring, to Marshall, Tex. Here they were when word finally came to them in May that Lee had surrendered a month earlier. A decision was made for the men to march to Fort Smith, Ark. to lay down their arms. This took place on June 9, 1865.

Columbus returned to his little family at Cincinnati, Ark. and resumed his farming and blacksmithing. By the next census, in 1870, he and Sarah had three children: J. H. Seay, by then 8; J. A. Seay, 3; and I. A. Seay, 1. Columbus' half-sister, Rebecca Seay, aged 25, was living with them.

By 1880, three more children had joined the family circle: Sarah, Viola and Emmett. Three others would be born before the 1900 census was taken: Della

C., Dessie G. and Ruby A. Seay.

In 1911, ARKANSAS CIVIL WAR BIOGRAPHIES for Crawford, Franklin and Washington Counties was published. The page devoted to Columbus said that he had been a Mason for 50 years, was a Democrat and a Presbyterian. He also served as a justice of the peace in Washington Co. Nine of their 11 children still were living in 1911.

Columbus died Dec. 26, 1917 on his farm near Cincinnati, and was buried the next day at the Cincinnati cemetery. Sarah died Mar. 8, 1932 and also was buried at Cincinnati.

In the days when Columbus and Sarah settled there, Cincinnati was a popular trading post for early-day residents of the Goingsnake District of the Cherokee Nation just across the state line. Earlier, the town had been known as Sylva, Ark. but the name was changed in 1857 to Cincinnati.

In his will, dated Dec. 4, 1911, Columbus named as his heirs, his widow, Sarah; and children, J. A. Seay, Ida A. Smith, Sallie E. Cabe, Viola Farley, Emmett Seay, Della E. Seay, Dessie Marshall and Ruby A. Wright.

The names of only 10 of their 11 children are known. Not necessarily in order, these names are:

1. Victoria Seay - died of scarlet fever at 17 months.
2. Joseph H. Seay - deceased before 1911. Born in 1861. He may have been the J. H. Seay, who married Lou Pool in 1884.
- * 3. James A. Seay
- * 4. Ida A. Seay
- * 5. Sallie E. Seay
6. Viola Seay (Farley) - Born August, 1874. Lived at Siloam Springs in 1911.
7. Emmett Seay - Born April, 1878. Was at Westville, Okla. in 1911.
- * 8. Della E. or C. Seay
9. Dessie Seay (Marshall) - Born September, 1883. Was at Westville, Okla. in 1911.
10. Ruby Alice Seay - Born December, 1887. Married _____ Wright. Was at Summers, Ark. in 1911.

* A few more details are known about these.

JAMES A. SEAY (son of Columbus, son of Obediah Seay)

Born February, 1868 in Arkansas. Married Ora Peden Oct. 26, 1892 in Washington Co., Ark. She was born in July, 1871. The 1900 census placed them in Washington Co. with three children. The grave of another child also was located.

In 1911, James ... was at Electra, Tex. Their known children:

1. Samuel P. Seay - born in August, 1893 in Arkansas
2. Lloyd J. Seay - born in November, 1895 in Arkansas
3. William T. Seay - born in October, 1898 in Arkansas
4. Kermit Seay - born Feb. 12, 1906 and died Oct. 21, 1907, according to his marker at the Peden Cemetery in Washington Co. It said, "Son of James and Ora."

* * * * *

Since Billy Jack Smith of Westville, Okla., a grandson of Columbus' daughter, Ida A. Smith, was the only one of Columbus' descendants we contacted in person while working on this book, it presented a special opportunity to learn about his line. The author did write to others who she thought might have been descendants of Columbus, but failed to receive a response. Thus, there is more contained here about Billy Jack and his family than about other descendants.

IDA ANN SEAY (dau. of Columbus, son of Obediah Seay)

Born ca 1869 in Arkansas. Died in the early 1940's. Buried at the Old Union Cemetery at Cincinnati, Ark. Married Sept. 14, 1890 in Washington Co., Ark. to Dave Smith. He was a farmer, and they resided near Cincinnati. Dave died in November, 1932. Their children, not necessarily in order, are:

1. Maude Smith - married Bob Stokes. Died at Bristol, Okla.
2. Grace Smith - married Arthur Clayton. Died at Whittier, Calif.
3. Annie Smith - married and lived at Cane Hill. She died when her first child was born.
4. Fred Smith - died at Fresno, Calif.
- * 5. Melvin Smith * See separate paragraph.
6. Mabel Smith - married Ralph Smith, Died at Bartlesville, Okla.
7. Pearl Smith - married Clyde Dyer. In 1986, lived at Junction City, Ore.
8. Mildred Ruth Smith - married Ivory Barnes. In 1986, was living at Junction City, Ore.
9. J. C. Smith - died at Oakridge, Ore.

MELVIN SMITH (son of Ida A., dau. of Columbus, son of Obediah Seay)

Born Nov. 24, 1902 at Cincinnati, Ark. Died Apr. 2, 1980 at Westville, Okla. Buried in the Westville Cemetery. He was a farmer and cattle buyer. He married Edna Jackson, who was born in June, 1901 and died May 11, 1964. Melvin and Edna moved their family from Cincinnati to Westville in 1939. Part of the

land they acquired there had been owned previously by Austell Seay, son of Melvin's great-uncle, Rufus R. Seay. Their children:

1. Faynell Smith - born Aug. 30, 1927. Married C. F. Hill. In 1986, they resided at San Jose, Calif.
- * 2. Billy Jack Smith * See separate paragraph
3. Shirley Dee Smith - married Ray Brakefield. She died in June, 1975 at Wayne, Okla. Buried at Wayne.

BILLY JACK SMITH (son of Melvin, son of Ida A., dau. of Columbus, son of Obediah)

Born Dec. 25, 1929 at Cincinnati, Ark. Married Vernice Bowles, who had an ancestor that came over the Trail of Tears. Vernice is the daughter of Marie Sloan and Riley Bowles. Riley's mother, Betsy Sanders Bowles, was the daughter of Elizabeth Tieskee, who was a full-blood Cherokee. Billy Jack has worked for Ozarks Electric since February, 1948. He and their son, Jackie, raise steers and stocker steers on a 270-acre ranch at Westville. Up until 1985, they had a cow/calf operation there. Nathan Smith, a grandson of Billy Jack and Vernice, is the fourth generation of Seay descendants to raise cattle on that land, part of which belonged to Billy Jack's parents before him. Their children:

- * 1. Jackie Duane Smith * See separate section ahead
- * 2. Barbara Leinn Smith

JACKIE DUANE SMITH (son of Billy Jack, son of Melvin, son of Ida A., dau. of Columbus, son of Obediah Seay)

Born May 24, 1948. Married Pam Metcalf of Northern California. Live at Westville, Okla., where he is a schoolteacher and rancher. Child:

1. Nathan Brent Smith - born July 20, 1973

BARBARA LEINN SMITH (dau. of Billy Jack, son of Melvin, son of Ida A., dau. of Columbus, son of Obediah Seay)

Born Aug. 14, 1951. Married Larry Hern. Live at Westville, Okla. She is a schoolteacher, and they are ranchers. Children:

1. Marty Dale Hern - born Dec. 17, 1970
2. Kelly LaRae Hern - born Dec. 28, 1978

* * * * *

SARAH (SALLIE) R. SEAY (dau. of Columbus, son of Obediah Seay)

Born ca 1873 in Arkansas. Married on Mar. 6, 1892 in Washington Co., Ark. to C. C. Cabe. They lived at Rhea, Ark. in 1911.

* * * * *

DELLA C. OR E. SEAY (son of Columbus, son of Obediah Seay)

Born in June, 1880 in Arkansas. Married ca 1902 to Ora _____, who was born ca 1882 in Arkansas. In 1911, they lived at Siloam Springs, Ark. The 1910 census showed the following children in their household:

1. Bula Seay - born ca 1903 in Arkansas
2. Vera Seay - born ca 1906 in Arkansas
3. Joe Seay - born ca 1908 in Arkansas.

As pointed out earlier in this chapter, the descendants of Columbus and Sarah White Edmiston Seay listed in this book are only a portion of them. No earnest effort was made to attempt to trace all of them. However, those researching the Columbus Seay line in the future may be able to benefit by those who did come to the author's attention, including the children of Columbus and Sarah.

Further along in this book, a chapter on the Edmistons as an allied line of the Seay family will provide more information on Sarah White Edmiston.

* * * * *

ADDENDUM: The following information about some descendants of Columbus and Sarah White Edmiston was received from James Farley of Siloam Springs, Ark. after this chapter had been completed in its final draft. James Farley is a great-grandson of Columbus and Sarah. Our appreciation to him for the following:

VIOLA (OLA) SEAY (dau. of Columbus, son of Obediah Seay)

Born Aug., 1874 in Arkansas. Married at Siloam Springs, Ark. to James Winfield (J.W.) Farley. Both are buried at Oak Hill Cemetery in Siloam Springs. Children:

1. Infant son - buried at Wedington, Ark.
2. Gail Farley - killed in a car wreck in 1931. Buried at Oak Hill, Siloam.
- * 3. Alton Farley * See separate section ahead
4. Fern Farley (Pratt) - lives at Fayetteville, Ark. Two sons: Cedric owns an appliance store at Alma, Ark. and Billy Dick is a district attorney in Knoxville, Tenn.
5. Marjorie Farley (Wight) - lives at Tahlequah, Okla.

ALTON FARLEY (son of Viola, dau. of Columbus, son of Obediah Seay)

He died Aug. 11, 1985 and is buried at Oak Hill Cemetery in Siloam Springs. Children:

1. Sheila Farley - was killed in Tulsa in 1968. Her killer is serving a life sentence at McAlester, Okla.
2. Gwendolyn Farley (Horton) - married Van Horton, who is with Southwestern Power Administration. They live in Tulsa.

3. Milton Farley - lives at Edmond, Okla. and is with Dresser Industries (Magcobar Div.)

4. James Farley - is retired from the postal service in Siloam Springs.

James Farley also contributed additional information on some of Columbus and Sarah White Edmiston Seay's other children:

SALLY SEAY (CABE) has four children that James Farley mentioned: Farris Cabe of Westville, Okla.; Lola of Fort Smith; Cleo of Tahlequah, Okla.; and Garland of Little Rock.

EMMETT SEAY has three children mentioned by James Farley: Ruby, deceased; Clark; and Paul, deceased.

DELLA (DELL) SEAY has five children mentioned by James Farley: Beulah; Vera of Tulsa; Joe, deceased; Gertrude of Tulsa; and Granville of Colorado.

DESSIE SEAY (MARSHALL) has five children mentioned by James Farley: Izola Dyer of Tahlequah, Okla.; Leola, deceased; Audry of Coffeetown, Kans.; Grant of Tahlequah, Okla.; and Fause, deceased.

Rites Held for Emmett Seay, 91

Services for Emmett Seay, 91, a former Westville resident, were held Sunday afternoon in Tahlequah. Interment was in the Tahlequah City Cemetery.

Seay, born April 23, 1878, in Cincinnati, Ark., lived in Westville until 1925 when he moved to Tahlequah. He was employed by the Tahlequah City Light and Water Department for more than 20 years. He was a member of the Presbyterian Church.

Survivors include two sons, one daughter, seven grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

THIS OBITUARY for Emmett Seay is from an unidentified newspaper of about 1969.

Chapter 4

OBEDIAH'S DAUGHTER

SARAH SEAY WHINERY

Sarah Ann Seay was born to Obediah and Sallie Rice Seay in 1835 in Washington Co., Ark. Her mother died the same year, so Obediah was left with three motherless children: Rufus R., Columbus and Sarah.

When she was 16, Sarah was married in Washington Co. on July 30, 1851 to Robert E. Whinery. The year before their marriage, Robert was living in the household of a Cane Hill blacksmith, John J. Oliver and his family. The Olivers were neighbors of Allen Seay, in whose household Sarah, her two brothers and their half brother and half sisters were living in 1850. Robert Whinery was reported that year to have been 21 and a native of Tennessee.

Ten years later, when the 1860 census was taken of Washington Co., Mountain Township, the household of Robert and Sarah was reported this way:

Robert Whinery	-	aged 32	-	born in Tennessee
Sarah Whinery	-	aged 24	-	born in Arkansas
Thomas Whinery	-	aged 7	-	born in Arkansas
Noah Whinery	-	aged 5	-	born in Arkansas
Sarah Whinery	-	aged 4	-	born in Arkansas
Parlie Whinery	-	aged 1	-	born in Arkansas

When the 1870 census was taken 10 years later, both happiness and tragedy had been experienced in the home. Two more children had been born into the home, Walter ca 1861 and Emma ca 1864. But Robert, the father, had been a victim of the Civil War, and Sarah was left a widow while still in her 20's with six fatherless children to rear.

Robert's death by hanging at Cane Hill has been handed down by family lore and was told to Russell and Gwen Seay by his cousin, Gail Edmiston Snow of Clovis, N.M. Then, mention of it was found in a booklet, entitled, EARLY SETTLERS OF CANE HILL by Ellen Earle Richardson. Mrs. Richardson wrote that "Federal soldiers came" and tried to get Lige Leach to dig up his money that

he was holding in trust for his niece but he refused. They took him and Art Crozier, she wrote, "and hanged both to the high cross-bar holding together the two tall gate posts at a spot not far north of the entrance to the place belonging to Mr. and Mrs. Earle Gould." The writer went on to say that they also hanged another man, "Mr. Whinery," at the spring in front of Mr. Neal's house.

The story went on: "Since all able-bodied men were in the army and none left at home but the old and infirm, women and girls came with a wagon to take down these bodies for burial. A group of girls drove a wagon underneath the gallows and one of them, Lou Lacy (Bean), taking a large knife in her hand, crept out long the cross-bar and cut the ropes that held the bodies, while the girls in the wagon lowered them into the wagon bed. At the place of burial, graves were dug by these same women and girls."

So it was that the grave of Robert Whinery was not found during research for this book.

Here it should be pointed out that the culprits who committed the murders could have been bushwhackers, dressed, perhaps, in Union uniforms of the army they had deserted or in uniforms found on dead soldiers. There exist records saying when the Union forces were moved out after the Battle of Prairie Grove in December, 1862. It is a known fact that as troops moved out of an area following a battle, the lawless moved in to prey on the citizens, who had been left with neither military nor civil protection. When these bushwhackers could not find money, they often tortured and killed to try to gain their goal.

Approximately 15 years after Robert's death, Sarah was living still in the Cane Hill Township of Washington Co. The 1880 census showed that three of her six children had now left the nest. She was 43, James Thomas Whinery was 28, and still single; Walter Whinery was 18; and Emma Whinery was 15.

Little is known further about Sarah's children. C. Walter Whinery, born in 1861 and died in 1943, and his wife, Mary E. Whinery, 1872-1959, are buried near Sarah at Bethesda Cemetery. It is believed that Emma Whinery married R.B. Glenn. Their graves are at Bethesda, and Russell Seay recalls that Emma was a niece of Rufus R. Seay.

A grandson of Sarah and Robert Whinery was reported to have been Elmer Ernest Whinery, who was born at Morrow June 11, 1895 and died Jan. 9, 1963 at Lincoln. He married Goldie Galloway, 1898 - 1972, and they, too, are buried at Bethesda. It is reported that their children were Marie Young of Ephrata, Wash.; Mildred Edmonston of Clovis, N.M.; Wanda Phillips of Clearfield, Utah; and

Ernest Whinery of Lincoln, Ark.

The 1900 census showed that Sarah Whinery, then aged 70, was living with her brother and sister-in-law, Rufus and Jennie Seay in the Dutch Mills area.

When Rufus R. died in 1906, his will showed that he remembered his sister, Sarah, along with his widow and children.

Sarah Seay Whinery died in 1910 and was buried at Bethesda Cemetery.

COPY of the portion of Rufus R. Seay's Will in which he mentioned his sister, Sarah Seay Whinery:

I Rufus R. Seay of Dutch Miller County of Westing in State of Arkansas being aware of the uncertainty of life and in failing health, but of sound mind and memory do make and declare this to be my Last Will and Testament in manner following To Wit:

I give, devise and bequeath unto my eldest son Joseph Austell Seay.....

I give devise and bequeath unto my second son Thomas Obidiah Seay. The sum of Twenty five Hundred dollars, consisting lands and improvements on which I and my family now reside known as the Dr. Williams place of Two hundred and thirty three and one quarter acres more or less on condition that one third of the crop be paid to my wife Jane Seay and sister Sarah Whinery provided they are live me. To have and to hold unto my second son his heirs and assigns forever Not Transferable, and if sold or any part thereof the whole piece of land reverts to the Rufus Seay Estate.

Chapter 5

OBEDIAH'S SECOND SET OF CHILDREN

JOSEPH SEAY, MARY SEAY EDMISTON,
 NANCY EMILY SEAY FUDGE AND
 MARTHA REBECCA SEAY BARRINGTON

JOSEPH SEAY (son of Obediah Seay)

Apparently the first child of Obediah and his second wife, Nancy Emily Dyer, Joseph was born about 1838 in Arkansas, according to both the 1850 and 1860 censuses of Washington Co. In 1850, at age 12, the census said that he was attending school. Ten years later, at age 22, he was living in the home of his mother and stepfather, Nancy and Elijah Leach near Cane Hill and was a farmer, according to the census. No further record was located for him. The Civil War erupted in 1861 when Joseph was 23. No doubt, if he were alive at that time, he would have been affected in some way by the war.

* * * * *

MARY SEAY (dau. of Obediah Seay)

Born about 1840 in Arkansas to Obediah and his second wife, Nancy Emily Dyer, Mary probably was five or six years old when her father died. She was married in 1861 in Washington Co. to James Madison Edmiston. He was born Nov. 7, 1838 in Washington Co., Ark., the son of David Crawford Edmiston and Rebecca Thornton. They had one child, according to the article on James Madison Edmiston in ARKANSAS CIVIL WAR BIOGRAPHIES. James fought for the Confederacy in the Civil War, serving with the 34th Arkansas Infantry, Company B. He was wounded and discharged, dying in 1864 before the war ended. Their child:

1. Lorene Madison Edmiston was born in 1863. She was married Dec. 31, 1878 to George Fiske Pyeatte. He was 23 and she was 16. They lived at Morrow. When the 1880 census was taken of Washington Co., they were in the household of William P. Patterson and his wife, Mary A. Lorene and George had a child, Mary P. Pyeatte, who was seven months old in mid-1880.

* * * * *

NANCY EMILY SEAY (dau. of Obediah)

Born ca 1843 in Washington Co., Ark. to Obediah Seay and his second wife, Nancy Emily Dyer, Nancy was married on Mar. 26, 1873 to J. C. Fudge. The vows were exchanged at the Boonsboro (Cane Hill) home of her brother, Rufus R. Seay, with H. M. Welch, a minister of the gospel, officiating. No Fudge was found in the 1880 census, nor was any other record located. However, Russell Seay recalls an "Aunt Fudge" and wonders if this might have been Nancy Emily. It is probable that they lived either over the state line in Oklahoma or over the county line in some other Arkansas county.

* * * * *

MARTHA REBECCA SEAY (dau. of Obediah Seay)

Born ca 1845 in Washington Co., Ark. to Obediah and his second wife, Nancy Emily Dyer, Martha Rebecca likely was a very young infant when Obediah died. In 1850, she was five and living in the household of Allen Seay. In 1860, when she was 15, she was in the home of her mother and stepfather, Nancy Emily and Elijah Leach, and at 25, in 1870, she was 25 and part of the household of her brother, Columbus Seay. It is reported that she married Ral Barrington.

M I S C E L L A N E O U S

Flashback Washington County Historical Society May 1959
Fayetteville, Arkansas 72701

Early Arkansas Marriages of Interest to Washington County

(Editor's note: We are indebted to the Pulaski County Historical Review for a continuation of its list of early Arkansas marriages, compiled from the files of the Arkansas Gazette. From the Review's list we have selected those that should be of special interest to Washington County readers.)

1836 - Obadiah Seay and Nancy E. Dyer at Cane Hill, Washington

Washington Co., Ark.'s marriage records start in 1845. There might be no published record of the second marriage of Obediah Seay were it not for this one, which was published by FLASHBACK from the Arkansas Gazette records. There is no published record of his first marriage, except for Goodspeed's HISTORY OF NORTHWEST ARKANSAS and such other books as ARKANSAS CIVIL WAR BIOGRAPHIES, which tells who the parents of Columbus Seay were, howbeit, Sallie Rice's name was mistakenly spelled Rieu by the clerk in deciphering penmanship.

ANCESTOR CHART of Russell J. Seay

<p>4 Joseph Austell Seay (Father of No. 2) b. Mar. 20, 1871 p.b. Cane Hill, Ark. m. Jan. 29, 1891 d. Aug. 2, 1937 p.d. Prairie Grove, Ark.</p>	<p>8 Rufus Rice Seay (Father of No. 4) b. Oct. 29, 1829 p.b. Cane Hill, Ark. m. Jan. 20, 1869 d. May 14, 1906 p.d. Dutch Mills, Ark.</p>	<p>16 Obediah Seay b. 1790-1800 m. d. 1845-1847 17 Sallie Rice b. 1800-1810 d. 1835</p>
<p>2 Jarva J. Seay (Father of No. 1) b. Feb. 5, 1892 p.b. Morrow, Ark. m. Nov. 10, 1912 d. July 28, 1969 p.d. Stilwell, Okla.</p>	<p>9 Jane (Jennie) Kimbrough (Mother of No. 4) b. Aug. 25, 1840 p.b. Tennessee d. Mar. 5, 1908 p.d. Dutch Mills, Ark.</p>	<p>18 Thomas Kimbrough b. May 2, 1805 m. d. May 12, 1886 19 Elizabeth Austell b. Dec. 13, 1810 d. 1874</p>
<p>5 Emma Elizabeth Little (Mother of No. 2) b. Mar. 21, 1869 p.b. Wash. Co., Ark. d. Oct. 2, 1928 p.d. Wash. Co., Ark.</p>	<p>10 Ambrose H. Sevier Little (Father of No. 5) b. Apr. 22, 1845 p.b. Cincinnati, Ark. m. June 10, 1866 d. May 3, 1919 p.d. Wash. Co., Ark.</p>	<p>20 James Little b. 1800-1810 m. (2nd marriage ca 1841) d. Sept. 22, 1844 21 Elizabeth Franklin b. Dec., 1824 d. Mar. 14, 1890</p>
<p>1 Russell Jarva Seay b. Mar. 31, 1918 p.b. Morrow, Ark. m. July 14, 1946 d. p.d.</p>	<p>11 Sarah Jane Graham/Grayhum (Mother of No. 5) b. Dec. 2, 1839 p.b. Wash. Co., Ark. d. May 4, 1917 p.d. Wash. Co., Ark.</p>	<p>22 Jackson Graham/Grayhum b. Tenn. m. d. 1840-1850 Wash. Co. 23 Elizabeth Drake b. Nov. 22, 1816 d. Mar. 28, 1887</p>
<p>6 Hugh Lawson White (Father of No. 3) b. Sept. 10, 1853 p.b. Dutch Mills, Ark. m. Nov. 10, 1882 d. Mar. 30, 1917 p.d. Dutch Mills, Ark.</p>	<p>12 William Harvey White (Father of No. 6) b. 1815 p.b. Maury Co., Tenn. m. ca 1837 d. Killed 1861-62 p.d. near Dutch Mills, Ark.</p>	<p>24 James White b. 1781 m. Jan. 4, 1808 d. Nov. 25, 1820 25 Catherine Huffstutler b. 1775 d. Ark.</p>
<p>3 Martha Elnora (Nora) White (Mother of No. 1) b. Apr. 29, 1892 p.b. Morrow, Ark. d. Aug. 8, 1952 p.d. Morrow, Ark.</p>	<p>13 Martha Sexton (Mother of No. 6) b. 1819 p.b. Gallatin Co., Ill. d. 1896 p.d. Dutch Mills, Ark.</p>	<p>26 Rev. Jacob Sexton b. Dec. 25, 1785 m. d. Aug. 6, 1873 27 Martha Scott b. Jan. 21, 1783 d. Dec. 31, 1862</p>
<p>7 Mary Isabel Edmiston (Mother of No. 3) b. Oct. 23, 1857 p.b. Wash. Co., Ark. d. May 9, 1937 p.d. Wash. Co., Ark.</p>	<p>14 Harvey Henderson Edmiston (Father of No. 7) b. ca 1817 p.b. Tenn. m. d. Dec. 6, 1880 p.d. Wash. Co., Ark.</p>	<p>28 (Adopted by) David Crawford Edmiston b. July 21, 1805 d. Apr. 18, 1881 29 Rebecca Thornton b. 1807 d. 1881</p>
<p>Gwendolyn Vivian Allen (Spouse of No. 1) b. Jan. 5, 1922 p.b. Cave Springs, AR d. p.d.</p>	<p>15 Louisa/Lucinda Gray (Mother of No. 7) b. Oct. 7, 1825 p.b. Ark. d. 1860's p.d.</p>	<p>30 Sanford Foley Gray b. Mar. 20, 1801 m. d. Nov. 6, 1889 31 Elizabeth Brooks Ormes b. Oct. 17, 1806 d. July 30, 1878</p>

THE ALLIED LINES OF THE SEAY FAMILY:

Chapter 6

THE LITTLE AND FRANKLIN

ANCESTRY

Russell J. Seay's paternal grandmother was Emma Elizabeth Little, wife of Joseph Austell Seay. Their family is discussed in Chapter 2.

Emma was the first child of Ambrose Hunley Sevier Little, and was born on Mar. 26, 1869 in Washington Co., Ark. Her mother was Sarah M. Jane Graham.

The parents of Ambrose Hunley Sevier Little were James Little and his second wife, Elizabeth Franklin. Thus, the lineage goes like this:
Russell J. Seay's paternal grandparents were Austell Seay and Emma Little (Seay).

His great-grandparents on the Little side were Ambrose Hunley Sevier Little and Sarah M. Jane Graham.

His great-great-grandparents were James Little and Elizabeth Franklin.

His other great-great-grandparents on that side were Sarah M. Jane Little's parents, Jackson A. Graham and Elizabeth Drake.

His great-great-great-grandparents on that side, those who are known, are:

John Franklin and his first wife, Polly Jarvis, and
James Drake and Margaret Fields.

With this established as an outline, this chapter will take a closer look at some of these ancestors of Russell J. Seay and of his children and grandchildren. Once these direct ancestors have been discussed, information on some other ancestors will be discussed in later chapters.

THE LITTLES

JAMES LITTLE was born in 1801 in Georgia, according to Goodspeed's HISTORY OF NORTHWEST ARKANSAS. Other sources gave his birth state as either Tennessee or North Carolina.

When a young man, James immigrated to Clark County, Ark. There he married Nancy Gentry, who had come with her parents from Nashville, Tenn. to Clark Co., Ark. James and Nancy moved on to Washington Co., Ark. in 1828, and he engaged in farming and stock raising. They had seven children, and Nancy died in 1840.

Both James and Nancy were Primitive Baptists, and he was a Democrat. On Sept. 20, 1839, he finished paying up his land claim in Washington Co. It was signed by President Martin Van Buren, and consisted of 80 acres.

Within the next year or two after Nancy's death, James re-married, that time to Miss Elizabeth Franklin, a native of Tennessee who was about 17 or 18 at the time. Elizabeth was a Methodist.

Elizabeth was the daughter of John Franklin, who at the time lived in Madison Co., Ark. John Franklin, born ca 1780 in North Carolina, married (1st) Polly Jarvis, who was born between 1800-1805. John Franklin had gone to White Co., Tenn. by 1820. The 1830 census of White Co. showed that he and his wife were in the 40-50 year age bracket. Eight children ranged from some under five to one between 15 and 20 years old. It probably was the second wife in the 1830 census. Polly died, and about 1830, John re-married. His second wife was Margaret Shockley (Goad), widow of James M. Goad. They left White Co., Tenn. about 1835 and showed up in the census of Madison Co., Ark. in 1840. It is believed that no children were born to John's second marriage.

Four of John Franklin's children still were in the household in 1840, but by 1850, only he and Margaret showed up in the census of Madison Co., Ark. One of the children who had married and left home during that 10-year period was his daughter, Elizabeth Franklin, who, of course, had married James Little.

By 1870, John Franklin, apparently widowed again, had gone to live with his daughter, Elizabeth Little. Elizabeth, at age 46, also was a widow. Her father was listed as being 90 years old in 1870.

Meanwhile, back at the home of Elizabeth Franklin and James Little: James died Sept. 22, 1844, only about three years after he and Elizabeth were married. They had become the parents of two sons, one of whom would become the great-grandfather of Russell J. Seay.

James died intestate, so it was necessary for Elizabeth, his widow, to file in Washington Co. Probate to recover her dower of land, slaves and personal property. All nine children of James Little appear in the probate records, with the married children appearing by their married names. The slaves were named as being: "one Negro woman slave named Jane and child named Elijah and boy named Woodford and one other woman named Eliza."

In the 1850 census of the Illinois Township of Washington Co., the household of Elizabeth Little included herself, aged 26, and James' two youngest children by his first marriage, Nancy, 17, and Samuel, 14, and the two sons of James and Elizabeth, Ewen, aged 7, and Ambrose, aged 5.

The 1850 Farm Schedules at the University of Arkansas show that Elizabeth that year farmed 300 acres, of which 75 were improved. This was in the Illinois Township still. The farm produced 30 pounds of wool, 15 bushels of sweet potatoes, 150 pounds of butter, 10 bushels of wheat, 300 bushels of Indian corn and 100 bushels of oats. It contained an orchard, four horses, five cows, two working oxen, 10 all other cattle, 14 sheep and 40 swine.

The last census in which Elizabeth Little's household was shown was in 1880 (There are no 1890 censuses for the biggest part of the United States). It found her alone, at age 56, except for a 12-year old grandson, James Little, residing with her.

Elizabeth's marker at Ganderville Cemetery shows that she died Mar. 14, 1890. She was 65, having been born in December, 1824.

James Little's children by his two marriages:

(By Nancy)

1. John Little
2. Martha Caroline Little
3. Malinda Catherine Little
4. James Little, the 2nd
5. William Little
6. Nancy Angeline Little
7. Samuel Rector Little

(By Elizabeth)

8. Ewen Marion Little

* 9. Ambrose Hunley Sevier Little * separate section ahead

AMBROSE HUNLEY SEVIER LITTLE (son of James Little, the 1st)

Born Apr. 22, 1845 at Cincinnati, Ark., Ambrose was the son of James Little and his second wife, Elizabeth Franklin. He was a farmer, who, like so many of his peers, received a patent to land in Washington Co., Ark. A Civil War veteran, Ambrose fought two years in Co. B, Capt. Shannon's. He was a Democrat, a Methodist, and a member of the IOOF lodge.

After the Civil War, on June 10, 1866 in Washington Co., he was married to Sarah M. Jane Graham. She was born on Dec. 2, 1839, the daughter of Elizabeth Drake and Jackson Graham, whose name sometimes was found spelled "Grayhum."

Ambrose and Sarah Jane were the parents of at least six children, of whom one was Emma Elizabeth, who became the grandmother of Russell Seay. Emma was two years old, when the 1870 census was taken of Washington Co. Ambrose was 25, and Sarah Jane was 30.

Ambrose Hunley Sevier Little died Mar 3, 1919. Sarah Jane Graham Little had died May 4, 1917. Both are buried at the Ganderville Cemetery.

When the book, CIVIL WAR BIOGRAPHIES, was published in 1911, the page for Ambrose Hunley Little listed five of his children. The grave of a sixth one also was found. These children are:

- * 1. Emma Little (Seay) * separate section ahead
- 2. Lula Little (Reed) - born ca 1873 in Arkansas
- * 3. Etta Little (McCarty)
- * 4. Minnie Little (Roy)
- * 5. John B. Little
- 6. Antonio Little - Her marker at Ganderville says, "dau. of A. H. and S.J. born Jan. 21, 1879 - died July 12, 1879"

EMMA ELIZABETH LITTLE (dau. of Ambrose, son of James Little)

More information on Emma appears in chapter 2 in the section concerning Emma and her husband, Austell Seay,

* * * * *

ETTA MAE LITTLE (dau. of Ambrose, son of James Little)

Born Feb. 12, 1874, she married Thomas Alfred McCarty. He was born Oct. 11, 1861 at Dutch Mills, the son of Sarah Phedelia Kimbrough and Timothy McCarty. According to their markers at Dutch Mills, Thomas died Mar. 8, 1923 and Etta died July 22, 1932. Their known children are:

- * 1. Zula B. McCarty * see separate section ahead
- * 2. Sara Oma McCarty
- * 3. Timothy Aytch (H) McCarty
- * 4. Emma D. McCarty

ZULA B. McCARTY (dau. of Etta Mae, dau. of Ambrose, son of James Little)

Born Sept., 1893, she married William Johnson Young in August, 1920. He was born Feb. 16, 1886 at Linden, Tenn., son of John Wesley Young and Sarah Horner. According to his marker at Dutch Mills, William died in 1973. In 1981, Zula lived at Lincoln, Ark. Their known children and grandchildren:

1. Opal Young - born Jan. 24, 1923. Married Bill Slaughter. Children: Jack and Thomas Slaughter
2. Thomas Calvin Young - born Apr. 16, 1925. Married Dorothy Lancaster. Child: Ronald Wesley Young
3. Alvin Wesley Young - born June 25, 1928. Married Karen Anderson. Child: John Maurice Young.

SARAH OMA McCARTY (dau. of Etta, dau. of Ambrose, son of James Little)

Born June 5, 1895 at Dutch Mills, she married Robert Lee Roller on Dec. 4, 1931 at Westville, Okla. He was born Nov. 30, 1897 at Dutch Mills.

TIMOTHY AYTCH (H) McCARTY (son of Etta, dau. of Ambrose, son of James Little)

Born Nov. 19, 1899 at Dutch Mills, he married Daisy Adair Jan. 5, 1924. She was born Aug. 29, 1899 at Piney, Okla. He died Sept. 11, 1984 and is buried at Dutch Mills.

EMMA D. McCARTY (dau. of Etta, dau. of Ambrose, son of James Little)

Born Dec. 31, 1904, she married James Owen Reed on Sept. 25, 1924. He was born Apr. 13, 1901 at Cane Hill, the son of Rosalie Tedder and Earl Reed. She died May 4, 1981 in a Tulsa Hospital, and James died Apr. 7, 1985. They are buried at Bethesda Cemetery. Children:

1. James Gerald Reed - born Jan. 6, 1927. Died Aug. 24, 1944. Buried at Bethesda Cemetery.
2. Felix Herman Reed - born Sept. 12, 1928. Married Clara Belle West. In 1981, lived at Cincinnati, Ark.
3. Thomas Earl Reed - born May 9, 1931. Married Mary Jewel Ray. He was at Morrow in 1981.
4. Thelma Jane Reed - born May 24, 1935. Married Dale Loftin. Was at Morrow, Ark. in 1981.

* * * * *

MINNIE LITTLE (dau. of Ambrose, son of James Little)

Born Aug. 29, 1877, she married William R. Roy. He was born June 9, 1873 and died Feb. 9, 1939. Both are buried at the Westville Cemetery, but her stone did not have a death date. They were married in Washington Co. Dec. 19, 1894, and they lived for years west of Westville, Okla. Children, according to Russell J. Seay:

1. Fred Roy - lived at Long Beach, Calif.
2. Sarah Grace Roy (Swagerty) - born in 1901; died in 1936 (Westville Cem.)
3. Another daughter, name not recalled

* * * * *

JOHN B. LITTLE (son of Ambrose, son of James Little)

Born July 14, 1880, he married Alice L. _____, who was born in Arkansas in 1880. He died (murdered) Mar. 21, 1923, and Alice died Apr. 4, 1935. Both are buried at the White Rock Cemetery. Two graves there of children appear to be

their children; in fact, one of them says, "dau. of J. B. and L.A." In the 1910 census of Dutch Mills Township of Washington Co., two other children were in the household of John B. Little and wife, Alice Little. There may have been other children, but these four are listed here:

1. Infant daughter - born Sept. 19, 1901 - died Oct. 14, 1901
2. Lizzie Lucille Little - born Mar. 28, 1905 - died July 7, 1906
3. Dona Little (girl) - born ca 1906 in Arkansas
4. Christine Little - born ca 1908 in Arkansas

Russell J. Seay was a small boy of about five when his great-uncle, John B. Little, died. As Russell recalls it, John B. was a member of the Ku Klux Klan and someone shot him. Russell was impressed by the fact that other Klansmen, dressed in white robes and pointed hats, rode horses from the big old home of the Little family across the field to the White Rock Cemetery for the funeral.

In the microfilm for the FAYETTEVILLE DAILY DEMOCRAT of Mar. 23, 1923, a front page announcement gave the jurors announced for the spring term of the Circuit Court. J. B. Little was one of the jurors. Of course, by the time the paper was off the press, John B. Little had been killed. The article read:

"Washington County Circuit Court will open in Fayetteville on April 23rd with the largest criminal docket in its history, it is announced today...

"Credit for the big docket is given by those who claim to be 'in the know' to activities last fall of the Ku Klux Klan in cooperation with officers.. "

The list included, of course, J. B. Little of Dutch Mills as one of the petit jurors.

M I S C E L L A N E O U S

As mentioned, Russell Seay's great-great-great-grandfather was John Franklin. This is explained on the first page of this chapter. While work progressed on this book, correspondence was carried out with Dolores Franklin, whose husband, James Howard Franklin of Edmond, Okla., is a descendant of John Franklin through John's son, Jesse W. Franklin.

One of the sons of Jesse W. Franklin was named Ambrose Hunley Sevier Franklin. Of course, one of the sons of Jesse's sister, Elizabeth Franklin (Little), also was named Ambrose Hunley Sevier Little. The latter was Russell's great-grandfather.

The man for whom these two were named played an important role in Arkansas history during the era when these two were born. When Henry W. Conway was killed in a duel after being elected to Congress, Ambrose Hunley Sevier succeeded Conway. Sevier in 1833 asked Congress to permit Arkansas to form a constitution. When Arkansas achieved statehood, Sevier became a U. S. Senator. He served in the U.S. Senate until 1848, when he resigned his seat to help negotiate the final treaty with Mexico to end the Mexican War.

Chapter 7

THE DRAKE AND FIELDS AND GRAHAM ANCESTRY

In the very early spring of 1986, as work on this book progressed, Gwen and Russell Seay and this writer made our way through brambles to the site of the Drake Cemetery. It is located off of what is known as the Bush Creek Valley Road, a couple of miles south of Lincoln, Ark.

Climbing through yet another barbed wire fence, we reached the foundation stones of the old Sardus Church. We sat on these historic stones to eat our lunch, and Russell reminisced about attending the church that stood there when he was a child.

Then we walked on a number of yards to the rockwall-enclosed Drake Cemetery. We found some graves outside the wall bearing such names as Rollin and Roller and Day. We opened the old wrought-iron gate and entered the cemetery proper.

There we found a near-impossible situation. A few markers stood, but some of these were eroded by a century of wind and rain to the point of illegibility. Periwinkle vines, trapped within the stone wall, were green and vibrant and deep enough to completely cover not only graves but entire markers. In between grew saplings and briars. Gwen would kneel down, rub a stone lightly with a fine sandpaper to try to decipher its inscription, while I noted the information and Russell cut more brambles ahead of us to ease the movement as we went. Once we retraced our steps, and there where Gwen had knelt at a stone, a small snake, badly mashed, but freshly dead, had made its way up through the vines to die. We, no doubt, stepped on others or knelt on others, who did not make it to the surface.

Finally, we reached the tall marker we sought. It read: "In the Memory of James Drake born May 6, 1795 died June 15, 1857 A member of the M.E. Church about 31 years."

This marked the grave of Russell's great-great-great-grandfather on his father's side. But where was the grave of James' wife, Margaret Fields Drake? There obviously was space to the left of James' grave for Margaret's but no stone marked the spot. Russell took his brush-cutter, and using it for a probe

struck the sound of stone. Reaching down through the mass of growth, he brought up the grave marker for Margaret. It was in three parts, and read: "Margaret, wife of James Drake Born Mar. 15, 1799. Died May 21, 1879."

Here, then, were the graves of Russell's great-great-great-grandparents on his father's side. Russell's father, Jarva J. Seay, was the son of Emma Elizabeth Little. Emma was the daughter of Sarah Jane Graham, and Sarah Jane was the daughter of Elizabeth Drake, the oldest child of James and Margaret Fields Drake.

Before proceeding back to the beginning of the story, it should be pointed out that the fine, durable stone wall around the Drake Cemetery, was built in 1879 by P. T. Mosely, according to a receipt in the probate records of the Washington Co. Courthouse. The receipt for \$75.00 was made out to Wesley Drake, executor of the estate of James and Margaret. Wesley was their son.

A great wealth of information exists today about the Drake family, and this will be drawn on here to explain the earlier story of James and Margaret. In order to prevent the interruptive use of footnotes, credit is simply given to the main sources of information. The papers of a grandson of James and Margaret, Dr. Fields Drake, are housed at the University of Arkansas Library. These were studied. A daughter of Fields Drake, Vera Drake Wade of Fayetteville, utilized the help of Lois Miller of Fayetteville in some research, and Mrs. Miller is a friend of this writer, too. She made copies of voluminous materials for this writer. These include two lengthy letters written many years ago by Wesley Drake, eldest son of James and Margaret, concerning his parents and their family. Combining these with many other sources of research, such as censuses of both Gallatin Co., Ill. and Washington Co., Ark., courthouse records and many others, the story is presented here:

Born in Virginia, James Drake was "raised in the lower parts of Kentucky," as it was described by his son, Wesley, in 1893. Wesley was writing to Mr. J. Jacob Drake to see if he knew anything further to help him regarding information about James Drake.

"I do not know his father's given name," he wrote, "but your names seems to be some of my father's brothers to the best of my recollection. My father's father married the second time, that gave my father a stepmother when he was about fifteen. He said his father told him he could go & do for himself. He gave him a colt & he struck out for himself. He went aboating when a young man, I supposed in Ken. So he travelled around, got up in Illinois state & became acquainted with Jacob Sexton, lived with him & worked for him till he married

Margaret Fields.

"So my father & mother had three children borned unto them in the state of Illinois," Wesley went on. "Here is there names - Elizabeth, Wesley & Susan. There was ten in all. The rest was borned in Ark."

The letter continued: "In 1822, my father & Jacob Sexton emigrated to Ark., settled on southside of Arkansas river near McClain's Bottom. From there they moved up to Loveles Purchase, which country was traded (?) away through the influence of Senator Sevier to the Cherokee Indians, so we had to get away so we moved down to Big Frog Bayou, opened a farm, thence to Washington Co., Ark., both father and Jacob Sexton."

Here, it should be pointed out that when James Drake and Jacob Sexton and families were in what Wesley called "Loveles Purchase," they were in the vicinity of Fort Gibson, in what is now Oklahoma, according to another letter Wesley wrote. That letter has been badly deteriorated and some words are missing. Fort Gibson was in the historic Lovely Purchase (Lovely County), which included a section of both Arkansas and Oklahoma. A negotiation in 1828 worked out a treaty with the Cherokees that set the present line between Arkansas and the Indian Territory (now Oklahoma). White settlers were moved from west of the line to east of it, and Cherokees east of the line were moved west of it. In the treaty, Congress gave the white settlers a grant of 320 acres to each head of family. In the partially deteriorated letter, Wesley mentioned that 320 acres which "the government gave the whites" and added that "father sold it."

The Drakes and the Sextons "settled and lived near each other," Wesley said, "till they died on Barron Fork of Illinois River west of Cane Hill."

Backing up in time, now, to the teenaged years of James Drake and Margaret Fields, it seems that James fought in the War of 1812. Wesley's second letter said, "He (James Drake) was in U. N. States service as (soldier) for six months for which he (illegible: received?) a land warrent (illegible)... by the Indians. (illegible) in Peoria in the state of Ill. Then, he became acquainted with Margaret Fields & was married."

A couple of other items make mention of the War of 1812: Someone wrote at the top of Wesley's letter to one of his sons that "This says nothing of James Drake serving in the Black Hawk War." The Black Hawk War in Illinois was a part of the War of 1812. In addition, a document in the probate files signed by George W. M. Reed on Aug. 12, 1879 says, "Received of Wesley Drake the sum of Ten Dollars Attorney Fee for prosecuting the Pension Claim of Margaret Drake, deceased."

So it is known that James Drake reached Illinois by 1812 - 1814, probably around 1810 or 1811 when he was 15 or 16. There are voluminous records to tell more, such as land homesteads and purchases by James and Margaret in Arkansas, but space will not allow repeating all of these here.

It is noteworthy, perhaps, to quote more from one of their son, Wesley's, letters to help descendants understand James' later life:

"My father, James Drake, was struck with dead palsy on June 1833... Thus, you see from the time he was struck with palsy back to the (time?) he settled was about 4 years. He settled a place in wild forest not a mark of improvement. I was about 12 years old, thus I had to stem the ruff & hard work, though we had some 20 or 30 acres fenced & in cultivation. Lived in a small log house with split puncheons for a floor, yet he managed to still gain in the goods of this perishing world. There was soon school houses & churches rose up to educate in civil & religious society. The country improved rapidly.

"I had a brother about ___ years younger than I was who helped me work but alas he was taken sick & died. The next younger died when he was 2 or 3 years old; taken with croup one night, died next. So I still had to breast the storm. One more brother fifteen years younger. He was good to work but in his time we had bought a black man. My younger brother still lives. He was well educated. So you can see there was four boys & six girls, ten in all.

"My first & second sisters married & raised families; also third & last sister raised families. One sister never married. She was sick with fever. It fell or settled in shoulder caused her to be weakly. She lived to be about 30 years & died..."

Whether James Drake suffered from Parkinson's disease or some other form of palsy is not known. It is obvious, though, that he was disabled for about 24 years, from 1833 to 1857 when he died.

There is one record of a slave that James Drake owned, but the record refers to his sale of the "Negro boy." Dated Aug. 15, 1846, the document says: "Know all men by these presents that I James Drake of the county of Washington in the State of Arkansas for and in consideration of the sum of Four hundred and Sixty two 50/100 Dollars to me in hand paid, the receipt whereof is hereby acknowledged have bargained sold and delivered unto David C. Edminston of the county aforesaid a certain Negro Boy, a slave for life aged about seventeen years named William, sound in body and mind and title warranted against the lawful claims of all and every person or persons..."

This indicates that the James Drakes owned but one slave, since Wesley's

Born Nov. 22, 1816 in Gallatin Co., Ill., Elizabeth was nearly six years old when her parents and the Jacob Sextons, in 1822, immigrated to Arkansas. Sometime in the 1830's, before marriage records now exist in Washington Co., she was married to Jackson A. Graham. He was born in Tennessee, and he also was a homesteader in Washington Co., like so many others of that era. Jackson and Elizabeth had two children before his death sometime in the 1840's. When the 1850 census was taken, Elizabeth and their two daughters were living with her parents, James and Margaret Drake. Nothing more is known about J.A. Graham.

Ten years later, when the 1860 census was taken, Elizabeth and the two daughters were in their own household, No. 47, next door to Elizabeth's brother, Wesley Drake and his family. Elizabeth was teaching school.

Both of Elizabeth's daughters married in the 1860's, and on Sept. 4, 1867, Elizabeth remarried, that time to John Billingsley. He was 63, and she was 51. The officiating minister was the Rev. Jacob Sexton.

John Billingsley, according to the June, 1986 issue of OZARKS MOUNTAINEER, was the first settler in the community now known as Hog Eye in the Mountain Township of Washington Co. The community post office at one time was called the Billingsley Post Office in his honor. In 1887, the Billingsley Church was dedicated to his memory. He was referred to as Major John Billingsley in the magazine article. Earlier censuses, before his marriage to Elizabeth Drake (Graham) show that he had been married and reared a family.

Both John, at age 79, and Elizabeth, aged 65, still were living when the 1880 census was taken. Living with them were four of Elizabeth's grandchildren, children of her daughter, Malinda Graham (Edmonson): Sarah, 18; Charles T., 14; Ada, 9; and Ida, 9. All four were in school. Samuel, then 16, was not there.

Elizabeth died Mar. 28, 1887, according to her marker at Ganderville Cemetery near the graves of her younger daughter and son-in-law, Sarah Jane Graham and Ambrose H. S. Little. Elizabeth's marker said that she had formerly been married to J. A. Graham. Children of Elizabeth and Jackson A. Graham:

* 1. Malinda Margaret Graham

* separate section ahead

* 2. Sarah M. Jane Graham

MALINDA MARGARET GRAHAM (dau. of Elizabeth, dau. of James Drake)

Born ca 1838 or 1840 in Arkansas. Married on Sept. 13, 1860 to Thomas F. Edmonson. He was born Jan. 13, 1839 and died in 1881, according to his marker at Ganderville Cemetery. In the 1870 census, T. F. and M. Edmonson, aged 31 and 32, headed household No. 59 in the Marrs Hill Township of Washington Co. In 1880, neither Thomas F, nor Malinda showed up in the census, but their children,

except for Samuel, showed up in the household of Malinda's mother and stepfather, Elizabeth and John Billingsley. Censuses showed that they had three children in 1870, S.B. , 8; Samuel, 6; and Charles, 4. Sarah (S.B.), then 18, and Charles, then 14, plus their younger twin sisters, Ada and Ida, 9, were with Elizabeth and John in 1880.

* * * * *

SARAH M. JANE GRAHAM (dau. of Elizabeth, dau. of James Drake)

The great-grandmother of Russell J. Seay, Sarah was born Dec. 2, 1839 in Arkansas, and died May 4, 1917, according to her marker at the Ganderville Cemetery.

On June 10, 1866 in Washington Co., she was married to Ambrose Hunley Sevier Little. The details about Sarah and Ambrose Little are to be found in Chapter 6.

* * * * *

More information about the other children of James Drake and his wife, Margaret Fields Drake, was accumulated during the research for this book. However, it was decided to follow the direct line on down; hence only Elizabeth's line was used.

* * * * *

THE FIELDS RELATIVES OF MARGARET FIELDS (DRAKE)

It seems most likely that Margaret Fields was residing with the Stephen Fields family when she was married in 1816 in Gallatin Co. Ill. to James Drake.

It is known that Stephen Fields went to Gallatin Co. prior to 1809, since he was listed by Goodspeed's HISTORY OF GALLATIN, SALINE, HAMILTON, FRANKLIN AND WILLIAMSON COUNTIES, ILLINOIS as having been one of the early settlers in that county. The history mentioned Stephen and James Fields, who appear to have been brothers, in regards to Indian mounds. It said:

"This mound, otherwise known as Sugar Loaf Mound, was visited at least as early as 1809 by Stephen Fields and James Fields."

Probate records in that county in 1819 and 1820, regarding the death of Thornton Tally, show that Stephen and James Fields both married daughters of Thornton Tally.

When Illinois became a state in 1818, a special census was taken. There was only one Fields family in Gallatin Co., and that was the family of Stephen Fields. The next household was headed by James Drake. As pointed out earlier, James Drake and Margaret Fields had been married in 1816. James Fields may have been residing with Stephen and his family, for two years later, in 1820, the census showed a household for both Stephen and for James Fields - and, again, James Drake's household was next door to that of Stephen Fields. This was two

years before James and Margaret Drake emigrated to Arkansas.

The book, SHAWNEETOWN LAND ENTRY PLAT MAPS 1814-1820 for several Illinois counties, including Gallatin, show that Stephen Fields was the only Fields to have entered land in that time period. The land office at Shawneetown in the county of Gallatin was opened in 1814, and the first entry was made on July 7 of that year. Stephen made an entry for 160 acres on Oct. 31, 1814. The map outlining these locations show that Stephen Fields' entry was immediately south of that of Jacob Sexton, who entered for 160 acres on July 21, 1814. (See page 67 for Jacob Sexton, another ancestor of Russell J. Seay). Joseph Scott (See page 67) entered Sept. 13, 1816 for 160 acres, and between his acreage and that of Stephen Fields' was the land of Thornton Tally, entered on July 26, 1814.

Coincidentally, the old Fields farm still is owned by Fields descendants there in Gallatin Co., and Lois Miller of Fayetteville and her husband, Tom, own a farm adjoining it. They took pictures of two buildings on the old Fields farm and gave them to Russell and Gwen Seay. One shows an old cypress barn, that still stands today. The old log house of the other picture has been added on to and enlarged into the home of a Fields descendant, who left the old log walls exposed inside.

The Millers also took photos at the Fields Cemetery in Gallatin Co., Ill. and made a census of the cemetery. Copies of a published book on Gallatin Co. cemeteries said that the Fields Cemetery is located in Gold Hill Township, about 100 feet west of the Shawnee road across from the old Fields School. Stephen's marker shows that he died in 1860.

This brings up the reason for believing that Stephen Fields was a brother of Margaret Fields, rather than her father. They were too close in age to have been father and daughter, there being only about nine years difference in their ages. Stephen Fields named one daughter Margaret, and Margaret Fields (Drake) named one son Steven. Of course, if Stephen Fields were Margaret's brother, so would James Fields be, also, apparently. Stephen Fields was born about 1790, James Fields was born about 1796, and Margaret Fields (Drake) was born in 1799.

M I S C E L L A N E O U S

A son of Wesley Drake was Dr. Fields Drake, who was a highly respected geologist. Born Jan. 30, 1864 at Cincinnati in Western Washington Co., he taught at the University of Arkansas from 1912-20. Earlier, he enjoyed a distinguished career, including research-teaching in China, where he married Mary Elenor Shockley. Their two daughters reside in Fayetteville, Ark.: Doris Drake Wigglesworth, an artist, and Vera Drake Wade, widow of an Arkansas state senator.

Chapter 8

THE WHITE AND SEXTON

AND SCOTT ANCESTRY

Russell J. Seay's direct ancestors named White and Sexton and Scott were on his mother's side of the house.

His mother, Martha Elnora (Nora) White, was the daughter of Hugh Lawson White and Mary Isabel Edmiston.

The parents of Hugh Lawson White were William Harvey White and Martha Sexton. William Harvey White was the son of James White and Catherine Huffstutler (or Huffstetler). Martha Sexton was the daughter of the Rev. Jacob Sexton and Dartha Scott.

The White ancestry is being researched by someone else preparatory to a book to be written. For that reason, this book will dwell mainly on the direct line of Russell's mother, Nora White (Seay), so far as the White ancestry goes. An exception will be made on the generation of Nora's brother and sisters, when more details will be given. A few details on her uncles and aunts will appear.

THE WHITE LINE

Russell J. Seay's great-great-grandfather was James White. He was born in 1781, possibly in Tennessee. He was married on Jan. 4, 1808 in Williamson Co., Tenn. to Catherine (Catharine?) Huffstutler or Huffstetler. She was born in 1775. According to research carried out by those with whom this writer has exchanged correspondence, James White died in Maury Co., Tenn. on Nov. 25, 1820.

James' widow, Catherine brought her three children to Arkansas in 1829. The children were (not necessarily in order):

1. James S. White
2. Clara (or Clarissa or Klissa or Clarrie) White (Slover) (Tenant/Tennant)
- * 3. William Harvey White * separate section ahead

WILLIAM HARVEY WHITE (son of James White)

Born in 1815 in Maury Co., Tenn., William Harvey White's middle name may have been Henry instead of Harvey. This is based on the book, ARKANSAS CIVIL

WAR BIOGRAPHIES, in which the biographies of his sons were not consistent on this. He had four sons, who served in the Civil War. Three other sons were too young. The page for his son, Jacob, gave his parents as William Harvey White and Martha Sixton, daughter of Rev. Jacob Sixton and Dorothy Scott. The pages for his other three sons, William Henry White, Robert White and James White, were different. They all said William Henry White and Martha Sexton, daughter of Rev. Jacob Sexton and Dorothy Scott. Actually, his records, such as the censuses, usually said William H. White. Here he will be William H., the 1st.

About 1837, William H. White was married to Martha Sexton. She was born in 1819 in Gallatin Co., Ill., the daughter of the Rev. Jacob Sexton and Dartha Scott.

In the 1850 census, Washington Co., Ark., Vineyard Township (the first U.S. census in which all members of a household were called by name, age, sex and place of birth), the William H. White household was the next household to that of James S. White. It went like this:

William H. White	35	born in Tennessee
Martha White	31	Illinois
Mary A. White	12	Arkansas
William H. White	11	Arkansas
Jacob White	9	Arkansas
Robert White	7	Arkansas
James White	5	Arkansas
Dorothy White	3	Arkansas
Cornelia White	9/12	Arkansas
Nancy Weatherspoon	18	Arkansas

That year, 1850, according to the Farm Schedules at the U. of A. Library, William H. farmed 150 acres, of which 40 were improved. The farm produced 20 bales of cotton, 20 bushels of Irish potatoes, 30 bushels of sweet potatoes, 75 pounds of butter, 75 bushels of wheat, 300 bushels of Indian corn, and 150 bushels of oats. The farm contained four horses, 1 mule, 4 cows, 4 working oxen, 8 other cattle, 32 sheep and 35 swine.

Ten years later, the 1860 census showed four more children had been born during the 10-year period: Martha White, 8; Hugh White, 7; Sarah White, 4; and George White, 1.

One more child would be added: Charles Lee White, born Mar. 3, 1862.

That was around the time that William H. White, the father, was killed near Dutch Mills. The Civil War was taking its toll all across the countryside.

The war ended, the families began trying to pick up the pieces of their lives, but hardship and heartache were combined in most homes. Not only had the father in the home been killed during the war, but also one of the sons, James White. The 1870 census found Martha White, widow of William H. White, heading the household. Only six of the children were in the home, some being deceased and others having married and/or moved away.

Martha was 51, and the children at home included Robert, 28; Martha Ellen, 18; Hugh L., 16; Sallie, 15; Frank, 12; and Charles, 10.

Martha died in 1896 and is buried at Bethesda Cemetery. Piecing together records and notes, it appears that the children of Martha and William H. were:

1. Mary A. White - born 1838. Married George Herren (or Hern/Harian)
2. William H. White - born Apr. 23, 1839. Married Martha McCulloch.
3. Jacob White - born Nov. 19, 1840. Married Mary (Mollie) Smith Evins.
4. Robert White - born Jan. 2, 1843. Married Mary E. Kerlee.
5. James White, 3rd - born Feb. 9, 1845. Killed Feb. 14, 1865.
6. Dorothy Jane (Dutch) White - born 1847. Married Arthur Alex Evins.
7. Martha Ellen White - born Feb. 14, 1852. Married Cal Morris.
- * 8. Hugh Lawson White - * separate section ahead
9. Sarah Elizabeth White - born May 13, 1856. Married John Vinson Edmiston
10. Cornelia (Neally ?) White - born ca 1849. Died at age three.
11. George Franklin White - born May 25, 1859. Married Flora Bell Young.
12. Charles Lee White - born Mar. 3, 1862. Married Senora Dovie Goddard.

HUGH LAWSON WHITE (son of William H., 1st; son of James White, the 1st)

Born Sept. 10, 1853 at Dutch Mills, Ark. On Nov. 10, 1882 or 1881, Hugh Lawson was married to Mary Isabel Edmiston. The marriage record at the courthouse says it was 1882, but the loose Bible leaves in the possession of Russell and Gwen Seay says 1881. Mary Isabel was born Oct. 23, 1857, the daughter of Harvey (Harry) H. Edmiston and Louisa Caroline Gray. From their markers at Bethesda Cemetery, inscription shows that Hugh Lawson White died Mar. 30, 1917, and Mary Isabel died May 9, 1937. The will of Hugh Lawson named his wife and their five daughters. Their only son died at one year of age. The children of Hugh Lawson White and Mary Isabel Edmiston were:

- * 1. Olive (Ollie) Antonia White * separate section ahead
2. Hugh Luther White - born Aug. 31, 1884; died Sept. 12, 1885. Buried at Edmiston Cemetery.
- * 3. Annie Ethel White

- * 4. Mary Clementine (Clem) White
- * 5. Martha Elnora (Nora) White
- * 6. Louisa Leora (Ora) White

OLIVE (OLLIE) ANTONIA WHITE (dau. of Hugh Lawson, son of William H., the 1st, son of James White, the 1st)

Born Oct. 11, 1882. Married Dec. 23, 1906 to Jasper Melvin Carmack, who was born Mar. 25, 1878, the son of John Crozier Carmack and Amanda A. Reed. Their markers at the Bethesda Cemetery show that Jasper Melvin died in Nov., 1945, and Ollie died Nov. 3, 1962. Their children:

1. Hugh Crozier Carmack - born Oct. 26, 1907 at Morrow. Married on May 28, 1938 to Dorothy Howard. He died Nov. 16, 1963.
- * 2. Frank Johnson Carmack * separate section ahead
3. Melvin Mason Carmack - born Oct. 18, 1912. Married Irene Reed on Dec. 23, 1937. Melvin is deceased.
- * 4. Mary A. Dean Carmack

FRANK JOHNSON CARMACK (son of Ollie, dau. of Hugh Lawson, son of William H., the 1st; son of James White, the 1st)

Frank was born Nov. 9, 1909, and was married Jan. 24, 1938 to Delia Jones. She was born Dec. 11, 1919. They reside in Springdale. Children:

- * 1. Marilyn Carmack
- * 2. Wilma Dean Carmack
- * 3. Wanda Carmack

MARILYN CARMACK (dau. of Frank, son of Ollie, dau. of Hugh Lawson, son of William H., the 1st; son of James, the 1st)

Born December, 1939. Married in May, 1957 to Larry Hall. Children:

1. Daniel Hall - born in July, 1958. Died one day later.
2. Sheryl Lynne Hall - born in June, 1961. Married Dr. Michael Whitworth in June, 1984.
3. Brenda Sue Hall - born in July, 1962. Married Whitney Main in August, 1981. One son: Ryan Whitney Main, born in April, 1982.

WILMA DEAN CARMACK (dau. of Frank, son of Ollie, dau. of Hugh Lawson, son of William H., the 1st; son of James White, the 1st)

Born Oct. 14, 1941. Married Ralph Hawkins on Apr. 25, 1964. Reside at Springdale, Ark. Children:

1. Michael Ralph Hawkins - stillborn Oct. 2, 1969
2. Shawn Anderson Hawkins - born Apr. 23, 1971

WANDA CARMACK (dau. of Frank, son of Ollie, dau. of Hugh Lawson, son of William h., the 1st; son of James White, the 1st)

Born Apr. 13, 1944. Married on Dec. 29, 1964 to Robert Crow. They reside in Tulsa. She is employed by Oxy Cities Service and he by Thompson Hayward.

Children:

1. David Stewart Crow - born June 5, 1969
2. Christina Lynn Crow - born May 5, 1972

* * * * *

MARY A. DEAN CARMACK (dau. of Ollie, dau. of Hugh Lawson, son of William H, the 1st; son of James White, the 1st)

Born Jan. 25, 1916 at Morrow, Ark. Married Oct. 16, 1937 to William Lawrence Parker, who was born June 1, 1915 at Westville, Okla. William (Bill) is deceased, and Dean resides in Fort Smith.

The author is indebted to other family researchers with whom she has exchanged information, for some family data. For instance, Lucille White Prior sent such family sheets as included this family. Some came from the J.M. and C. A. Carmack Family Bible and other sources, notations said.

Children:

1. Margaret Ann Parker - born Dec. 22, 1948 at Fort Smith, Ark.
2. James William Parker - born Nov. 25, 1950 at Fort Smith, Ark.
3. Thomas Melvin Parker - born Dec. 12, 1951 at Fort Smith, Ark.
4. Larry Joe Parker - born Dec. 16, 1953 at Fort Smith, Ark.

* * * * *

ANNIE ETHEL WHITE (dau. of Hugh Lawson, son of William H., the 1st; son of James White, the 1st)

Born June 24, 1886 at Morrow, Ark. Died Apr. 12, 1968 at San Bernardino, Calif. Buried at the Westville, Okla. Cemetery. Married on Aug. 16, 1908 to Alfred Vincent/Vinson Wilson. He was born in 1883 and died in 1935. Buried at the Westville Cemetery. Ethel remarried after the death of Alfred. Their children:

1. } Infant twin daughters of A.V. and A. E. Wilson. Marker at the Westville
2. } Cemetery says " born and died June 23, 1909."

3. Mary Vista Wilson - born Jan. 1, 1911; died Oct. 19, 1914. Westville Cem.
4. Woodrow White Wilson - born Sept. 14, 1914 at Westville, Okla. Married Beulah _____. He died Sept. 31, 1984.

* 5. A. V. Wilson * separate section ahead

6. Junie Etheline Wilson - born in 1920; died in 1925. Buried at Westville.

7. Robert Lee Wilson - born Feb. 21, 1922; died May 9, 1978. His sister, Buna Moore Wilson (Miller), wrote: "He wasn't married but has one son. No address. One son passed away in 1971."

* 8. Buna Moore Wilson * separate section ahead

A. V. WILSON (son of Ethel, dau. of Hugh Lawson, son of William H., the 1st; son of James White, the 1st)

Born Apr. 26, 1918 at Westville, Okla. Married Irene Frances King on Nov. 16, 1938. She was born at Skiatook, Okla. June 3, 1920. They live at Broken Arrow, Okla. Children:

* 1. Carolyn Frances Wilson

2. Arthur Virgil Wilson - born Dec. 20, 1942 in Broken Arrow; died July 4, 1943 at Broken Arrow.

3. John Robert Wilson - born Aug. 16, 1946 at Broken Arrow, Okla.; died June 4, 1960 at Broken Arrow.

* 4. Randy Mark Wilson

5. Sherry Kay Wilson - born Aug. 12, 1958

CAROLYN FRANCES WILSON (dau. of A.V., son of Ethel, dau. of Hugh Lawson, son of William H., the 1st; son of James White, the 1st)

Born Aug. 3, 1939 at Broken Arrow, Okla. Married on Mar. 18, 1966 to Ben C. Nightingale. Children: (All born in Broken Arrow; all live in Broken Arrow.)

1. Lisa Kay Nightingale - born Jan. 17, 1962 (previous marriage). She is married to James McHugh, and they have a daughter, Jamie Lauren, born Sept. 3, 1984.

2. Michael Scott Nightingale - born May 7, 1963 (previous marriage).

3. Benny Charles Nightingale - born May 26, 1967

4. Christina Carol Nightingale - born Jan. 24, 1971

RANDY MARK WILSON (son of A.V., son of Ethel, dau. of Hugh Lawson....)

Born Nov. 22, 1956 in Broken Arrow. Married Oct. 17, 1981 to Pamela Kaufman. One child: Randy Mark Wilson, Jr., born Apr. 5, 1986.

* * * * *

BUNA MOORE WILSON (dau. of Ethel, dau. of Hugh Lawson, son of William H., the 1st; son of James White, the 1st)

Born June 10, 1924 at Watts, Okla. Married on May 24, 1946 at Las Vegas, Nev. to John Miller. Reside at San Bernardino, Calif. Child:

1. Robert Vincent Miller - born Apr. 18, 1947. Married Dec. 31, 1971 and has one son, Geoffrey Miller, born Sept. 14, 1978. Robert Vincent served in the U. S. Navy.

* * * * *

MARY CLEMENTINE (CLEM) WHITE (dau. of Hugh Lawson, son of William H., the 1st;
son of James White, the 1st)

Born Dec. 26, 1887 at Dutch Mills, Ark. Died Sept. 24, 1969 at South Pasadena, Calif. Married Roy Russell Crozier on Oct. 19, 1915. He was born Feb. 10, 1888 at Cane Hill, Ark., the son of James Knox Polk Crozier and Margaret Hester Bates. He died Mar. 7, 1962 at South Pasadena. Children:

1. Mary Margaret Crozier (Mrs. John Lloyd Reimers) - born June 5, 1917 at Merryville, La. Reside Winters, Calif.
2. Russell Crozier - resides in California

* * * * *

LOUISA LEORA (ORA) WHITE (dau. of Hugh Lawson, son of William H., the 1st; son
James White, the 1st)

A twin to Martha Elnora (Nora) White (Seay), Ora was born Apr. 29, 1892 near Morrow, Ark. On Apr. 8, 1937, she was married to Baxter Kimbrough. He was born Mar. 21, 1887, the son of Felix Grundy Kimbrough and Henrietta Baxter. Baxter Kimbrough was married (1st) to Loretta May Washington and had children.

* * * * *

MARTHA ELNORA (NORA) WHITE (dau. of Hugh Lawson, son of William H., the 1st;
son of James White, the 1st)

Nora, the mother of Russell J. Seay, is discussed further, as are all of her descendants, beginning on page 17 of this book.

* * * * *

THE SEXTON-SCOTT ANCESTRY OF THE WHITE-SEAY FAMILY

The great-great-grandparents of Russell J. Seay were the Rev. Jacob Sexton and Dartha Scott. They were the parents of Martha Sexton. She and her husband, William H. White, the 1st, were the parents of Russell's grandfather, Hugh Lawson White, the father of Russell Seay's mother, Nora White (Seay).

Jacob Sexton and his wife, Dartha, both came to Western Washington Co., Ark. from Gallatin Co., Ill. They were in several areas of what is now the state of Arkansas, before settling for good in Washington Co. in 1829. (See page 57.)

Jacob Sexton was born Dec. 25, 1785 in Kentucky or Virginia. The 1850 and 1860 censuses of Washington Co., Ark. say Virginia, while the 1870 census said Kentucky. His daughter, Martha Sexton (White), also stated in the 1880 census that her father was born in Kentucky.

It is known that Jacob went very early on to Illinois, before Illinois

became a state. In 1811, Jacob Sexton and Joshua Sexton were among those signing a "Petition to Congress by the Citizens of the Land District East of Kaskaskia, Illinois:" "The petitioners ask that Congress extend the right of suffrage (the right to vote) and authorize the people to elect a Delegate to Congress..."

It is likely that Joshua Sexton may have been the father of Jacob Sexton. Goodspeed's history of several Southern Illinois counties in 1887 said that Joshua Sexton and his son, Orville Sexton, were among the early settlers of Shawneetown, in Gallatin Co. Jacob probably married in Gallatin Co., and, until then, likely was in the household of Joshua Sexton.

The 1810 census of Illinois Territory found three Sexton households in Gallatin Co.: J. Sexton, with 4 free white males to the age of 45 and 5 free white females; a D. Sexton (perhaps the O looked like D); and another J. Sexton, with 2 free white males up to 21 years of age and 2 free white females up to 21. (No colored or servants included).

In 1818, when Illinois became a state, the census spelled out one of the "J." Sextons to be Jacob Sexton. His household included by then 1 free white male 21 or over and 4 all other free white members of the household. The latter would have included members of the family both over and under 21 and would have included both males and females. So it appears that he and Dartha had had one more child between the 1810 and 1818 census, or, more likely in that era when so many babies died, they may have lost a child or two but had others that now gave their family a total of five in the household instead of the four 10 years earlier.

By 1820, when the Federal census for Illinois was taken, the Jacob Sexton household had increased to seven - 1 free white male 21 and up in years and six all other whites.

As seen in the documentary letter on page 57, the Jacob Sexton family and the James Drake family left Gallatin Co., Ill. in 1822, and the 1830 census found them in Washington Co., Ark., where both couples lived out their lives. In 1830, Jacob Sexton was between 40 and 50 years old, as was his wife. They had some children still at home. By 1840, all of their children were gone from home except a boy and two girls.

In 1850, the first census year in which every member of a household was listed by name and age, Jacob Sexton was 65, Dartha was 67, and there also was William, 20, Ann, 10 and John, 11. Their daughter, Martha, had married William H. White in the mid-1830's, and by 1850, had seven children of her own.

Jacob Sexton was a Methodist minister and farmer. As such, he was listed

in Marriage Book, A-I in Washington Co., Ark. He also was entered as a Methodist clergyman in the 1850 census and the 1870 census said he was a minister.

Goodspeed's HISTORY OF NORTHWEST ARKANSAS said: "The first resident ministers of the Gospel (in Washington Co.) were Revs. Fisher, Poston and Holcomb, of the Baptist; Sexton, Covington and Harrell of the Methodist, and Carnahan, Blair and Buchanan, of the Cumberland Presbyterian."

Jacob Sexton also was preaching in Madison Co., and, as seen, was a circuit riding preacher.

"White River Circuit (of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South), principally in Washington County, embraces several appointments in Valley and Hilburn Townships. About 1840 Henry Raynor bought three acres of land from John C. Sumner, at Old St. Paul, and John Biven built thereon, under contract, a shed 60X40 feet. Camp meetings were held here for a number of years. Jacob Sexton was one of the first preachers."

A village of Sexton was just north of Barron Fork Creek near Dutch Mills. Goodspeed's history says that a Sexton Post Office was established in 1882.

The proof that the first wife of Jacob Sexton was Dartha Scott (sometimes spelled Dorothy instead of Dartha), comes chiefly from the military records of some of their grandsons. These same records show that Martha Sexton was the daughter of Jacob Sexton and Dartha Scott, and that she married William H. White, the 1st. Census records then prove that Hugh Lawson White was one of her 13 children. See the chart of Page 48 to see how the ancestry line runs from Russell J. Seay to his mother, Nora White (Seay) to her father, Hugh Lawson White, to his mother, Martha Sexton (White) to her father, Jacob Sexton and her mother, Dartha Scott (Sexton).

The grandsons' military records are discussed further on pages 63-64. Some of these pages from the book, ARKANSAS CIVIL WAR BIOGRAPHIES in Crawford, Franklin and Washington Counties, by Jorgenson are reproduced on pages 73-75.

Dartha Scott (Sexton) died Dec. 31, 1862, and Jacob remarried. His second wife was named Amanda M. _____. In the 1870 census, it was just Jacob Sexton, aged 85, and Amanda M. Sexton, 70, in his household.

At Bethesda Cemetery, Jacob Sexton is buried between the graves of his two wives. Inscription says he was born Dec. 25, 1785 and died Aug. 16, 1875. Dartha Sexton's marker says: June 21, 1783 - Dec. 31, 1862, and Amanda M. Sexton's marker says: Sept. 12, 1808 - Apr. 3, 1872.

Although Jacob Sexton and Dartha Scott did have a large family, no attempt was made to try to list them, since most grew up, married and left home before

the 1850 censuses began using the names of the children. It should be pointed out, though, that one son was named Jacob Sexton, Jr. This will help prevent confusion for those discovering two different Jacob Sextons.

And, of course, one daughter was named MARTHA SEXTON. She is discussed further in the beginning of this chapter, and much of the chapter deals with her descendants through her son, Hugh Lawson White.

Name	JACOB WHITE
Present Address	Evansville, Arkansas
Date of Birth	November 19, 1840
County & State	Washington Co., Arkansas
Father	William Harvey White of Tennessee
Lived at	Washington Co., Arkansas
Mother	Martha Sixton
and she was dau of	Rev. Jacob Sixton and Dorothy Scott
Education	Common schools - Cane Hill, Arkansas
Occupation	Farmer
Military Service	Cpt. - 34th Ark Inf 4 years

THESE PARTIAL PAGES from the book, ARKANSAS CIVIL WAR BIOGRAPHIES for the section on Washington Co. refer to two older brothers of Russell J. Seay's grandfather, Hugh Lawson White. Notice that one refers to his father as William Harvey White, while the other calls him William Henry White. One spelled their mother's maiden name as Sixton, and the other spelled it Sexton. See next page.

Name	ROBERT WHITE
Present Address	Grangerville, Idaho
Date of Birth	January 2, 1843
County & State	Washington Co., Arkansas
Father	William Henry White of Tennessee
Mother	Martha Sexton
and she was dau of	Rev. Jacob Sexton and Dorothy Scott
Education	Country schools
Military service	With Buck Brown

Jacob White's military page (See page 72) also contained information that he had married Mary Smith Evins, daughter of Ephraim Evins and Mary Crozier. His children, as listed in the 1911 publication, were Fannie Laura White (Ward) of Eureka Springs, Ark. and Jacob M. White of Evansville, Ark.

Robert White's military page (page 73) also stated that he had married Mary Kerlee, daughter of Edward Kerlee and Cloe Cealey. Robert's children in 1911 were Walter White, deceased, and James White of Grangerville, Ida.

Continuing on, here are the pages from the book of Civil War veterans for the other two sons of William H. White, the 1st and Martha Sexton, who were old enough to serve in the Civil War:

Name	WILLIAM HENRY WHITE
Present Address	Ft. Smith, Arkansas
Date of Birth	April 23, 1839
County & State	Washington Co., Arkansas
Father	William Henry White of Tennessee
Mother	Martha Sexton
and she was dau of	Rev. Jacob Sexton and Dorothy Scott
Education	Common Schools of Washington County and Cane Hill
Military Service	34th Ark Inf
Political Party	Democrat
Church Connection	C.P.
Wife	Martha McColloch
Wife's Parents	James A. L. McColloch and Polly Dyer of Cane Hill, Arkansas
Children & ^U their present address	
Lou White Davis	Ft. Smith, Arkansas
William Clem White	dead
Alexander Clinton White	Wichita, Kansas
Susan White	dead
Margaret Lucy White Scott	"Duslin", Oklahoma

It should be pointed out that William Harvey/Henry White, the father, and William Henry White, the son, could be confused quite easily. Both married girls named Martha. An example: Russell and Gwen Seay have a photograph that is labeled simply "William H. and Martha White." It could be either William H. and Martha Sexton White or it could be their son and daughter-in-law, William H. and Martha McColloch White. Presumably it is the son and daughter-in-law, for few photos were taken during the lifetime of the elder William H. White. Confusion could result from whether it was the father or son who served in the Civil War. also. The military page on page 73 clarifies this.

The following is the complete page from the book mentioned for James White, who was killed exactly two months before the end of the Civil War and only days after his 20th birthday. He apparently had not married.

Name	JAMES WHITE
Date of Death	Killed February 14, 1865
Date of Birth	February 9, 1845
County & State	Washington Co., Arkansas
Father	William Henry White of Tennessee
Mother	Martha Sexton
and she was dau of	Rev. Jacob Sexton and Dorothy Scott
Education	Country Schools
Military service	Capt Inks(?) - Scout in Northwest Arkansas
Remarks	The subject of this sketch was at Oak Hill driving his father's team. One of the mules was killed and the other crippled while being harnessed. The driver escaped and made one of the best soldiers that ever drew a revolver.

This chapter has taken a detailed look at another son of William H. White, the 1st and Martha Sexton, named Hugh Lawson White. And now, having seen the military pages for four of Hugh Lawson White's older brothers, let us take a glimpse at a few details about his other brothers and sisters:

MARY A. WHITE's husband, George Herren or Hern or Harian, may have been the George Herren, who also served in Co. B, 34th Ark. Infantry. A George Hern

also once served as postmaster at Dutch Mills.

DOROTHY JANE (DUTCH) WHITE (EVINS) died at Fayetteville, Ark. in 1904.

The husband of SARAH ELIZABETH (SALLIE) WHITE, John Vinson Edmiston, may be the same J. V. Edmiston, who once served, also, as Dutch Mills Postmaster. Their daughter, Auda, married George Hamilton and resided in Oklahoma City.

MARTHA ELLEN WHITE (MORRIS) reportedly died at Siloam Springs, Ark. on Jan. 11, 1920.

GEORGE FRANKLIN WHITE is reported to have died July 21, 1944 at Fullerton, Calif.

CHARLES LEE WHITE, the youngest child of William H. White, the 1st, and Martha Sexton. The eldest of his five children was Luther William White, and Luther William and his wife, Beulah Mae Rickman White, were the parents of Lucille White Prior. She is the researcher-writer referred to on page 63 of this book, who is producing a history of the White family. It was in deference to Mrs. Prior that the author of this book chose not to include the descendants of the brothers and sisters of Hugh Lawson White. These, no doubt, will be a part of Mrs. Prior's book.

THIS HISTORICAL PLAQUE, sponsored by Washington Co., Ark. Historical Society, stands at Dutch Mills. The names of earlier Seays and other relatives are seen as one-time postmasters at Dutch Mills.



A PLAQUE at the entrance to the Dutch Mills Cemetery says: "Given by Lewis Weber 1932 for public burying ground. Known as John N. Weber Plot since 1860. First grave during Civil War."

Chapter 9

THE EDMISTON AND GRAY
ANCESTRY

By referring back to the ancestry chart on page 48, the reader readily can see that the mother of Russell J. Seay's mother was Mary Isabel Edmiston, the daughter of Harvey (Harry) Henderson Edmiston and Lucinda or Louisa Gray.

Finding Harvey Henderson Edmiston's wife's name spelled both as Lucinda and as Louisa, it will be combined here as: Lucinda/Louisa Caroline Gray.

Harvey Henderson Edmiston was born ca 1817 in Tennessee, and has been placed by others as a part of the family of David Crawford Edmiston and his wife, Rebecca Thornton. However, Harvey H. was too near the age of both David C. and Rebecca to have been their biological son. The book, THE EDMISTONS OF WASHINGTON COUNTY, ARKANSAS by Allan S. Humphreys, states that Harvey H. was an adopted son of David Crawford and Rebecca. If so, that likely means that he was actually a blood relative, perhaps a younger brother of David Crawford. However, it also would mean that he would have roots, other than through Rebecca, even if he were blood kin to David Crawford. So, for practical reasons regarding his posterity, no parents for Harvey H. Edmiston will be listed here. The story will start with him.

His wife, Lucinda/Louisa Gray, on the other hand, is known to have been the daughter of Sanford Foley Gray and Elizabeth Brooks Ormes (or Ormis, et al).

Let us start, then, with the Grays:

Sanford Foley Gray, the great-great-grandfather of Russell J. Seay, was born Mar. 20, 1801 in North Carolina. Nothing is known about his parents, nor about the parents of his first wife, Elizabeth Brooks Ormes, the mother of his children. Elizabeth was born in Tennessee. They apparently were married in the early 1820's, for their daughter, Lucinda/Louisa was born Oct. 7, 1825. Elizabeth was born Oct. 17, 1806 in Tennessee.

Goodspeed's history of 1889 says that the settlements of Washington Co. began at Evansville and Cane Hill, with the settlements in the vicinity of Evansville made at a slightly earlier date than those on Cane Hill. S. F. Gray

was among those listed as a pioneer of that part of the county.

Sanford's homestead claim was signed when proved up by President Martin Van Buren. In October, 1849, Sanford F. Gray was on the Grand Jury in Washington Co. and the jury returned indictments (for selling goods on Sunday, selling spirits on Sunday and for keeping a grocery without a license) against David Weaver. He was fined one cent and the cost of the last charge.

In 1850, the census of the Vineyard Township went as follows:

Sanford F. Gray	age 49	born in North Carolina
Elizabeth Gray	46	Tennessee
John Gray	22	Tennessee
Nicy Jane Gray	24	Tennessee
Thomas Gray	20	Tennessee
Elizabeth Gray	17	Arkansas
James Gray	14	Arkansas
William Gray	12	Arkansas
Ann Gray	8	Arkansas
Mason Gray	6	Arkansas
Mary Gray	3	Arkansas

This shows two things: 1. They apparently came to Arkansas from Tennessee between 1830 and 1833, for their children up to Thomas in 1830 had been born in Tennessee while those beginning with Elizabeth in 1833 were born in Arkansas. And, No. 2: An older daughter, Lucinda/Louisa Gray already was married and in her own home. And, sure enough, her first child, Thomas Alexander Edmiston, had been born in 1845, five years before the 1850 census.

This 1850 census also indicates that Sanford and Elizabeth had been wed in Tennessee. They had not shown up in the somewhat sparse findings of the 1830 census of Washington Co., Ark., but were there when the 1840 census was taken. The 1840 carried the names only of the head of the household, listing the others only as to sex and age groups.

The 1850 Farm Schedules of Arkansas show that S. F. Gray was farming 138 acres, of which 50 were improved. He had an orchard, six horses, four mules, nine cows, 15 other cattle and 42 sheep. The farm that year produced 60 pounds of wool, 10 bushels of Irish potatoes, 60 bushels of sweet potatoes, 200 pounds of butter, 30 bushels of wheat, 800 bushels of Indian corn and 200 bushels of oats.

By 1860, the census reflected the family as then consisting only of Sanford, aged 60, Elizabeth, 53, and William, 21, Ann, 17, Mason, 15, and Mary Gray, 11.

The 1870 census showed that both Sanford and Elizabeth still were living. He was 69, and Elizabeth (called Betsy on the census) was 65. Only one of the children, Mary aged 21, still was at home, but the Grays had two workers with them: J. J. Henderson, 29, a laborer, and F. G. Kimbrough, 26, a farmer.

In early 1876, both Sanford and Elizabeth still were living, for John Buchanan, a correspondent for the "Fayetteville Democrat," wrote an article recalling the names of 51 persons with whom he was personally acquainted, who had reached the age of 70 and who had lived in Washington Co. from 40 to 50 years. These included "Foley Gray (and) Mrs. Gray."

Elizabeth's death date is not known, but it is known that sometime before Sanford died on Nov. 6, 1889, he remarried. This information comes from the fact that probate records in Washington Co. show that "Harriett T. Gray, the widow of said Sanford F. Gray" petitioned for her dower's right in his property. It was so granted by the court.

The children of Sanford and Elizabeth, though perhaps incomplete, appears to include the following:

- * 1. Lucinda/Louisa Caroline Gray * separate section ahead
- * 2. Eunice (Nicy) Jane Gray
- * 3. John Gray
- * 4. Thomas Washington Gray
- 5. Elizabeth Gray
- * 6. James Franklin Gray
- * 7. William Gray
- * 8. Henrietta Ann Gray
- * 9. Mason Foley Gray
- 10. Mary Gray

LUCINDA/LOUISA CAROLINE GRAY (dau. of Sanford Foley Gray)

Born Oct. 7, 1825, probably in Tennessee. Married in the 1840's probably in Washington Co., Ark. to Harvey Henderson Edmiston. They lived adjacent to Harvey's adoptive father, David Crawford Edmiston in the Vineyard Township. Harvey proved up his claim to one homestead of land (no date) for 40 acres, in which President Martin Van Buren signed the patent. He also homesteaded other lands, and in the 1850 Farm Schedule was farming 280 acres, of which 35 acres were improved.

Lucinda/Louisa appears to have died prior to 1870, when she was no longer a part of the household for the census. H. H. Edmiston, 53, headed the home, and the children all were still at home, except the eldest, Thomas Alexander.

The 1870 census listed the children of H. H. and Lucinda/Louisa Edmiston this way:

Frances Edmiston	age 23	(Note: Probate records in Washington Co., show that H. H. Edmiston died in 1880 and that Z. B. Edmiston was appointed administrator of his estate.)
John Edmiston	16	
E. Edmiston	14	
Mary Edmiston (Mary Isabel)	13	
Henry Edmiston	10	
Sarah Edmiston	8	

These, plus Thomas Alexander Edmiston, seem to be all of the children of H. H. and Lucinda/Louisa, and will be looked at in more detail:

THOMAS ALEXANDER EDMISTON (son of Lucinda/Louisa, dau. of Sanford Foley Gray)

Here is a page from the book, ARKANSAS CIVIL WAR BIOGRAPHIES, regarding Thomas Alexander Edmiston. It fills in details about him and, at the same time, proves him to be a son of Harvey Henderson Edmiston and Lucinda/Louisa Gray, as well as serving to document the fact that Lucinda/Louisa was a daughter of Sanford Foley Gray and Elizabeth Brooks Ormes (spelled Ovmes here):

Name	THOMAS A. EDMISTON
Date of Birth	September 23, 1845
County & State	Washington Co., Ark
Father	Harrey Henderson Edmiston
Mother	Louisa Caroline Gray
and she was daughter of	Sanford Foly Gray and Elizabeth Brooks Ovmes (?)
Education	Country Schools
Military Service	34th Ark Inf
Political Party	Democrat
Wife & date of marriage	Malvina Leach Married in 1866
Wife's parents	Elijah Leach and Emily Dyer of Washington County, Arkansas
Children & present address	
Montgomery Edmiston	California
Looney Edmiston	California

His marker at Edmiston Cemetery shows that Thomas Alexander Edmiston died May 20, 1875. In addition to the two children mentioned in the 1911 book, he had a son, who died at age six days on Aug. 11, 1871. The unnamed infant was the son of "T. A. and M. Edmiston," the marker said.

* * * * *

FRANCES (FANNY) EDMISTON (dau. of Lucinda/Louisa, dau. of Sanford Foley Gray)
Born ca 1848. Married Dec. 27, 1875 to John F. Payne.

* * * * *

JOHN VINSON EDMISTON (son of Lucinda/Louisa, dau. of Sanford Foley Gray)
Born Sept. 28, 1853, he married Sarah Elizabeth (Sally) White, daughter of William H. White, the 1st and Martha Sexton. Their household in Dutch Mills Township in 1900 was as follows:

Edmiston, John	- head -	b. Sept. 1853	age: 46	married: 22 yrs.	
"	Sarah	- wife -	May, 1856	44	" 22 "
"	Alice	- dau. -	June, 1880	19	single
"	Eula	- " -	Mar. 1883	17	"
"	Connie	- son -	Feb. 1888	12	
"	Ada	- dau. -	Nov., 1890	9	
"	Claire	- dau. -	May, 1894	5	
"	Sanford	- son -	Apr., 1897	3	

(Note: Sarah's information said that she had been the mother of nine children, of whom seven were living.)

* * * * *

ANN ELIZABETH EDMISTON (dau. of Lucinda/Louisa, dau. of Sanford Foley Gray)
Born in 1856. Did not marry. Lived with her brother, John.

* * * * *

MARY ISABEL EDMISTON (dau. of Lucinda/Louisa, dau. of Sanford Foley Gray)
She married Hugh Lawson White, and they are the maternal grandparents of Russell J. Seay. They are discussed in Chapter 8, starting on page 65.

* * * * *

HENRY HENDERSON (BUD) EDMISTON (son of Lucinda/Louisa, dau. of Sanford F. Gray)
His marker at the Edmiston Cemetery shows that he was born Dec. 7, 1859 and died Aug. 23, 1931. He married Mary Alice Simpson, who was born in 1866 and died in 1958. Children, not necessarily in order or a complete list:

- * 1. Hugh Adrian (Jeff) Edmiston * separate section ahead
- 2. Macy Edmiston - In 1985, he resided at Texarkana, Tex., where he was retired from the post office there.

HUGH ADRIAN (JEFF) EDMISTON (son of Bud, son of Lucinda/Louisa, dau. of Sanford

Foley Gray)

Born Oct. 5, 1899 at Cane Hill. Died Sept. 30, 1985 at a Fayetteville, Ark. hospital. Buried at Edmiston Cemetery. He was married Nov. 8, 1930 to Jewel Reed. She was born July 4, 1909 and died Jan. 27, 1986 at a Fort Smith hospital. Children:

1. Dennis Edmiston - lived at Prairie Grove in 1986.
2. Willis Edmiston - lived at Fort Smith in 1986.
3. Nadine Edmiston (Norton) - lived at Morrow (Rt. 1, Cane Hill) in 1986.

* * * * *

SARAH (SALLIE) EDMISTON (dau. of Lucinda/Louisa, dau. of Sanford Foley Gray)

Born Mar. 15, 1862 and died Apr. 18, 1936. Married Thomas J. Reed.

* * * * *

CHILD NO. 2 of Sanford Foley Gray and Elizabeth Brooks Ormes:

EUNICE JANE (NICY) GRAY

Born in 1827 and died in 1907, according to her marker at the Edmiston Cemetery. She was married Dec. 16, 1852 to Zebulon Brevard Edmiston, who was born in Hempstead Co., Ark. Apr. 17, 1830, the son of David Crawford Edmiston and Rebecca Thornton. Zebulon died Nov. 18, 1891. He was a farmer and a merchant and a veteran of the Civil War, having served with the 34th Ark. Inf. Goodspeed's history says that Zebulon was born in Clark Co., Ark. It also mentions that he married Eunice Jane Gray, daughter of Sanford Foley Gray. Children:

1. James P. Edmiston - born ca 1854 in Arkansas
2. David N. Edmiston - born ca 1856 in Arkansas
3. John S. Edmiston - born ca 1857 in Arkansas

* * * * *

CHILD NO. 3 of Sanford Foley Gray and Elizabeth Brooks Ormes:

JOHN GRAY

Born ca 1828, he may be the "Jack Gray", who served in the 34th Arkansas Infantry, Co. B, in which other of the Gray sons fought during the Civil War.

* * * * *

CHILD NO. 4 of Sanford Foley Gray and Elizabeth Brooks Ormes:

THOMAS WASHINGTON GRAY

Born in 1831, Thomas Washington Gray, on Apr. 26, 1863, according to the book, died at Little Rock during the Civil War, while serving in Co. B of the 34th Ark. Inf. He had married Sarah Hannah Buchanan, daughter of John and Martha Buchanan of Prairie Grove. Their children, as listed in the 1911 book, ARKANSAS CIVIL WAR BIOGRAPHIES, were:

1. Martha Elizabeth Gray (Watkins) - born ca 1856. Was in Old Mexico in 1911.
2. Alice Jane Gray - born ca 1858. Lived in Texas. Was deceased by 1911.
3. Mary Gray - born ca 1860. May have been called Clem.

* * * * *

CHILD NO. 6 of Sanford Foley Gray and Elizabeth Brooks Ormes:

JAMES FRANKLIN GRAY

Born Aug. 21, 1836 in Washington Co., Ark., he was a casualty of the Battle of Prairie Grove. Wounded at Prairie Grove in December, 1862, he died Jan. 1, 1863, about three weeks after the battle. He was in Co. B of the 34th Ark. Inf.

* * * * *

CHILD NO. 7 of Sanford Foley Gray and Elizabeth Brooks Ormes:

WILLIAM GRAY

Born ca 1838, he probably was another of the sons of Sanford Foley Gray and Elizabeth Brooks Ormes who was a casualty of the Civil War. The article referred to earlier about "The Fighting Thirty-Fourth of Arkansas," listed in Co. B (formed in Washington Co.), William H. Gray and said, "killed at battle of Prairie Grove." He was a sergeant.

* * * * *

CHILD NO. 9 of Sanford Foley Gray and Elizabeth Brooks Ormes:

MASON FOLEY GRAY

According to his page in ARKANSAS CIVIL WAR BIOGRAPHIES, Mason Foley Gray was born Oct. 26, 1844 in Washington Co. He, too, served in the 34th Ark. Inf., but was discharged from Confederate service after one year because of failing health. He was married in Texas to Margaret Latta, daughter of Thomas Latta and Emily Chandler. In 1911, when the book was published, he was in Dodd City, Tex. Their children were listed as follows:

1. Thomas Sanford Gray - of Dodd City, Tex.
2. William Gray - of Dodd City, Tex.
3. John Gray of Dodd City, Tex.
4. Luther Gray - of Dodd City, Tex.
5. Robert Gray - address unknown

* * * * *

It is probable that Sanford Foley Gray and Elizabeth Brooks Ormes (Gray) came to Arkansas from Franklin Co., Tenn. Certainly they had been in Tennessee before emigrating, but one of their sons, Thomas Washington Gray, on his page in the Civil War book specified that he had been born in Franklin Co., Tenn.



RUSSELL AND GWEN SEAY of Springdale, Ark. are seen here at their home on Sunday, July 13, 1986, just after walking into a surprise 40th wedding anniversary celebration. The party was sponsored by their four children and their families, and was attended by relatives and close friends.



RUSSELL AND GWEN's older daughter, Laura Seay Chitwood, her daughter, Courtney Taheri, and Laura's husband, Carol D. Chitwood.



RUSSELL AND GWEN's younger daughter, Leslie Seay Wetherbee, her husband, Lowell Wetherbee, and their children, Lynn-Seay, at left, Sadie Ellen, on her mother's lap, and Ross Wetherbee.



RUSSELL AND GWEN SEAY's older son, Allen Seay, and his family. Allen's wife, Cecilia is seen at left, with their daughter, Ashley Seay, and son, Jamey Adams.



RUSSELL AND GWEN's younger son, Tommy Seay, his wife, Donna, and their children, Autumn Salamack and Amery Seay.



HUGH LAWSON WHITE AND MARY ISABEL EDMISTON WHITE posed for this picture with their five daughters. Standing at back: Clem, Olive and Ethel. In front, Nora and Ora, the twins.



GRANDDAUGHTERS of the Rufus R. Seays: Seated: Louella Ewing, daughter of Bettie Seay. Kneeling is Agnes Seay, daughter of Thomas Obediah Seay, and Gail Edmiston, a daughter of Mary Ellen Seay. Now Gail Snow, Gail lives at Clovis, N.M.



AMBROSE HUNLEY SEVIER LITTLE is seen in this old family photo with his wife, Sarah J. Graham Little at right and one of their daughters, Emma E. Little Seay. The faces of the other daughters and son in the picture were too faded by time to reproduce here.



JOHN B. LITTLE and his wife, Alice, are seen in this photo. John B. was murdered when he was 42 years old. Russell Seay recalls attending the funeral. See page 54.

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Washington Co., Ark. Records
 Crawford Co., Ark. Records
 Gallatin Co., Ill. Records and published materials
 Fayetteville Public Library
 Bentonville Public Library
 Van Buren Public Library

Visited:

White Rock Cemetery
 Bethesda Cemetery
 Cane Hill Cemetery
 Bethlehem Cemetery
 Edmiston Cemetery
 Canderville Cemetery
 Cincinnati, Ark. Cemetery
 Westville, Okla. Cemetery
 Drake Cemetery
 Vineyard Cemetery

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 WASHINGTON COUNTY, ARK. plat book of 1910
 THE EDMISTONS OF WASHINGTON COUNTY, ARKANSAS by Humphreys
 Illinois State Genealogical Society QUARTERLY (1979-1980)

And numerous others

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