

Families and Early Settlers (cont.)

The Stamper Clan

(By Mrs. J. T. (Ada Blanche Stamper) Gilbert who left Lusby community as a bride in 1903, now located in Paducah, Ky. and Ft. Pierce, Fla.)

The precinct of Lusby may correctly be referred to as the ancestral home of many of Owen county's first families, among them the Stammers, though most of the families of Owen are of pioneer heritage.

The surname, Stamper, is of primeval English origin. Tradition records that Lady Jane, referred to as "Lady Stamp", christened the first Stamper heir—"when knighthood was in flower"—is a story woven around those times.

The first Stammers in America were registered among the first families of Virginia and North Carolina in the 1790-93 census. The descendants of Robert Stamper migrated south through Virginia and the Carolinas during the Revolutionary War and were among the thread-worn soldiers who fought in the Battle of the Cowpens, Jan. 7, 1781 under Brig. Gen. Daniel Morgan, against Lt. Col. Tarleton whom Lord Cornwallis sent out to represent the British. It was one of the final victories for the American forces.

Jesse and Jonathan Stamper, brothers, were the ancestors of the Stammers of Lusby in Owen county.

Jonathan Stamper married a Miss McCormick of Cincinnati. Their son, Hugh, born 1819, was one of the Stammers who came home to stay. His first position was as clerk in the store of Daniel Cobb, one of Samuel Cobb's sons. He won the love and admiration of pretty Hannah Holbrook Cobb, the merchant's daughter. Her mother was a Miss Holbrook of that ancestral line. They were wed in 1847 when the bride was only fourteen. They prospered from the beginning and were soon owners and in command of the store. At their deaths, among their estates was a vast collection of notes.

Hugh and Hannah Stamper had nine children (all deceased except Sarah Alexander). Their descendants are many,—Riley, Charles Morehead, Frankie, Betty, Harry, Bush, May, Sarah and Samuel Stamper.

Riley and Sarah W. Stamper had seven children, namely, Hallie, Hugh, Elzie, Daniel, Mattie, Georgianne and Alice, (Hallie, Hugh and Daniel deceased). Elzie's son, Julian, enlisted in World War II and received an honorable discharge. Hugh, son of Daniel, enlisted in Owen but joined comrades later in Cincinnati. He is married and has a family.

Charles Morehead, (1849-1937) was wed in 1870 to Malissa Martin (1850-1930) of the ancestral Martin line from Culpepper county, Virginia. He died quite young while on a prospecting, surveying trip with three cousins, Albert, Jimmy and Joseph Cobb in Colorado. He did much to promote the educational interests of the county and donated the first big schoolhouse at Lusby. They had eight children, Warren Liberty, Minnie Ola, Lou May, Aura Belle, Elbridge Gerry, Roscoe Conkling, Ada Blanche and Charlie Paul Stamper. Malissa Martin Stamper may well be referred to as one of the great women of Owen county. She lived to see all the children educated, married and making the citizens she would have them be. She had the dignity of the Martins as did Dr. Warren L., her first son who wed Alice Bourne in 1894, of another old family in Owen. Alice died when her little daughter, Geneva, was two years of age. Geneva married John Ross Nugent in 1917.

Dr. W. L. was wed to Mary Vorics in 1903 and they have two children, Juanita and Dr. Willard Conkling Stamper, the latter attaining the rank of Lieut. Col. in the late war.

Minnie Ola was wed in 1906 to Robert Emmett Vorics, (deceased). She reared one boy, William Vincent of the U. S. Navy, stationed in the Hawaiian Islands. In 1942 she married E. M. Foyle. She died after the copy for this book had been sent to the printer and the body was brought to Owenton cemetery

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for interment January 17, 1948.

Lou May (1874-1906) married Silas M. Whitton in 1895. Their three children are Veral K., Stamper B. and Aline. Of Veral K. and J. D. Howard's children, Blanche, Marjorie and John Wilfred are living; Stamper B. and Pearl Shirley Whitton lost twin daughters in 1926, Phyllis Ann remaining; Aline and Ralph Souder, Cincinnati, wed in 1924, have a daughter, Juanita of the Air Lines out of Ft. Worth, Texas.

Aura Belle married George W. Morris (1863-1908) and they had one daughter, Mildred, wed to Frank Evans Blackman. Aura Belle wed Bob H. White in 1914 and their two children are Aura B. and R. H. White.

Dr. Elbridge Gerry was wed in 1905 to Eunice McElhoney (deceased). Their only son was Dr. E. G. Stamper Jr. who wed Dorothy Sinclair in 1940. Dr. Stamper enlisted as a dentist in World War II and attained the rank of Captain. He married Lillian Carlson of Florida in 1945 and they live in Paducah, Ky.

Dr. Roscoe Conkling, who has the distinguished manners of the ancestral Stampers, was married in 1909 to Ethel Webb of Gary, Indiana. They have a daughter, Mary Elizabeth, who wed Louis Frier in 1932. In 1916 Dr. Stamper married Della Winton of Ohio and they live in Los Angeles.

Ada Blanche married Dr. J. T. Gilbert of Paducah in 1908 and went there as a bride to live. The Gilbert name dates back to Gilbert the Great who died in 1167. The couple had one son, Dr. James Thomas Gilbert Jr. who was in the Army Medical Corps of World War II, attaining the rank of Major. His wife was Amanda Jane Kroeckel of Nashville, Tenn. and they have two sons, J. T. Gilbert III and Harry Spangler Gilbert.

Charlie Paul married Mae Osborn Sebastian. He and Elzie carry the Lusby Stamper banner. (It is recorded that Sir Walter Osborn was the first to bear that surname. He was playing a game of chess with King William the Conqueror who staked his lands and lost. He slapped Sir Walter on the back and said, "I christen you Sir Walter Osborn, the best man.") Charlie and Mae have two sons, Charles Edward and William Bernice. The former attained the rank of Major overseas in the late war and was wounded. He wed Wilma Chaney of Columbus, O. in 1946. William Bernice enlisted and attained rank of Top Sergeant. He was with Gen. Patton's forces in Germany where he was wounded.

Harry Stamper married Ida Brissey and had five children, Hattie, Samuel, May, Minnie and Ruby. His descendants live in Cincinnati with exception of Minnie and May who live in Florida.

Frankie wed Jesse Gross and had two sons, Jesse and Joseph Gross (deceased). She later wed Sanford Mason and had four children, Ida, Willie, Harry and Lindsay who live in Swope neighborhood. Ida married Charles Lucas.

Betty Stamper wed Merritt Martin and had six children, Atilla, Kate, Margaret, Jesse, Addie M. and Ben Martin. Kate wed William Reed of a pioneer family and had four children; Atilla wed Addie Tolbert and had one daughter, Madie Blanche; Margaret wed Edward Thornton and had a son, Florian (deceased) and a daughter, Eva; Jesse wed Eva Alexander and later married and moved to Dayton, O.; Addie M. wed William Berkley of Owen county. The Berkleys are of royal heritage from England. First to bear the surname was Sir William Berkley in the time of King William. Ben Martin (deceased) worked with The News-Herald at Owenton and had one daughter.

May married Riley Kinnem and had three children, Ross, Roy M. and Cora. Ross wed Allie Toole and had three children, Mabel (deceased) Hubert

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and Myra. Cora wed Ernest Souder and has a daughter, Mabel. Roy M. was wed to Pearl Tolbert and they had a daughter, Corinne who lives in Owen.

Bush wed Sister Cobb and had four children, Manless, Mary, Addie and Porter Stamper of Cincinnati.

Sarah married Alfred C. Alexander, an old historical family of Owen, and had nine children, Effie, Hettie, Calvert, Hugh, Alfred C., Goebel, May, Ernest and Lurah. Effie wed Thomas Sebree; Hettie wed Fred Stamper and had a son, Kenneth, killed on Nov. 10, 1944 with Patton's Army; Lurah wed Earl Holbrook and has a son, Charles; May is married and resides in Cincinnati; Calvert lives with his mother at the Alexander home; Hugh and Ernest are both married with families and Goebel and Alfred C. are deceased.

Samuel wed Allie Martin and had three children, Lula, Robert and Bessie. Lula wed Jesse Ingram and had a daughter, Phyllis, now Mrs. E. H. Harvey. The latter had two children, Lois Jane and J. O.; Robert wed Virgie Mason and has a daughter, Ruby of Dillsboro, Ind.; Bessie wed Oren Ransdell and they have an adopted daughter, Marie.

There are many Stampers of the Jesse Stamper line: W. W. wed Birdie Taylor Vories and had three children, Lula, Ruth and Willoughby Stamper. Lula wed C. P. Scudder; Ruth married William Swope and Willoughby is married and lives in Washington, Ind. Lt. David Warren, son of Howard and Verna Stamper, was killed in Florida during the late war while serving with the Air Corps. A \$50,000 memorial library and other donations were given by his family who reside at Moberly, Missouri. Kate Stamper, an aunt, also made a big contribution. Margaret Richardson Stamper was crowned the most outstanding mother of Missouri in 1947. They are descendants of Finis and Margaret Stamper and of the Daniel Cobbs of Owen county, all from the historical town of Lusby.

Among the Stamper family are many college graduates, officials, lawyers, merchants, doctors, ministers, bankers and promoters, all proud to be of Owen county, and of Lusby Mill community.

The Taylors From Lusby

(By Mrs. J. W. Smither, a great-granddaughter of Benjamin F. Taylor.)

Benjamin F. Taylor and his wife, Charlotte Mings Taylor, were natives of Madison County, Kentucky and they reared their family of five children there. They were, namely: Smith, Tarleton, James, Mary Jane and Rebecca.

Smith came to Owen County in young manhood and purchased land around forks of Mussel Shoals, Breck and Lusby Mill road. He married Amanda C. Abbott of New Columbus. Four sons were born to this union; John H. who married Nannie Smith; Ben F. who was wed to Allie Cobb; Dr. Asa Porter married to Allie J. Holbrook, the doctor practicing for a while in Owen but soon going to Lexington to follow his profession; French Abbott married Lucy Holbrook and they became parents of four daughters and two sons. One of them, John Will, became a doctor and practiced for years at Beechwood. He is now following his chosen profession at Stamping Ground, Ky. Wives of these four sons were all Lusby's Mill precinct girls.

A grandson of French Taylor, Anthony (Bud) Smither, owns and lives on the same farm which his great-grandfather Smith Taylor purchased many years ago. Wayne Cooper and Lucy Taylor, children of Mr. and Mrs. Anthony Smither, are of the fifth generation to live on this same farm.