

THE IMMIGRANT WILLIAM PETER CHRISTIAN

AND HIS FAMILY

IN

MISSISSIPPI, ARKANSAS, AND TEXAS

by

Harold Christian

Submitted by:
Mrs. Bernard Oldziewski
4170 W. 162 Street
Lanndale, CA 90260

I. INTRODUCTION

A. FAMILY ORIGIN

William Peter Christian's family apparently were residents of the Isle of Man at the time of his birth.¹ Information concerning his parents and their kin in that area, however, unfortunately is missing from the family tradition passed on by his descendants.

B. CHRISTIAN FAMILIES ON THE ISLE OF MAN

Among the Harleian manuscripts in England is a charter (434) dated A.D. 1154 which is believed to pertain to an early ancestor of the Isle of Man Christian families.² It concerned an exchange of lands with the Priory of St. Bees in Cumberland, England. King Godfred II names one, Gillocrist, as "my foster brother" and gives him the staffland around Maughold Church in addition to Ballekilley, Baldroma and the two Ballytessays which he already possessed.

Three Manx antiquarians - the late Canon Guine, the late Archdeacon Kewley, and the late Mr. W.C. Collingwood were at one in fastening on this Gillocrist as the begetter of the family dubbed CHRISTIAN. His name means servant of Christ (Manx - Guilley Chreest) and it might well have been a son of his who was the first McCrystyn (the spellings are variable and numerous). If this was so Gillocrist had a Celtic wife, because the prefix Mac was only given to those whose mother was the daughter of a Celtic landowner.³

Manx records dating back to 1407 A.D. identify a large number of Christians who were prominent in the history of the Isle of Man. These included church officials, judges and members of the legislature.⁴

C. COAT OF ARMS

It was not until 1788 A.D., when the Christians in Cumberland, England (relatives of the Milntown, Isle of Man Christians) had had a domicile in Cumberland for more than a century that a formal grant of the arms was obtained and a pedigree entered at the college of arms. The Heralds,

¹ 1850 U.S. Census, Chickasaw Co., Miss.

² Proceedings of the Manx Society, Vol.II, No.3.

³ Personal Names of the Isle of Man, J.J. Kneen

⁴ References and information in possession of H.K. Christian

who had access to the ancestral Christian archives in Milntown, Isle of Man, however, failed to establish that part of the family history behind the 15th century. As a result of a holocaust of the said archives which took place in the 19th century, considerable information was forever lost.⁵

What is believed to be the Christian coat of arms was once found at the Lanercost Priory, an Augustinian Abbey in Cumberland County, England, founded in 1169 A.D. by St. Ninian and consecrated by Bishop Christian of Candida Casa (Whithorn, Wigtownshire County, Scotland. On the shield were 3 covered cups, 2 above 1.

A sketch is provided on the next page of the coat of arms as granted to the Christians of Ewanrigg, Cumberland County, England. The following description is taken from Burke's General Armory.

Armory: Azure; a chevron humettee between three covered cups, gold.

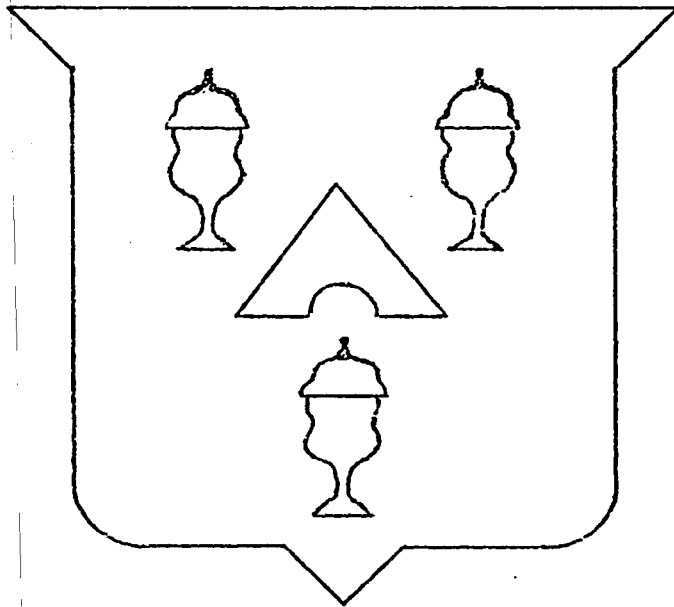
Crest: a unicorn's head erased, silver, collared and armed, gold.

Motto: Salvation through Christ

The shield is blue; the covered cups and the beams with an arch between are gold. The unicorn's head erased (i.e. forcibly torn off, leaving the separated parts jagged and uneven) is silver; it has a collar about the throat; the collar and the horn of the unicorn are gold.

⁵Portrait of the Isle of Man (pp18-19), Canon E.H.Stenning

⁶Manx Museum Journal, Vol. II (pp 89-90)



Salus per Christum

II. WILLIAM PETER CHRISTIAN (Ca.1800-Ca.1878)

A. INTRODUCTION

Knowledge of Peter's early life is based almost entirely on verbal information passed down by his descendents. Unfortunately time and events have resulted in both the loss of information and in stories about Peter's life which do not correlate with each other as well as one would have hoped. As of this date, the identity of Peter's parents and their relatives in England have yet to be established.

As for Peter, however, it may be assumed that he was born on the Isle of Man; he had seafaring relatives; his early life was spent at sea; and that he eventually left the sea and England to establish a new life as a citizen of the United States. In the interest of future research, the various accounts of his life have been summarized below.

B. TIME AND PLACE OF BIRTH

Peter's time and place of birth have yet to be established with certainty. His descendents and U.S. census reports variously have identified his place of birth as the Isle of Man, London and Liverpool, England; his year of birth may have been 1786, 1800, 1810, 1815 or 1816; and his year of death may have been 1874, 1875 or 1878.

In the 1850 U.S. census enumeration of Chickasaw Co., Mississippi, Peter apparently reported his birthplace as the Isle of Man and his age as 40 - which indicates his year of birth was 1810. In the 1860 Calhoun Co., Mississippi and in the 1870 Titus Co., Texas enumerations, his birthplace was reported as England, a more general location, and his age in each enumeration as 45 and 56, respectively. These two ages indicate a year of birth of either 1815 or 1814 instead of 1810, as indicated by the 1850 census. No explanation has yet been found for the 5-year spread in ages obtained from the census records.

Essie (Campbell) Lee recalled having heard that "Pete was born in London, 1800. Died 1875 near Douglasville in Cass County Texas." This information was reported to have been passed down by Peter's oldest daughter, Mary Jane (Christian) Smith and by her daughter Sarah Frances "Fannie" (Smith) Campbell.

Mr. Elbridge B. "Bridge" Smith, another descendent of Mary Jane; also reported Peter's place of birth as London.

Bridge also related that " (Peter's family) Moved from there (vicinity of Blackton, Arkansas) to East Texas, near Douglasville in Cass Co., on Sulphur River. His second wife died there. About 2 yrs later, he married Elizabeth Long. They had been married about one year he died of congestive chill. He was 89 yrs of age. ... Pete Christian was buried in the Union Chapel Cemetary (1½ miles South and 3 miles East of Bryans Mill, Cass Co., Texas). I have 2 sisters buried there. Mandy Smith, age 18. Lucille, was 6 yrs old. To the best of my knowledge, they (the girls and Peter) were buried on the same lot."

William Peter Christian, Jr., the last child born to Peter and Polley A. (Waldon) Christian, was born about 1871. Information from Louise (Christian) Howell indicated that Polley died about 1871, apparently a short time after the birth of Pete, Jr. Based on Bridge's information in the preceding paragraph, Peter must have married Elizabeth Long (8 years after Polley's death) in 1873 and died in 1874. This year of death coincides with that reported by Mrs. Tabor in the following paragraph. Assuming 1874 to be the correct year of death for Peter and also assuming that he was 89 at time of death, his year of birth would have been about 1785, substantially earlier than indicated by either census records or by Mrs. Lee.

Annie (Christian) Tabor, a daughter of Peter's eldest son, William James, indicated "Grandfather Peter Christian. Born in London, England. Died in Cass County Texas at Bryant (Bryans) Mill in 1874."

Louise (Christian) Howell, a descendent of Henry Harvey Christian, also indicated that "Great Grandpa Pete was born in Liverpool, England (rather than in London or the Isle of Man as reported above). Great Grandpa Pete died about 1873 in Douglasville, Tex."

C. PETER'S YOUTH

All family stories of Peter's youth, though fragmentary and somewhat contradictory in content, indicate that Peter lost his father when quite young. Perhaps as a result of that and other causes, Peter left home shortly thereafter and spent a number of years at sea. Subsequently he left the sea and entered the United States. He established and maintained residences in the Southern States, possibly Alabama and certainly in Arkansas, Mississippi and Texas. Derived essentially from memories of Peter's descendents, the various recollections of his youth are summarized below.

Bertie (Cambell) Christian related that " Neil's mother (named Ida (coleman) Christian and wife of Henry Harvey Christian) lived with us several years and told me a lot *** (I) remember only this that Peter ran away from home in England after his father had died & his mother married again. He and his step father didn't get along so he went to work on his uncles ship. They (he and his uncle?) came to the U.S. some-time or other & he met this girl in Tenn. Went back to England & got his share of the property (left by his mother and step father?). Some of it was jewels. Came back and married this girl. *** "

Sallie (Jenkins) Christian recalled hearing discussions involving Zene and William Christian which indicated that Peter's father died when Peter was still quite young and that his oldest brother inherited the family property. His mother remarried soon after. Unable to get along with his brother (or stepfather?), Peter left home soon thereafter.

Information provided by Louise (Christian) Howell indicated that " (Grandpa Pete) left England at 13 worked on his uncles ship for 7 years. *** "

Rosa May (Christian) said that she had heard Peter's uncle, on his mother's side, lived in New York City, N.Y. He owned a big ship which Peter started to work on at age 12.

Bridge Smith, son of Mary Jane (Christian) Smith, related " His (Peter's) Mother and Father died when Pete was 13 yrs. old. He worked on a ship for 30 yrs. Came back to London. He married Margaret Turner and stayed in London 7 yrs. They had 2 children - Mary and Margaret Christian. He left London, Eng. Came to Mobile Alabama, lived there about 3 yrs. *** " (This indication of a marriage in England prior to his final return to the U.S. also is contained in information provided by Mrs Weaver, below.)

Information provided by Harvey L. Christian, a descendent of Zene Christian, indicated that Zene told him that his father, Peter, and his uncle were sailors on a privateer. As a result of carelessness in choice of ships they preyed on (i.e. ships of the British trade), the English Crown put a price on their head and they were forced to leave England and the sea. They entered the U.S. either at the port of Mobile, Alabama or of Gulfport Mississippi.

Rosa Mae also related that she had heard Peter had one and possibly two uncles who were lost at sea in ship fires. Although no relationship with Peter has yet been established, a Captain D. (Daniel) Christian was in command of the Othello, a

Liverpool ship, which in 1794 recaptured the English ship Minerva. A short time later the Othello caught fire and blew up at Bonny, on the coast of Africa. Captain Christian escaped from this fire. In 1898 Captain Christian returned to Bonny as Captain of the Liverpool ship Paar, owned by Thos. Paar & Co. This ship also caught fire and blew up. Having a full complement of slaves on board at the time, Captain Christian and most of the slaves as well as the white crew lost their lives in the fire and resulting explosions.

In addition to other information, Mrs Lee related that " You might remember that along 1925 or '27, the English Gov't had a man over here trying to trace the family and find out the maiden name of William Peter Christian's mother. Grandmother (Mary Smith) thought one of her sisters had her mother's (Susan (Turner) Christian) Bible but the information wasn't gotten. If it had been, we'd inherited a large section of London. As it was, the 100 years passed and it went to the Crown. "

D. PETER'S FAMILIES

Family tradition indicates Peter was married four times. Unfortunately family Bibles and other written records directly associated with each of these marriages either were not maintained or were lost. As a result of this and of biographical confusion generated in general by the rigors of life encountered by Peter's families, detailed historical information (i.e. names of the parents of Peter and his wives, complete birth information pertaining to them and their children, etc.) in many cases is either ill defined or completely lacking.

Based on tradition there is reason to believe that Peter was first married in England. Information as to who this wife was and as to what happened to her is completely lacking.

Cleva (Christian) Weaver relates having heard her Grandfather Zene Christian say that his father (Peter) had a wife in England; and that Peter had to leave England in a hurry. Mrs Weaver did not recall having heard why Peter had to leave; or whether his wife was left behind in England or accompanied him to the United States.

In Annie (Christian) Tabor's summarization of Peter's life, we find some evidence that Peter's English wife may have accompanied him to the U.S. Mrs Tabor related " Grand Father Peter Christian. Born in London England. Died in Cass County Texas at Bryant Hill in 1874. Grand Mother Sarah Graham. Born in London England. Died at Blackton Ark. ... "

As related by Mr Smith above, Peter returned to England (after a period spent at sea as a sailor); he married a Margaret Turner and stayed in London two years; they had two children Mary and Margaret; he left England and came to Mobile, Alabama where he lived for about 3-years; etc. (In another piece of correspondence, Mr Smith identified Peter's first wife as Mary rather than Margaret Turner. Both names differ from that of Sarah Graham who was identified as Peter's first wife by Mrs Tabor.)

Based on the above information a search of East Coast and Gulf Coast Port's ship passenger list records in the National Archives was made in an attempt to determine when and where Peter landed in the United States and whether he was accompanied by an English wife and children. Thus far such searches have been unsuccessful. Although records were found for some Williams and some Peter Christians from England, not knowing the correct age, the port and time of entry for our Peter, there is no way to associate him with any of these records.

According to information provided by Sue Knighton, the name Peter Christian appears on a list of people taking the oath of allegiance in the Natchez District (Mississippi) on January 1, 1799. This oath was taken at the time of annexation of this territory "lying between the Western boundary of Georgia and the Mississippi River". (Source of this information is the book Special Aids to Geneological Research on Southern Families, page 105.) Whether or how this Peter is related to our Peter is unknown at this time.

U.S. census records enumerating families named Christian, Graham and Turner who lived in the vicinity of Blackton, Arkansas and Memphis, Tennessee in 1840 and 1850 also have been checked. As mentioned below a William McChrystian family was living in Phillips County, Arkansas in 1840; although this area is just east of Blackton, and Peter's first child, Mary, was supposedly born in Arkansas in 1844, there is no way yet to associate this William with our William Peter.

The 1850 Chickasaw County, Mississippi U.S. census record is the earliest official record found thus far which we are sure pertains to our Peter Christian. By this time a Susan - age 19 and born in Tennessee, was enumerated as the oldest female of the family. It therefore appears that if Peter did bring an English wife with him to the United States, she must have died (possibly at Blackton) before 1850.

SUSAN TURNER. Although also somewhat limited, sufficient information has been obtained to strongly indicate that Peter's first marriage in the United States was to a young girl named Susan who was born in Tennessee. Both tradition and census records have provided information concerning this marriage.

Bertie (Campbell) Christian's summary of Peter's life makes no mention of his having been married to an English girl. She did relate, however that Peter and his uncle came to the United States (date unknown); that Peter met this girl in Tennessee (name not given); that Peter went back to England and got his share of the property-some of it was jewels; and that he came back and married this girl. (In 1850, the oldest female in Peter's family enumerated in the U.S. Census of Chickasaw County, Mississippi, was named Susan. Her age was 19 and her birthplace was reported to be Tennessee. Conceivably she is the girl from Tennessee mentioned by Mrs. Christian).

Essie (Campbell) Lee identified Susie Turner as Peter's first wife and Zin or Zene Turner, born in Germany, as Susie's father. Mrs. Lee also stated that "He (Zene Turner) married Margaret _____ in Mississippi. She died near Jackson, ..." Mrs. Lee also said that she felt as if Margaret Graham might have been Susie's mother. (This information ties the Susan named in the 1850 census to the Zene and Margaret Turner family.)

Other U.S. census information (1880, Cass County, Texas) indicates Mary's mother was born in Tennessee rather than in England-where Sarah Graham or Margaret (or Mary) Turner (referenced above) supposedly was born. Census records also indicate that Mary was born in Arkansas rather than in England. As a result it would appear that Mary and her younger sisters and brothers were born to Susan (Turner) Christian rather than to Peter's English wife.

PETER AND SUSAN'S FAMILY. Information concerning their family has been summarized below in a chronological order.

MARY JANE CHRISTIAN. Mary was born December 10, 1844 in the state of Arkansas and possibly near Blackton (in either Monroe or Phillips County). She is believed to be the first child born to Peter and Susan. Soon after her birth, apparently Peter moved his family to Mississippi where Mary's next younger sister, Margaret, was born (circa 1846). Mary subsequently married Edward D. Smith of Monroe County, Arkansas at the home of her father on February 15, 1862.

MARGARET CHRISTIAN. Little is known of Margaret. From U.S. census records we believe that she was born about 1846 in Mississippi. Peter either could have moved his family to Mississippi by this time or Susan could have been staying with relatives; possibly the Turners) in Mississippi when Margaret was born. (Mrs Lee indicated in her account of

Peter's life that she believed Susan's father, Zane Turner, married Susan's mother, Margaret, in Mississippi and that they lived in or near Jackson, Mississippi. Conceivably Margaret was named for her grandmother.

SARAH ISABELLA CHRISTIAN. The third child born to Peter and Susan is believed to have been named Sarah Isabella and to have been born in Mississippi about 1847. She was identified as Isabella in the 1850 U.S. census enumeration of Chickasaw County, Mississippi and as Clara (the enumerator may have thought Clara rather than Sarah was the name reported) in the 1860 U.S. census of Calhoun County, Mississippi. During a visit with Bridge Smith in 1965, he identified a Sarah Christian Snelgrove as the mother of a Laura Snelgrove. Cass County, Texas, marriage records (Book 2, page 232) identified a Sarah I. Christian marriage to John Snelgrove on or about June 25, 1867. This Sarah is believed to be Peter's daughter. There is evidence in Cass County deed records (Book C page 269) that Peter purchased land from Thomas J. White there in 1866, the year preceding Sarah's marriage.

JOHN CHRISTIAN. John was three months old when the 1850 census enumeration of Peter's family was made. The census shows that Peter had moved his family from Arkansas and was living in Chickasaw County (Eastern District), Mississippi. Since the census was dated 30 September 1850, John probably was born the preceding June. Since this is the only record of John, and since no mention of his name has been made by Peter's descendants, it is assumed that John must have died sometime between his birth in 1850 and when the 1860 enumeration of Peter's family was made. John's name was missing from the family enumeration in 1860.

PETER'S FAMILY AS OF SEPTEMBER 30, 1850. The following information is taken from the 1850 U.S. census enumeration of Chickasaw County, Eastern District, Mississippi (Sheet 315, page 626, family no. 214), dated September 30, 1850.

<u>NAME</u>	<u>AGE</u>	<u>SEX</u>	<u>OCCUPATION</u>	<u>REAL ESTATE</u>	<u>BIRTHPLACE</u>
Peter Christian	40	M	Farmer	\$700	Isle of Man
Susan	19	F			Tenn.
Mary J.	6	F			Ark.
Margaret	4	F			Miss.
John	3/12	M			Miss.
Hilliard J. Gore	34	M			S.C.
George Turner	18	M			Tenn.

(Bridge Smith reported that Susan had two brothers, George and Anthony Turner. Although no records have been found for Anthony, Cass County, Texas, records reflect a George Turner. According to Bridge, both of the brothers came to Texas with Peter. According to Sallie Christian, there were some Turners living at Mountain View, Oklahoma in the early 1900's who were kin to the Christians.)

WILLIAM JAMES CHRISTIAN. Based on information from William's family Bible, he was born November 20, 1853. His birthplace as recorded in census enumerations was Mississippi. (It is interesting to note that Bill's ages as reported in successive census years beginning with the 1860 census not only are inconsistent with each other but also are different from the information taken from his family Bible. Inconsistencies in census information is not unusual, however. In the three census years of 1860, 1870 and 1880, Bill's age was recorded respectively as 10, 15 and 29 instead of 6, 16 and 26 as might have been expected.) In an 1890 Record of Birth on file in Cass County, Texas (Delayed Reports, Vol. 29, page 178) for Bill's daughter Iler Frances, his age was given as 42 on August 10, 1890 (date of the record) and his birthplace was given as Mississippi. According to the report, the information was reported by Bill's wife Amanda. Here again errors in reporting and recording of information is a possibility. Bill was married to Amanda Lucinda Jenkins, daughter of Joseph Sanford and Lucinda Taylor Jenkins, November 1, 1882.

DANIEL ZENE CHRISTIAN. Zene was the next child born to Peter and Susan. His date of birth has never been known for certain. He is believed to have been born in October, 1854, the date entered in his record of death (on file in the court house at Hobart, Oklahoma). If this date and that of Bill's birth in his family bible is correct, Zene would have been eleven months younger than Bill. Just as for Bill, census information relating to Zene's date of birth also is inconsistent. The 1860, 1870 and 1880 enumerations respectively reported Zene's ages as 8, 12 and 23. His place of birth was reported as Mississippi in each of the enumerations. Exer Petty Waldon, sister of Zene's wife Elizabeth Petty, reported that Zene was 37 years of age on the date that his daughter Minnie Lee was born (July 8, 1888). (See Record of Delayed Births, Book 31, page 32, in the Court House at Linden, Cass County, Texas) Exer also reported that Zene was born in Arkansas instead of Mississippi as reported in the various census enumerations. Based on Exer's information, Zene's year of birth would have been 1851 (assuming his month of birth was October) which would have made him older than Bill. Since family tradition indicates that Bill was older than Zene, and since Peter is believed to have resided in Mississippi when Zene was born, the accuracy of Exer's information is open to question.

GEORGE FARTLETT CHRISTIAN. As far as is known, Bart was the last child born to Peter and Susan. As with Zene, the exact date of birth for Bart is not known at this time. Based on Bart's age, 48 years, reported at the time of his death on June 8, 1904 (Records of Death, Court House, Linden, Cass County Texas) one can approximate his year of birth as 1856. This is

fairly close to that indicated by the 1860 and the 1880 census enumerations, 5 and 23 years of age, respectively. His age was reported as 11 in the 1870 Titus County, Texas census. All census enumerations listed Bart's place of birth as Mississippi. Since Peter's family was living several miles south of Corinth, Mississippi when Bart was born, and since Susan's parents, Zene and Margaret Graham Turner are reported to have been living near Jackson, Mississippi during the 1850 - 1860 time period, and since the Cass County, Texas birth record for Bart's son Thomas, reported Bart's place of birth as Jackson, Mississippi, it appears that Susan was staying with her parents at the time of Bart's birth. Bart's age at the time of Thomas' birth on November 10, 1890, was reported to be 35, which is consistent with that reported in the 1860 census enumeration.

SUSAN'S DEATH. Peter apparently lost Susan sometime between Bart's birth (circa 1856) and September 25, 1860, the date of the census enumeration of Peter's family in 1860; Susan was missing from this enumeration and the Waldon family had joined Peter's by this point in time. Eridge Smith said that Peter moved his family from Mississippi to Arkansas just before the Civil War; he believed that Susan died while they lived near Blackton, Monroe County, Arkansas, and that Peter married the Widow Waldon at this time. Based on the 1860 census enumeration information of Peter's family, however, it seems more likely that Susan passed away while the family lived in Mississippi and that it was here that the Waldon's joined Peter. Information provided by Mrs Arthur Lee indicated that Susan died in Tennessee where she was born, which also is a possibility. No information is available at this time relating to Susan's birthplace in Tennessee.

OTHER CHRISTIAN, TURNER AND GRAHAM FAMILIES. Since Mary, Peter's first child, was born in Arkansas in 1844, and also was married to Edward Smith while residing in Monroe County, Arkansas in 1862, and since Sarah Graham as mentioned above supposedly died at Blackton, Monroe County, Arkansas, U.S. census records enumerating families living in that area were checked for the above families.

No 1830 or 1840 family enumerations of interest were found in Monroe County, Arkansas where Blackton is located.

In 1840, however, in Phillips County, just east of Blackton and bounded on the East by the Mississippi River, a Wm. Chrystian family was enumerated as a resident of Richland Township. Since only one male was enumerated, he is assumed to be the head of the family, Wm. Chrystian.

Peter could have been in Arkansas as early as 1840 even though Mary was not born there until 1844.

Wm. Christian's age in the 1840 enumeration was given as between 50 and 60. If Eridge Smith's information about Peter being 89 at the time of his death c-1875, then Peter also would have been between 50 and 60 in 1840.

As mentioned above, a Peter Christian was present in the Natchez Territory in 1799, and could have been either the above William or possibly related to him.

Living with Wm. Chrystian in 1840 was a female age 30-40; a female age 10-15; a female age 5-10; and a female age under 5. (Only the head of the family was named in the enumeration.)

Since Mary (born 1844) supposedly is Peter's first child, and since the Wm. Chrystian family included both an adult female as well as children, it would seem that Wm. and our Peter are two separate people, unless a widow with children was living with him at that time.

The difference in spelling of the last name is not considered significant since it could be a mistake of the census enumerator.

Also in Phillips County in 1840, but in Mooney Township rather than Richland Township, lived the family of Sara Graham. Conceivably this family could have been related to the Margaret Graham believed to be the wife of Zene Turner, father of Susan Turner, Peter's first wife.

With Sara's family were a male (20-30); two males (10-15); one male (5-10); a female (50-60) assumed to be Sara; a female (30-40); two females (5-10); and three females under five.

No Graham children were enumerated with Peter's family in the 1850 enumeration, however. No enumeration has been found for Zene Turner's family.

In Cearcy (or Searcy) Township of Phillips County Arkansas, in 1840, also lived the family of Eliza Turner, a family to which our Susan, George and Anthony Turner (mentioned above may have been related. In Eliza's family were two males (15-20); one male (5-10); one male under five; one female (30-40) assumed to be Eliza; two females (10-15); and one female under five.

In Walnut Township of Phillips County, Arkansas, in 1840, lived the family of Edward Smith, who may have been the father of the Edward Smith who married Peter's first child Mary. With the family were one male (50-60) assumed to be Edward; one male (15-20) who would have been about the same age of Ned, Mary's husband; one male (10-15); one male (5-10); one male under five; one female (30-40); and one female under five.

By 1850 Wm. Chrystian either had moved or passed away; his family was not enumerated in the 1850 Phillips County census. Nor were the names of Sara Graham, Eliza Turner, or Edward Smith found in the 1850 enumeration. As of 1850, Peter's family was located in Chickasaw County, Mississippi.

Although no connection with Peter's family has yet been established, a family headed by Sarah J. Graham was enumerated in the 1840 U.S. census of Shelby County, Tennessee. With her family were two females (20-30) one of whom probably was Sarah; one female (5-10); one female under 5; one male (10-15); one male (5-10); and one male under five. In addition to Sarah's family, the families of John D. Graham, of James Graham, and of Watt Christian (the last two living in Memphis City) were enumerated.

Sallie Jenkins Christian related that she had heard of a Turner family living in Mountain View, Oklahoma during the early 1900's who were kin to the Christians.

Bridge Smith identified two brothers of Peter's first wife, Susan Turner. They were named George and Anthony Turner. According to Mr Smith, George and Anthony died in Northeast Texas. Their descendents could have been the Turners in Mountain View referred to by Sallie Christian above.

George Turner was included in both the 1850 and the 1860 enumerations of Peter's family. George must have accompanied Peter's family to Cass County, Texas; both his name and Peter's name were on an 1867 Cass County Voters registration list.

As of this date, no official records identifying George Turner have been found.

Essie Lee mentioned in correspondence of "always being told that Grandma's (Mary Smith) Mother, Susie Turner of Jackson. In the '30's there were still some of our Turners still living at Jackson (Mississippi)."

THE CHRISTIAN AND WALDRON FAMILIES (SEPTEMBER 25, 1860).

The following enumeration was taken from the 1860 U.S. census of families of Calhoun County (formed from a part of Chickasaw County after 1850), Mississippi (Sheet 163, page 699, family no. 1140, dwelling no. 1150, dated September 25, 1860).

<u>NAME</u>	<u>AGE</u>	<u>SEX</u>	<u>OCCUPATION</u>	<u>REAL ESTATE</u>	<u>BIRTHPLACE</u>
Peter Christian	45	M	Farmer	13,000	England
Mary	25	F			Ala.
Mary	14	F			Ark.
Margaret	13	F			Miss.
Clara	12	F			Miss.
William	10	M			Miss.
Daniel	8	M			Miss.
Bartlett	5	M			Miss.
Sarah E. Waldron	11	F			Miss.
Mary Waldron	9	F			Miss.
Thomas Waldron	7	M			Miss.
James Waldron	5	M			Miss.
George Turner	26	M	Ditcher	\$50	Va.

Susan was missing from this enumeration and is presumed to have passed away sometime after Farts birth and prior to this date. No information is available as to who the 25-year old Mary who was born in Alabama might be. John also was missing from this enumeration. Notice that William's age is about what John's should have been as reported in the 1850 census. Isabella (1850 census) appears to have been enumerated here as Clara instead of Sarah. She was not enumerated in the 1850 census with Peter's family indicating that she either was born after 1850 or was possibly staying with Susan's folks when the census was taken. The Waldron or Waldon children are present; but Polley A., identified in 1870 Titus County, Texas enumeration of Peter's family (s.

Polly A. and who is believed to be the mother of the Waldron children, either is missing or was called Mary in the above census. Polley A.'s birthplace reported in the 1870 census record as Alabama, but her age should have been 45 instead of 25 as shown for Mary above. George Turner's birthplace is shown as Virginia instead of Tennessee as shown in the 1850 census above. Since Susan supposedly was born in Tennessee a year or so before George's birth, he too probably was born in Tennessee as reported in the 1850 enumeration. The 1860 Slave Schedules for Calhoun County, Mississippi, enumeration showed that Peter owned two female slaves, one an old woman and the other a young girl, who undoubtedly were most usefull in caring for the large number of children of the two families that Peter now had.

THE WIDOW WALDON AND WALDON CHILDREN. The information on the 1860 enumeration of Peter's family is the only record enumeration discovered to date relative to the Waldon family. The Waldons must have been living in Mississippi when the 1850 census was taken, however, because Sarah supposedly was born there about 1819. Mary, Thomas and James also were born in Mississippi about 1851, 1853 and 1855 respectively. No enumeration has been found to date relative to the first name of the husband of the Widow Waldon.

There also is some doubt as to the first name of the widow Waldon. As mentioned above, she may have been the Mary reported in the 1860 census or the Polley A. reported in the 1870 census below.

As for the Waldon children, more is known of them as they moved with Peter's family to the Cass County, Texas, area. As a result information from both family tradition and from Cass County Court House records has shed some light on whom they were subsequently married to.

SARAH E. WALDON. Records do not reflect whether she moved to Cass County with Peter's family or not. If she was married there, the marriage records on file do not show such a marriage. She either left Peter's family before the 1870 Titus County, Texas, census was made, or perhaps even before the family arrived in Texas.

Mary Waldon. Just as with Sarah, nothing is known of Mary's life subsequent to the 1860 census record of Peter's family in Calhoun County, Mississippi. Whether she accompanied Peter's family to Texas is unknown.

Thomas Waldon. Thomas was married to Exer Petty, the sister of John S. and Mahala Henson Petty; the license was dated November 21, 1876.

JAMES WALDON. Although it is not know for certain if James' other name was Richard, it is assumed that he is the same Richard Waldon that married Pamela A. Brooks; the

Cass County, Texas, license was dated December 16, 1879, and was recorded in Book L, page 401. This same Richard and Pamela were living with the Thomas Waldon family when the Cass County census was made (Sheet 147).

CHILDREN OF PETER AND POLLEY A. WALDON CHRISTIAN. Four children were born to Peter and Polley; two were girls and two were boys.

NANCY CHRISTIAN. According to the 1870 census enumeration of Peter's family, below, Nancy apparently was born about 1861 in Mississippi. She accompanied Peter's family to Cass County, Texas where it is believed that she was married to W.H. Dickerson. The Cass county license to W.H. Dickerson and Miss N.A. Christian, dated March 22, 1877. A check of the 1880 Cass County census records has yet to be made for information on the Dickerson family. There is some question as to whether Nan was born in Mississippi or in Arkansas. According to Eridge Smith, "Pete left Corrant (Corinth) Mississippi just before the Civil War. He went to Arkansas, and filed on land where Blackton, Arkansas now is. His first wife died there. Then he married a woman named Waldon. . . ." From Mr Smith's account, it appears that Peter moved his family from Mississippi to Arkansas between the time of the 1860 census enumeration, above, and the beginning of the Civil War, April 1861. Since Nan was born in 1861, she could have been born either in Mississippi or in Arkansas.

MELISSA CHRISTIAN. It appears that Peter's family was located in Monroe County, Arkansas before the birth of Melissa. Marriage information from the family Bible of Ned and Mary Christian Smith states that " Edward Smith of Monroe County, Arkansas and Mary Smith of Monroe County, Arkansas on the 15th Day of February 1862 at Peter Christian's by Esq. McCray Witness: William Pledger and Susan Dixon". Apparently Melissa was born the following year, 1863. Although this conflicts with her place of birth in the 1870 Titus County enumeration below, it does coincide with that given in the 1880 Cass County enumeration of Ned's and Mary's family with whom Melissa was staying.

Orville D. Waldon of Bryans Mill, Texas said that he had heard that his Grandfather Thomas Waldon had once lived near Helena, Arkansas, East of Blackton, Monroe County, Arkansas. Thomas Waldon was still living with Peter's family at this time. "Buckshot" Waldon, another descendent of the Waldons living in Cass County, Texas stated he also had heard that Peter's family lived near Helena during the Civil War. From what he heard, Peter's family could hear the seige guns during the Battle of Vicksburg, Mississippi. On July 4, 1863 a Civil War Battle was fought at Helena, Arkansas. Union Forces were holding fortified positions in Helena blockading

the Mississippi River during the seige of Vicksburg. General Theophilus H. Holmes moved Confederate Forces from Little Rock, Arkansas to assault the Union positions on the morning of the 14th in an attempt to relieve the pressure on Vicksburg which was then under seige. In all probability Peter's home must have been close enough that his family could hear the roar of the big guns used during this battle.

Although information about Peter's service during the Civil War is lacking, Mrs Annie Tabor, daughter of William James and Amanda Jenkins Christian said she had heard that her Grandfather had served the Confederacy during this war. In all probability his service was with one of the Arkansas units since he apparently lived in the state during that period of time.

Mrs Cleva Christian Weaver relates having heard her Grandfather Daniel Zene Christian recall that two of his half-brothers had fought during the War (probably only Thomas since James would have been too young). "One of the boys got his toe shot off. Grandma said that he couldn't understand why anyone would want to shoot a man's toe off over a d--- nigger".

HENRY HARVEY CHRISTIAN. Sometime just before or after the end of the Civil War, Peter moved his family to Cass County Texas where his next child Henry Harvey Christian was born. Henry was born near Douglasville, on a farm later owned by the Waldons, on March 4, 1866. On September 8, 1866, Peter bought about 392 acres of land from a Thomas J. White (Cass County Deed, Mortgage, etc Records, Book 9, page 269, Linden, Texas). This farm is believed to be located about three miles from Douglasville on the Sulphur River. Its legal description mentions its proximity to the Erodex Trace, and to adjacent farms originally owned by D.M. Grayson and W. Thomas. The major part of the farm was land on the preemption Survey Patents in the name of Samuel Wilson. Information provided by Neal and Bertie Christian and by Rosa Mae Christian in 1965 indicated that Henry was born on the Waldon farm about three miles from Douglasville. Whether Peter's farm and the Waldon farm were the same is not known at this time.

Information is lacking as to what happened to Margaret; whether she stayed in Arkansas with Ned and Mary Smith (who subsequent to their marriage may have lived in Mississippi north of Jackson) or moved to Texas with Peter's family; and whether she married, and if so, to whom.

There is reason to believe that Sarah moved to Texas with Peter's family.

Cass County Marriage records shows the recording of a license for marriage of Sarah I. (probably Isabella) Christian to John Snelgrove, dated June 25, 1867, a short time after Peter's family arrived in Texas. An Emily Snelgrove, believed to be John's Mother, lived in or near Linden, Texas. Buckshot Waldon said Peter's family lived at Linden for one year probably following arrival of the family from Arkansas. During a visit with Bridget Smith in 1865, he

identified a Sarah (believed to be Sarah Christian) who was the mother of Laura Snelgrove. He also mentioned living on a farm West of Mount Pleasant with cousin Laura Cates children. Whether Laura Cates was the daughter of Sarah Christian Snelgrove has not been determined.

Although not identified by the name Elizabeth in any census records, this name has been mentioned in family tradition as a daughter of Peter and Susan.

Mrs Tabor identified an Elizabeth as a daughter of Peter and indicated that Elizabeth married a Snell Grau (probably Snelgrove).

Whether this Elizabeth is the Sarah mentioned above, or is another name for Margaret who also could have married a Snelgrove, or is another previously unidentified daughter of Peter's remains to be determined.

George Turner, the brother of Peter's first wife Susan Turner, apparently accompanied Peter's family to Texas. Or at least he was in Cass County at about the same time that Peter arrived there. Both George and Peter's name is on a List of Registered Voters of Davis (Cass) County, State of Texas. George was enrolled no. 67, July 15th '68 as G.W. Turner of Virginia. (No explanation has been found for the change of birthplace from Tennessee shown in the 1850 census enumeration above, the same as his sister Susan, to Virginia in the 1860 census enumeration and in this voters list.) Although Bridge Smith reported that both George and his brother Anthony died in East Texas, it is believed that either they or some of their descendents moved from there to Mountain View, Oklahoma, based on information provided by Sallie Christian above. A check of the 1870 and 1880 Cass County census records so far has failed to reveal their presence there during that period of time. Perhaps their names were overlooked during the census record checks; or they had moved to some nearby county; or they had passed away.

PETER'S FAMILY AS OF AUGUST 6, 1870. The following enumeration listing members of Peter's family living with him in 1870 was found on Sheet no. 161, page 93, family no. 1120, Post Office Mount Pleasant, 1870 US census for Titus County, Texas dated August 6, 1870.

<u>NAME</u>	<u>AGE</u>	<u>SEX</u>	<u>OCCUPATION</u>	<u>REAL ESTATE</u>	<u>BIRTHPLACE</u>
Peter Christian	56	M	Farmer	\$750	England
Polley A.	56	F			Ala.
William	15	M			Miss.
Thomas	13	M			Miss.
Daniel	12	M			Miss.
James	11	M			Miss.
Bartey	11	M			Miss.
Nancy	9	F			Miss.
Malissa	7	F			Miss.
Henry	5	M			Miss.

Notice that the Mary, born in Alabama in 1835, enumerated with Peter's family in the 1860 census above is missing and that Polley A., also born in Alabama but in 1814, is with Peter's family. Margaret and Clara or perhaps Sarah have left home and married at least John Snelgrove and possibly another as mentioned above. Sarah E. and Mary Waldon also have left Peter's home. Bridge Smith remembered the two Waldon girls as Sally and Jennie Waldon and the two Waldon boys as Dick and Tom Waldon. The first three children born to Peter and Polley appear in this record for the first time. George Turner also has left the family.

WILLIAM PETER CHRISTIAN, JR. Peter's last child, Peter, Jr. was born in Texas about 1871. Since Peter apparently moved his family from Cass County to Titus County just before 1870 and then back to Cass County sometime shortly after 1870, it is not known whether Pete, Jr. was born in Titus or in Cass County. In conversations with Bridge Smith, he indicated that Peter lived on a farm a short ways West of Mount Pleasant for about two years. Peter's name was on the Cass County list of Registered Voters as of August 14, 1867; was on the August 6, 1870 Titus County census enumeration; and again was on the Cass County list of Registered Voters as of April 1873 (Beat No. 3).

DEATH OF POLLEY A. WALDON CHRISTIAN. Apparently Polley died a short time after the birth of Pete, Jr. According to Mrs Louise Howell, Polley was lost about 1871. Her place and date of death and her place of burial have yet to be determined.

PETER'S MARRIAGE TO ELIZABETH LONG. Bridge Smith also reported that Peter remarried Elizabeth Long about two years after the death of his second wife Polley, about 1873. Elizabeth supposedly was a Great Aunt of Ida Coleman Christian, wife of Henry Harvey Christian.

PETER'S DEATH. Peter died about a year after his marriage to Elizabeth Long, according to Bridge Smith, which would have been about 1874. Mr Smith also indicated that Peter was buried at Union Chapel Cemetary on the same lot with two of his ^{Bridge's} sisters (Mandy Smith died May 27, 1882 and Maggie Smith died about 1889). Bridge said Peter's age at death was 89.

ELIZABETH LONG'S DEATH. Bridge Smith reported that Elizabeth died about four years after Peter and was buried near Marietta, Cass County, Texas

NAMES: WATSON, John Henry
PLACES: Sharon, Windsor, Vt.

ENTER ALL DATA IN THIS ORDER:
DATES: 14 Apr 1794

To indicate that a child is an ancestor of the family representative, place an "X" behind the number pertaining to that child.

HUSBAND SMITH, Edward D.

Born 31 Jan 1842 Place Lexington, Fayette, Kentucky
Chr. _____ Place _____
Marr. 15 Feb 1862 Place At Peter Christian's (home) *Sharon, Vt.*
Died C: 19 Apr 1928 Place Carnegie, Grady, Oklahoma

Bur. Oakdale Cemetary, Mountain View (4-mi N), Kiowa, Okl
HUSBAND'S FATHER SMITH, Samuel HUSBAND'S MOTHER Lucinda

HUSBAND'S OTHER WIVES

Husband

Wife

Ward _____ 1.
Examiners: 2.
State or Mission _____

WIFE CHRISTIAN, Mary Jane

Born 10 Dec 1844 Place (Miss) Arkansas

Chr. _____ Place _____
Died 8 Nov 1930 Place Oakdale Cemetary, Mountain View (4-mi N), Kiowa, Oklahoma
Bur. Oakdale Cemetary, Mountain View (4-mi N), Kiowa, Oklahoma

WIFE'S FATHER CHRISTIAN, William Peter WIFE'S MOTHER TURNER, Susan

WIFE'S OTHER HUSBANDS

SEX M F	CHILDREN List Each Child (Whether Living or Dead) in Order of Birth SURNAME (CAPITALIZED) GIVEN NAMES	WHEN BORN			WHERE BORN			DATE OF FIRST MARRIAGE	WHEN DIED			
		DAY	MONTH	YEAR	TOWN	COUNTY	STATE OR COUNTRY	TO WHOM	DAY	MONTH	YEAR	
1 F	SMITH, Lucinda A.	11	Nov	1863						4	Dec	1863
2 F	SMITH, Manda E.	6	Dec	1864						27	May	1882
3 F	SMITH, Sarah F. (Fannie)	29	Dec	1867				CAMPBELL, Jim				
4 F	SMITH, Malinda E (Sinnie)	12	Apr	1870								
5 F	SMITH, Nancy M	19	Apr	1873								
6 M	SMITH, William P (Bud)	22	Sep	1875 (?)								
7 M	SMITH, Elbridge B	13	Aug	1878 (?)								
8 M	SMITH, (Infant) son	15	Aug	1881						18	Aug	1881
9 F	SMITH, Maggie <i>Mary Magdon Lee</i> L	18	Apr	1883								
10 M	SMITH, Samuel E	24	Oct	1885								
11												

SOURCES OF INFORMATION Most of the above information is from the family Bible in the possession of Elbridge B. Smith, Fort Cobb, Grady, Oklahoma. Both Edward's and Mary's residence at the time of marriage was shown in the Bible as Monroe County, Arkansas.

OTHER MARRIAGES

showed no other