

Bowles Family

OCCGS REFERENCE ONLY

THE BOWLES FAMILY OF ROCKINGHAM COUNTY, VA, BOURBON COUNTY, KY AND ADAMS COUNTY, IL

For information of my children and relatives, who may be interested in knowing, I hereby give to them a condensed biography of the old settlers of the Bowles family in the U.S. so far as my information extends, which I have obtained through the older members of the Bowles families to who we are related.

In the early settlement of the U.S. there were three Bowles brothers imigrated from England to America. One of the brothers settled in one of the New England states, one in Pennsylvania and one in Virginia.

The late Samuel Bowles conductor of the Springfield Republican was of the New England Branch. We are offspring of the Virginia branch.

My great grandfather David and my grandfather Jesse Bowles resided in Rockingham Co., Va., and after the close of the Revolutionary War, they moved with their families to Bourbon County, Kentucky and settled in the neighborhood known as Cane Ridge.

My grandfather Jesse Bowles married Hannah Perkins and to them were born 10 children (to wit) David, Elizabeth, Stephen, Sally, Jesse (my father), Hughes, Anderson, Robert, Joseph and Mourning. All of my father's brothers and sisters died in Bourbon County, Ky., except Uncle Hughes and Uncle Joseph. Uncle Joseph was killed and scalped by the Indians at the Battle of River Raisin, after the surrender of the Kentucky British forces in 1813. Uncle Hughes and family moved to Illinois from Bourbon Co., Ky., in 1830 and settled in DeWitt County on Salt Creek. Uncle Hughes died in the forties leaving a large family by his first and second wives. One of his sons by his 1st wife, Walter, was a celebrated preacher.

Of the old Kentucky stock of Bowles families all are either dead or have imigrated to the other states, with the exception of Socrates (a son of Uncle Robert Bowles) and is the only male inhabitant now left in Bourbon County, Kentucky by the name of Bowles.

Illinois and Missouri has been the general dumping ground of the Bowles fraternity, although Texas and Kansas carry a small representation of some of the offspring of the old stock.

My father Jesse Bowles, was born near Richmond, Virginia in 1782. My mother's maiden name was Chloe Parker, she had two brothers, Capt. Jack and Archibald Parker who served in the war of 1812. The Parkers also settled in Kentucky at an early date, my father and mother were married at Cane Ridge, Bourbon County, Kentucky in 1805 and to them 7 children were born: (to wit) Holeman in 1806, Elizabeth 1808 (who died in infancy), Eliza in 1810, Druscilla in 1812, Augustin E. in 1815, Joseph M. in 1817, and America in 1821. Holeman married Selina Willson a half sister to the late John and James Nichols in 1827. Eliza married Beauford Morris in 1830, Druscilla married Coleman Talbot in 1830, all in Kentucky. In October 1830 my father and all of the family moved to Adams County, Illinois and settled near Quincy. Father Jesse Bowles was a Christian preacher for 35 years prior to his death and was a collaborator whilst living in Kentucky with the celebrated Rev. Barton Stone. Father died May 4, 1837, Mother died Dec. 14, 1949 and was buried beside father in the Locust Grove Cemetery on the old Homestead farm 4 1/2 miles north of Quincy, Adams County, Illinois.



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Sister Eliza Morris died in August 1837, of lock jaw carried by a wound received in her foot by stepping upon a rusty nail. She left 4 children all boys (to wit) Warren, Frank, George, and Beauford. Holeman had by this first wife, Selina, five children, namely William, Jesse, Ann, Elizabeth and Warren. He sold his farm in Illinois in 1871 and moved to Carrol County, Missouri where he died in May 1872 leaving a large family of children by his second wife. Ausustin E. went back to Ky in 1837 and married Rachael Brown a niece of Beauford and returned to his Ills. Farm in 1838. *

There were born to them 3 children, Holeman, Ann, and Jesse, his wife Rachael died in 1847. He married his second wife, Lucy Prentiss a sister of Gen. Benjamine Prentiss. There were born to them by this marriage 7 children. Lucy died and A.E. married his third wife Augusta Burnett by her he had 3 children, bro. Augustin E. died Oct. 10, 1872, and was burried by the side of his two former wives, in the Locust Grove Cemetery, sister America Bowles married Thomas H. Tate in 1837 to them were born 8 children, namely, George S., Eliza J., John, Jesse, Augustin E. Maggie, Navade, and Jo safe. T.H. Tate died in Cal, in 1857.

I J.M. Bowles married Octavia P. Rollins a daughter of Lloyd Rollins of Clark Co, Mo., Apr 16th 1843, and to us were born 6 children namely Louisa C. born Feb. 1th 1844, America V. Dec. 8th 1845, Scott, Jan 21st 1848, Jesse M. Mar 1th 1850, Ann E. Sept 30th 1852 Bourbon Nov. 23th 1857.

America V. died Aug. 14th 1850 and was burried in Locust Grove cemetery. In April 19, 1852 Coleman Talbot and family, T.H. Tate and family Myself and family, Michael Couchman, John Oliver, and five sisters of my wife and their families left Quincy, Ills, with ox team for California.

There were 16 waggons in our train. We had a very plesant journey crossing the plains, excepting our fear of cholera which followed the trains to the black hills.

We lost two teamsters with the dreadful scourge. In passing up the Platt R. it was of daily occurance to witness from one to ten fresh made graves, the victums of Cholera. Other wise we got along jolly and happy not withstanding we had to be vigilant in guarding camp and stock whilst passing through the indian settlements.

Our train was lucky in getting through without any serious loss of property, whilst other trains suffered more or less by the thefts and depredations from the treacherous red skins.

We crossed the Nevada mountains by the Beckwith pass. The first minning we saw was at 76. The next we came to was the Rabbit Creek mines. Here we laid off a few days for rest and some of the train men went to work in tunnels amoung whom were Michael Couchman, John Oliver and others. Couchman and Oliver both died at Rabbit Creek the following spring by exposure in the damp tunnels. Here our train separated, some going to one place and some to another. Bros Talbot, Tate, and myself and our families continued on to Sonoma Valley where we arrived about the of Oct. 1852.

Sister America Tate after remaining a widow 4 or 5 years married John Simpson of San Francisco. He died in 1886 and Sister America died Apr 9th, 1887 at White Sulphur Springs near Santa Rosa, Sonoma Co. Cal. My sister -----

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I will now revert back to the pioneer settlement of the Military tract of Illinois. My father after arriving at our destination in Adams Co., Illinois in the fall of 1830 was hard pressed to find a vacant house to winter in. He finally secured an unfinished log cabin 6 miles N.E. of Quincy. But before we could do the cracks a cold blizzard struck us and froze the mud as hard as bricks. So we abandoned the idea of dobing and lined the cabin with tent cloths and waggon covers.

This was the noted winter of the deep snow which fell in Dec. and Jan of 1830 (31). After the snow had settled and crusted on top measured three feet deep and laid on the ground three months.

The drifts about the hasel thickets along the margin of the prairies in places was 10 to 15 feet in depth. We kept from freezing by rolling huge hickory logs into the 5 ft sa? Fire place which we had to keep at white heat both day and night during the cold snap.

We used snow shoes in traveling where the trails were unbroken. The dogs and wolves would travel on top of the crust but the deer (which were very abundant) would break through and after being chased by man and dogs and wolves for two or three hundred yards would give up and become a prey to their pursuers. The wolves had a picnic during the winter feasting on venison.

Bros. Augustin and myself had more sport during the winter hunting and catching deer with dogs and we kept the family well supplied with fresh venison. Having no mills to ground corn we had to beat homony, the finest mother would use for bread and the courcer for homony. But we got along nicely having a plenty wild honey, venison, corn, hog and homony. In the spring of 1832, my father brought a half section of land for a homested 4 1/2 miles N. of Quincy on which he erected a log cabin. He also entered a qr. Section of land for each of his children.

In the spring of 1833 my father prepared 2 or 3 acres of ground and planted on it black locust seed which he brought from Kentucky.

The seed came up and grew finely and soon became a noted landmark, as it was the first black locust grove started in the millitary tract and was known far and near. The Locust Grove farms situated on the main road leading from Quincy, Adams Co. to Warsaw, Hancock, Co., Ills.

Yours respectfully
Joseph Martin Bowles

- C. Bowles Addition: Stones in Old Locust Grove Cemetery read Rachael Davis, wife of A.E. Bowles, and Augusta Stafford wife of A.E. Bowles.
Robert Bowles, son of Jesse and Hannah Perkins Bowles was born in Virginia in 1788 d. Bourbon Co., Ky. Moved to Ky in 1794 with the entire Jess and Hannah Bowles -----

(This article came from a photocopy of three typed pages titled, A Partial biography of the Bowles families, written by J.M. Bowles (Joseph M.) of Petaluma, Sonoma County, California, March 1895. The photocopy may be found in the genealogy vertical file under Bowles in the Illinois Room of the Quincy Public Library. It has been retyped for this publication just as found in the photocopy. The --- indicates part of the last sentence on a page is missing.)

TOMBSTONE OF SELINA BOWLES

There is a single tombstone, used as a stepping stone, at a farm residence in section 1, Fall Creek Township. It is for Selina Bowles, wife of H., died 17 Aug 18[40], aged 31 yr [1] m 17 ds. This inscription was copied by the Yellowjacket editor, Jean Kay, in the 1970's. A number of the Bowles family are buried at Craigtown Cemetery in Fall Creek Township. See volume I, Cemeteries of Adams County for the list.

LAND PURCHASES IN THE ILLINOIS MILITARY TRACT, ADAMS COUNTY, FOR THE NAME BOWLES

NAME	SALE TYPE	DESCRIPTION	ACRES	PRICE	DATE PUR.
David	MT	NE 1/4 Sec.32 T1NR7W	160	Warrant	12-23-1817
Hollman	FD	Lot 1 S1/2 NW1/4 Sec. 2 T3SR8W	80	\$100.00	04-27-1831
Hollman	FD	NE 1/4 Sec.2 T3SR8S	177.73	\$222.16	04-27-1831
Holman	FD	NE 1/4 Sec.2 T3SR8W	177.73	\$222.16	04-27-1831
Holman	FD	NEMA 1/4 Sec.2 T3SR8W	77.73	\$97.16	04-27-1831
Holman	FD	NO1S1/2NWMA Sec.2 3SR8W	80	\$100.00	04-27-1831
Jesse	FD	Lot 1 E1/2SW1/4 Sec.7 T1SR8W	80	\$100.00	07-08-1831
Jesse	FD	Lot 2 W1/2NW 1/4 Sec.18 T1SR8W	85.65	\$107.06	04-27-1831
Jesse	FD	NO2W1/2NWMA Sec.18 T1SR8W	85.65	\$107.06	04-08-1835
Jesse	FD	NO1E1/2SWMA Sec.7 T1SR8W	80	\$100.00	07-08-1831
Jesse	FD	W1/2SWMA Sec.11 T1SR9W	80	\$100.00	12-25-1834
Jesse	FD	LOT1 E1/2 SW1/4 Sec.7 T1SR8W	80	\$100.00	07-08-1831
Jesse	FD	LOT1 W1/2 NW1/4 S.18 T1SR8W	85.65	\$107.06	04-27-1831
Jesse	FD	W/12 SW1/4 Sec.11 T1SR9W	80	\$100.00	12-25-1834

MT = Military Tract

FD = Federal Domain

Sec. = Section

T1NR7W = Honey Creek

T3SR8W = Fall Creek

T1SR8W = Ellington

T1SR9W = Riverside (at that time part of Ellington)

The above information came from the Illinois State Archives Public Domain Sales land Tract Record List, an index to the first sale of each piece of property in the State.

TAKE A MINUTE TO VISIT THESE SITES

The Inflation Calculator at www.westegg.com/inflation/ has a form that adjusts any given amount of money for inflation according to the Consumer Price Index, from 1800 to 1999. (Thanks to Kay Ginther for this tip.)

Stray Leaves, A James Family in America 1650-2000 A.D., with Eric James as web-master, is a great site. He has 25,000 family groups with many northeast Missouri families represented. Check it out at <http://www.ericjames.net/html/fam00132.htm>

The WORLD WAR I CIVILIAN DRAFT REGISTRATION database contains 1,215,381 records reflecting 141,114 surnames of all registrants born 1872-1900 from about 15% of U.S. counties. <http://userdb.rootsweb.com/ww1/draft/> (Obtained from Rootsweb.)