

Sewall Family

## M/Sgt. Marion W. Edmiston World War II

Dad moved to Georgia to be near his brother, Bob, who had married a Georgia girl and lived in Bremen, GA. By that time Dad was having some health problems and probably thought it would be nice to be near some of his family. Within a year or two he married a Korean Baptist woman who was several years younger than he. Her first name was Young. They lived in Lawrenceville, GA. After a few years, Dad's health became very poor. Young stayed with him and took care of him, never allowing him to be placed in a nursing home. On January 21, 2002, Dad died in an Atlanta hospital at the age of 85. In accordance with his request, his remains were brought to Cherokee County, TX, and buried at Union Grove Cemetery, Jacksonville, TX, near his parents and other Edmiston relatives. A military marker indicates the spot where he is buried.

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### Siblings and Ancestors of F.L. Sewall of Craft, Texas Submitted by Murphy Sewall

Recently, a cousin sent me a copy of page 503 from the *Cherokee County History*, published by the Texas Historical Commission in 1986 about the F.L. [Francis Lewis] Sewall [Jr.] family that was submitted by his grandchildren Ellen Belk and Jack Sewall. The page provides some very useful information about my relationship to several of F.L.'s grandchildren and great grandchildren that I've communicated with about our family history; so, I'm grateful to have it. However, the piece in the *Cherokee County History* is incorrect in saying:

"...He was a third generation physician, having followed his father and grandfather in the profession. They practiced in England and Alabama.

Dr. Sewall's grandfather, Lewis, came to the U.S. as a young man after obtaining his education in England. The Sewalls came from England in the Ark of Avalon and the Dove. They landed at Bell's Landing, Alabama late in the 1700's."

Members of my family also were unaware of their ancestry until F.L.'s niece, my great aunt Frances Sewall McMahon, researched the family history. Her findings are on file at the Clayton Genealogy Library, Houston, Texas.<sup>1</sup>

Dr. Francis Lewis "Frank" Sewall, Jr. (8 Aug 1850—21 Sep 1921) of Texas was the youngest child of Dr. Francis Lewis Sewall, Sr. (13 Nov 1812—1885) and his first wife Sarah Angelica "Ann" Singleton (1815—19 Oct 1855) of Baldwin County, Alabama. My great grandfather, Krouse Sewall (8 Jun 1844—15 Nov 1926) of Falls County, Texas, was one of his older brothers.

F.L.'s oldest brother, Robert Singleton Sewall (15 Oct 1839—6 April 1862), was an officer in the Army of the Confederacy and one of the more than 10,000 southern soldiers who perished at Shiloh (aka Pittsburg Landing). His half-sister (Ann Singleton's daughter from her first marriage), Harriet Marie English, married William Bridges, a grandson of his great aunt Ann Sewall. Ann Sewall was widowed after the birth of her only child, Eleanor Brooke Jones (abt.

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1796—1875); her second husband was Francis Farrar, a first cousin once removed of President Thomas Jefferson (his grandmother, Judith Jefferson was the sister of the President's father Peter).

Francis Lewis Sewall, Jr., his brothers Edward and Krouse, along with a number of his Singleton relatives left Alabama for east Texas (what is now known as "Old Waverly") around the time of Francis Lewis, Sr.'s second marriage to Ann Amelia DuBose on 20 July 1858. At ten years old, F.L.'s name appears in the U.S. Census for Chambers, Texas in 1860.

Apparently, Francis Lewis, Sr. remained in Alabama with his new wife when his sons migrated to Texas. That split in the family always seemed odd to me, but my great aunt reports that her father, Krouse Sewall, "...remembered little about his mother as his half-sister, Harriet, kept him with her so much of the time."<sup>2</sup> So, it seems that Harriet and William, who married in 1851 when the oldest brother Krouse was seven and the youngest, Francis Lewis, was one, assumed a *de facto* parental role when their mother's health declined. It also is possible that the children, as is often the case, weren't happy with the idea of a stepmother.

Ann Singleton's father, Robert John Singleton (1792-13 Mar 1836), came from South Carolina in 1823 and cleared a large plantation just above the confluence of the Alabama and Tombigbee rivers. He was killed while returning from a trip to Mobile when the steamboat Franklin exploded in Mobile Bay as it was leaving for its usual run up the Mobile and Alabama rivers.<sup>3</sup>

F.L.'s grandfather, Lewis Sewall (2 Feb 1860—abt. 1834), was not a physician, and he did not emigrate from England. He and his sister Ann were the children of Charles Sewall, Jr. (28 Oct 1727—bef. 8 Oct 1817) and Ann Violetta Goodrick (1729—1790) of Charles County, Maryland. The Sewall family in Maryland descends from Henry Sewall (abt. 1624—abt. 1665) and Jane Lowe (Oct 1633-19 Jan 1701) who were Lewis's great-great grandparents. They came to Maryland in 1661 with their friend Charles Calvert (later 3<sup>rd</sup> Lord Baltimore who became Jane's second husband). Their arrival in St. Mary's County, Maryland was twenty—seven years after the first Maryland colonists landed from the Ark and the Dove. Henry Sewall and later his son Nicholas Sewall served as Secretary of the colony and member of the Council of Maryland.

At the age of 16, Lewis Sewall enrolled as a private in the Company of the Charles County, Maryland militia commanded by Walter Hanson in the American Revolutionary War.<sup>4</sup> A decade after the war, Lewis accompanied his friends Edward L. Wailes and Levin Wailes to Georgia, probably in the employ of Robert Morris, a major financier of the Revolution, for the purpose of investing and speculating in land.<sup>5</sup> At age 37, Lewis married Edward Wailes' 16 year old daughter, Elizabeth Howard Wailes (21 Mar 1781—15 Oct 1825) on 30 Oct 1797 in Columbia County, Georgia. A few years before, Lewis's sister, Ann, had married Basil Jones in Columbia County, Georgia on 14 April 1795.<sup>6</sup>

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On 24 May 1801, Lewis Sewall obtained a passport to travel with his family and others through the settlements of the Creek Native Americans settlements along the Tobigbee River on their way to Alabama.<sup>7</sup> On 28 Aug 1809, he obtained another passport through the Creek nation for a party that included Levin Wailes' wife, Eleanor (Davis) Wailes, and "her three children"-Eleanor Davis was the half-sister of Lewis's mother-in-law, Sarah Biggs Ogden (1763—1840).<sup>8</sup>

Lewis Sewall was raised in the Roman Catholic faith, his wife Elizabeth's family was Church of England. When they arrived in the Mississippi Territories and settled in what now is part of Alabama, the first preacher to establish a congregation was a Presbyterian, and the majority of their descendants continue in that faith. Our Wailes cousins settled near Natchez along both sides of the Mississippi River and became Methodists in much the same fashion.

Life on the frontier was difficult for Lewis and Elizabeth. Two of their first three children died in the summer of 1803. They were blessed with five more children after that mournful summer. Lewis Sewall was registrar of the land office at St. Stephens, Alabama in Nov 1816 when he offered his wife's first cousin, Levin's teenage son Benjamin L.C. Wailes, a job.<sup>9</sup> By 1820, he was commissioned as a judge in Baldwin County, Alabama. Lewis also was an accomplished poet. A second edition of his volume of poetry was published in 1833.

Francis Lewis Sewall, Sr. had six children with his first wife and four more with his second. Those numbers duplicate the totals for his son Francis Lewis Sewall, Jr. The use of the name Francis in the family traces back to Francis Goodrick, Lewis Sewall's grandfather. F.L., Jr.'s medical school diploma (from the Alabama College of Medicine) refers to him as "Frank Sewall." My grandfather, F.L.'s nephew, Francis Bates Sewall (19 Jan 1881-5 Jun 1921) of Falls County also was known as Dr. Frank Sewall (he was a surgeon who served in France during World War I). My parents skipped "Francis" and named my brother Frank, after our grandfather.

—Murphy Andrews Sewall (1942—)  
August 2005

<sup>1</sup>Frances Sewall McMahon, *Antecedents and Descendants of Lewis Sewall, Dr. Francis Lewis Sewall, Krouse Sewall*, privately published, 1965, Clayton Genealogy Library, Houston, Texas.

<sup>2</sup>*ibid*, p. 76.

<sup>3</sup>James T. Lloyd, *Lloyd's Steamboat Directory, And Disasters On The Western Waters*, D. B. Cooke, Cincinnati, Ohio 1856, 74—5; Ernest Ross Camfield, *A History of the Camfield Family*, Bosque County Collection in Meridian, Texas, p. 195; and *Op. Cit.*, McMahon, p. 74.

<sup>4</sup>*Op. Cit.*, McMahon, p. 7.

<sup>5</sup>Charles S. Sydnor, *A Gentleman of the Old Natchez Region: Benjamin L.C. Wailes*, Duke University Press, Durham, N.C., 1938.

<sup>6</sup>*Op. Cit.*, McMahon, pp. 38—40.

<sup>7</sup>Benjamin Hawkins, Agent for Indian Affairs of South Ohio, "Letters of Benjamin Hawkins," Georgia Historical Society, Vol. IX, pp. 355-358, reprinted in Mary G. Bryan, *Passports Issued by Governors of Georgia, 1810 to 1820*, National Genealogical Society, Number 28, Arlington, VA, 1965, p. 99.

<sup>8</sup>Mary G. Bryan, *Passports Issued by Governors of Georgia, 1785 to 1809*, National Genealogical Society, Number 21, Arlington, VA, 1959, p. 54.

<sup>9</sup>*Op. Cit.*, Sydnor, p. 54.

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