

## Early Shumate Family Migrated From France

By PAUL W. and RUTH P. GREGORY

The numerous Shumate and related families who live in Wilkes County and Western North Carolina may be surprised to learn that their ancestors originally came from France. The name Shumate is the English spelling but the name was spelled "Chaumatte" when the family lived in France.

Our immigrant was one John De La Chaumatte, who lived in Western France in a village by the name of Rochechouart. Jean, pronounced John in English, was the son of Daniel De La Chaumatte, an attorney in this village. Jean's mother was the daughter of Joseph Fourgeaud, who was also an attorney in the community. The Shumate family was staunch Protestant and was among those who were being persecuted by the Count and Viscomtesse De La Rochechouart for religious beliefs. The family was banned from the village about 1650 but was permitted to return on or before 1660, the reason being unknown to this writer.

The Shumate family continued to reside in this village until about 1686. At this time the religious persecution became so violent that the Shumate family fled for their lives, traveling westward, mostly at night, seeking a place of safety. Our ancestor, Jean, was about 22 years old at this time; and we know that he along with his two brothers successfully escaped the persecution as they arrived in London, England on or before 1692.

During this period of persecution and flight, Jean had married but the name of his wife is unknown. However, by the time Jean reached London, England, his wife had died as indicated by the records of the French Protestant Church on Threadneedle Street. This record states, "on September 29, 1695 Jean De La Chaumatte, widower, a native of Rochechouart, married the widow, Elizabeth Bourgeois Bouvet."

It is not known the exact number of years that our ancestor remained in London. However, we do know that Jean and his family removed to the island of Martinique, West Indies, and that he remained there for several years.

Sometime prior to 1715, tragedy again struck this family, and Jean buried his second wife, Elizabeth, somewhere on the lonely island of Martinique.

Left with three small children, Jean turned his eyes westward and began dreaming of a land that would afford him better opportunities and less unpleasant memories.

Thus he and his three children sailed for the Virginia Colony, arriving in Stafford County, Virginia about 1722. Here he purchased a farm on Elk Run and lived there the rest of his life.

Our immigrant, Jean, now pronounced John in America, was born about 1664 in the community of Rochechouart, France and died on his farm in Stafford County, Virginia, sometime between 1725 and 1729.

One of John's sons was also named John and he is believed to have been born in London about 1707 prior to his father's voyage to Martinique, West Indies. Shortly after the death of his father, this John married Judith Bailey and reared a family of ten children as indicated in his will left in Fauquier County, Virginia. This John died in September or October 1784. He is our second generation ancestor.

Our third generation ancestor, Daniel Shumate, was the son of John and Judith Shumate and the grandson of John the immigrant. Daniel was born about 1733 in Prince William County, Virginia, and also reared a large family. His wife was thought to have been Sarah Ann James. Daniel died in 1806 and he also left a will that revealed his family.

Our fourth generation ancestor, Samuel Shumate, son of Daniel and Sarah Shumate, was born in 1755 in Fauquier County, Virginia. Shortly after being discharged from the Army of the Revolution, Samuel married Ann Peppers, the exact date and place being unknown at this time. Both Samuel and his father, Daniel, served in the Revolutionary War and the records of their services have been preserved for us. It is known that Samuel had several children but all of them have not yet been verified. Samuel moved to Henry County, Virginia, in 1787 and lived there the rest of his life. His land was located on the lower South Fork of Sandy River.

After their father died about 1833, some of Samuel's children came to Wilkes County, North Carolina. Prior to their coming, other Shumate families came into Wilkes County from Henry and other Virginia counties and it is believed that all of the Shumate families in Wilkes County descended from our ancestor, John Shumate, who came to Virginia in 1722.

Of particular interest to many Wilkes County families of Shumate origin is William Shumate, the oldest son of Samuel and Ann Peppers Shumate of Henry County, Virginia. William is our fifth generation ancestor. He married Ann McMellon the 21 January 1811 in Pittsylvania County, Virginia. He lived near his father in Henry County, Virginia before moving to Wilkes County, North Carolina. He purchased property in the Mulberry-Cane Creek area and lived among other Shumate families who preceded him by several years. Although all of the children of William have not been verified, there is much evidence to indicate that the following information about his children is accurate:

1. King Shumate, born about 1813, married Polly Adams, daughter of Charles and Nancy Stamper Adams and this family lived on Cane Creek. The Shumate families now living at Hays and in the Rock Creek area descended from this family.

2. William Shumate, Jr., born about 1815 in Henry County, Virginia, married Polly Shumate on 24 January 1834 in Wilkes County. The identity of Polly is not known at this time.

3. Martha Shumate, born 5 May 1816, married John Hall, the son of Robert Hall, Jr., and Mariah Hammon Hall, on the 11 November 1835. This family lived at Halls Mill and were the ancestors of this writer. Many Hall families in the North Wilkesboro-Mulberry area descended from this union.

4. Nancy Shumate, born about 1818, married J. Milton Vannoy. Mr. Vannoy was the son of Enoch and Lydia McGrady Vannoy and the grandson of Captain Andrew Vannoy and his wife Suzanna Shepherd. This family lived at Piney Creek in Alleghany County, North Carolina.

5. Amelia Shumate, born about 1820, married John L. Absher and lived at McGrady. Some of the present Absher families in North Wilkesboro descended from this union. The late William Roe Absher seems to be the youngest child of this union.

6. Jasper Shumate, born March 9, 1829, married Nancy Vannoy, a sister of J. Milton Vannoy. This family originally lived on Cane Creek but some of them later moved to the Long Bottom section of Wilkes County. Mrs. Richard Gentry of Thurmond and Mrs. Mae Shumate Moss of Enfield, North Carolina, are direct descendants of this family and they contributed much to this article.

7. Cassie Shumate, born about 1831, married Sam Kilby. Dr. Ira Kilby in Elkin is a descendant of this family.

8. Daniel Shumate, born about 1836, married Susannah Carolyn Vannoy, February 2, 1859. Daniel never returned from the Civil War.

9. James Shumate was born about 1839. Nothing more is known about this family.

It is likely that there are more children in this family. Certainly there were more Shumate families closely related to William Shumate who came to Wilkes County. Nahala Shumate born 1 January 1806 in Henry County, Virginia, married Samuel Handy in Wilkes County 17 August 1831. She is likely a niece of William Shumate. This family lived on Cane Creek and many descendants of this family now live in Wilkes County. The late Roan Handy of Hays, North Carolina descended from this family. Toliver Shumate, born 1777 in Henry County, Virginia also came to Wilkes and raised a large family. Toliver married Lydia Clark 2 May 1805 in Henry County, Virginia. It is believed that he is a brother to William Shumate.

## THE SHUMATE FAMILY

by Marian Carter Ledgerwood

The Shumates were among the earlier families to settle in northwestern Arkansas, and today there are many of their descendants and kindred living in Washington County and surrounding territory. It would be impossible for the author to list a complete genealogy of the descendants of this family in this article; therefore, only a few branches with which the author is more familiar are discussed. However, an effort is being made to compile as complete a history as possible of the Shumate family, as well as the Balls and other allied families. Therefore, the author would appreciate correspondence from interested persons.

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The history of the Shumate family is an interesting one, and it may come as a surprise to other descendants (as it did to me) to learn that the family was originally French Huguenot, and when they came to Virginia before 1720, the name was de la Shumate. The earliest known record of Shumates in America is found in Stafford County, Virginia, when Jean de la Shumate bought 200 acres of land from William Allen in 1723.<sup>1</sup> Most of the Stafford County records have been destroyed, so research there is difficult. However, we know that the Shumates lived on a stream known as Elk Run, and their land was in what is now the southeast part of Fauquier County, near the junction of Stafford and Prince William counties.

Jean de la Shumate, the immigrant, apparently had at least two sons: Daniel de la Shumate, born about 1715 in France (probably the one whose inventory was made in Fauquier County in 1785<sup>2</sup>); and Jean de la Shumate, whose will was made in Fauquier County, May 19, 1783.<sup>3</sup> This John Shumate married Judith Bayley before 1750 in Fauquier County, and they had several children named: William, John, Joshue, Daniel, Thomas, James, Bailey, Lettice, and Jemima.

The early de la Shumates were neighbors of Mark Hardin, also a French Huguenot who came from Rouen, France about 1706, and we find their names together on early deeds, wills, etc. It is not known if any of the Shumates intermarried with the Hardins, but it is thought possible as the name Hardin Humate was a common one (and we find at least two men of this name in Washington County, Arkansas 1880 census). Also, the name Mark was frequently used among Shumates (likewise, we find several Mark Shumates in the Arkansas branch of the family).

About 1770, the name was shortened to Shumate. After the Revolution, many Shumates fanned out into other Virginia counties, and some even moved to South Carolina.

We do not know, yet, how our Shumate family is derived from the early Shumates, but it seems apparent they are connected with the original Shumates of Fauquier County, Virginia, because of use of the more common names -- William, John, Hardin, Daniel, and Mark.

The earliest Shumate of our own branch, of whom we have positive record, was BAYLESS SHUMATE, born about 1786 in Virginia<sup>4</sup>. (I find his name spelled variously: Bales, Bailis, Balias, Baliss, and Bayles.)



It seems likely that he was a son of MARK SHUMATE, whose will dated July 29, 1838, was made in Claiborne County, Tenn.<sup>5</sup> In this will, Mark Shumate names his wife, Deborah, and daughters: Mary, Susan C., Sally Martin, Judith Harris, Elizabeth and Patcey. Also his sons: Bales, John, Daniel, William, Demarcus, Thomas, and Hardin. We have been told that a brother of Bayless, named Daniel, came to Arkansas. As yet we have found no record of him. It is my opinion that the brother William is the one who is shown in Dade County, Missouri in the 1850 census with his wife Clarissa and children. Hardin Shumate is apparently one of the two by that name who is shown in Washington County, Ark. in 1880 census, also in 1870. The other Harden Shumate of 1880 census in Washington County is thought to be son of William Shumate of Dade County, Missouri, as was a Wylie Shumate of 1860 census in Washington County.

Bayless Shumate married (1) Mary (Polly) Turner, daughter of William Turner and Susannah Bailey.<sup>6</sup> They had two sons: (A) William Shumate, about whom more is written; (B) Mark H. Shumate who moved to Cass County, Missouri. In 1817 Bayless and family were living in Lee County, Virginia,<sup>7</sup> but apparently had lived earlier in Kentucky, as their son William is credited with having been born in Kentucky in 1812, according to census records. We find Bayless in Harlan County, Ky. in 1830 census, showing him to be between 40-50 years of age, and having two males of 15-20 years in his household, but no females listed. Apparently his wife had died before 1830. Family tradition has it that she drowned while attempting to cross a swollen stream to see a sister's sick child. On Oct. 13, 1833, Bayless Shumate married (2) Mary (Polly) Hendrickson,<sup>8</sup> widow of Thomas Hendrickson. This wife came to Arkansas with him.

It is thought that Bayless Shumate came to Madison County, Arkansas, about 1846, for we find that he bought land in Richland Township in that year.<sup>9</sup> There is record of his selling some land in Madison County in Sept. 1847, with his wife Mary (both made their "marks").<sup>10</sup> They were shown in the 1850 census record of Madison County. We do not know when his second wife died. Soon after 1850, Bayless moved into Washington County. He bought the farm then known as the Eads farm, near Durham. Later he bought what was for a time known as the Shively farm near Harris, Ark., and, according to a great-granddaughter, he is buried in one of two unmarked graves on that farm.

Bayless Shumate is supposed to have been a man of "considerable wealth" -- the 1850 census shows that his real estate was valued at \$3,000, which was indeed a considerable amount in that time. Also, he brought negro slaves with him to Arkansas, according to family tradition.

When Bayless came to Madison County, he brought with him his adopted daughter, Mildred Fulkerson (born Nov. 13, 1831; died Feb. 25, 1873), who had been born in Tennessee near the Cumberland Gap.<sup>11</sup> On Oct. 26, 1848, Mildred Fulkerson was married to John Kennan (born Sept. 25, 1823 in Missouri), who was 25 years of age. She was about 17. They settled on the Lollar's Creek farm, near Draketown, which had belonged to Bayless Shumate. Mildred is buried in Wesley Cemetery. To her and John Kennan were born seven children: (1) Harriet married Jim Wilson; (2) Martha married Bill Roberts; (3) Fannie married Pleasant Phillips; (4) W. A. married Margaret Parker; (5) Will married Charlie Hall; (6) John married Emile Lane; (7) Cora married Willis Sharp. A son of W.A.

(Alex) Kennan is W.M. Kennan, who is still living. His son, J.R. Kennan, is living in Fayetteville, Ark., where he is County School supervisor.

The son of Bayless Shumate through whom we are descended was WILLIAM SHUMATE (born Nov. 21, 1813 in Kentucky; died Jan. 12, 1877). He was married April 7, 1832 to Sarah (Sallie) Ball, <sup>12</sup> daughter of Bennett Ball and Nancy Bailey of Harlan County, Ky. Sarah Ball was born Dec. 22 1817 (or possibly 1812, according to census records); died Mar. 12, 1901.

In 1837 several families migrated together in a rather large colony from Harlan County, Ky. to Madison County, Ark., where they settled in what was known as Richland Township. These included the families of Bailey, Bob Reeges, Samuel Herriman, and Bennett Ball (son of Moses Ball and Mary Ann Hardin of Hawkins County, Tenn.), and perhaps more friends. Bennett Ball had several married children, including his son John Ball with his bride, Nancy Bailey (his first cousin); his daughter Mary (Polly) with husband James Sizemore and an infant daughter; a daughter Jane (Jenny) and her husband William Lewis and six children; a daughter Elizabeth (Betsy) who married James Gray; a daughter Ann, who later married John Masters of Madison County; a daughter who married a Creech; and other children, including his daughter Sarah and her husband William Shumate and two small sons. A great deal is known about the background of the family of Bennett Ball, and a book is being prepared on the Ball genealogy (including our Bennett Ball's branch) by Mrs. Bonnie S. Ball of Haysi, Virginia. Those who are descended from the above-mentioned families will be interested in this family history.

William and Sarah Shumate settled first in Madison County, but after about 12 years, they moved to a farm of several hundred acres on the White River in Washington County. William Shumate died at the age of 63 years. He is buried in the Shumate Cemetery on the family farm near Durham, beside his wife, Sarah Ball Shumate, who was about 90 years of age when she died.

Children of William Shumate and Sarah Ball Shumate were:

1. Bayless Shumate, about whom more is written in this article.
2. Bennett Shumate, about whom more is written.
3. William Shumate, about whom more is written.
4. James Shumate (born about 1840 in Madison County, Ark.). This son is shown in census records, but I have been unable to learn anything at all about him.
5. Ann Shumate (born about 1842)<sup>13</sup> married J.F. Ballard (born about 1840). They had no children, but brought up an orphaned Shumate boy, whose father was of some relation to the family. This boy was:
  - a. John Shumate (probably born about 1880) who lived all his life at Elkins, Ark. He married Suzie Harriss.
6. Clarissa Shumate, about whom more is written.
7. Nancy Shumate (born about 1849) married Sam Cooper (born about 1849). They had no children of their own, but brought up a sister to the above-mentioned orphan boy:
  - a. Ida Shumate, married a man by name of Frye and moved to Idaho.
8. Mark Shumate (born about 1856), never married. He lived near Farmington, Ark., and he and his mother brought up another brother of the above-mentioned orphaned Shumate children:
  - a. "Bud" Shumate

BAYLESS SHUMATE, my great-grandfather, was born in Harlan County, Ky. There is some uncertainty as to his birth date. According to his tombstone, he was born Feb. 17, 1835. In the Confederate Veterans Census of 1911, he stated his birth date was Feb. 17, 1834. However, U.S. Census Records indicate that he was probably born in 1833, and this would concur with the family report that he was 95 years of age when he died Dec. 18, 1927. In 1837, he came with his family to Arkansas, where he lived the remainder of his life. At the age of 19, he married (1) Nancy Homesley. They had three children before she died about 1859. These children of Bayless and Nancy Homesley Shumate were:

- a. Viola Shumate (born Oct. 1, 1854), who married a man named Perry and moved to Texas. The family later heard that she and her family had been killed by a tornado, but the report was never verified.
- b. Sarah J. Shumate (born Dec. 9, 1856) married George Thomas and moved to Oklahoma.
- c. William Shumate (born Jan. 14, 1858) married Emily Tollett and lived near Farmington, Ark. He had several children, including sons Thomas, Montgomery, and Bryan; a daughter who married Wes Clayton; and another daughter, Fannie, who married a Mr. Wood.

After the death of his first wife, Bayless Shumate renewed his acquaintance with Elizabeth Cole (born Dec. 22, 1839; died Dec. 28, 1934 -- age 95), a young widow who was about 20 years old, who lived at Combs, Ark. Elizabeth's parents, James and Edith Jane Montgomery Cole, owned an inn and stock pen, where farmers would spend the night when driving their stock across the country. William Shumate teased his son and Elizabeth when young Bayless was only a teen-ager, saying they could marry some day. So, on Feb. 23, 1860, they were married in Washington County, Ark. The story is told that they set out on horseback to find the minister. They met the minister on the road, so he agreed to marry them then and there -- in the middle of the road, on horseback! We have been told that they lived for a time in Madison County, although the 1860 census shows them in Washington County.

Bayless served 3 years in the Civil War in the 34th Arkansas Cavalry CSA, under Colonel Brooks and Lt. Col. Stirman. He was Honorably Discharged on June 1, 1865. The story is told that, while he was away at war, bushwhackers came to the house where Elizabeth was living with her two infant sons, James and John, on the White River near Durham. They told her they were going to burn the house, and she must leave. She did as she was told, though one relative tells that she hit one of the bushwhackers over the head with a skillet and "laid him out cold" in her yard. They did burn the house, and Elizabeth walked and carried her two small boys to the home of her mother near Delaney, some 8 or 10 miles distant. Bayless didn't seem to hold grudges about such offenses in later years, but his wife refused to have anything to do with the people who had wronged her. Bayless always treasured his Civil War Confederate uniform, and had his picture made in it around the turn of the century.

Bayless Shumate was a Mason. He was a Charter Member of the Sylva Lodge No. 282 at Maguire's Store, which was chartered Jan. 7, 1873. He was also a member of the Knights of the Horse, the anti-horse thief organization. He was always proud of being a staunch Democrat.



Children of Bayless and Elizabeth Cole Shumate included:

- a. James Harlan Shumate (born Dec. 9, 1860) married Cora Ratliff. He died of pneumonia after the age of 80. One daughter, Ella J., married (1) Audie Lewis -- they had two children; (2) Homer Harris -- they had one son.
- b. John Bayless Shumate (born May 27, 1862) married Nora Ratliff, twin sister of Cora. Uncle John died recently -- Sept. 11, 1960, at the age of 98. He had three children: (1) Dessie, a son; (2) Callie (Mrs. F.C. Pyeatt of Big Cabin, Okla.); (3) Elizabeth (Mrs. John Gaines of Prairie Grove, Ark.).
- c. Clarissa Anne Shumate (born Dec. 8, 1864) was married, at the age of 16, to James Benton. They moved first to Western Kansas, and, with the run, into Oklahoma, where they lived at Alva. Her children included: (1) Harry Benton (who married Esther Jones, my aunt); (2) Callie; (3) Carrie; (4) Ida; (5) Lee; (6) Nellie.
- d. Edith Jane Shumate (born June 7, 1872 at Durham, Ark.; died Sept. 6, 1922 at Wagoner, Okla.) was married on Feb. 22, 1891 to William Ambrose Jones (born Aug. 24, 1869; died Sept. 30, 1942), son of Charles Matthew Jones and Esther Clark Jones of Washington County. They had five children: (1) Ella Mae Jones married Von Carter, son of Dr. George W. Carter and Winnie E. Campbell Carter (these are my parents, living in Muskogee, Okla.) -- five children; (2) Esther Elizabeth Jones married Harry Benton, her cousin -- living near Enid, have 3 children; (3) Ida Anna Jones married William Doss Williams and lived in Westville, Okla. until his death -- she now lives in Tulsa -- two children, one of whom is deceased; (4) Clifford Silas Jones married Jewel Robinson -- living in Silcam Springs, Ark. -- six children; (5) William Carl Jones married Kate Springston -- live in San Bruno, Calif. (suburb of San Francisco) -- one son.
- e. Ida Bell Shumate (born Feb. 13, 1875; died 1948) married Charles "Buck" Ratliff, a cousin to Nora and Cora Ratliff. "Uncle Buck" is still living at Prairie Grove, Ark., where they lived all their married life. Ida died at age of 73. They had three children: (1) Herbert Ratliff, living in Tulsa, Okla.; (2) Edith Ratliff married Clifford Matthews -- their only son died in an airplane wreck in France at the end of World War II; (3) Herman Ratliff, who died of a heart attack in 1957.
- f. Bennett Mark Shumate (born Nov. 13, 1878; died Aug. 3, 1959) married Mary Ratliff, sister of Charles Ratliff. He resided on the old Shumate farm until his death. His children included: (1) Emma Shumate married James Ramey, live in Fayetteville; (2) Richard (Dick) Shumate married Maud Collins; he died in 1923 leaving two sons and one daughter; (3) Golda Shumate married Dodge Brink; (4) Millie Shumate married John Harris, living at Little Rock, Ark.

BENNETT SHUMATE was born about 1836 in Harlan County, Ky., and came with his parents to Arkansas in 1837. He was first married to Elizabeth Ballard, and they had one son, Lee, who died of pneumonia in 1837 when he was almost grown. After the death of Elizabeth, Bennett was married on April 5, 1868 to Charity Van Hoose, daughter of John J. Van



Hoose and Rachel Mills. Bennett also served in the Civil War, in Co. K, Stirman's Arkansas Cavalry, from April 1862 to May 1865.<sup>14</sup> He was also a Charter Member of the Maguire's Store Masonic Lodge. According to his Civil War pension record, he died on July 29, 1884. He left his widow and several children, including:

- a. John, married Elizabeth Ratliff, sister of Nora and Cora.
- b. George
- c. Mark married Sadie Robbins
- d. Nannie Shumate married Silas Jones, brother to my grandfather, William A. Jones. They lived many years near Boynton, Okla., and raised a large family. I am told that she is now living in Wewoka, Okla., with a daughter.
- e. Lizzie Shumate married Herbert H. Benbrook. He died on April 28, 1958. She is now living at Farmington, Ark. They had three children: (1) Jewel, who married first Albert Hamblen and second, Frank D. Giles; (2) Mildred married Ray Murphy, live in Tulsa; (3) Clyde Raymond, who was killed in action in World War II on July 3, 1944 in France.
- f. Nera Shumate married Henry McCuiston. A son, Linley, was killed in World War I, and is buried in the Shumate cemetery near Durham, Ark. Nora died when Linley was a small child.

WILLIAM "Little Bill" SHUMATE (born about 1839, died 1864), married about 1863, Martha Elizabeth White (born Sept. 11, 1848; died Jan. 2, 1933), when she was about 15 years of age. She was daughter of John S. White and Mary Ann Maloy. They had one daughter, Nancy Jane Shumate, who was but six weeks old when her father was killed in June 1864, in Civil War fighting near Wesley, Ark., where he was buried.

a. Nancy Jane Shumate (born April 29, 1864, died May 11, 1950) was married on July 25, 1880 to Benjamin LaFayette Williams (born Jan. 22, 1856, died Jan. 21, 1894), son of Tassel Sidney Williams and Margaret Ellen Campbell. They settled near McKinney, Texas, where they both are buried. They had four sons: (1) Oscar Eugene Williams married Mattie Eagle -- he is now living in Fayetteville and has two sons living in Fayetteville. (See article by Oscar E. Williams in this issue); (2) William Sidney Williams married Myrtle Coleman and had two sons and one daughter. The daughter died when almost grown. "Sid" Williams died July 15, 1960; (3) Hubert Earl Williams died at Parker, Texas in the summer of 1890; (4) Guy Ellsworth Williams married Fay Adams. They live in Little Rock, Ark. He is Chancery Judge and former Attorney-General of Arkansas. They have two children, a son and a daughter.

After the death of her husband, Nancy Jane Shumate Williams married William Millican and had two daughters: (1) Beulah Millican married Ray Williams (no relation) -- she has a son and two daughters; (2) Maybelle Millican married Luther James Rollins. They have 3 sons.

CLARISSA SHUMATE (born about 1847, died Feb. 1932) married Andrew Jackson Ballard (born about 1838 in Alabama, died Jan. 1922), son of George and Elizabeth Ballard, who came to Arkansas about 1844. Their children included:

- a. Sarah Elizabeth Ballard (born June 8, 1866, died Jan. 6, 1959), who never married. She lived at Fayetteville, and is buried at Durham, Ark.



THE SHUMATE HOME AT DURHAM, ARK. 1897

Left to right:

Edith Shumate Jones holding Esther Jones.

Eliza Shumate, daughter of John

Ella Janes

Nora Ratliff Shumate, wife of John,  
holding daughter, Callie.

Elizabeth Cole Shumate

Bayless Shumate in his Confederate uniform

Herbert Ratliff, son of Ida Shumate Ratliff

At right:

Clarissa Shumate Ballard,  
daughter of Wm. Shumate



At left:

Three generations:

1. Mary Ann Maloy White
2. Martha Elizabeth Baswell  
(widow of "Little Bill"  
Shumate).
3. Nancy Jane Williams,  
(daughter of "Little Bill"  
Shumate).

- b. Mary Ann Ballard (born Feb. 15, 1868, died Aug. 9, 1926) married my paternal great-uncle, Noel Graves Campbell (born Aug. 23, 1859, died April 29, 1909), son of William Hugh and Julia Rutherford Campbell. Mary and Noel Campbell are both buried in Coleman, Texas. Their family includes: (1) William Hugh Campbell (born June 8, 1886, died April 23, 1918), who is buried in Coleman, Texas; (2) Deverette Glen Campbell (born Aug. 30, 1887) living at Oakland, Calif.; (3) Otta Dester Campbell (born Feb. 18, 1891, died Nov. 9, 1953), buried in Odessa, Texas; (4) Arlie Leah Campbell (born Aug. 11, 1893, died July 26, 1916) buried in Coleman, Texas; (5) Clara Julia Campbell married Rev. J. W. McKimsey and is now living in Coleman, Texas where he is a minister in the Disciples of Christ church; (6) Avery Campbell married W. L. Auten, and lives in Odessa, Texas.
- c. Jim Ballard (died Nov. 1950), never married.
- d. John W. Ballard (died Jan. 1938), married Ida Johnson who is now living in Fayetteville, Ark. Their son is John F. Ballard of Fayetteville.
- e. George Ballard (died Aug. 1908), married Mamie Deiser and had one son, George Ballard of Fort Smith, Ark.
- f. Jerod Ballard (died March 1956), married Stella Patilla, had two sons: (1) Jack L. Ballard of Denison, Texas; (2) Collom B. Ballard of Sulphur Springs, Texas.
- g. Ben Calvin Ballard (died Dec. 1946), married Elsie Johnson (sister of Ida Johnson). He practiced law and was high school principal at Okemah, Okla. His widow is now remarried to Charles "Buck" Ratliff. Ben and Elsie Ballard had two sons: (1) Ben C. Ballard, Jr., of San Mateo, Calif.; (2) Charles E. Ballard of Garland, Texas.
- h. Lydia Ballard, only living child of Clarissa Shumate Ballard, now lives at Marked Tree, Ark. She married Jesse G. Waskom, and had children: (1) Clara Iva Lee Waskom; (2) Jesse Waskom Jr.

#### Last of the "Carnahan Girls" Joins Her Pioneer Ancestors

On Oct. 21, 1956, some 200 members of the WCHS and friends journeyed to Avoca to help "the Carnahan girls" celebrate their birthdays. The honorees on that occasion were

Mrs. Evalyn Carnahan Quaille on her 95th birthday

Mrs. Mary Clem Carnahan Moore on her 93rd birthday

Mrs. Susan Carnahan Rogers on her 89th birthday

They were the daughters of Jacob Preston Carnahan, long-time teacher in old Cane Hill College. Those present at that birthday party will never forget the three charming ladies, daughters of the Old South, as they greeted their friends on the front porch of their home. Now, just four short years later, all three of "the Carnahan girls" are gone. The last to go was Mrs. Moore. She was laid to rest Jan. 14 in the old Cane Hill burying ground. She was a "war baby" - born in 1864.

#### State Meeting at Camden in May

The WCHS will be represented at the annual meeting of the Arkansas Historical Association at Camden in May. President Feathers plans to arrange a display to show our publications and other activities.



## MECK SKELTON TAKES HER FIRST TRIP BY RAILROAD AND STEAMBOAT

In our next issue we will publish a diary written in 1877 by Miss Meck Skelton of Fayetteville while on a trip to Cleveland, Ohio. With another young woman she accompanied J.H. VanHoose to a Knight Templar convention in the Ohio city. The diary was written in a delightful style, by a young woman who had never been outside of Arkansas. She wrote: "I felt no unusual change when we crossed the state line into Missouri". She had never seen a railroad train: "From the banks of a creek at Pierce City I saw them for the first time -- the locomotive steaming in with a long train of cars -- a magnificent sight -- power and strength." Then her return home, three weeks later:

"At 9 o'clock the stage stopped at the post office at Osage Mills. While the mail was attended to, Mr. VanHoose got out and walked to the residence of General Pearce. The stage stopped at his gate and I had the pleasure of an introduction to him -- a very plain and pleasant gentleman.

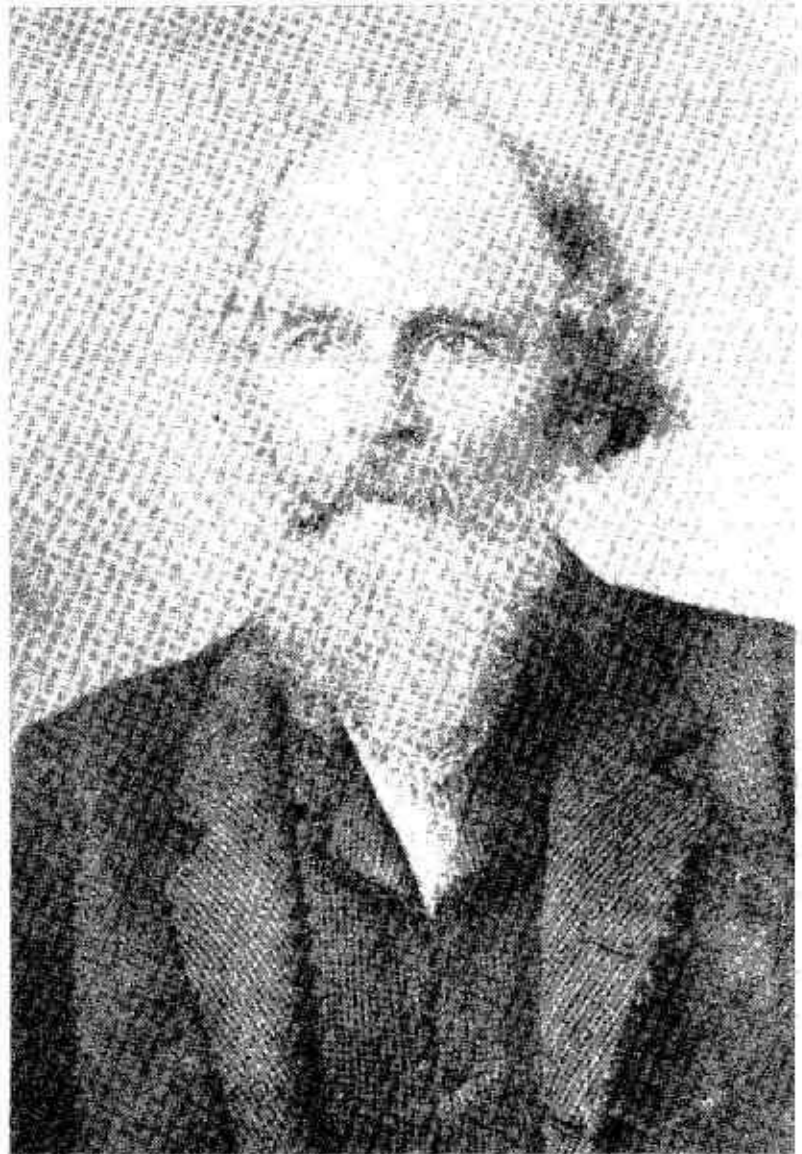
"After 10 o'clock we stopped at the Elm Spring post office. Dr. Steele came to the stage and talked to us. We passed Johnson's Mill, the Mr. Hewitt's, and from there I felt at home. At 12 o'clock we got in sight of home and I next saw Tim and Willy sitting on a pile of lumber waiting for the stage. I got out at that same old gate I had left just three weeks before."

This unusual diary belongs to Mrs. Henry Walker of our Society, who has loaned it to us for publication in FLASHBACK. In our next issue. We promise you, you'll love Meck Skelton -- her sincerity and naivete.

While out at the Mt. Comfort burying ground a few weeks ago, I paused at the grave of this young woman whose words are living today because she recorded them in her little red-bound diary of 84 years ago. Her tombstone says: "Miss Meck Skelton, born May 29, 1836 - died March 22, 1892." On the opposite side of the marble slab, worn smooth by the winds and rains of a century, a charcoal rubbing revealed this inscription: "Jas. A. Skelton, born Sept. 9, 1826, killed in battle at Pea Ridge Mar. 9, 1862." And on the front of the tombstone: "Mrs. Polly Skelton, born Nov. 30, 1807, died Feb. 16, 1886."

## THE FAMILY HISTORY MAGAZINE

Our Society has received a sample copy of The Family History Magazine, published at Albuquerque, New Mexico. The 10-page January number features an account of the monument on the courthouse grounds at Van Buren, Ark. This number contains a great deal of genealogical information, including an 1879 Real Estate Tax List of Benton County, Ark. Family names on this Bentonville tax list are: Foster, Lewis, Davis, Patterson, Johnson, Lee, Dameron, LeForce, Dunlap, Smith, Ball, Parker, Boatwright. There are no fewer than nine Pattersons on the list. Also of interest in this issue are the Marriage Records of Putnam Co., Mo. (Unionville) and the Cemetery Records of Sullivan Co., Mo. (Milan). The latter list contains such family names as Broyles, Dearing, Dyer, Wilhite, Taylor and many more. Subscription price of The Family History Magazine is \$3. Address: Mrs. Irene Johnson, Box 96, Albuquerque.



**BAYLESS SHUMATE**

Washington County Pioneer

Confederate Soldier

Stirman's Bn., 34th Arkansas Regt.



At age 90, with his  
great-granddaughter