

Sturgeon family

OUR BRANCH OF THE STURGEON FAMILY TREE

Quote from the introduction
to the PBS series "The Irish in America", Ireland became so over populated
in the 18th century the people started a flood of immigration to the "New World" and after the
Revolution poured through the Cumberland Gap
on their way west.

The earliest information in this family history is based on a book written in 1991, by Mary C. Sturgeon of Little Rock, AR. Her tree starts with Samuel Sturgeon, born in 1680. He came to the Colonies in 1730 with his eight sons. There is no information on a wife. The sons were: Samuel (2) B. 1706 in Ireland, D. 1750; Jeremiah, B. 1708 in Ireland, D. 1 Jan 1795; Thomas, D. 1783; Peter; Henry, B. 1712, D. 1796; William; Robert; John, B. 1722, D. 1832. They settled on a farm near Harrisburg PA. There is a record of Samuel, yeoman of Lancaster Co. accepted an indentured man from Ireland on 15 Sep 1746. This is probably Samuel #2.

Jeremiah, the second son, established a farm in Paxtang Tnsp. And married Lydia Lee about 1731. She was a widow with one child, Andrew. They had eight children: John, B. 1732; Martha, B. 1734; Lydia, B. 1735; Mary, B. 1736; Elizabeth, B. 1738; Sarah, B. 1 Sep 1739; Robert, B. 1740, D. 30 Jun 1805; Samuel (3), B. 1741 in Paxtang. Jeremiah helped establish the Paxtang Presbyterian Church and served as an Elder. He is listed with his brother Thomas in a petition to the Governor and the Council for help with arms and ammunition for protection from French and Indian raids of their farms along the Susquehanna River.

Samuel (3) married Margaret Rogers on 22 Oct 1767. They had four sons; William, B. 10 Jul 1768, D. 12 Apr 1838; Jeremiah, B. 10 Aug 1770, D. 17 Jul 1818; James; Samuel (4), B. 22 Oct 1774. He enlisted in the Pennsylvania Militia, with his brother Robert, Dec 1775. He served in Capt James Murry's Co and participated in the battles of Trenton and Princeton. In Dec 1785, the State granted him a Land Warrant for 50 acres in recognition of his military service. In 1779 on 6 Aug a fifth son, Andrew was born. Margaret died 21 Mar 1780 and he moved the family to Dauphin Co. In 1784 he married Margaret Reed and there were five children born of this union; Martha, Robert, John, Margaret and Allen. He died 2 Oct 1801.

After the war the large families started migrating south and west. John, born 5 Jan 1792, to Samuel (3) and his second wife, Margaret Reed, moved to Holmes Co Ohio with his family and was the only Sturgeon in that county in the 1830 census. The census record of 1830 shows his family as 4 girls and a boy. Our Enoch was born on 7 May 1831. Ohio records show John moving around a lot and he was married 4 times and had 7 children, of which only 3 survived. John died 14 Jun 1878.

Enoch was probably away at school in Indiana as he is not on the 1850 census. He returned to Ohio with a wife and 2 small daughters by the 1860 census. Our family records show he married Anna Marie Ault of Harden Co Ohio, 21 Jun 1855. Three daughters were born in Indiana, Alice, B. 11 Jul 1856, D. 21 Mar 1857; Mary Jane, B. 2 Feb 1858, D. 16 May 1874; Clara, B. 6 Dec 1859, D. 15 Jul 1894. He moved the family to Indiana after the 1860 census and was working as an attorney in Rochester when his son, Arthur Kent, was born 19 Feb 1862. Two more daughters followed; Bertha, B. 24 Oct 1866, D. 2 Oct 1955 and Harriet, B. 29 Oct 1868, D. 10 Feb 1945.

Arthur Kent married Sarah Viola Babcock in Rochester on 17 Jul 1883. They moved to Michigan where he worked as a lumberjack in Rodney. Their children were born there; Anna Neva, B. 16 Dec 1886, D. 16 Jan 1982; Arthur Enoch, B. 31 Jan 1889, D. 19 Mar 1966; Neil Leroy, B. 1 Jan 1893, D. 20 Nov 1950; Edythe Viola, B. 1 Mar 1900, D. ?. When the lumber business became too burdensome he went to farming and finally moved into town. He lived in Greenville where he died 28 Jan 1956.

Arthur Enoch went by his middle name most of his life because of the confusion of two Arthurs in the house. His youngest sister also named one of her sons Arthur. Enoch left home after high school to pursue a job with the Immigration Service at Nogales AZ. There he met and courted a young school teacher, Pauline May Purser. They traveled to her home in Mississippi to be married by her father, Rev. R.H. Purser, a Baptist Minister. They returned to Nogales and were later transferred to El Paso TX, where their three children were born; Purser Kent 21 Oct 1915; twins, Viola May and Sarah Elizabeth B. 17 Aug 1921. The family moved to Jackson MS in 1922. Enoch worked with several companies in administration during the depression and finally joined the US Corps of Engineers from which he retired. Pauline pre-deceased him on 23 Apr 1956, and he died at the home of his daughter Viola in New Orleans. 18 Mar 1966.

Purser Kent Sturgeon met Susan Annida Crim in Evanston IL while he was attending Northwestern University for his Masters Degree. They were married 15 Apr 1938. Their first daughter, Nancy Beth, was born 23 Dec 1940 and the second one, Paula Sue, arrived 10 May 1942. When WW II started he enlisted in the Army Air Corps. He started training as a pilot but was soon transferred to Navigator Training. He graduated and was commissioned a 2nd Lt. in Jan 1943. He was assigned to the Troop Carrier Command and made Squadron Navigator and lead a group of C-47's across the South Atlantic to England in March 1944. He participated in the D-Day invasion of France dropping paratroopers into Cherbourg the night before. and later supplies to advancing troops; Battle of the Bulge; the invasion of Southern France from a base in Italy and finished his overseas duty back in England. He returned to Ft. Sheridan IL where he was released from active duty July 1945. He returned to Evanston to his family, now increased by the birth of daughter #3 (born 11 Nov 1944). He resumed his job of Statistician with Kemper Insurance Co. Three more daughters were born; Becky Jo, 10 Apr 1949; Barbara Jean, 8 Dec 1950; Donna Lorelei, 24 Dec 1954. In the following years Purser rose to Vice President of the company. The family had now increased by one more with the birth of Kent Douglas, 8 Feb 1958. The company moved the home office to Prairie View IL and the Sturgeon family moved to Lincolnshire in 1970. Purser died of a heart attack 10 Oct 1975 but his line continues with Kent's two sons, Purser Kent II and Benjamin Albin.

From here on it is all current events and a new generation will have to start keeping the records. Susan Crim Sturgeon, 20 Mar 2000.

It being obvious that the blood line continues through the female line as well as the male I will add what I know of the distaff side of the Sturgeon line. To this day official records still put women in second place, if at all. My knowledge of the family from my 62 year association with it can add the following;

I have pictures of my children with Grandad Arthur Kent and other family members since the early 1950's. So we start with his family. The first child, Anna Neva, married Albert James in 1910. Their four children were born in the Greenville/Belding area. Lawrence Albert B. 14 Mar 1911, married Pauline; Frances Viola B. 18 Oct 1913, married Clayton Shaw; Walter Steven B. 27 Nov 1915, married Rachel; Clayton B. 6 Feb 1918 married Barbara. Arthur Enoch's line has already been discussed so Neil Leroy is next, B. 1 Jan 1893, married Ida Rich 19 Jan 1916. They had only the one daughter, Marian Viola B. 7 Mar 1921, M. Carrol Slayton 7 Jun 1941. Their first child, Kenneth, died at an early age and later they had twin sons.

A.K.'s youngest child, Edythe Viola, was born 1 Mar 1900. She married Cecil Edward McClellan 1921. They had 2 sons, Cecil Arthur B. 9 Jun 1922, wife's name Harriet and Richard Lee B. 6 Dec 1932, wife's name Sheryl. Both had married and had children before they moved from Michigan to California. After Arthur Kent's death in 1956 Edythe and Cecil also moved to California to be near the boys and also hoping to improve Cecil's health. He died there in 1973. I last heard from Aunt Edythe in 1980 when she started me on this family history road with material she had gathered on the Babcock side which I will not pursue here.

Updated October 2003.