



Harry L. Maxwell with his wife, Patsy Ruth (Judd) Maxwell and their granddaughter, Morgan Nicole Maxwell.

History of the Descendents of Samuel Maxwell of Putnam Co., & Jackson Co., TN
Compiled and Published by
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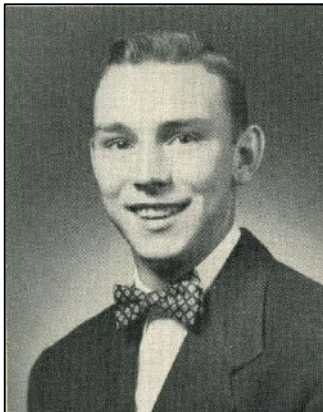
Sandra (Maxwell) Cannon, d/o Harry L. & Patsy Ruth Maxwell & James Lyle Cannon, husband, with their son, Winston Dalton Cannon

**Harry L. Maxwell wrote and published a hardbound, 535pp, book called History of the Descendents of Samuel Maxwell of Putnam Co., & Jackson Co., TN. The document Descendents of Samuel Maxwell of Putnam Co., TN is just a portion of that book.*

*Harry L. Maxwell, the L in his name is only an initial and has no name with it. He was named after Dr. Harry Lee Upperman that ran Baxter Seminary that most of the Maxwell family attended. *See History of Baxter Seminary.*

INTRODUCTION

SAMUEL MAXWELL



First: Let me introduce myself. I am Harry L. Maxwell and I am a Great Great Grandson of the main subject of this work, Samuel Maxwell, born July 23, 1781 and died May 22, 1848.

Harry L. Maxwell, Senior, 1952 Baxter Seminary, Putnam Co., TN.
"Absence makes the heart grow fonder
that's why I'm so fond of school"

When I started this journey or study into my relatives both living and dead, I had no idea of the joy I would derive from traveling down each and every branch of the old family tree.

Likewise I was not aware that I would find:

1. Some 6000 plus relatives
2. A complete new way to figure kinship
3. That I had married my 3rd cousin-twice removed.

At this time it might be prudent to explain the new way to figure kinship so we will all be singing from the same book. To explain this, I am going to use as an

example of two of the main branches from the Samuel Maxwell (1781-1848) family tree.

Children:

| | | |
|---------------------|---|------------------------|
| Amos Maxwell | Brothers | David Wood Maxwell |
| Amanda Maxwell | 1 st cousins | William Cullom Maxwell |
| Ellisa Jane Mogan | 2 nd cousins | William Robert Maxwell |
| Martha Nettie Smith | 3 rd cousins | Harry L. Maxwell |
| Arlie B. Huddleston | 3 rd cousins – once removed | |
| Patsy Ruth Judd | 3 rd cousins – twice removed & also my wife. | |

As you can see, you would have to add in Douglas Brian Maxwell, my son to get to the 4th cousins level. The new way of figuring kinship makes people much closer relations than the old way. Thus using the old way of figuring, my wife and I would be 7th cousins.

The title of this work could be called “The Descendents of Samuel Maxwell, or it could be the story of five brothers.

In his book “A History of Putnam County” published in 1925 by Dr. Walter S. McClain, he states; Samuel Maxwell came here from North Carolina in 1811 and settled in the vicinity of Baxter, TN. From his five sons, Amos, Jackson, Samuel, David, and Gordon have descended the large Maxwell family of that section. Although not mentioned by Dr. McClain, Samuel also had six daughters. They were named Anne, Nancy, Sally, Roda, Margaret, and Polly. Very little is known about two of the girls and who they married at this time, but it is my hope that when this study is published, it will cause someone to com forward with information as to what happened to Anne and Nancy and who they married.

There is probably another 4000 plus relatives to add to the tree if we had this information.

In this study, it is my intent to show mostly the family structure and kinship and not to write a history of each person presented. There will be some individual coverage where this is needed for clarity or interest. My main concern is to try to supply as much information as possible that would fit on the family group sheets. The computer program that I am using is called: Family Tree Maker. It is very good for entering, storing, manipulating and copying data.

There is one other thing that I should explain. I have obtained family information on the other families that are connected in some way but does not fit the standard structure of the Maxwell family tree. These will be included in the back of the book with the same format so it can be seen how they relate to the main tree. These are the Maddux's, Shanks, Gentry's, and Patton's as well as the Neills' and Dyer's from my mother's side.

There are a host of people which I am indebted to for supplying information for this report and I wish to thank each and every one of them. Within this list, there are six people that I must name and recognize as being major contributors of information to this cause, Dr. Louis Johnson Jr., Ms. Maurine Ensor Patton, Ms. Azlee Wilkerson, Mr. Harold Ralph Maynard, and my first cousin once removed, Mr. Joe Maxwell who lives in Wilcox, AZ. I would like to give a special thanks to Ms. Betty Fincher for sharing very important information that was written by her father, Mr. Henry Dawson Morgan in 1939. This information will be included later in this report. I would also like to add a big thanks to my nephew Gary Neill Maxwell for his effort in helping me in trying to find out who Samuel's parents were.

As everyone should realize that with a report of 6000 plus names, there are going to be some errors in names and dates as well as some information not included because it is not known at the time of publication. I would very much appreciate knowing about any corrections, additions, or deletions that should be made. I also would like to know any comments or suggestions on improvements that might be incorporated in the next version of The Samuel Maxwell Family Tree. A great amount of time and effort by many people have gone into this study and I surely hope that it can now be enjoyed by many people

Samuel Maxwell must have been quite a man. We really do not know where he was born or who his parents were. It has been handed down through family history that he was Scotch-Irish decent but we really can not be sure at this point.

His first appearance in history that we can document is that he paid a head tax on himself and a mule in Montgomery County, VA, for the year 1801. (Source: Virginia State Library and Archives, Richmond, VA) then on 1-30-1802 he married Martha Ann Patton, born 9-11-1780 and died 6-15-1848 in Montgomery County, VA. (Source: Early Adventures on Western Waters, Vols. I & II, by Mary B. Kegley. He also appeared in the tax rolls in 1803, 1804 and 1805 in Montgomery Co., VA.

In the Putnam County History by Dr. McClain, he says that Samuel came to Tennessee in the year of 1811, but this may not be completely correct. The Jackson County History by Molden Tayse says that Samuel was commissioned a Captain in the Tennessee Militia on April 18, 1809. This means that he probably got here between 1806-1808. In "The Upper Cumberland of Pioneer Times" by Wirt, he says that Samuel was a Captain of a Jackson County Tennessee Company in the War of 1812 and fought with Andrew Jackson at New Orleans against the British. It is said in some history accounts that he took his company of men and walked all the way from Jackson Co, TN to New Orleans.

Samuel's service record shows that he was in service for 3 months and 14 days from January 28, 1814 to May 17, 1814. His pay was \$40.00 per month and he

was in Col. Robert Steele's regiment of the Tennessee Militia in the main battle that was fought at New Orleans. The British had over 2000 men killed and General Jackson only lost 13 men.

An in depth study of the history of this time shows that the main Battle of New Orleans was fought on January 8, 1815 and Samuel was not active at that time as stated before Samuel was in the 4th Regiment West Tennessee Militia Infantry with most of the men coming from the counties of Jackson, White, Bedford, Giles, Lincoln and Maury. Part of the brigade led by General Thomas Johnson, this regiment as composed of about 450 men. Colonel Steel and his men were left at Fort Strother while General Jackson marched the rest of his army to Horseshoe Bend where the climatic battle of the Creek Indian War was fought on March 27, 1814. Steele's regiment served as wagon guards for supplies from Fort Deposit and built boats to transport supplies down the Coosa River to Fort Williams. From Camp Blount at Fayetteville, the regiment took the much traveled route through Huntsville, Fort Deposit and Fort Strother.

Samuel returned from this war to Jackson County, TN, now Putnam Co., TN, and raised five sons and six daughters. The boys were named Amos (1803-1879), Jackson (1815-1865), Samuel (1819-1903), David (1822-1869) and Gordon (1825-1886). The daughters were Anne, Nancy, Sally, Roda, Margaret and Polly.

In 1939 Mr. Henry Dawson Morgan who was a Great Great Grandson of Samuel made a trip from Cookeville to Baxter, TN and he interviewed four of the older Maxwell family members and wrote down a great many facts about the Maxwell clan. His account says that Samuel came from Wythe and Culperrr counties in Virginia and settled on the old Carr place near Ensor Town. He soon bought a big tract of land and moved to the headwaters of Mine Lick Creek. He also states that after the war Samuel returned to farming and never again left this part of the country until his death. When he died, he was buried on this farm on a lot set aside for the family burial place. This started the Samuel Maxwell Cemetery which is located 100 yards north of I-40 Interstate and just west of Highway 56 and just east of the Baxter Road. This cemetery now has more than 175 known graves. Mr. Morgan visited this place and said it lies on the brow of a hill overlooking Mine Lick Creek and was a well kept place. Samuel was the first to be buried there and Martha was second only one month later.

Three of the sons were in the Civil War. Two fought for the south, David and Jackson, and Samuel H. fought for the north. None of them were killed during the war but Jackson was killed by Union sympathizers only one month after he got home from the war. David was in the famous Sixteenth Regiment of the Tennessee Volunteers and a member of his regiment, Mr. Thomas A. Head wrote a book about all the battles they fought during the war.

Little is known about the girls. It is believed that Roda never married and has been found in the census records working as a domestic servant. Polly married Azriah Hensley and had 8 children and lived most of her life in Jackson County. Sally married David Patton and had no children. Margaret married Claibron Vaughn and had a large family. The history on the remaining 2 girls is unknown.

In the fall of 1998, my nephew Gary and I combined our efforts to determine who Samuel's parents were. With the help of five hired researchers in and around the Montgomery County area, and many hours on the internet, we did find some very important information. From court documents, we became aware of a Maxwell family living in that area that is at this time our best guess of Samuel's parents. The positive proof we do not have.

In 1797, a court case was tried between a James and Elizabeth Maxwell and a Thomas Owens. Mr. Owens was charged with assaulting David Maxwell, a minor, and the son of James and Elizabeth. Records indicated that they didn't own land and moved often.

James seems to disappear about this time but Elizabeth along with David and Mary "Polly" Maxwell shows up in the 1810 census for Montgomery County, with Elizabeth having a minor child. Further study finds a David and Joel Maxwell moving to Overton County Tennessee around 1824. It is my feeling that Samuel was an older son of James and Elizabeth and brother of David and Joel and Mary Maxwell. An on going effort will be made to prove these connections.



The William Robert Maxwell Family

L to R, seated: Willard Maxwell, who married Dorothy Randolph; Hillard Maxwell, married Julia Moss; Oron Maxwell, married Louise Hodges; Phoebe Kansas Neill Maxwell (Mrs. William Robert Maxwell); William Robert Maxwell and **Harry L. Maxwell**, who married **Patsy Ruth Judd**. Standing, L to R: James Maxwell, married 1st Ruth Woods and 2nd Yvonne Maxwell; Alvin Maxwell, married Birchie Massa; Everett Maxwell, married Lillian Chaffin; Dallas Maxwell, married Lucy Wilhite; Arnold Maxwell, married Lema Stewart; Alda Maxwell, married Jere Pippin; and Robert Maxwell, who married Betty Bean. There were two other children: Coron Maxwell, who married Norma Cronk; and Lela Ruth Maxwell, who died in infancy. William Robert Maxwell, 1884-1965, was the son of William Cullom Maxwell and Julia Ann Gentry Maxwell. Phoebe Kansas Neill Maxwell, 1888-1965, was the daughter of Harrison Hodge Neill and Cassia Valinda King Neill. William Cullom Maxwell was a descendant of the early pioneer settler, Samuel Maxwell. William Robert Maxwell was a farmer and lived in the Oak Grove Community near Baxter.



James Thomas Maxwell, 1857-1919, and wife, Martha Ann Harris Maxwell, 1859-1935, seated in the center, with their children around them. L to R, seated: James Robert Maxwell, married 1st Sonora Maxwell and 2nd Pearl Stewart; Ollie Frances Maxwell, married 1st Bob Oscar Gentry, 2nd Billy Foster, and 3rd Frank McCulloch; James Thomas Maxwell, Martha Ann Harris Maxwell, Mary Ann Maxwell, married Amon Roberts; and Alfred Whitney Maxwell, married America Avo Worley. Standing: Minnie Clara Maxwell, married Wade Sherrell; Pleasant McKinley Maxwell, married 1st Margaret Josephine Maxwell and 2nd Maude Garrison; William Clarence Maxwell, married Vestel Cole; and Prudie Jane Maxwell, married William Thomas Worley. James Thomas Maxwell was the son of David Wood Maxwell and Mary Elizabeth Shanks Maxwell. Martha Ann Harries Maxwell was the daughter of Larkin Harries and Annie L. Gentry Harris. David Wood Maxwell was the son of Samuel Maxwell who was born in Virginia in 1781 and came to what is now the southern part of Putnam County in the early 1800's.

Picture courtesy of Ella Mae Burgess, a granddaughter.

Picture can be found on pg. 100 of the book,
Stray Leaves from Putnam County History by Mary Hopson



Andrew McClain Maxwell, 1865-1941, on the left, and his wife, Sarah Jo Anna Gentry Maxwell, are shown with two of Sarah's sisters and a brother-in-law, names unknown. Andrew was the son of David W. Maxwell Sr., and Mary C. Shanks Maxwell. Sarah was the daughter of Martin Bartlett Gentry and Mary "Polly Ann" Peek Gentry.

Picture courtesy of Faye Nash Burchett

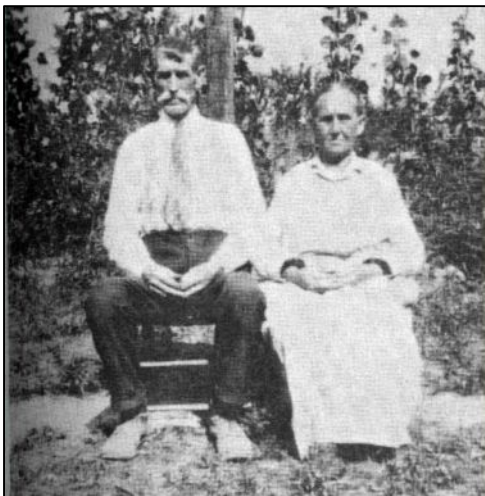
Picture can be found on pg. 98 of the book,
Stray Leaves from Putnam County History by Mary Hopson



The Alfred Whitney "Big Alf" Maxwell Family

Seated L to R: Hooper Donnell Maxwell, married 1st Shirley Butler and 2nd Ruby Johnson; Effie Lou Maxwell, married Philip Ray; Alfred Whitney "Big Alf" Maxwell, 1886-1968, and wife, America Avo Worley Maxwell, 1889-1979; Claiborne Whitley Maxwell, married 1st Lennie Luke and 2nd Lucille Saylor; and Ella Mae Maxwell, married William McKinley Burgess. Standing, L to R: Maude Jean Maxwell, married Jim Purvis; Lillard Lewis Maxwell, married Willene Howell; Nola Odell Maxwell, married Robert Grider; Tommy Ray Maxwell, married Pearl Kirkpatrick; Lois Girtharie Maxwell, married Roy O. Knapp; Lloyd Etheridge Maxwell, married 1st Nellie Hall and 2nd Thelma Bondurant; Mable Ann Maxwell, married Paul Buskirk; Ernest Vernon Maxwell, married 1st Ruth Sturm and 2nd Julie Daniels; Myrtle Christine Maxwell, married Edward J. Flis; and J.T. "Jay" Maxwell, married Blanche Bockman.

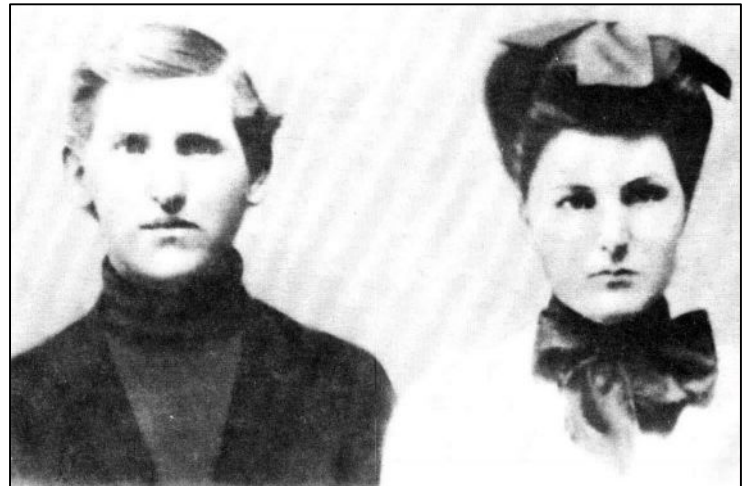
Picture can be found on pg. 98 of the book,
Stray Leaves from Putnam County History by Mary Hopson



William Hickerson Maxwell and wife, Martha "Mattie" A. Gentry. He was the son of Granville Cecil Maxwell & Sarah Medlin and the grandson of early pioneer settler, Samuel Maxwell. They were the parents of 10 children: Oliver Maxwell Oscar Maxwell, Hattie Maxwell, Alfred Maxwell, Jessie Maxwell, Fowler Maxwell, who died young; Bertie Maxwell, Vestal Maxwell, Oakley Maxwell, and Solon Maxwell.

Picture courtesy of Clay Maxwell, 537 N. Whitney,
Cookeville, TN, a grandson.

Picture can be found on pg. 99 of the book,
Stray Leaves from Putnam County History
by Mary Hopson



The wedding picture of Alfred Maxwell, 1886-1980, and Mattie Lou Mitchell Maxwell, 1889-1927. They were the parents of eight children. He was the son of William Hickerson Maxwell and Martha "Mattie" A. Gentry. She was the daughter of Haywood Mitchell and Cannie Nabors Mitchell.

Picture courtesy of Clay Maxwell, 537 Whitney St., Cookeville, TN.

Picture can be found on pg. 99 of the book,
Stray Leaves from Putnam County History by Mary

Maxwell

A Scottish name of local origin from Maxwelton, a town in southern Scotland. There is a tradition that Maxwell was formerly Maccusville, or Macchusville ("town of Macchus") named for Macchus who held an estate in the Border country early in the twelfth century. The origin of Maxwell is more probably similar to that of Maxton, in Roxburghshire, Scotland, or of Maxey, in Northamptonshire, England. The Old English word max meant "a net, a mesh, a snare" hence, Maxton ("town of nets") and Maxey ("island of nets") presumably where fishing or hunting was a principal activity. Max is associated with mask, a word that also denoted a "net" in England and Scotland. To mask meant to fish with nets.

Information taken from the book, Love's Valley by Jolee Love – pgs. 55 & 56.

Subject: Samuel Maxwell Book
Date: Thu, 15 May 2003 17:11:38 -0500

To all who bought the MAXWELL BOOK and other interested parties.

Re-read the last three paragraphs of the introduction to the book,
DECENDENTS OF SAMUEL MAXWELL.

It has now been proven that Samuel and David Maxwell mentioned there are brothers. This was done by doing a DNA test on me, Harry L. Maxwell and Doyle Maxwell a decendent of David Maxwell and finding a perfect match. This gives us another generation in the family tree, James and Elizabeth Maxwell and expands the family by more than double.

My nephew Gary Maxwell and I have continued to work on this for the last four years. Although it was fairly expensive to do, we are very happy to make this report to you.

Copy this email and tape it in your book.

<http://www.ajlambert.com>