

INTRODUCTION OF LEFTWICH HISTORY

By Conrad Paysour

Like many other people these days, Ruby Leftwich Robertson has devoted much time to tracing her family's roots.

She goes to great lengths - - even to England and Norway- - to research her heritage.

"I have long been interested in researching my family history," Robertson says.

In the early 1970s, she became serious about the research after reading excerpts from a book on the Leftwiches. The excerpts were compiled by a cousin, Shasta M. Bryant of Winston-Salem, from a book that was then out-of-print. Bryant is head of the Romance Languages Department at Wake Forest University.

Robertson, who has a master's degree in education, worked as a reference librarian at Guilford College under a federal grant in the early 1970s. "I spent my spare time doing research on the Leftwiches," she says.

HUSBAND JOINED THE SEARCH:

Her husband, soil conservationist Hank Robertson, caught the fever, too.

"He first thought about tracing his family's history," Ruby Robertson says. "But there are so many Robertsons. There aren't many Leftwiches."

So Hank Robertson began researching the Leftwich family history.

Then the book on the Leftwich family, first copyrighted in 1931, was reprinted. Ruby Robertson spent hours pouring over the thick volume, carefully underlining passages she felt were important.

In 1982, Ruby and Hank Robertson and their son, David, went to Great Britain to visit the village of Northwich, in Leftwich township near the center of the country. The Leftwiches had settled in England during the Norman Conquest. They had previously come from Norway and then, as Vikings had gone to France and then to England.

"At the time of the Norman invasion of England, the family was given a castle," Ruby Robertson says.

The Robertson family visited an old church, St. Helen's of Wilton, in which the Leftwiches had been prominent. The church was locked, but they found a vicar who opened it. Among the things, the church with the name "Wil Leftwich" is embossed on an old timber.

It was one of Wil's descendants, Ralph, who brought the Leftwich name to eastern Virginia in 1658.

The Robertsons were so enchanted with their discoveries they made another trip to the township the next year to do more research.

As serious as the Robertsons were about tracing the Leftwich roots, somebody else was even more serious. That person is Lillian Leftwich Piland of Atlanta who met another Church of England vicar, Christopher Rees, in 1984. Rees is pastor of the Devenham Parish Church, also in Leftwich Township. The Leftwiches played an important role in that church's history, too.

The vicar invited Piland and as many of her family as could make the trip to attend the celebration of the church's 900th anniversary.

So this past June, Ruby Robertson journeyed back to the site of her British roots to help celebrate the church's birthday. Ten other members of the Leftwiches clan from the U. S. including Lillian Piland, made the trip.

In addition to Ruby Robertson, two other Guilford County people made the trip: Robertson's cousin, Joe Nelson, and Robertson's grandson, Ronnie Allen, Jr.

Robertson's son, David, also made the trip. He is now a civil engineer with the Department of Transportation in Raleigh.

It was the first trip to England that Ruby Robertson had made without her husband, Hank. He died in July, 1985.

"Traveling is not the same without him," Ruby Robertson says.

ONE MORE TRIP:

Other Leftwich clan members who made the trip came from the cities of Chicago, Washington, Atlanta, and San Diego and several cities and towns in Virginia.

Some of the Americans went on to Scandinavia after participating in the anniversary celebrations. Robertson wanted to visit the western port city of Alesund in Norway. That's where her Viking ancestors lived before going to France, and there is a statue of one of her ancestors in the city. "But we were with a tour group and could not go," Robertson says.

Although she has not yet set a date, she plans to make at least one more trip to Europe. This time, she hopes to begin work on tracing her Viking roots.

WILLIAM THOMAS LEFTWICH SR. FAMILY

By Louis Johnson Jr.

Records indicate that Elijah Leftwich was in King William County, Virginia, during the Revolution and that he rendered service as a Patriot. Elijah probably died about 1800 as the tax lists for King William County for that year carry the first entry of "Estate of Elijah Leftwich".¹ Book 6, page 414 of King William County records show a transfer of land from _____Ragsdale to Elijah Leftwich in 1794².

It appears that John Leftwich was the son of Elijah Leftwich and that he was born between 1765 and 1770. It also appears that he died about 1808 as that was the year in which the tax list for King William County first makes the entry "John Leftwich Estate". It is believed that Lucy Leftwich was born between 1760 and 1770 and that she was the wife of John Leftwich. Records would indicate that she died about 1831 or 1832.¹

William Leftwich was probably the son of John and Lucy Leftwich and he is believed to have been born in King William County, Virginia about 1790/91.¹ He married Martha Bates probably about 1808-1810. Book 6, page 413 of King William County records show a deed conveyed certain lands as well as a lot that had been assigned to him in the division of his father's land. The deed also mentions William's brothers, Marshall and Beverley and his sister, Mahulda.² It is interesting to note that William and Martha Leftwich named a son Marshall and named a daughter Mahulda. It is also interesting to note that they named a daughter Lucy, presumably for William's mother, Lucy Leftwich.

The 1820 U. S. census for King William County, Virginia, lists William Leftwich as head of a household consisting of 1 male, 26-45; 2 males under 10; 1 female, 26-45; and 3 females, under 20. The 1830 U. S. census for King William County, Virginia, lists William Leftwich as head of household consisting of 1 male, under 5; 1 male, 5-10; 1 male, 10-15; 1 male, 15-20; 1 male, 30-40; 1 female, under 5; 1 female, 5-

10; 2 females, 15-20; 1 female, 30-40. It is believed by me, and records seem to indicate, that William and Martha Leftwich moved from King William County, Virginia, to Jackson County, Tennessee, between 1830 and 1840. The 1840 U. S. census for Jackson County, Tennessee, lists William Leftwich as head of household consisting of 1 male, 50-60; 1 male, 20-30; 1 male, 15-20; 1 female, 20-30; 1 female, 10-15; and 1 female, 5-10. It is possible that Martha Leftwich did not reach Jackson County. John Snowden Leftwich told me in 1960 that he had always understood that Martha Bates Leftwich died when Joel Leftwich was bron and that Joel also died and that they were buried under a apple tree near the foot of Buck Mountain in the eastern part of Putnam County, Tennessee now Cookeville, Tennessee.

The 11th district of Putnam County was formerly part of the 13th district of Jackson County. It is believed that William Leftwich settled near the Billy Carr place on Carr Ridge in the 11th district of Putnam County between Boma and Buffalo Valley. Some of the older Leftwich men have told me that William was often called "Peg" because of his short fingers and because he was a cobbler. It is believed that William Leftwich died between 1840 and 1850 inasmuch as the 1850 census does not list him.

Sources:

¹Based on a letter to Mrs. Elizabeth Warren Hughes, San Antonio, TX, March 21, 1960, from Mrs. Austin C. Hayward, Registrar General NSDAR (National Daughters of the American Revolution).

²Records of King William County, Virginia, Virginia Archives in State Historical Library of Virginia, Richmond, Virginia.

HISTORY OF THE LEFTWICHS IN CONNECTION TO THE
PLEASANT GROVE METHODIST CHURCH AT GENTRY
IN PUTNAM COUNTY, TENNESSEE

Compiled by Pearl Huddleston Ensor

Records indicate that Elijah Leftwich was in King William County, Virginia during the Revolution, and that he rendered service as a patriot. He probably died about 1800.

John Leftwich was probably the son of Elijah Leftwich, and was born between 1765 and 1770. The records indicate that he died about 1808. It is believed that Lucy Leftwich was born between 1760 and 1770 and that she was the wife of John Leftwich.

William Leftwich was probably the son of John and Lucy Leftwich, and he is believed to have been born in King William County, Virginia, about 1790 or 1791. He married Martha Bates probably about 1808-1810. Book 6, page 413 of King William County, Virginia, records show a deed in 1812 from William Leftwich and Martha Bates Leftwich, his wife, to John Fox. The deed also mentioned William's brothers, Marshall and Beverly, and his sister Mahuldah. It is interesting to note that William and Martha Leftwich, name a son Marshall, and named a daughter Mahulda. They also named a daughter Lucy form William's mother, Lucy Leftwich.

We have a record showing that William and Martha Leftwich came from Bristol, Virginia to Tennessee "the year the stars fell". This date of a remarkable display of the stars was November 13, 1833.

William Thomas Leftwich and wife Martha Bates Leftwich had ten children. The following is a list of their children's names:

1. John Leftwich died in Virginia.
2. Lucy Ann Leftwich, born 1810 in Virginia, married Snowden Maddux.
3. Louis Temple Leftwich, born July 22, 1823 in Virginia married Elizabeth Cross.
4. Mahuldah, 1850 census in Virginia shows her age 26, married Richard Nichols.
5. Mary Leftwich, 1850 census shows in Virginia her age 26 also, married Matthew Harper.
6. Marshall Leftwich, born in Virginia, married Jane Garrett, December 11, 1839. She was the daughter of William D. and Sally A. Garrett. Marshall and Jane were drowned in a flash flood on Payton's Creek in Smith Co., TN. A negro was living with them and when they saw the flood

- coming, the negro ran to the barn to let the stock out. By the time he got to the barn the water was getting very high and he caught a mare by the tail and was taken to high ground. He said that he saw Marshall and Jane climb to the top of the house, but soon the flood washed the house against a tree - they then climbed up the tree but in a few minutes the flood washed away the house and the tree, and he never saw Marshall and Jane again.
7. William Thomas Leftwich Jr., born March, 1827 in Virginia, married Martha Ann Brown.
 8. Julia Frances, 1850 census in Virginia shows her age as 23, married Robert Simmons.
 9. Ellen Leftwich, born around 1831, married Layton Stanton.
 10. Joel Leftwich, no date, but it has been told that he and his mother both died when he was born.

*See the Family Tree Maker Report for Ralph Leftwich at: <http://www.ajlambert.com>

MEMORIES OF MARY EDNA LEFTWICH FLORIDA FOUTCH

When I was a little girl, my Grandma, Tennessee Francis (Ensor) Leftwich would tell me about, as she called them, our kinfolks. She always said we came from good stock and we were to be proud of our heritage. She also said that we should also be good Christians and citizens. She didn't leave out the working, either.

Grandma was a strong Methodist and a Democrat and I'm sure she thought all of us should be, too.

I'm proud she was my grandma and she taught me many things, among them – a love for my kinfolks.

She grannied me into this world on the 2nd of November 1920, named me Mary Edna and headed on horseback to the lection polls to vote as it was the first time women had go to vote. She never missed voting as long as she was able to vote. She always said it was a duty and a privilege. She knew this was a choice land that we live in.

In honor of this great lady, my father's mother, I decided to do the genealogy work on her and Grandpa Lewis Temple Leftwich's descendants.

As of the 14th day of March 1988, there are an even 200 of us. The total is ten children, thirty-three grandchildren, fifty-one great grandchildren, eight-two great, great grandchildren and twenty-four great, great, great grandchildren.

With the help from members of the Leftwich, the two different Jareds, the Wallace, the Buckner, the Maddux, and the Blair families, through letters, telephone calls, and direct visitations, the family bible records of Lewis Temple and Tennessee Francis (Ensor) Leftwich information of great help on the Leftwiches and Ensors from Maurine (Ensor) Patton, and my own personal knowledge of many of the family, I have compiled this family record.

My grandmother had seven grandsons to serve overseas in the armed service of the U. S. of A during World War II. They were John Henry and Scott Darwin Buckner, James Gilbert and Robert Lewis Maddux, Louis Young Jared, Luke Leftwich and Lewis Townsend Blair. Two great grandsons served in Korea. They were James Edward Maddux and Thomas Clayborn Florida. Two great grandsons, John Aubry Banks and Martin Larry Leftwich served in Vietnam with John Banks serving two terms. They all served our country honorably and came home safe.

We have scattered and live in many states. We also serve and have served in many different occupations. We belong to many different church denominations, but one thing we all have in common - - not one of us have ever been in prison and we have all been industrious and supported ourselves and our families. We have never been a burden to society.

I think we have earned the right for Grandma to be proud of us even through we aren't all Methodist and Democrats. We have also proved we are great lovers.

I hope you enjoy getting this family record, half as much as I have enjoyed the communication with you.

Aunt Nettie (Leftwich) Wallace Jared told me her grandfather William Thomas Leftwich, Jr. told her he was one-fourth Cherokee Indian and that his mother, Martha Bates was one-half. Her mother was a full-blooded Cherokee Indian.

I urge you to keep up your own family history.

Love to each of you, (July 1988)

Mary Edna Leftwich Florida Foutch

b. 2 November 1920, Baxter, Putnam Co., TN – d. 24 April 2010, Cookeville, Putnam Co., TN, md Samuel Owens Florida & md James Marlie Foutch. Mary Edna (Leftwich) Florida Foutch, d/o Martin "Mort" Waymon Leftwich (1884-1928) & Avo Buckner (1893-1969).

WILLIAM LEFTWICH FAMILY BIBLE

Putnam County, Tennessee
<http://www.ajlambert.com>

This Bible is owned by Mrs. Dave High, Cookeville, Tennessee. William Leftwich lived on Indian Creek about four miles East of Buffalo Valley, Putnam County, Tennessee.

Copied by Allie Loftis, Cookeville, Tennessee – 1936.

BIRTHS

William T. Leftwich Born, March 8, 1827, Died August 18, 1897
Martha A. Leftwich Born, March 12, 1828, Died November 15, 1884

Joel Whitten Leftwich, March 12, 1850
Samuel Hickman Leftwich, Born July 3, 1852
Ruth Ann Leftwich, Born December 25, 1854
Lewis Temple Leftwich, Born, July 20, 1855
Meischel Leftwich, Born February 22, 1857
Martin Henry Leftwich, Born May – A. D. 1858
John Thomas Leftwich, Born January 12, 1861
Martha E. Leftwich, Born July 18, 1862
George H. Maddux, Born August 13, 1823
Elizabeth Maddux, Born September 9, 1826
M. F. Leftwich, Born, June 11, 1864
M. E. Leftwich, Born March 1867
W. L. Leftwich, Born May 3, 1871

DEATHS

Malinda Brown, Died, May 8, 1834
Marchel Leftwich, Died February 25 '57
John T. Leftwich, Died, January 12, 1861
Samuel H. Leftwich, Died June 7, 1863
Martha Ann Leftwich, Died November 15, 1884
William T. Leftwich, Died November 18, 1897

Source: *Putnam County, Tennessee Bible, Family and Tombstone Records* (WPA Records) Historical Records Project Official Project No. 465-44-115. Copied under Works Progress Administration, pg. 48. Mountain Press, P. O. Box 400, Signal Mountain, TN 37377-0400.

Note: Tombstone for Martha Ann (Brown) Leftwich states born 12 May 1828 – d. 16 November 1884.

BIBLE RECORDS
LEFTWICH FAMILY BIBLE

Putnam County, Tennessee
<http://www.ajlambert.com>

This Bible is owned by Mr. & Mrs. M. H. Leftwich, Pearl Street, Cookeville, Tennessee.

Copied by Allie Loftis, Cookeville, Tennessee – December 29, 1936.

Source: *Putnam County, Tennessee Bible, Family and Tombstone Records* (WPA Records) Historical Records Project Official Project No. 465-44-115. Copied under Works Progress Administration, pg. 49. Mountain Press, P. O. Box 400, Signal Mountain, TN 37377-0400.

BIRTHS

William Leftwich, Born March 18, 1827
Martha Ann Leftwich, Born March 12, 1828
Joel W. Leftwich (son of William & Martha) Born March 12, 1860
Samuel H. Leftwich, Born July 31, 1852
Ruth Ann Leftwich, Born December 25, 1854
L. T. Leftwich, Born July 20, 1855
Marshel Leftwich, Born February 22, 1857
M. H. Leftwich, Born May 13, 1858
John T. Leftwich, Born January 12, 1861
Martha E. Leftwich, Born July 12, 1862
M. E. Leftwich, Born March 5, 1867
Jonathan L. Ensor, Born April 8, 1800

DEATHS

Marshel Leftwich, Died February 25, 1857
John T. Leftwich, Died January 12, 1861
Sam. H. Leftwich, Died January 27, 1863
Martha (Mother), Died November 15, 1884
W. T. Leftwich, Died August 18, 1897
Ruth Leftwich, Died January 12, 1919
J. W. Leftwich, Died February 20, 1920
Marg. Leftwich, Died March 11, 1924
Fannie Huddleston, Died December 7, 1933
Jonathan L. Ensor, Died December 23, 1825

MARRIAGES

Ruth Jared & Martin Brown married November 24, 1826
W. F. Leftwich & Martha Brown was married September 16, 1847
Jonathan L. Ensor & Sarah F. Ensor married March 20 A. D. 1867
Frank Bullard & Louvenia J. Ensor married September 21, A. D. 1876