

Descendants of John Keeton

Generation No. 1

1. JOHN¹ KEETON was born Abt. 1585 in Kent, England, and died Bef. 1623 in York Co., VA. He married MARY PRYOR, daughter of WILLIAM PRYOR and ELLENER HARRISON.

Notes for JOHN KEETON:

John Keeton and wife, Mary Pryor, daughter of William Pryor, were among the first settlers in the Virginia colony, living there before 1650, according to evidence found in records of Colonial Virginia. James and John Keiton were in the colony, arriving about 1610, based on evidence found in the British Records Office. The latter evidence--from the British Records Office--suggests they were among the very first Keetons from England to settle in America. John Keeton is listed in the prestigious Jamestowne Society's Register of Qualifying Seventeenth Century Ancestors, which is evidence the Society recognizes him as potentially one of the early Jamestown settlers. Jamestown, VA, credited with being the first permanent English settlement in America, claims May 14, 1607 as the date the first colonists landed on the little peninsula.

At some point in time, John Keiton married Mary Pryor, either before his travel to America or following. John Keeton's financial stature is not known but evidence shows that Mary Pryor's father was a man of means. Their child was William Keeton, born about 1622. No proof has been found but researchers believe William Keeton had to have been born in the colony to be of an age to become indentured by 1641, which he was. That would make William Keeton one of the first--if not the very first--Keeton born in America.

Much of the research for these notes is attributed--and credit is given--to Azalia S. Moore for her work in preparation for writing the book, "The Keeton, Keaton, Caton Family History."

A John Keiton, believed to be the brother of James Keiton, of Kent, England, died in York County, VA, just a day's horseback ride from Jamestown, prior to 1623. Our John Keeton begat a son, William, born about 1622. Researchers have placed John's death "before 1623." Was he killed by the Indians on that terrible Good Friday, March 22, 1622, when they slaughtered 347 of the inhabitants? We do not know for sure. But the proximity of the murderous mass killings and the time and place of John Keeton's death--before 1623 in York County, VA--compel us to consider the possibility that he could have been a victim of the 1622 massacre. His name does not appear on the official list of victims. However, according to "The Records of the Virginia Company of London," Pages 565-571, Volume III, 1933, U. S. Government Printing Office, all of the victims were not identified by name. Furthermore, historians have written in encyclopedia and school books that as many as two-thirds of the early colonists died of disease and harsh living conditions.

The killings occurred in the 80 settlements on the north and south sides of the James River. John Keiton and his family--it is not known whether their son, William, was born before or after the massacre--would almost surely have been in one of those settlements. The attackers spared no age, sex or condition; and were so sudden in their indiscriminate slaughter that few

could discern the blow or the weapon that killed them. At the census taken in 1624-25, it is recorded that three hundred and forty-seven out of a population of twelve hundred and forty were murdered by the Indians in the massacre of 1622.

Regardless of whether he died in the Indian massacre, we know that John Keiton left a widow, Mary Keiton, and a small son, William Keiton. Mary did not marry again until she married Richard Elrington. In the meantime, she lived with her father and/or brother, William Pryor.

Neither John Keeton nor Mary Pryor's name has been found on any immigrant passenger list but it should be noted that Mary Pryor's father, William Pryor, of London, Justice of York County and Planter, was also owner of the ship, the Honor. Names of family members of the owner might not be included on passenger lists.

The Honor made several trips across the Atlantic Ocean, bringing passengers and goods. This ship was used frequently for transportation of people and supplies. Records show that the Honor made eight crossings with the first voyage carrying 150 passengers, departing London between September 24 and October 1, 1640. The last crossing was in August of 1660, loaded with tobacco shipped from York County to London.

If John Keeton and Mary Pryor were in the Jamestown settlement prior to 1610, they, along with the other pioneers, suffered one dreadful disaster after another. The site of the colony turned out to be a bad choice. The ground was swampy, and the drinking water impure. They could not grow the crops needed to provide food and money. A meager and unwholesome diet weakened the men, and about two-thirds of them soon died of malnutrition, malaria, pneumonia and dysentery.

To further complicate their early problems, they had not expected the sharp contrasts of climate. The winter of 1609 brought the colony to its lowest ebb due to fire, drought, Indian attacks, disease, starvation, and lack of strong leadership following an accident that forced their first leader, Captain John Smith, to return to England for treatment of his wounds.

After John Keeton died, about 1622, which was about the time their son, William, was born, Mary Pryor Keeton lived with her father and/or brother, William Pryor, until about 1646 when she married Richard Elrington. Apparently, Elrington died within a few days after their marriage.

There is court evidence that Richard Elrington's will was dated May 26, 1646 and recorded June 16, 1646. In the will, Richard Elrington made a bequest to Mary Keeton. Then in a later court entry, she is referred to as Mary Elrington, Executrix of the will of Richard Elrington. That would seem to place the date of marriage of Richard Elrington and Mary Pryor Keeton sometime between May 26 and June 16, 1646.

In addition to receiving a generous share of her father's rather large estate, Mary Pryor Keeton Elrington received a share of Richard Elrington's estate. Presumably, some of her wealth filtered down to her son, William Keeton, Sr.

Child of JOHN KEETON and MARY PRYOR is:

2. i. WILLIAM² KEETON, SR., b. Abt. 1622.

Generation No. 2

2. WILLIAM² KEETON, SR. (*JOHN*¹) was born Abt. 1622. He married UNKNOWN UNKNOWN.

Notes for WILLIAM KEETON, SR.:

References were found in the Old Rappahannock, Gloucester, Lancaster, and York County (VA) Court records related to the first William Keeton, who was the father of the William Keeton who married Elizabeth. For the purpose of distinguishing between William, the father, and William who married Elizabeth, we will refer to the father as William, Sr. No will or other instrument has been located to designate the date of death of William Keeton, Sr. but references to his estate appear in the court records. William Keeton, Sr. is the son of John and Mary Pryor Keeton. He was named after his maternal grandfather, William Pryor.

.At least two children of William Keeton, Sr. are found in the Old Rappahannock records. Two other individuals could be sons. In the Old Rappahannock County Deed Book 1656-1664, Part II, there is the record of Thomas Catlyn and William Catlyn of the Parish of Sittenbourne in the County of Rappahannock, carpenter.

Thomas is clearly specified as the son of William Catlyn. Thomas had lost a red cow and calf which were marked by a swallow forked on the right ear and a hole in the left ear and two nicks under the hole. The cow and calf had been given to Thomas Catlyn by George Taylor. Thomas and William Kirton are noted as residents of the county during the period following 1660. Thomas Kirton became a justice and was in charge of assigning the lands in the northern neck.

Edward Keeting and Robert Catten appear several times in these documents. Furthermore, it is possible that Henry Creighton is a fifth son of William, Sr. John Keeton appeared in Lancaster County shortly after William Keeton, Sr. was living there. He, too, could be a son.

The name William Keeton first appeared in the legal records of York County, Virginia, on March 24, 1645. William Keeton of York County (1645) was bonded to serve William Hockaday for a term of five years from February 1641. The young man would have been 16 to 20 years of age when he began his training. This record suggests that William Keeton, Sr. was born about 1622. Unless there are missing immigration records, William Keeton, Sr. was born in the colonies in the same year as the massive Indian massacre of the Jamestown colony.

The term of the bond of indenturement of William Keeton, Sr. was five years, beginning in 1641. Early in 1645, William Keeton, Sr. ran away from the overseer of his indenture. On March 24, 1645, a jury agreed that he should be returned to his overseer to serve the remainder of his indenture through February 28, 1646, and that the sheriff "shall forthwith cause Keaton to be whipt at the whipping post and to receive 30 lashes on his bare shoulders."

In the year 1646, William Keeton, Sr. finished his bonded service and sought to gain his fortune. It is believed that he moved on to the frontier, living briefly in Lancaster County and then moving up the river to Old Rappahannock County, where he died before 1700.

His name appears several times in Old Rappahannock County Court records spelled William

Catten, Catton, Kyten and perhaps other spellings. Those entries pertain mostly to payment and collection of debts and where he served as witness on deeds and other documents. That would seem to confirm his literacy—that he could read and write.

Children of WILLIAM KEETON and UNKNOWN UNKNOWN are:

3.
 - i. WILLIAM³ KEETON, d. Abt. 1731.
 - ii. THOMAS KEETON.
 - iii. EDWARD KEETON.
 - iv. ROBERT KEETON.
 - v. JOHN KEETON.

Generation No. 3

3. WILLIAM³ KEETON (*WILLIAM*², *JOHN*¹) died Abt. 1731. He married (1) MARGARET BERRY Bef. 1677, daughter of HENRY SR. and UNKNOWN UNKNOWN. She died May 1687. He married (2) ELIZABETH UNKNOWN Aft. 1687. She died Aft. 1739.

Notes for WILLIAM KEETON:

Much of the information that has been found about William and Elizabeth Keeton relates to actions and events occurring after William's death, which is estimated to have been about 1731, in Goochland County, VA. Nevertheless, public records in several Virginia counties refer to actions by William Keeton during his lifetime. Elizabeth died after 1739. She was administratrix of William's estate and indications are she defended it vigorously, in court, when necessary.

William Keeton who married Elizabeth is the father of James Keeton and son of the first William Keeton, whom, for clarification, we shall refer to as William Keeton, Sr. William and Elizabeth had two other sons, Joseph and John. Based on the information at hand, it is estimated that William Keeton was born near the middle of the 17th century, or about 1650. His father, William, Sr., was born about 1622 and we know that William's son, James Keeton, was born about 1710, so William's birth date near 1650 seems about right.

William was married twice: first to Margaret Berry, daughter of Henry Berry, Sr. In the Old Rappahannock County (VA) Deeds and Wills, 1677-1682, Part 1, there is the record of Henry Berry's will dated Septo die Junii 1677 (7 June 1677) in which the grant of 100 acres is made to William Kerton (Keeton). This could be evidence that William Keeton and Margaret Berry were married prior to June 1677. Margaret Keeton, wife of William Keeton, was buried in the Old Bruton Parish Church Parish May 31, 1687.

Later, probably in King and Queen County, William Keeton married Elizabeth, whose maiden name is unknown. Whether William and Elizabeth Keeton are also buried in the Old Bruton Parish Church Parish is not known.

William Keeton is believed to have professed his faith in God to the Quakers. It could be argued that he was also instrumental in the advancement of the Quaker movement in America. In the Minutes of a Meeting of a group of Quakers in Virginia, recorded in 1686 is a statement referencing William Kuton (Keeton). The event occurred in 1686. William's first wife, Margaret Berry Keeton, died a year later. Could Margaret have been in poor health, putting

William under stress to urgently seek guidance from the Quakers? The quote follows:

"William Kuton very honestly applies to this Meeting for advice in order to his staying or removing from Rappahannock. Inasmuch as there is no friends meeting there but himself, he signifyeth that he finds somethings stirring in his heart with love of God to the people and by himself hath not freedom to remove. He desires that if the Meeting do judge it meet he should stay, they would take care that he may be visited on all opportunities that present, and that friends would acquaint traveling friends of that same, that so if possible the desire of his heart may be answered concerning that people. The Meeting approveth of what ye friend hath proposed and doe advise that his request may be answered by friends on both shore as opportunity offereth."

The legacy of William Keeton can be traced back into Essex and Rappahannock Counties of Virginia during the years between 1650 and 1730. There is a record of James Keatton serving as witness to the deed between his father, William Keatton, of Drisdall Parish in King and Queen County, Planter, and Solomon Harper, when William bought land from Harper. This document, dated 15 February 1724, was recorded in Essex County Deed Book 18, page 21-23. Essex County was formed from Old Rappahannock County, with records for the new area beginning about 1700. Prior to that most evidence was located in Old Rappahannock County and William Keaton's name appears there in Deeds and Wills Books and other places.

William and Elizabeth bought and traded nearby acreage adding to land previously inherited. In the Essex County Deed Books 17 and 18, William paid Thomas Harper 3,000 pounds of good lawful tobacco for 100 acres of land lying on the head of Piscataway Creek. In another transaction, William and Elizabeth Keaton sold Samuel Thompson 200 acres of land in the Parish of South Farnham, County of Essex.

In another action, William Keeton acted as Bondsman for, presumably, a neighbor or business friend. In the Court which met on 20 February 1727, as recorded in Essex County Order Book 1725-1729, abstracted and transcribed by Ruth and Sam Sparacio, William Keaton served as a security for Thomas Burnett who was arrested at the suit of William Norwell in a case of slander. Burnett failed to appear and William Keaton was held to be responsible for paying the bond. The records also show that William Keaton signed as witness on several legal documents. His son, James, was sometimes at the same court appearances and also signed as witness. That could be evidence that James was William and Elizabeth's oldest son.

After William's death, Elizabeth Keeton was appointed administratrix of his estate. In that capacity, she was involved in numerous court actions. In some cases she was defendant and in others she was plaintiff.

Goochland County Court Records dated in 1731 and 1732 contain references related to the estate of William Keeton, deceased. Apparently, William and Elizabeth's sons, who would have been grown men by the time their father died, quarreled about their father's estate. When Elizabeth could not handle family disputes privately, she might take them to court. In that regard, she filed separate petitions against James Keaton and Joseph Keayton, which were dismissed by the Goochland court of February 1732. On page 83 of the Goochland County Court Records dated 14 June 1733, John Keaton filed a suit against Elizabeth Keaton that was dismissed. There are references to other suits filed both by and against Elizabeth as administratrix of William's estate. Judgments of money or tobacco were awarded both in

favor of and against the estate.

It is fitting to insert a note here about the role of tobacco in the colony. The colony struggled to survive for its first few years. Finally, a strain of tobacco was introduced by sailor John Rolfe around 1612, and as a profitable export commodity, it led to increasing expansion, primarily along the James River. By the mid-17th century, tobacco had become one of their most profitable export commodities. It was so popular that merchants often accepted tobacco as a form of currency in exchange for goods and services and court judgements were awarded in tobacco, as readers will see in the following pages.

In 1732 Henry Bell filed a petition against Elizabeth Keatton, administratrix of William Keaton. This case was dismissed. Then in the Goochland County Court session that met 11 April 1733, Henry Bell filed a suit against Elizabeth Keatton, administratrix of William Keaton. That case was also dismissed. No evidence has been found that Henry Bell pursued his complaint with William Keaton's estate any further.

There were friends who were willing to go to court and testify as witnesses for Elizabeth Keeton but they wanted to be compensated for their time and travel. In the record dated 8 November 1733, Elizabeth Keeton was ordered to pay John Pickett 261 pounds of tobacco for three days attendance and coming and going nine miles three times as an evidence for her against John Roy and others. She was ordered to pay William Pearce and Joseph Roberts each 270 pounds of tobacco. In that same court, Elizabeth, as administratrix, filed a charge against John Taylor, John Roy and John Griffin. A jury found in favor of the plaintiff (the estate) and awarded a judgment of £4.1.6.

Was Elizabeth Keeton delinquent in paying a pledge to the church? On page 403 of the Goochland County Court Records, dated 12 February 1736/37, there was the record of an action of debt from John Martin and John Rogers, Gentlemen, Church Wardens of Drysdale Parish, against Eliza Keaton. This suit was dismissed.

A reference to Elizabeth Keaton appeared in the Orange County, Virginia Court Order Book One. She was living at her residence in Orange County about 1739 when, apparently, her son, James, paid her a visit. In the action of trespass upon the case between Elizabeth Keaton, plaintiff, and James Keaton, defendant, at the defendant's motion, a special imparlance (delay) was granted him until the next court. Apparently, James went to his father, William Keaton's home, occupied by the widow, Elizabeth Keaton, his mother, perhaps for a confrontation.

Quite possibly much of the land William and Elizabeth Keeton owned was in King and Queen County, but those records were destroyed during the Civil War and only a few remain. William Keeton died about 1731 and Elizabeth died after 1739. No wills have been located. It is not known where William and Elizabeth are buried.

Notes for MARGARET BERRY:

Burial date referenced on page 529 of Azalia Moore's book, Keeton, Keaton, Caton Family History.

More About MARGARET BERRY:

Burial: 31 May 1687, Old Bruton Parish (Virginia)

Children of WILLIAM KEETON and ELIZABETH UNKNOWN are:

4.
 - i. JAMES⁴ KEETON, b. Abt. 1710.
 - ii. JOSEPH KEETON.
 - iii. JOHN KEETON.

Generation No. 4

4. JAMES⁴ KEETON (*WILLIAM*³, *WILLIAM*², *JOHN*¹) was born Abt. 1710. He married SARAH FRANCES HURT, daughter of WILLIAM HURT, JR..

Notes for JAMES KEETON:

Researchers have placed James Keeton's date of birth at about 1710. The actual date probably was on the earlier side of 1710. In the Essex County (VA) Order Book 1723-1725, page 168, in the court which met 17 June 1724, James Keeton was paid for four days attendance as a witness. James had to be approximately 20 years of age to take on these responsibilities. He is the son of William and Elizabeth Keeton. Elizabeth's maiden name is unknown. James was born in northern Virginia, probably in King and Queen County. He married Sarah Frances Hurt and they were the parents of three sons, William, James, Jr., and Hezekiah.

There is a liberal sprinkling of the names of James Keeton and Sarah Hurt in the official records of several Virginia and South Carolina counties. Some researchers might interpret that as a gauge of James and Sarah's prominence in their community although nothing has been found linking either of them to a titled position or an elected office. Following are some selected examples of the activities of James and Sarah Keeton that appear in official records:

James Keeton was involved in the Revolutionary War and his service is documented in both the South Carolina and Virginia colonies. He appears to have entered the service in Albemarle County, VA as a leader of the local militia. He was referenced as Captain James Caton in numerous Revolutionary documents. There are records in South Carolina of a James Kattion serving in the Continental Army in South Carolina. In Virginia, there are Revolutionary War records that indicate he served in the 3rd, 5th, and 7th Continental Lines, name spelled Captain James Caton.

The 1800 Tax List of Albemarle County, Fredericksville, Parish, District of Thomas Garth, lists James Keeton with two white males over twenty-one, two horses, and no tithable slaves. That he is so listed seems to indicate he was still alive--about 90 years old--in 1800 living where he had been living prior to the Revolutionary War. James Keeton's name also appears in the 1790 Federal Census of Virginia. At that time, he lived near his youngest son, Hezekiah Keeton. James reported seven white souls in his home in 1790.

In addition to the share of the family plantation that James inherited at the time of his father's death, county records in Virginia show that he and Sarah were involved in trading other tracts of land but there is no tally of the total acreage they controlled at any given time. James Keeton, and sometimes Sarah Keeton or Frances Keeton's, names appear on land transaction documents. For example, James and Sarah's names appeared in an indenture made on 14 February 1771 between James Keeton and William Garrison for a parcel of land that James sold to Garrison. This land is described as 150 acres being bound by the lands of William

Keeton and located on Rocky Creek. The document is recorded in Albemarle County Deed Book 5, on page 262-263.

James Keeton, a planter, or farmer, was referenced as being of Fredricksville Parish in Albemarle County in a deed made from James Keaton to his son, William Keeton, dated 12 March 1767, as recorded on page 334-335 of Albemarle County Deed Book 1764-1768. In an entry in the Albemarle County Deeds 1772-1776 on page 172, James Keaton, Parish of Fredericksville, in Albemarle County, deeded all his holdings to his loving wife, Sarah Keaton, including the dwelling house, an inventory, and further, he stated, that if Sarah Keaton should die, the said goods and chattels should be delivered to his beloved son, James Keaton. This latter action seems to have been taken in preparation for James Keaton's entry into some potentially hazardous activity or travel. The document was not a will in the traditional sense.

When he was in the militia, apparently, even Captain James Keeton had to pay a fine for missing roll call one time. In the entries related to the militia, the Frederick County, Virginia Deed Book Series orders that James Caton of the foot company commanded by John Harden be fined five shillings or 50 pounds of tobacco for absenting himself from one private muster within twelve months past. This document was dated 2 September 1755.

James and Sarah Frances Hurt Keeton must have been of the Quaker faith and members of that church's local congregation, even if they did not always attend regularly enough to satisfy the elders. James Keaton was among the list of insolvents returned to the Vestry that met on 19 July 1769. Abstracts of Law Order Book for 1742-1748 copied by Kathleen Richardson Meredith and appearing in the Louisa County (VA) Historical Magazine, Summer 1982, affirm that there was considerable persecution of the Quakers in that county during the decade between 1740 and 1750. Frances Keaton was on a list of people ordered to court to stand charges for being absent from the Divine Services of the Church of England. James Keaton was required to answer to the Grand Jury concerning his willful absence from the Divine Services at their parish church the space of two months.

Even as an adult, James had to be on good behavior or he could have to answer to his mother, Elizabeth Keeton--in court. A reference to Elizabeth Keaton appeared in the Orange County, Virginia Court Order Book One. In the action of trespass upon the case between Elizabeth Keaton, plaintiff, and James Keaton, defendant, at the defendant's motion, a special imparlance (delay) was granted him until the next court. Apparently, James Keeton went to his father, William Keaton's, home, occupied by the widow, Elizabeth Keaton, perhaps for a confrontation. Apparently, Elizabeth Keaton and her sons disagreed about their father's estate. Several court records give an indication of these conflicts. Elizabeth's petition against James Keaton was dismissed by the court of February 1732.

When they lived in Orange County, VA, James and Sarah's house was on a road from the County Line of Orange to Buffiloe Meadow and he was, therefore, along with other men living in the neighborhood, appointed to the road gang responsible for clearing a road between those two points the nearest way to Braxton's Quarter. These facts are documented in both Orange County Road Orders 1734-1749 and The Court Order Book of 1739.

In one court case referenced in The Court Order Book of 1739 for the Grand Jury of Orange County, VA, James Keaton was found deft for concealing one tithable in the year 1739, "having last June Court pleased that he was not guilty. A jury brought in their verdict--guilty.

This suit was continued in 1740 until on 22 May 1740, James Keatton was found guilty of the deed.”

Actually, there are numerous more records showing that James Keeton was in court several times for actions such as land leases, reporting of tithables, and even for traveling 30 miles twice and attending court. He was to be paid for the two days of attendance as well as for his travel. One could form the opinion that James was readily available at the courthouses in the counties where he traveled because his name appears frequently as witness on official papers. Apparently, James Keeton could read and write. There is no hint of him signing papers with “his mark.”

According to research, James Keeton lived more than 90 years and died sometime after 1800. His place of burial is not known.

Notwithstanding the seemingly minor disagreements and infractions detailed above, it is believed James and Sarah were respected leaders in their community. The many public references to them and their activities would seem to support that belief.

Children of JAMES KEETON and SARAH HURT are:

- i. WILLIAM⁵ KEETON, b. Abt. 1750, Virginia; m. CATHERINE BROWN.
- ii. JAMES KEETON, JR., b. Abt. 1755, Virginia.
5. iii. HEZEKIAH KEETON, SR., b. Abt. 1760, Virginia.

Generation No. 5

5. HEZEKIAH⁵ KEETON, SR. (*JAMES⁴, WILLIAM³, WILLIAM², JOHN¹*) was born Abt. 1760 in Virginia. He married BATSEY UNKNOWN Abt. 1783 in Albemarle Co., VA. She was born Abt. 1764 in Virginia.

Notes for HEZEKIAH KEETON, SR.:

Hezekiah Keeton, Sr. was born about 1760 in Virginia, possibly, Albemarle County, and owned land there. He is listed on the 1785 First Census of the United States along with his brothers, William and James Keaton, in Albemarle County, VA and at that time, as one soul, meaning he was unmarried. Hezekiah was also listed on the 1787 tax list for Albemarle County. He was a son--believed to be the youngest of three sons--of Revolutionary War soldier James Keeton and Sarah Frances Hurt.

Sometime after 1785 he married Batsey Unknown and they lived in Albemarle County. There is a deed dated June 1795 where Hezekiah Keeton and Batsey Keeton sold their land to James Keeton.

Note in the following excerpt from Albemarle County Road Orders 1783-1816 listing a James & Hezekiah Keatons assigned to the gang responsible for maintaining the section of road from the Cook Mountain to William Garrisons road. It seems highly probable that this could be our Hezekiah and either his father, James, or his brother, James. It was customary in Virginia at the time for property owners on or near a road to be required to help maintain it.

"8 September 1785 N.S., Ord. Bk. 1783-85, p. 537

The Road Viewed by William Thompson & Others leading from the Cook Mountain to William Garrisons road is by the Court Established agreeable to their report, and it is Ordered that William Dalton be Appointed Overseer of the Same and that he have for his gang William Burks Senr. and Junr. John Burks, Joseph Keaton, John, Joseph. & Jessee Watsons and, Archer Crawford, James & Hezekiah Keatons, Isham Dalton and his own with their male labouring titheables."

By the 1790s, news of cheap land, abundant opportunities and plentiful fish and game for good hunting in the unsettled West was making Hezekiah restless. He and Batsey sold their Albemarle County land to James Keeton in June 1795 for £200, loaded their belongings in a wagon, said goodbye to family and friends in Albemarle County knowing they would never see some of them again and began a long trek across the mountains going west.

There is no record of the route they took across the mountains when they left Virginia but it had to have been on the famous Wilderness Road. That was the first--and only--gateway across the Appalachian barrier accessible by wagons at the time. Even the Wilderness Road was little more than a dirt trail barely wide enough for a wagon and team. It pretty much followed either on or close to the buffalo paths winding through the mountains.

From 1775 to 1800 the Wilderness Road was the principal overland entry into the limitless reaches of the West. It started at Wadkin's Ferry, WV (near southeastern Pennsylvania) and dipped southwestward across Virginia to its southwestern corner where the three states of Virginia, Tennessee and Kentucky meet at the renowned Cumberland Gap, thence angled northwest through Kentucky to Louisville, a distance of 700 miles. Up until 1785 it could be traveled by pack horse but no wagons could be used farther west than the Holston River Valley (near Abingdon, VA). By 1790 the road had been widened and many bridges installed so covered wagons drawn by horses or oxen could cross the Cumberland Mountains into Tennessee and Kentucky.

Traffic on the Wilderness Road was heavy--most of it going west, of course, where cheap land and rich soil were reported to be plentiful. Many--perhaps most--of the wagons traveled in groups, or wagon trains. Men drove the oxen or horses hitched to covered wagons with milk cows tied behind the wagons. Some travelers preferred to use oxen to pull their wagons west of Cumberland Gap because oxen seemed to do better than horses pulling heavy wagons across the soggy prairies of Kentucky. Some of the men rode horses, leading pack mules or horses. It is not known whether Hezekiah and Batsey may have hitched oxen to their wagon for some of their journey.

The quarter century following 1750 was a period of fierce Indian fighting with the large Cherokee tribe, as well as the Shawnee, who occupied parts of Carolina, Tennessee, Kentucky and Ohio. They ambushed and killed hundreds of settlers, including one of Daniel Boone's sons. But by the time the Wilderness Road opened to wagon traffic the threat of Indian attacks had pretty much dissipated. So far as is known, Hezekiah and Batsey got across the mountains without incident.

It appears that Hezekiah and his family went first to Illinois, where their son, John Robert Keeton, was born, and then to Kentucky and settled in Franklin County, KY where Hezekiah Keaton is listed on an 1801 Tax Report but without any taxes shown. The first year any detail is shown on his property is 1808 and it shows 1 male over 16 and 1 male over 21. He is also

listed on the 1810 and the 1813 Tax Reports as well as the 1810 Franklin County, KY census. He shows on the 1820 Scott County, KY census.

According to one researcher, Hezekiah shows up on the Kentucky Tax Lists in 1795, name spelled Katon. If it can be confirmed that he was on a 1795 Kentucky tax list, it would seem to indicate that after crossing the mountains from Virginia, the family stopped off and established residence in Kentucky before going on to Illinois, where at least one of their children, John Robert Keeton, has stated that he was born, in 1799. They moved to Franklin County, KY by 1801.

At a public auction held at the State House door in Frankfort, KY, on May 1, 1809, Hezekiah Keeton purchased 1200 acres of Franklin County, land, "for the sum of one dollar fifty cents, the whole amount of the tax thereon for the year 1801, the land being third rate as certified by the Commissioners aforesaid together with twenty-five cents, the cost of advertising the said tract. . . ," according to the property deed.

Between 1810 and 1820, Hezekiah and Batsey were living in Franklin County, KY, their family then consisting of six children: Elizabeth, Margaret, Martha, William, Hezekiah, and John Robert. According to depositions at a Supreme Court case in Missouri, the Keetons were very poor in Kentucky.

In 1817 Hezekiah signed the bond in Woodford County, KY for his daughter, Margaret, to marry Larkin Wilhite. His name on the marriage bond was spelled "Keighton." Earlier, when Hezekiah and Batsey sold their land in Virginia, they both placed their mark on the land sale papers. Those two instances of signatures by making an "X" causes researchers to believe that neither Hezekiah nor Batsey could read and write. It is obvious, however, that they recognized the importance of education, for at least some of their children went to school and John Robert went on to become a rather famous medical doctor at the time.

By 1820 Hezekiah was living in Scott County next to Lexington, KY with one child (a boy 16-26 years old, which would be John Robert). Hezekiah and Batsey arrived in Franklin County, TN in the 1820s, probably about 1823, where they lived either on the farm owned by their daughter, Elizabeth's, husband, John Keeton, or nearby. Hezekiah and Batsey's sons, Hezekiah, Jr., and William, as well as their daughter, Margaret, who had married Larkin Wilhite before leaving Kentucky, also lived in Franklin County, TN.

About that same time, Hezekiah and Batsey's son, John Robert, was finishing his schooling in Lexington, KY and he, too, came to Franklin County, TN. John Robert stayed long enough that he met and courted John Keeton's daughter by his first marriage, Catharina. John Robert and Catharina were married in Franklin County, TN and left shortly thereafter and settled in that portion of Perry County that later became Decatur County, TN where John Robert practiced medicine from about 1826 until his death in 1858.

The 1830 Franklin County, TN census shows an elderly lady, probably Batsey, living with her widowed daughter, Elizabeth. Thus, Hezekiah would have died--at about age 60 to 65--before 1830 and is likely buried in Franklin County, TN. Elizabeth became a widow in 1826 when her husband, John Keeton, died in Missouri.

Children of HEZEKIAH KEETON and BATSEY UNKNOWN are:

- 6. i. DR. JOHN ROBERT⁶ KEETON, b. 1799, Illinois; d. 08 Jun 1858, Decatur Co., TN.
- 7. ii. WILLIAM KEETON, b. Abt. 1788, Virginia; d. Abt. Nov 1845, Missouri.
- iii. HEZEKIAH KEETON, b. Abt. 1797; d. Aft. 1860.

Notes for HEZEKIAH KEETON:

In the 1860 Tennessee census, Hezekiah is shown as 63 years old, or born in 1797. He also stated that he cannot read or write.

- 8. iv. ELIZABETH KEETON, b. Abt. 1792, Kentucky; d. Bef. 1840.
- 9. v. MARGARET KEETON, b. Abt. 1794, Virginia.
- vi. MARTHA KEETON.

Generation No. 6

6. DR. JOHN ROBERT⁶ KEETON (*HEZEKIAH⁵, JAMES⁴, WILLIAM³, WILLIAM², JOHN¹*) was born 1799 in Illinois, and died 08 Jun 1858 in Decatur Co., TN. He married CATHARINA F. KEETON Abt. 1825 in Probably Franklin Co., TN, daughter of JOHN KEETON and UNKNOWN UNKNOWN. She was born 02 Feb 1806 in Kentucky, and died 09 Jul 1870 in Decatur Co., TN.

Notes for DR. JOHN ROBERT KEETON:

Born in Illinois in 1799, John Robert Keeton is the son of Hezekiah (Sr.) and Batsey Keeton. By the time he was two years old, he had moved to Kentucky, where he most likely received his education, and then moved on to that portion of Perry County, TN that later became Decatur County. He stopped off in Franklin County, TN long enough to find the girl who became his wife--his cousin, Catharina Keeton. He is said to have been in (Perry) Decatur County in 1835 and was on the 1837 Perry County Tax Rolls but is believed to have been there by 1826 when his and Catharina's first child, John Lawson Keeton, was born.

With the departure of the Indians and less fear of attacks, white settlers quickly began moving to west Tennessee by about 1820. Robert and Catharina, were the very first Keetons to arrive and settle in what became Decatur County. They found plentiful wild game and fish for hunting, cheap, fertile bottom land for farming, and abundant opportunity waiting for adventurous pioneers.

It must not have been very difficult for Robert and Catharina to leave Franklin County and go west. They settled at a place called Shannonville, currently known as Bob's Landing. It is speculated that they could have arrived as newly weds, by river boat, or barge, on the Tennessee River, and got off the boat on the west bank at Shannonville, after having been married at Catharina's home in Franklin County, TN. Even if Robert and Catharina came to Shannonville by boat, they first could have traveled overland by covered wagon or other period vehicle as far as Clifton, for example. Nothing has been found to indicate whether Shannonville was their intended destination when they set out from Franklin County and headed west.

Robert probably received his schooling in Lexington, KY, while living in Franklin County, KY and Scott County, KY. After finishing medical school about the early 1820s, he followed

his parents and siblings to Franklin County, TN where they were close neighbors of John and Elizabeth Keeton. John Keeton and his first wife, whose name is unknown at this time, were the parents of Catharina. Elizabeth Keeton, John's second wife, was a sister of Robert. It is generally believed that John Keeton and his family had lived close to the Hezekiah Keeton family in Kentucky. So it is possible that Robert and Catharina had known each other before their separate moves to Tennessee. At any rate, they did court each other while living in Franklin County, TN. It seems probable--in the absence of any written record--that their marriage was performed by Catharina's father, Justice of the Peace John Keeton.

Historians have written that Robert and Catharina are cousins and genealogists are still trying to trace their blood lines to find where they connect. It is written in Goodspeed's History of Tennessee that they were cousins. Were they first cousins? No one knows for sure. After marrying in Franklin County, TN, they moved on to west Tennessee, settling in what became Decatur County and the new doctor set up a medical practice at Shannonville, near the banks of the Tennessee River. That was the beginning of his highly successful career in family medicine. He was regarded as a rather famous doctor during his time.

In addition to farming and practicing medicine for almost 40 years, there is evidence that he was also appointed as legal representative in a significant court case representing his and Catharina's families in Missouri. Furthermore, court records for Decatur County, TN indicate that Robert Keeton was appointed as guardian of minor children in at least one case, in the April, 1850 term. However, there is no record of him ever being schooled in law.

Dr. Robert received several land grants in Decatur County (see note below). He and Catharina cleared the land and built their home on property he acquired along the banks of Turnbo Creek near Dunbar, Bath Springs, just a few steps from the site that is now Keeton Cemetery.

One of the earliest white settlers in Decatur County--the Chickasaw Indians had occupied the west Tennessee territory until about 1820--he first practiced medicine at Shannonville, then later at Scotts Hill. He and Catharina became the parents of nine children (some genealogists and historians have reported that there were 11 children but they do not give names and this researcher can find only nine names). Robert died June 8, 1858, and is buried at Keeton Cemetery beside his wife, Catharina.

The Missouri court case referred to above involved the settlement of the estate of Robert's brother, William Keeton, deceased, which consisted primarily of about 20 slaves that William had fraudulently purchased in a rigged auction of John Keeton's estate. The court case was filed in St. Francois County, MO. Robert was appointed attorney and legal representative on behalf of himself and his other brother and sisters and their spouses as well as the children of John Keeton, deceased, Robert's father-in-law, all claiming to be heirs. The defendants, the widow and daughter of William Keeton, were represented by several attorneys, William Spradling being one.

The slaves had belonged to John Keeton. John hired his wife's brother, Deputy Sheriff William Keeton, to help him take the slaves from Franklin County, TN, first to Illinois to mine salt--which proved to be not profitable--and then to Missouri to mine lead in the 1820s. John Keeton died in 1826 and William Keeton, who was not an heir, was appointed administrator of John Keeton's estate, brought the slaves back to Tennessee and rigged an estate auction at which he bought most of the slaves at low, low prices. That auction was later found by the

court to have been a fraud.

Meanwhile, William, claiming ownership of the slaves, took them back to Missouri to resume the lead mining operation. He got involved romantically with a married woman, Hannah Cole, who had a daughter, Susan, while she was still living with her husband. The woman filed for divorce from her husband, Thomas Cole, in 1844, when the daughter, Susan, was about seven years old, and married William Keeton on October 16, 1845. William claimed the daughter, Susan, as his own and, very soon after William's death, she was legitimated by the St. Francois Co., MO court as William's daughter. Less than three months after William married the woman, he died, before January 6, 1846. The widow and daughter claimed ownership of the slaves, which, the court later ruled, were fraudulently taken from John's estate settlement several years earlier and they should be claimed by their lawful owners, the children of John Keeton.

Robert, and his other brother and sisters and their spouses, and John Keeton's children, filed suits in St. Francois County, MO, all claiming that they were the rightful heirs and that Hannah and Susan Keeton were not entitled to the slaves. In the suit, Robert Keeton was named as attorney and legal representative. The case went to court in the mid- to late-1840s, was appealed to the Missouri Supreme Court and dragged on until after Robert Keeton's death but there is ample proof that he traveled to Missouri and actively represented the family until his death, after which another attorney was appointed.

In the appointment of a new attorney in March 1862 to replace Robert Keeton, Catharina names herself and some--but not all--of her children and their spouses as heirs of Robert Keeton, deceased, who was an heir of his brother, William Keeton. For example, her son, John Lawson's, name was not included. Perhaps that was because he had already built a successful medical practice of his own, at Swallow Bluff. In addition to Catharina, those named are Thomas B. Garrard, Julia M. Garrard, William H. Keeton, Sophronia Jobe, Francis Jobe and Albert Keeton.

Had the Robert Keeton heirs prevailed in the case, Catharina might have received up to three slaves in the distribution of the estate. The case was so complicated and dragged on so long--until after 1862--that President Abraham Lincoln had already signed the Emancipation Proclamation freeing all persons held as slaves before a ruling was handed down that the slaves had been fraudulently bought from John Keeton's estate and should be awarded to the rightful owners, the heirs of John Keeton. In the end, no one got anything.

The 1850 Decatur County court case referred to above, titled Martin vs. Keeton, at 35 Tenn 536, also involved distribution of slaves. Separately, The Decatur Co., TN, Slave Schedule for 1850 lists Robert Keeton as owner of three slaves. The 1860 Schedule lists C. F. Keeton as owner of eight slaves. C. F. are Robert's widow, Catharina's, initials.

Note: Records show Robert Keeton involved in several land transactions. He received Decatur County land grants as follows:

1851	167.25	acres	W dist, book 7oc, page 288 g# 12388 (Exact date 8/26/1851)
1852	219	acres	book 16, page 246 g# 13162
1852	90	acres	book 16, page 483 g# 13401
1852	55	acres	book 16, page 765 g# 13681

1852 40 acres book 16, page 766 g# 13682
1854 158 acres book 19, page 98 g# 14598
1859 9.75 acres book __, page __, g# 15929 (apparently posthumously)

Total 739.0 acres

More About DR. JOHN ROBERT KEETON:

Burial: Keeton Cemetery, Bath Springs, Decatur County, TN

Occupation: Medical Doctor, Farmer & Lawyer

More About CATHARINA F. KEETON:

Burial: Keeton Cemetery, Bath Springs, Decatur Co., TN

Children of JOHN KEETON and CATHARINA KEETON are:

10. i. DR. JOHN LAWSON⁷ KEETON, b. 25 May 1826, Decaturville, Perry Co., TN; d. 14 Jun 1881, Decatur Co., TN.
- ii. MARGARET KEETON, b. Abt. 1828, Decatur Co., TN.
11. iii. JULIA M. KEETON, b. Abt. 1829, Decatur Co., TN.
- iv. FRANCES E. KEETON, b. 1832, Decatur Co., TN; d. 23 Oct 1855, Decatur Co., TN; m. JOHN H. HOLLAND.

More About FRANCES E. KEETON:

Burial: Keeton Cemetery, Bath Springs, Decatur Co., TN

12. v. IANTHA ADELIN KEETON, b. 09 Feb 1833, Decatur Co., TN; d. 17 Nov 1919, Shelby Co., TX.
13. vi. ALBERT F. KEETON, b. 06 Aug 1835, Decatur Co., TN.
- vii. WILLIAM H. KEETON, b. 1840, Decatur Co., TN.

More About WILLIAM H. KEETON:

Census: 1860, Decatur Co., TN age 19

14. viii. SOPHRONIA KEETON, b. 18 Feb 1844, Decatur Co., TN; d. 23 Dec 1914, Wayne Co., TN.
15. ix. MAQUIS DE LAFAYETTE KEETON, b. 01 Sep 1846, Decatur Co., TN; d. 11 Jun 1891, Decatur Co., TN.

7. WILLIAM⁶ KEETON (*HEZEKIAH⁵, JAMES⁴, WILLIAM³, WILLIAM², JOHN¹*) was born Abt. 1788 in Virginia, and died Abt. Nov 1845 in Missouri. He married HANNAH MARIAH LUTZ 16 Oct 1845 in Washington Co., MO. She was born 18 Oct 1803 in Missouri, and died 1872 in St. Francois Co., MO.

Notes for WILLIAM KEETON:

William Keeton was born about 1788, in Virginia, and is believed to be the oldest of Hezekiah and Batsey Keeton's children. William was crippled and very poor although it is not known when or how he became crippled. He would have been about nine or ten years old when the family left Virginia and moved to Illinois where his brother, John Robert Keeton, was born. He is listed on tax records in Franklin County, KY in 1810 as one male over 21 years of age.

He also shows up on Franklin County, KY tax records for 1812 and 1813. By about 1815, William had moved to Franklin County, TN and lived on or very near property of John Keeton who married William's sister, Elizabeth, also about 1815.

He bought unspecified property in Franklin County, TN about 1825. In two separate depositions taken after William's death, reference is made to William owning a wagon and team. One deposition states "William owned a wagon and shabby team but when an execution was out it would belong to someone else like his father or his brother." The second deposition reads "William claimed ownership of an old wagon and very ordinary team which wagon and team was claimed by Hezekiah and his father." In other words, when William was faced with court attachments he would transfer the ownership of his wagon and team to his father or his brother, Hezekiah.

Perhaps with some pull from John Keeton, who was the county register, William was a deputy sheriff in Franklin County, TN.

In the 1820s John Keeton hired William to help manage John's slaves, about 20 of them. They took the slaves, first to Illinois to mine salt, then to St. Francois County, MO to mine lead. They were in Missouri by about 1824. John died in Jefferson County, MO in 1826.

Through a series of events involving John's death and the majority of his estate being in Missouri while his heirs lived in Tennessee, William was entrusted by the heirs to continue managing the slaves. Elizabeth, John Keeton's widow, resigned her right to administer in favor of William, her brother. The jurisdiction in Jefferson County, MO appointed a local administrator but John's heirs must have been uneasy with an out-of-state administrator. So, with the heirs' blessings and recommendations, that appointment was terminated and William was appointed to replace the first administrator.

John Keeton's wealth was in land in Tennessee and slaves, which were in Missouri mining lead. John had already given part of the land to his son, George Washington Keeton, as his share of the estate. John's widow, Elizabeth--who is also William's sister--probably received the plantation and house. The rest was to be distributed by William to the heirs but he only made token distributions.

In carrying out his duties, William rigged an estate auction in Tennessee and ended up owning most of the property, most particularly, John's slaves. He took the slaves back to Missouri and resumed lead mining.

It may have been William's intention to get far away from the rest of the Keetons to be out of their reach and avoid their pestering him over the manner in which he took ownership of the slaves. If that was his plan, he failed to consider the long arm of the law. The family members who felt wronged by William's actions initiated several legal actions to try and regain ownership of the slaves. There were numerous court trials regarding the disposition of the estate, one in the Supreme Court of Tennessee at Nashville filed by Robert Lackey, John's son-in-law, which was dismissed due to the slaves being out of state, and also numerous trials in Missouri and Tennessee at the Circuit Court level. All of those trials must have been appealed over the years and wound up in the Missouri Supreme Court case following Williams death.

One of John's daughters, Martha Keeton Swiney, wrote a letter, dated 1847, describing the

settlement to the county court of Jefferson, MO. The letter stated, "William started with twenty slaves and other personal property and afterwards William wanted to make a final settlement of said estate in which he reports a balance due the Estate of upwards of fifty dollars, saying nothing about said slaves or their increase or hire--he makes no application for an Order of distribution of the Estate although he correctly reported six heirs to the Estate of said deceased. . . William Keeton never made any distributions of said slaves to the Heirs or legatees of said John Keeton's estate."

After the estate auction in Tennessee, William took the slaves back to Missouri and resumed the lead mining business. Notwithstanding his crippled physical condition, his newly ill-gotten wealth apparently made him a very eligible bachelor. Records indicate that he must have been romantically involved with a neighbor married woman, Hannah Mariah Lutz Cole, who had a daughter, Susan, born about 1837, while she was still married to her husband, Thomas H. Cole.

Although the daughter was named Susan Cole at birth and carried that name for several of her younger years, she was later acknowledged in court to be the daughter of William Keeton. A further explanation follows in a later paragraph.

Records in the United States General Land Office show that William Keeton received two land patents for land in Township 38 of Range 4 East in the District of Lands of St. Francois County, MO. Each parcel contained 40 acres with a notation that it was a cash transaction subject to sale at St. Louis, MO. The first was dated October 1, 1835 and the other was dated September 7, 1838. The patents show no record of the amount of cash involved.

In 1844, Hannah Mariah Lutz Cole filed for divorce from Thomas Cole, claiming he had abandoned her for the past four years. Susan would have been about three years old when Thomas is said to have abandoned Hannah. Then on October 16, 1845, William Keeton and Hannah were married in Washington County, MO by Jason Pinson, J. P.

Less than three months after William and Hannah's marriage, before January 6, 1846, William died, also in Missouri. Hannah, along with her lawyer, William Spradling, another neighbor, appeared before the county clerk of St. Francois, MO on January 6, 1846 and said that to the best of her knowledge and belief Susan C. Keeton was the heir of William Keeton, deceased.

In a separate undated document (probably 1846) it states "On the motion of Christopher Walton, who was appointed guardian by the Court for Susan C. Keaton, infant daughter of William Keaton, deceased, and Hannah Mariah Keaton, for an appreciation out of the estate of the said William Keaton, deceased, for the support of said Susan C. Keaton. It appearing to the satisfaction of the court from the examination of witnesses, that the said Susan C. Keaton was born before the solemnization of the marriage between the said William Keaton and the said Hannah Mariah Keaton, who was before her intermarriage with the said William Keaton, Hannah Mariah Cole, and it also appearing to the satisfaction of the court from the examination of witnesses, that after the birth of the said Susan C. Keaton, the said William Keaton married with the said Hannah Mariah Cole, and did both before and after his marriage with the said Hannah Mariah Cole, owned, confessed, acknowledged, and recognized the said Susan C. Keaton to be his child. It is therefore consentence by the court, said Susan C. Keaton is thereby legitimated and is the legal heir and representative of the said William Keaton, deceased."

Thus, shortly after William's death, his siblings (heirs of William) and the heirs of John Keeton filed law suits in Missouri claiming that they were entitled to William's estate and that Hannah and Susan were not. That began a long, complicated court battle which went all the way to the Missouri Supreme Court. In the end, it was ruled that the heirs of John Keeton were the rightful owners of the slaves because William had earlier taken them from John's estate by fraud and that the slaves should be returned to John Keeton's heirs. The court ruling was handed down after 1862, about 16 years after the first Missouri suit was filed. By that time, slavery had been abolished in the United States and no restitution or distribution was made to anyone. Under the laws of Missouri, William's land holdings would have gone to his widow, Hannah, and daughter, Susan.

As stated earlier, William was born poor but when he was entrusted to administer a family estate, he seized upon an opportunity to try living a rich, dishonest life. One can certainly question whether the luxury he acquired was worth the penalty of his scandalous legacy.

See notes for John Keeton and John Robert Keeton for much more on this story.

More About WILLIAM KEETON:

Occupation: Bet. 1810 - 1820, Deputy Sheriff of Franklin Co., TN

Notes for HANNAH MARIAH LUTZ:

Hannah and Thomas filed for divorce in 1844.

More About HANNAH MARIAH LUTZ:

Divorced: 1844

Child of WILLIAM KEETON and HANNAH LUTZ is:

- i. SUSAN C.⁷ KEETON, b. Abt. Apr 1837, Missouri.

8. ELIZABETH⁶ KEETON (*HEZEKIAH⁵, JAMES⁴, WILLIAM³, WILLIAM², JOHN¹*) was born Abt. 1792 in Kentucky, and died Bef. 1840. She married JOHN KEETON Abt. 1815. He was born Abt. 1780 in Virginia, and died 02 Sep 1826 in Jefferson Co., Missouri.

Notes for JOHN KEETON:

John Keeton was born about 1780 in the part of Virginia that later became Kentucky. When his daughter, Clarissa, stated in the 1880 Franklin County, TN census that her father, John Keeton, and mother, Elizabeth Keeton, were born in Kentucky, she meant that her father was born in a Virginia county that later became Kentucky. John moved to Franklin County, Tennessee about 1806 or 1807. His first child, Catharina, was born in Kentucky February 2, 1806 and then he was in Franklin County, which was created from Rutherford and Indian lands, by act of the General Assembly of the State of Tennessee, passed December 3, 1807. His parents are thought to have been from Virginia but their names are not known.

John Keeton was an educated man. He could read and write. He was large in stature. In an 1849 deposition, a friend remembered him as a very heavy man. Even as a relative newcomer to the community, he was named the first register of Franklin County, TN and served from 1808 until his death on September 2, 1826. That he served as register of Franklin County is

recorded in Goodspeeds History of Tennessee. He was also a Justice of the Peace, believed to have been one of the first justices appointed by Governor John Sevier to govern Franklin County. In Judy Phillips' book, *The Gipson Family of Franklin County, Tennessee, Their Ancestors and Descendants* (second edition 2002), she states that John Keeton, J. P. married William Gipson and Sarah Hendricks on 20 Mar 1820 in Franklin County. A review of the appointments of the first justices from the governor's commission book reveals a garbled name which looks like John Reater. Some researchers have concluded this has to be John Keaton. The clerk must have mis-read the nominating document. Unfortunately, the first record/minute books for Franklin County, Tennessee, are lost and we can only guess what happened at the first court sessions.

He was married twice. His first wife's name is unknown but records show that that union produced three offspring: Catharina F. Keeton, born 2/2/1806; Sythe Keeton, born about 1813; and George Washington Keeton, born about 1810. His second wife was Elizabeth Keeton, daughter of Hezekiah (Sr.) and Batsey Keeton and sister of Dr. John Robert Keeton, who married John Keeton's daughter, Catharina, named above.

John's second wife, Elizabeth, was born about 1796, in Kentucky. John Keeton and Elizabeth Keeton had three daughters: Martha, born about 1816, Margaret, born about 1817, and Clarissa, born about 1822. It is speculated that John's first wife's name was Margaret and he named two of his daughters Margaret to honor his deceased first wife. Another possibility is that Martha and Margaret were named after their mother, Elizabeth's, sisters.

Not much is known about John Keeton's life and activities in Tennessee, except that he was involved in farming and local government; he held political offices, including the office of register, in Franklin County, TN. There are, however, court papers documenting disputes over settlement of his estate and that story goes something like this:

He was considered sort of wealthy, having up to 20 slaves, a lot of land, and held a position of political leadership in Franklin County. When hard times hit in the 1820s and his creditors were about to seize his property, he hired Deputy Sheriff William Keeton to help him sneak his slaves out of Franklin County to keep them away from his creditors, who must have been closing in fast on him. William was a brother of John's second wife, Elizabeth. William's brother, John Robert Keeton, is the man mentioned above who married John Keeton's daughter, Catharina.

John was embarrassed by debt in Franklin County, TN so in 1824 he left his wife and six children in Franklin County and he and William took John's slaves, about 20 of them, first to Illinois to mine salt but that did not prove profitable, so they went on to St. Francois County, MO, to mine lead. John's wife, Elizabeth, did not accompany him to Missouri as they were on unfriendly terms, according to court records. He took another woman (name unknown) with him.

In a deposition dated March 15, 1849, John C. Scott recalled a conversation he had with John Keeton as the two rode together to Jackson, a distance of about 30 miles, he said. Scott was on his way to Jackson while John Keeton was on his way to Tennessee with money to pay off debts. Scott said John Keeton told him "that he had got involved by security debts, that he had run his Negroes from Tennessee to prevent them from being taken for his debts, and that if he had stayed then that he would have been broke up, that some of his property had been seized

and he had run off his Negroes to keep them from being taken and to make money to pay off his debts."

Scott testified, furthermore, that he "had frequent conversations with John Keeton concerning his family. He seemed very anxious to enjoy the society of his family and was somewhat undecided as to his future course in regard to them. He sometimes talked of buying land here (Missouri) though I believe his intention was rather to return to them in Tennessee when he made sufficient money to discharge his debts. He told me that he did not wish his creditors in Tennessee to know where he was and that in his visits to Tennessee he was as secret as possible. I received letters post marked from Tennessee and on opening them found they were from John Keeton's wife or his relations or friends and were intended for him and I handed them over to him. This was a liberty I suppose he took because we were good friends...."

In the same deposition, Scott stated that John Keeton was a "saving, close, industrious, persevering man. The money he made he supported himself and slaves on and the balance he carried to Tennessee to pay off his debts. Although he sometimes bought liquor, never knew of his drinking to excess. On his first visit to Tennessee he had a pair of leather saddle bags heavy with special silver. The weight seemed to fatigue his horse--Keeton was a very heavy man himself."

There are also some pencil notes scribbled by a family member during a conversation with her grandmother, Isabelle Gibson, who was married to William Gibson, a son of Margaret Keeton Gibson. which seem to indicate that John's daughters--Martha, Clarissa and Margaret--went to Missouri and took lead back to Tennessee to pay off debts. Evidence is strong that John was working diligently to retire his debts. Nothing has been found, however, that conclusively establishes his financial stature at the time of his untimely death. No will, inventory or other document has been found to indicate whether all of the debts were repaid.

John died September 2, 1826, while he was in Missouri and is probably buried there. The cause of death was apparently from an unknown short illness soon after his second return from Tennessee. His death is documented in "Reports, Cases Argued and Determined--THE SUPREME COURT--The state of Missouri, Vol XX, 1855 reprinted 1876," page 336, regarding John Keeton in print is "On the 2nd of September 1826, soon after his second return from Tennessee. he died in Jefferson County." Remember that after leaving Franklin County, TN in 1824, John took his slaves to the salt works in Illinois, then on to Missouri to mine lead.

When John died he was away from home, in Jefferson Co., MO, and the county appointed a Michael Taney as Administrator of his estate. This probably brought panic to the Keetons back home in Franklin County, TN because John's slaves were out of Tennessee and the Keetons in Franklin County did not feel secure with the out-of-state settlements and potential future property distributions.

At this point, William, who was in Missouri managing John's slaves, no doubt, convinced all that he should be the administrator. To do this John's widow, Elizabeth, had to void her right to administer through the Tennessee court, which she did. She had to present several people that endorsed the decision and also endorsed William Keeton as the administrator of John Keeton's estate.

Elizabeth had her brother, Robert Keeton, who by then was a practicing physician in Decatur

County, TN, write an exaggerated endorsement wherein he stated that William handled John Keeton's debts well, was related to John by blood and marriage, and that he qualified for the position. The depositions were approved by Justice of the Peace James B. Stovall in Franklin County, TN in February 1827, then forwarded to Jefferson County, MO and William Keeton filed--and Jefferson County approved his plea--to replace Michael Taney as the administrator of the John Keeton estate.

James Stovall, J. P., wrote the depositions for Elizabeth and Robert and they signed them. It is apparent that Robert thought he was doing the right thing to retain control of John Keeton's estate but he obviously did not know about William's unlawful plans and manipulations or realize how much William could control and get Elizabeth to back him up on illegal documents and bills of sale.

With the help of his brother, Hezekiah, Jr., William returned to Franklin County, TN with the slaves to conduct an estate auction.. When William was distributing John's estate assets he put up the slaves for sale in a rigged auction and bought most of them himself at low, low prices. John's legal heirs, including his widow and daughters (it is speculated that John's son, George Washington Keeton, may have already received his inheritance in the form of farm land), were shorted in the distribution. John's rightful heirs, his widow and children, brought suit against William claiming that he had fraudulently taken possession of their inheritance, the slaves.

Later court testimony would show that William had grown up poor. In separate depositions it was twice stated that William owned a wagon and shabby team but when an execution was out against him the wagon and team would belong to someone else like his father (Hezekiah, Sr.) or his brother (Hezekiah, Jr.).

After claiming ownership of John Keeton's slaves, William suddenly had some wealth. He took the slaves back to Missouri and resumed the lead mining operation. He became involved romantically with a married, neighbor woman, named Hannah Cole. Hannah had a child, Susan, born about 1837, while still married to her husband, Thomas Cole. In 1844 Hannah filed for a divorce from Thomas Cole, claiming desertion. Hannah then married William Keeton on October 16, 1845. The daughter, Susan, was legitimated as William's child. William died before January 6, 1846, less than three months after he married Hannah. When William's estate was divided, the bulk of it, including the slaves, went to Hannah and the daughter, Susan.

This caused law suits by William Keeton's brothers and sisters who claimed to be heirs of William that lasted 16 years. There were two different Keeton families, all claiming to be heirs and stating that Susan Keeton was not an heir. As stated above, however, she was, in fact, ruled by the court to be an heir of William Keeton. One family was the brothers and sisters of William Keeton and the other family consisted of the widow--Elizabeth was both John Keeton's widow and a sister of William--and children of John Keeton. Dr. Robert Keeton, was appointed legal representative for himself and his sisters and also for the children of John Keeton for the trial in St. Francois County, MO. Several attorneys represented the widow and daughter, Hannah and Susan.

The case was complicated because William Keeton had stolen John Keeton's slaves and then William's widow and daughter had claimed them as their inheritance. The case eventually wound up in the Missouri Supreme Court in 1854. The proceedings dragged out so long that

Dr. Robert Keeton died during the trial. His widow, Catharina, then appointed a new attorney. The Court ruled that William Keeton had committed fraud by claiming possession and that the slaves were to be claimed by their lawful owners, the widow and children of John Keeton. This ruling came after 1862.

In the recap of the trial the appellants are named. All are William's sisters and their spouses and William's brother, Robert Keeton, who was appointed attorney and legal representative. In the appointment of a new attorney to replace Dr. Robert Keeton following his death, Catharina named Dr. Robert as an heir of William and she named herself and some--but not all--of her children and their spouses as heirs of Dr. Robert.

It is interesting to note that the Missouri Supreme Court ruling came after 1862. But that's not the end of the story. On January 1, 1863, President Abraham Lincoln signed the Emancipation Proclamation that freed all persons held as slaves. No one got anything.

Children of ELIZABETH KEETON and JOHN KEETON are:

- i. MARTHA⁷ KEETON, b. 1815; m. (1) ROBERT LACKEY; m. (2) JAMES W. SWINNEY, Bet. 1840 - 1850, Tishomingo Co., MS.
16. ii. MARGARET KEETON, b. 1817.
- iii. CLARISSA KEETON, b. 1820, Tennessee; m. (1) JOHN P. KENNERLY; b. 1808, Kentucky; m. (2) HUTCHINSON KING BENNETT, 20 Sep 1838, Franklin Co., TN; d. 1847.

More About HUTCHINSON KING BENNETT:
Occupation: Farmer

9. MARGARET⁶ KEETON (*HEZEKIAH⁵, JAMES⁴, WILLIAM³, WILLIAM², JOHN¹*) was born Abt. 1794 in Virginia. She married LARKIN WILHITE 1817 in Woodford Co., KY. He was born 1790.

Children of MARGARET KEETON and LARKIN WILHITE are:

- i. MARTHA⁷ WILHITE, b. 05 May 1818, Kentucky; d. 14 Jan 1898; m. GEORGE L. CAMP; b. 07 Jun 1823; d. 31 Mar 1884.

More About MARTHA WILHITE:
Burial: Mt. Erie, Wayne Co., IL

More About GEORGE L. CAMP:
Burial: Mt. Erie, Wayne Co., IL

- ii. WILLIAM WILBURN WILHITE, b. Abt. 1819, Tennessee; m. ELIZABETH J. LITTLE, 10 Sep 1846; b. Abt. 1823.

Generation No. 7

10. DR. JOHN LAWSON⁷ KEETON (*JOHN ROBERT⁶, HEZEKIAH⁵, JAMES⁴, WILLIAM³, WILLIAM², JOHN¹*) was born 25 May 1826 in Decaturville, Perry Co., TN, and died 14 Jun 1881 in

Decatur Co., TN. He married (1) MARGARET LEVISA KELLEY Abt. 1844, daughter of EPHRAIM KELLEY and JANE HIGGINBOTHAM. She was born 18 Jun 1827 in Perry Co., TN, and died 14 Feb 1856 in Decatur Co., TN. He married (2) MARGARET M. BRIGANCE Abt. 1858 in Decatur Co., TN. She was born 19 Jul 1823, and died 06 Apr 1893 in Decatur Co., TN.

Notes for DR. JOHN LAWSON KEETON:

Not much is known about Dr. John Lawson Keeton. Very few written records have been found. Apparently, there are not even many stories remembered by family members. Several cousins from different branches of the families of John Lawson Keeton and each of his two wives have said that they do not recall any stories about him being passed down through the generations. Genealogists have tried to collect information about his schooling and medical practice but have not found records in any of the likely places. We do know from the inscription on his grave marker that he was born May 25, 1826 and died June 14, 1881. It is believed that he was in Decatur County both when he was born and when he died. It is generally thought that his parents left Franklin County, TN soon after they were married and moved to Perry County, TN, settling in the western part of that county which later became Decatur County, and that is probably where John Lawson Keeton was born.

Dr. John Lawson Keeton's home place was on a hill above Turnbo Creek near the present Keeton Cemetery. He owned and, with the assistance of his children and some laborers, farmed several acres of land. His oldest daughter, Julia Saphronia Keeton Maners, used to tell her children stories about working in the fields as a child. She gave the impression that not only she but the whole family of Keetons worked in the fields. That story might indicate a life style less affluent than one would expect for a doctor--but there is no proof of that.

He was married, first, to Margaret Levisa Kelley and they had seven children. He was married, second, to Margaret Brigance and to that union four children were born. Dr. Keeton and both Margarets are buried in the Keeton Cemetery.

Following the path of his physician father, John Lawson obtained the necessary schooling and training to become a medical doctor and practiced--reportedly for nearly 40 years--at Swallow Bluff in Decatur County, TN. Swallow Bluff was a thriving river port community at the time. After the Civil War, there were luxury passenger liners plying the waters of the Tennessee River and they made stops at Swallow Bluff.

It is known that Dr. Keeton traveled, usually on horseback, making house calls throughout much of Decatur and some adjoining counties. There is a story about how, during the Civil War, the slaves would hide his best saddle horse to keep soldiers from stealing it. They wanted the doctor to have a good horse ready to take him to see sick folks.

Below is a transcription of his handwritten Last Will and Testament. The blanks represent words that we are still trying to decipher.

John L. Keeton Last Will and Testament

State of Tennessee) Know all men by these presents that & to hoome

Decatur County) that may concern that I, J. L. Keeton, make this
my Last will & testament, forsaking all others maid by me here to
fore. Blessed be the name of God on hi.

1st I give my Spirit unto God who gave it and

2nd my body to the Earth from whence it came.

3rd I want my funerell Expences and all of my last Debts paid out of my personal effects as soon as convenient.

4th I want my wife, M. M. Keeton & my Son, W. B. Keeton, to have & controle of all of the Land that I may die _____ & possess of on Turkee Kreek in Deas Track No. 4 in said County and at the death of my wife, M. M. Keeton, the same to belong to W. B. Keeton.

5th I want my Son, R. F. Keeton, & Daughter, July Sophrana Maness, to have a certain Track of Land on Turmans Kreek containing 3 ¾ acres & 1 other on Turnbow Kreek containing 50 acres a part of the Track that R. F. Keeton has an interest in & all so 1 other Track of Land known as the Mr. Hinson Land containing 271 acres on the head waters of Whites Creek.

6th I want my Son and Daughter, S. C. Keeton and S. L. Keeton, to have the old home place on Turnbo Kreek, in all the 3 Tracks (357) acres: 1 of 200 acres, 2 of 137 acres, and 3 of 20 acres, making 357 acres.

7th If I should Die before I bye the other 2 heirs in the Williams Land, I want it bought of my personal effects and the same to go to W. B. Keeton to make him equal in proportion & to take care of his mother for the Farm if she should out Live me.

8th I want W. B. Keeton and Catherine to have a Horse or Mule & Buck & out fit for the same.

9th I want my wife, M. M. Keeton, to have & W. B. Keeton have the Farming implements & _____ the last named to W. B. Keeton. I want full & ample provision maid of supplies for them.

10th I want all of the personal effects to be divided equal among the above named heirs.

11th and, Last, I nominate & appoint my son, S. L. Keeton, to transact any & all of my business together with J. McMillan as they may think best to parties.

Amen. This the 29th day of Jan. 1881.

(Witnesses) M. D. L. Keeton
G. W. Bright

(Signed) J. L. Keeton

State of Tennessee) Personally appeared before me, John McMillan,

Decatur County) Clerk of the county court of said county, do
hereby certify that the foregoing is a true copy of
the Last Will and Testament of J. L. Keeton, Deceased, as copied from the original will which
is on file in my office.

Witness my hand at office this the 1st day of October 1881.

* * * *

(An Inventory and list of Claims accompanies the Will but has not been transcribed for
inclusion here.)

More About DR. JOHN LAWSON KEETON:

Burial: 1881, Keeton Cemetery, Bath Springs, Decatur County, TN

Occupation: Medical Doctor & Farmer

Notes for MARGARET LEVISA KELLEY:

Judi Kelley Nelson (judinel@earthlink.net) advises that she has a copy of document showing
land given to Margaret L. Keeton by her father: "State of Tenn. Decatur County. Date Sept
29, 1851. Ephraim Kelly to Margaret L. Keeton 195 acres of land in Decatur co. 9th District
& 8 range & section 6 For the Love & affection for my daughter. S.A. Yarbrow clerk A.M.
Yarbrow Register."

More About MARGARET LEVISA KELLEY:

Burial: 1856, Keeton Cemetery, Bath Springs, Decatur County, TN

More About MARGARET M. BRIGANCE:

Burial: Keeton Cemetery, Bath Springs, Decatur County, TN

Children of JOHN KEETON and MARGARET KELLEY are:

17. i. JULIA SAPHRONIA⁸ KEETON, b. 09 Aug 1845, Bath Springs, Decatur Co., TN;
d. 24 Sep 1930, Bath Springs, Decatur Co., TN.
18. ii. ROBERT FORRESTER KEETON, b. 13 Aug 1848, Bath Springs, Decatur Co.,
TN; d. 02 Jan 1911, Bath Springs, Decatur Co., TN.
19. iii. FINETTA JANE KEETON, b. 01 Oct 1849, Bath Springs, Decatur Co., TN; d. 25
Oct 1879, Kerrville, Kerr Co., TX.
- iv. MARY ELIZABETH KEETON, b. 27 Feb 1851, Bath Springs, Decatur Co., TN;
d. 30 Jul 1852, Bath Springs, Decatur Co., TN.

More About MARY ELIZABETH KEETON:

Burial: Keeton Cemetery, Bath Springs, Decatur County, TN

- v. ALBERT KEETON, b. 15 Jul 1852, Bath Springs, Decatur Co., TN; d. 15 Jul
1852, Decatur Co., TN.

More About ALBERT KEETON:

Burial: Keeton Cemetery, Bath Springs, Decatur County, TN

20. vi. HORATIO FRANCIS KEETON, b. Aug 1853, Bath Springs, Decatur Co., TN; d.

- Abt. 04 May 1907, Franklin Co., AR.
21. vii. MARGARET FRANCIS KEETON, b. 24 Nov 1854, Bath Springs, Decatur Co., TN; d. 15 Feb 1920, Clay Co., TX.

Children of JOHN KEETON and MARGARET BRIGANCE are:

- viii. JOHN CLINTON⁸ KEETON, b. 09 Mar 1859, Bath Springs, Decatur Co., TN; d. 30 Sep 1859, Bath Springs, Decatur Co., TN.

More About JOHN CLINTON KEETON:

Burial: Keeton Cemetery, Bath Springs, Decatur County, TN

22. ix. SANDERS LACURTIS KEETON, b. 05 Jun 1860, Bath Springs, Decatur Co., TN; d. 12 Jul 1936, Bath Springs, Decatur Co., TN.
23. x. SARAH CATHERINE KEETON, b. 05 Mar 1862, Bath Springs, Decatur Co., TN; d. 09 Feb 1908, Bath Springs, Decatur Co., TN.
24. xi. WILLIAM BEDFORD KEETON, b. 04 Dec 1863, Bath Springs, Decatur Co., TN; d. 1937.

11. JULIA M.⁷ KEETON (*JOHN ROBERT⁶, HEZEKIAH⁵, JAMES⁴, WILLIAM³, WILLIAM², JOHN¹*) was born Abt. 1829 in Decatur Co., TN. She married THOMAS BROWDER GARRARD, son of HENRY GARRARD and MARY BOURLAND. He was born 20 Mar 1820, and died 09 Oct 1870.

More About JULIA M. KEETON:

Census: 1880, Age 51, Hardin Co., TN

More About THOMAS BROWDER GARRARD:

Occupation: Merchant

Children of JULIA KEETON and THOMAS GARRARD are:

25. i. ROBERT H.⁸ GARRARD, b. Abt. 1854, Probably Tennessee.
- ii. WILLIAM A. GARRARD, b. 25 Apr 1859; d. 03 Sep 1949.

More About WILLIAM A. GARRARD:

Burial: Keeton Cemetery, Bath Springs, Decatur County, TN

Military service: World War I

12. IANTHA ADELINE⁷ KEETON (*JOHN ROBERT⁶, HEZEKIAH⁵, JAMES⁴, WILLIAM³, WILLIAM², JOHN¹*) was born 09 Feb 1833 in Decatur Co., TN, and died 17 Nov 1919 in Shelby Co., TX. She married DR. JAMES HARVEY CLARDY 02 May 1850 in Decatur Co., TN. He was born 01 Feb 1826 in Decatur Co., TN, and died 30 Jan 1871 in Shelby Co., TX.

Notes for IANTHA ADELINE KEETON:

Adaline lived in Court, TX. Applied for CSA Widow's pension. Pension #19263.

More About IANTHA ADELINE KEETON:

Burial: Clardy Cemetery, Center, Shelby Co., TX

Notes for DR. JAMES HARVEY CLARDY:

Military service: Surgeon in Captain D. M. Short's Co. D, 4th Texas Infantry. Enlisted 5/23/1861 at Shelbyville. Furnished one Navy pistol and one horse. Enlisted 04/02/1862 in Levi Truitt's Company, 1st Regiment Texas Lancers (pension had Co. A 28th Regiment Texas Cavalry Dismounted), Source: Texas General Web Project "Shelby Countians in the Civil War."

More About DR. JAMES HARVEY CLARDY:

Burial: Clardy Cemetery, Center, Shelby Co., TX

Military service: 1st Lt., 1 Texas Lancers, C.S.A.

Occupation: Medical Doctor

Child of IANTHA KEETON and JAMES CLARDY is:

26. i. FRANCES KATHERINE⁸ CLARDY, b. 17 Apr 1851, Tennessee; d. 03 Feb 1889, Shelby Co., TX.

13. ALBERT F.⁷ KEETON (*JOHN ROBERT⁶, HEZEKIAH⁵, JAMES⁴, WILLIAM³, WILLIAM², JOHN¹*) was born 06 Aug 1835 in Decatur Co., TN. He married PARALEE WHITE 05 Oct 1858 in Decatur Co., TN, daughter of UNKNOWN WHITE and UNKNOWN UNKNOWN. She was born 1834 in Mississippi, but raised in Decatur Co., TN.

Notes for ALBERT F. KEETON:

Albert and his wife, Paralee, farmed their land until January 1886, at which time they rented the land and became hotel keepers in Center. Albert and his wife and two daughters were members of the Methodist church. He was a Mason and a Republican.

More About ALBERT F. KEETON:

Religion: Methodist

Children of ALBERT KEETON and PARALEE WHITE are:

- i. WILLIAM R.⁸ KEETON, b. Jul 1859; m. (1) NANCY E. ADKISSON, 02 Sep 1888, Decatur Co., TN; b. 12 Apr 1870; d. 04 Apr 1890; m. (2) ERNESTINE TUTEN, 31 Dec 1906, Decatur Co., TN; m. (3) DELLA MCBRIDE, 14 Mar 1915, Decatur County, TN.

More About NANCY E. ADKISSON:

Burial: Pleasant Hill Cemetery, Decatur County, TN

- ii. LUCY A. KEETON, b. 1861.
- iii. EULLA U. KEETON, b. Dec 1863.

More About EULLA U. KEETON:

Cause of Death: Tuberculosis

14. SOPHRONIA⁷ KEETON (*JOHN ROBERT*⁶, *HEZEKIAH*⁵, *JAMES*⁴, *WILLIAM*³, *WILLIAM*², *JOHN*¹) was born 18 Feb 1844 in Decatur Co., TN, and died 23 Dec 1914 in Wayne Co., TN. She married FRANCIS MARION JOBE in Tennessee, son of SOLOMON JOBE and MARGARET UNKNOWN. He was born 1836 in Probably Wayne Co, TN, and died Bet. 1870 - 1880 in Probably Decatur or Hardin Co., TN.

Notes for SOPHRONIA KEETON:

Sophronia C. Jobe filed an application for and received a Confederate Widows' pension in Hardin County, TN on behalf of her husband, Francis Marion Jobe Pension # W442 (Listed in Tennessee Confederate Pension Applications).

More About SOPHRONIA KEETON:

Census: 1880, Widow, Age 33, Hardin County, TN

Residence: Saltillo, TN

More About FRANCIS MARION JOBE:

Military service: Civil War

Children of SOPHRONIA KEETON and FRANCIS JOBE are:

27. i. WILLIAM T.⁸ JOBE, b. Abt. Jun 1863, Tennessee.
28. ii. ROBERT E. LEE JOBE, b. 06 Sep 1866, Probably Decatur Co., Tennessee; d. 29 Oct 1928, Tarrant Co., TX.
29. iii. ARTEMUS S. JOBE, b. May 1868, Decatur Co., TN.
30. iv. JOHN TIMMONS JOBE, b. Abt. 1871, Tennessee; d. Bet. 1935 - 1940, Jackson, Madison Co., TN.

15. MAQUIS DE LAFAYETTE⁷ KEETON (*JOHN ROBERT*⁶, *HEZEKIAH*⁵, *JAMES*⁴, *WILLIAM*³, *WILLIAM*², *JOHN*¹) was born 01 Sep 1846 in Decatur Co., TN, and died 11 Jun 1891 in Decatur Co., TN. He married ELLEN HETTY ANN FISHER 15 Dec 1870 in Decatur Co., TN, daughter of JOHN FISHER and NANCY WHITE. She was born 11 Jan 1852, and died 17 Oct 1943.

Notes for MAQUIS DE LAFAYETTE KEETON:

Lafayette settled in Brownsport (Decatur County), TN, and farmed near Brownsport Landing. He was a Confederate States of America soldier. On the Widow's Pension Application, that his wife, Hettie, filed, Lafayette's first name is spelled Marcus instead of Marquis.

According to Decatur County History, posted on the Internet (<http://www.netease.net/decatu/dehistor.htm#top>) Brownsport Landing was created in the 1860s to service Brownsport Furnace.

More About MAQUIS DE LAFAYETTE KEETON:

Burial: Mt. Lebanon Cemetery, Decatur Co., TN

Cause of Death: Logging Accident

Census: 1860, Decatur Co., TN age 13

Military service: C.S.A. 18th Reg. Tennessee Cavalry

Notes for ELLEN HETTY ANN FISHER:

Applied in Decatur County, TN for Widow's Pension for CSA soldier Marcus D. Lafayette Keeton. Pension No. W10311.

More About ELLEN HETTY ANN FISHER:

Burial: Mt. Lebanon Cemetery, Decatur Co., TN

Children of MAQUIS KEETON and ELLEN FISHER are:

31.
 - i. DORA ALICE⁸ KEETON, b. 1872.
 - ii. JOHN L. KEETON, b. 1873; d. Bef. 1943.
 - iii. WILLIAM H. KEETON, b. 24 Oct 1876, Decatur Co., TN; d. 22 Oct 1901, Decatur Co., TN.

More About WILLIAM H. KEETON:

Burial: Mt. Lebanon Cemetery, Decatur County, TN

- iv. JOHN ROBERT KEETON, b. 08 May 1873, Decatur Co., TN; d. 17 Apr 1916; m. ALICE THREATT, 20 May 1897, Decatur County, TN.

Notes for ALICE THREATT:

Early Marriage Records (1869-1921) of Decatur County, TN name is spelled Allace Thweatt.

- v. GORDON C. KEETON, b. 25 Sep 1881, Decatur Co., TN; d. 06 Feb 1905, Decatur Co., TN.

Notes for GORDON C. KEETON:

Obituary for Gordon Keeton as published in The Lexington Progress, February 10, 1905:

Fireman Gordon Keeton died at his home near Perryville Monday morning of pneumonia. Gordon was transferred from the Perryville Branch to the Main Line of the N. C. & St. L. last fall and fired extra out of Lexington until he went home sick less than two weeks before his death. Gordon had won the special liking of the engineers and all others with whom he came into contact, and the news of his death, his being cut down in the flower of earliest manhood, came as a shock Monday morning.

Our deepest sympathy goes out to the bereaved relatives. A special train was run to Perryville at about 11:15 a.m., Tuesday to carry a number of railroad people and many others to attend the funeral of Gordon Keeton.

Masonic emblem on grave marker.

More About GORDON C. KEETON:

Burial: 07 Feb 1905, Mt. Lebanon Cemetery, Decatur County, TN

Cause of Death: Pneumonia

Occupation: Fireman on NC&StL RR

- vi. ANNIE L. KEETON, b. 1886, Decatur Co., TN; d. Alive in 1943 in Perryville,

Perry Co., TN; m. ROBERT C. BELCHER, 01 Oct 1906, Decatur County, TN; b. 1883; d. 1960, Decatur County or Perry County, TN.

More About ROBERT C. BELCHER:

Burial: Mt. Lebanon Cemetery, Decatur County, TN

16. MARGARET⁷ KEETON (*ELIZABETH⁶, HEZEKIAH⁵, JAMES⁴, WILLIAM³, WILLIAM², JOHN¹*) was born 1817. She married WILLIAM BARNETT GIBSON 18 Dec 1833 in Franklin Co., TN, son of JAMES GIBSON and CATHERINE BATES.

Child of MARGARET KEETON and WILLIAM GIBSON is:

32. i. WILLIAM IRENEOUS⁸ GIBSON, b. 23 Sep 1844, Bedford Co., TN; d. 30 Apr 1931, Memphis, TX.

Generation No. 8

17. JULIA SAPHRONIA⁸ KEETON (*JOHN LAWSON⁷, JOHN ROBERT⁶, HEZEKIAH⁵, JAMES⁴, WILLIAM³, WILLIAM², JOHN¹*) was born 09 Aug 1845 in Bath Springs, Decatur Co., TN, and died 24 Sep 1930 in Bath Springs, Decatur Co., TN. She married JAMES MANERS 07 Jan 1866 in Decatur Co., TN, son of ABSOLOM ADKISSON and KIZZIE BRASHER. He was born 15 May 1843 in Decatur Co., TN, and died 24 Apr 1900 in Decatur Co., TN.

Notes for JULIA SAPHRONIA KEETON:

James and Julia Saphronia had seventeen (17) children. They lived on a 300-acre farm in the Bath Springs, Decatur County, TN, area.

The following is quoted from an undated cook book, Southern Recipes from the Maners Clan:

"The name Keeton is spelled many different ways. To cite a few: Keaton, Keetan, Keeting, and Keeton. Early records indicate that the Keetons came to this country from Ireland; first to Virginia, then to North Carolina, and then to West Tennessee. Keetons were found living in Franklin County, Virginia in the early 1700s. John Keeton received a Military Land Warrant for land in North Carolina in the late 1700s. William Keeton received two land grants in Bledsoe County, Tennessee in the early 1800s. Indications are that these are the great great grandfather and great grandfather, respectively, of Julia Saphronia Keeton. 'Robert Keeton, Dr.', as he signed several real estate transactions, received nine land grants in Decatur County, Tennessee from 1849-1852. Dr. Robert Keeton was the grandfather of Julia Saphronia.

"Julia Saphronia Keeton was born August 9, 1845 in Decatur County, Tennessee. She was one of four children born to Dr. John Lawson Keeton and Margaret Kelley Keeton. It appears that she was named after her father's sister. Dr. John Lawson Keeton's will refers to 'the old home place on Turnbo Creek'; it appears that she was raised there. Her mother died, and her father married Margaret Brigance. Julia Saphronia had two brothers, Robert Franklin (Robert F.'s wife said his middle name was Forrester, not Franklin. There being no known documentation to the contrary, Robert F.'s direct descendants use the middle name Forrester.), and Cisco, and one sister, Margaret. She had two half brothers, Sanders and Will, and one half Sister, Katherine. Julia was of medium height, and she had red hair which she always wore

parted in the middle to conceal a small bald spot in the center of the top of her head.

"James Maners and Julia Saphronia Keeton were married January 7, 1866 by Squire John Christenberry. To this union were born seventeen children between March 23, 1868 and May 5, 1892. They lived and reared their children on a farm in Decatur County, Tennessee in the general area of Wylie Cemetery on Stewman's Creek. The farm consisted of approximately 300 acres. A portion of it was acquired from her father; other portions were purchased, in small acreage lots, from numerous people. The original house burned when John Lawson, their third child was a very small boy. The replacement house was torn down in 1959.

"James Maners died April 24, 1900 of jaundice which indicates a liver ailment. Julia lived another 30 years - blind for the last few years of her life. She died September 24, 1930. Both are buried at Wylie (Gardner) Cemetery in Decatur County, Tennessee."

More About JULIA SAPHRONIA KEETON:

Burial: Wiley Gardner Cemetery, Decatur Co., TN

Occupation: Housewife

Notes for JAMES MANERS:

James Maners enlisted in the Confederate Army on November 25, 1861, served 12 months, and, although he attained the rank of Corporal, was discharged a Private in Company A, 51, for being ill and too small. Discharge records show he was 5'3 3/4".

The following is quoted from an undated cook book, Southern Recipes from The Maners Clan:

"The name Maners is spelled many different ways. To cite a few: Manis, Maness, Manass, Menees, and Manus. The Maners' originally came to this country from Wales. Early records indicate that the Manis' came out of Pennsylvania in the middle 1700s and into Virginia. James Menees was born in February, 1762 in Bedford County, Virginia. The Manis' then moved into North Carolina. William Manes, born before 1715, was found living in Bear Creek, Moore County, North Carolina in the year 1765. James Manus, born before 1736, was found living on Thompson's Creek, Anson County, North Carolina, in the year 1756. Along about 1795 to 1800, the Maners' started moving again. This time to Tennessee, many to Hawkins County; and then later they moved to other counties.

"James Maners was born in Decatur County, Tennessee, May 15, 1843. There are no records of his parents. He was raised by the Absolom Adkisson Family of Decatur County but they were not his parents. He enlisted in the Confederate Army on November 25, 1861. He served 12 months in the 51st and/or 52nd Regiment of the Tennessee Infantry. He was discharged, honorably, for reason of disability and smallness. Discharge records indicate that, at the time of his discharge, he was 21 years old, 5'3-3/4" tall, and had dark complexion and blue eyes.

"James Maners and Julia Saphronia Keeton were married January 7, 1866 by Squire John Christenberry. To this union were born seventeen children between March 23, 1868 and May 5, 1892. They lived and reared their children on a farm in Decatur County, Tennessee in the general area of Wylie Gardner Cemetery on Stewman's Creek. The farm consisted of approximately 300 acres. A portion of it was acquired from her father; other portions were purchased, in small acreage lots, from numerous people. The original house burned when

John Lawson, their third child, was a very small boy. The replacement house was torn down in 1959.

"James Maners died April 24, 1900 of jaundice which indicates a liver ailment. Julia lived another 30 years - blind for the last few years of her life. She died September 24, 1930. Both are buried at Wylie Gardner Cemetery in Decatur County, Tennessee."

Jerry Butler, jerry@30504.com, wrote on March 25, 2004, that James Maners/Maness was an illegitimate child and supposedly given to Absolom Adkisson and Kizzie Brasher to raise. He shows in the 1860 census as J. Maness, 18, inmate. I had overlooked him before just thinking he was a day laborer or something. He does not show in the 1850 census so he must have joined the household as a young man instead of a baby.-----

Betty Gurley Hughes adds the following note "James Maners did live in the home of "Alp," Adkisson, but he was not his father. Insofar as I have been able to determine, no one knows the name of James Maners's father. I was always told that he was a Pettigrew. My mother said that the Pettigrews from Parsons acknowledged that they were kin to the James Maners family. She often said that, "Grandpa Maners's father was Ol' Man Tom Pettigrew---a meeeean ol' man." The Pettigrews from Parsons ran a store at Swallow Bluff during this time period, but I have not found one named Tom."

More About JAMES MANERS:

Burial: Wiley Gardner Cemetery, Decatur Co., TN

Military service: 51st/52nd Tenn. Infantry, C.S.A.

Occupation: Farmer

Children of JULIA KEETON and JAMES MANERS are:

- i. MARY JANE⁹ MANERS, b. 23 Mar 1868, Decatur Co., TN; d. 16 Nov 1947; m. (1) TOMMY NEWMAN; m. (2) VANN TUCKER; b. 03 May 1863; d. 14 Dec 1953.

More About MARY JANE MANERS:

Burial: Wiley Gardner Cemetery, Decatur Co., TN

More About VANN TUCKER:

Burial: Scotts Hill Methodist Church Cemetery, Henderson Co., TN

- ii. WILLIAM ROBERT MANESS, b. 27 Jul 1871, Decatur Co., TN; d. 29 Jun 1965, Decatur Co., TN; m. MARGRET JANE TUCKER, 24 Dec 1893, Decatur Co., TN; b. 28 Jan 1876, Decatur Co., TN; d. 09 Feb 1956, Henderson Co., TN.

More About WILLIAM ROBERT MANESS:

Burial: Liberty Cemetery, Decatur Co., TN

More About MARGRET JANE TUCKER:

Burial: Liberty Cemetery, Decatur Co., TN

- iii. JOHN LAWSON MANERS, b. 08 Aug 1872; d. 23 May 1947, Decatur Co., TN;

m. MARY LUCINDA WHITE; b. 1873; d. 1952, Decatur Co., TN.

More About JOHN LAWSON MANERS:

Burial: Wiley Gardner Cemetery, Decatur Co., TN

More About MARY LUCINDA WHITE:

Burial: Wiley Gardner Cemetery, Decatur Co., TN

- iv. MARGARET FREDONIA MANERS, b. 27 Aug 1873; d. 27 Sep 1953; m. CALVIN WYATT.
- v. ELVY ANN MANERS, b. 04 Nov 1874, Decatur Co., TN; d. 25 May 1957, Decatur Co., TN; m. WILLIAM SAMUEL WYLIE, 08 Nov 1903, Decatur Co., TN; b. 1880; d. 1965, Decatur Co., TN.

More About ELVY ANN MANERS:

Burial: Liberty Cemetery, Decatur Co., TN

More About WILLIAM SAMUEL WYLIE:

Burial: Liberty Cemetery, Decatur Co., TN

- vi. SARAH ELVINE MANERS, b. 04 Nov 1874, Decatur Co., TN; m. (1) GID SMITH; m. (2) AMON ENGLAND.
- vii. BENJAMIN FRANKLIN MANESS, b. 26 Sep 1876, Decatur Co., TN; d. 08 Jul 1963, Henderson Co. , TN; m. (1) W. CALLEY REDDEN, 25 Jun 1899, Decatur Co., TN; m. (2) BERTHA DUCK, 16 Aug 1906, Decatur Co., TN; b. 01 Jan 1892, Point Pleasant, Decatur Co., TN; d. 09 Dec 1936, Henderson Co. , TN.

More About BENJAMIN FRANKLIN MANESS:

Burial: Barren Springs Cemetery, Henderson County, TN

More About BERTHA DUCK:

Burial: 11 Dec 1936, Barren Springs Cemetery, Henderson County, TN

Religion: Primitive Baptist Church

- viii. DORA ELLA MANERS, b. 17 Oct 1877, Decatur Co., TN; d. 28 Aug 1910, Decatur Co., TN; m. PLEASANT H. BRIGANCE, 28 Aug 1904, Decatur Co., TN; b. 12 Mar 1857; d. 15 May 1938, Decatur Co., TN.

Notes for DORA ELLA MANERS:

Joined the Primitive Baptist Church June 25, 1904. Baptized by Elder W. A. Smith June 24, 1904, according to inscription on grave marker.

More About DORA ELLA MANERS:

Burial: Wylie Gardner Cemetery, Decatur Co., TN

More About PLEASANT H. BRIGANCE:

Burial: Wylie Gardner Cemetery, Decatur Co., TN

- ix. ADA M. MANERS, b. 22 Dec 1878, Decatur Co., TN; d. 10 Jun 1910, Decatur

Co., TN; m. DAVID CHESLEY WYATT, 10 Sep 1900, Decatur Co., TN; b. 06 Jun 1863; d. 21 Jan 1947, Decatur Co., TN.

More About ADA M. MANERS:

Burial: Wylie Gardner Cemetery, Decatur Co., TN

More About DAVID CHESLEY WYATT:

Burial: Wylie Gardner Cemetery, Decatur Co., TN

- x. ERNEST R. MANERS, b. 22 Dec 1878, Decatur Co., TN; d. 01 Mar 1959, Decatur Co., TN; m. CORA ISABELL TIMMONS, Nov 1900; b. 24 Feb 1874, Alcorn Co., MS; d. 24 Aug 1933, Decatur Co., TN.

More About ERNEST R. MANERS:

Burial: Wylie Gardner Cemetery, Decatur Co., TN

More About CORA ISABELL TIMMONS:

Burial: Wylie Gardner Cemetery, Decatur Co., TN

- xi. JAMES THOMAS MANERS, b. 06 Aug 1881, Decatur Co., TN; d. 29 Dec 1937, Decatur Co., TN; m. ARTLISSIE ATLINE KELLY, 17 Mar 1907; b. 02 Oct 1882, Decatur Co., TN; d. 1957, Decatur Co., TN.

More About JAMES THOMAS MANERS:

Burial: Wylie Gardner Cemetery, Decatur Co., TN

More About ARTLISSIE ATLINE KELLY:

Burial: Wylie Gardner Cemetery, Decatur Co., TN

- xii. ANDERSON LEE MANERS, b. 29 Nov 1882, Decatur Co., TN; d. 10 Aug 1957, Saltillo, Hardin Co., TN; m. DORA TENNESSEE KELLY, 27 Mar 1904, Decatur Co., TN; b. 31 Mar 1889, Decatur Co., TN; d. 25 Oct 1961, Saltillo, Decatur Co., TN.

More About ANDERSON LEE MANERS:

Burial: Wylie Gardner Cemetery, Decatur Co., TN

More About DORA TENNESSEE KELLY:

Burial: Wylie Gardner Cemetery, Decatur Co., TN

- xiii. EMILA LIZA MANERS, b. 05 Oct 1884, Decatur Co., TN; d. 1973, Decatur Co., TN; m. JAMES THOMAS BRIGANCE, 23 Dec 1906; b. 05 Feb 1884; d. 1975, Decatur Co., TN.

More About EMILA LIZA MANERS:

Burial: Wylie Gardner Cemetery, Decatur Co., TN

More About JAMES THOMAS BRIGANCE:

Burial: Wylie Gardner Cemetery, Decatur Co., TN

- xiv. ROSA MANERS, b. 16 Feb 1886, Decatur Co., TN; d. 03 Jan 1975, Decatur Co., TN; m. HARRY BRUCE KELLEY, 04 Dec 1904, Decatur Co., TN; b. 07 Feb 1881, Decatur Co., TN; d. 22 Apr 1955, Decatur Co., TN.

More About ROSA MANERS:

Burial: Pleasant Hill Cemetery, Decatur Co., TN

More About HARRY BRUCE KELLEY:

Burial: Pleasant Hill Cemetery, Decatur Co., TN

- xv. MATTIE MANERS, b. 06 Jul 1887, Decatur Co., TN; d. 06 Jul 1887, Decatur Co., TN (Died at Birth).
- xvi. LIDDIE MANERS, b. 27 Dec 1889, Decatur Co., TN; d. 13 Mar 1970, Caruthersville, MO; m. WILLIAM G. ADAMS; b. 1887; d. 1960.

More About LIDDIE MANERS:

Burial: Wylie Gardner Cemetery, Decatur Co., TN

More About WILLIAM G. ADAMS:

Burial: Wylie Gardner Cemetery, Decatur Co., TN

- xvii. CURRY MANERS, b. 05 May 1892, Decatur Co., TN; d. 04 Apr 1920, Decatur Co., TN; m. EFFIE JANE TUTEN; b. 1891; d. 1970.

More About CURRY MANERS:

Burial: Wylie Gardner Cemetery, Decatur Co., TN

More About EFFIE JANE TUTEN:

Burial: Concord Cemetery, Decatur Co., TN

18. ROBERT FORRESTER⁸ KEETON (*JOHN LAWSON*⁷, *JOHN ROBERT*⁶, *HEZEKIAH*⁵, *JAMES*⁴, *WILLIAM*³, *WILLIAM*², *JOHN*¹) was born 13 Aug 1848 in Bath Springs, Decatur Co., TN, and died 02 Jan 1911 in Bath Springs, Decatur Co., TN. He married SARAH EMILY TUCKER 02 Jan 1881 in Decatur Co., TN, daughter of JOHN TUCKER and MARTHA HANEY. She was born 19 Feb 1866 in Bath Springs, Decatur Co., TN, and died 15 Jun 1955 in Bath Springs, Decatur Co., TN.

Notes for ROBERT FORRESTER KEETON:

Robert Forrester (Bob) Keeton, born August 13, 1848 in Decatur County, TN, was the second of seven children of Dr. John Lawson Keeton and Margaret Levisa Kelley Keeton. He was a farmer and merchant, working on the Keeton Farm and managing the general merchandise store at Dunbar (he probably was running the store in 1884 because in that year several local people entered into Trust Deeds with R. F. Keeton. It was a normal practice for farmers to enter into Trust Deeds with the local merchant as a way of obtaining credit to tide them over until their crops were harvested*).

In about 1982, Bob's oldest grandson, William Curtis Keeton, at age 79, recalled that his

Grandpa Keeton ran the "store log building" during the Civil War and slept there because the rest of the family (his father, Dr. John Lawson Keeton, and step-mother, Margaret Brigance Keeton, et al.) lived down on the creek across from the Keeton Cemetery. He ran the store for some time by himself until Mr. W. D. (Billy) Johnson, Jr. bought one-half interest. They then called it Keeton & Johnson. Robert F. grew old and sold out to Mr. Johnson who ran the store for years before selling it to Mr. Hence Ray.

Robert F. Keeton's youngest son, Bedford Benard Keeton, bought the store about 1925 after Mr. Ray had run it for only a short time. Later, Bedford sold the store to Walter H. Lafferty and J. Leonard Magers. They ran it for one or two years before selling it back to Bedford, who again ran the store and moved into a modern, new building before selling it to his own son, Bryan, in 1957. Bryan was the sole proprietor until he sold out to his son, Joel and wife, Amy, in 2001. Declining business forced them to close the store in early 2005.

On two occasions, Robert F. Keeton was appointed Postmaster of the Dunbar post office, which was located in the log building store. He was the first Dunbar postmaster, appointed on May 2, 1879, and served until April 15, 1881. He was appointed again on February 14, 1889, and served until December 26, 1893. Incoming and outgoing mail was handled by stagecoach between Lexington and Clifton on the Old Stage Road (present Highway Tenn. 114), with connections to Nashville and Memphis and points beyond. The slot in the door for the mail drop at the old Dunbar store/post office is still visible.

Curtis Keeton also recalled that when Robert F. Keeton was a young man dating, the Boggan girls gave him a gold dollar. After he died, Grandma kept it in a sack she had made until her mind started to fail. She then gave it to Bedford, who kept it a long time. Sometime in the early 1960s, Bedford gave the coin to Curt to keep in the Keeton family to be handed down.

Curt also remembered Robert F. as an old man sitting on the front porch talking about how bad the Civil war was. And he remembered that Bedford was a small boy trying to plow cotton down behind the house and Robert F. went down there to try and showed him how but he was so old and his mind so bad that he just handed the plow lines back to Bedford and told him to do the best he could. Robert F. went back and sat on the porch.

Robert married Sarah Emily Tucker January 2, 1881. They lived in the Keeton home at Dunbar and had seven children. There is a Masonic symbol on Robert's grave marker and an Eastern Star symbol on Emily's grave marker. They are buried in the Keeton Cemetery near the site of his childhood home on the Keeton farm.

*Decatur County Trust Deeds records for 1884 indicate that the following persons entered into Trust Deeds with R. F. Keeton:

A. A. Roach, J. T. Brasher, R. J. Montgomery (2 deeds), W. J. Montgomery, J. M. Butler, W. M. Britt, Philip Culp, H. F. Montgomery,
W. H. Mayo, J. T. Barber, P. H. Rhoads, and J. J. Montgomery.

More About ROBERT FORRESTER KEETON:

Burial: Jan 1911, Keeton Cemetery, Bath Springs, Decatur County, TN

Occupation: Farmer, Merchant and Postmaster

Religion: Methodist

Notes for SARAH EMILY TUCKER:

Born February 19, 1866, just a few months after the end of the Civil War, Sarah Emily Tucker was the second of eight children born to John Washington and Martha Jane Haney Tucker. A month and a half before her 15th birthday, she married Robert Forrester Keeton, on January 2, 1881, and they had seven children: three daughters and four sons, all of whom lived in Decatur County, TN. Several years after Robert Forrester died in 1911, she met and married Isaac Samuel Adkisson, a Methodist minister and Confederate Army veteran, on October 27, 1918, 15 days before the armistice was signed ending World War I. There were no children from her marriage to Sam Adkisson.

Emily, as she was known, was a devoted wife and mother. She and Robert and their children lived in the Keeton home at Dunbar. She was an active member of Keeton Springs Methodist Church and a member of the Eastern Star lodge. It is noted on Robert's family page that he, along with W. D. (Billy) Johnston, Jr. (son of Dr. William D. Johnston and Sarah Frances White and great nephew of Sarah White Haney) operated the general store at Dunbar and it continued to be operated by her descendants for several decades.

Sarah Emily Tucker Keeton died June 15, 1955 and she and Robert Forrester Keeton are buried at the Keeton Cemetery at Dunbar, Bath Springs, TN. The grave marker for Sarah Emily includes an Eastern Star symbol and Robert Forrester's has a Masonic symbol.

Isaac Samuel Adkisson, second husband of Sarah Emily Tucker, is buried at Decaturville City Cemetery in Decaturville, TN.

Obituary for Sarah Emily Tucker Keeton

Funeral services for Mrs. Sarah Emily Tucker, 89, were held last Thursday afternoon at the Keeton Springs Methodist Church, and burial was in the Keeton family cemetery. Bro. O. H. Lafferty, assisted by Bro. Mainers, officiated.

Mrs. Tucker died on June 15. She professed faith in Christ and united with the Methodist Church early in life, living as a consistent member. Her faith in God and loyalty to her church were an inspiration to all who knew her. She was a member of the Bath Springs Chapter of the Order of the Eastern Star.

Surviving are three daughters, Mrs. Margaret Britt of Decaturville, Mrs. Hester Brigance of Bath Springs, and Mrs. Vestie Kelly of Finger; four sons, Jim Keeton of Decaturville, and John, Oval and Bedford Keeton, all of Bath Springs, and three sisters, Mrs. Estelee Stevens of San Antonio, Texas, Mrs. Jennie Maners of Sardis, and Mrs. Catherine Brock of Nacogdoches, Texas.

Mrs. Adkisson Rites Near Decaturville (From the Jackson Sun, Jackson, TN 6/16/1955

Decaturville, Tenn. June 16--Services for Mrs. Sarah Emily Adkisson, 89, were held at Keeton Springs Methodist Church in the Dunbar Community near Bath Springs at 2 o'clock this afternoon, Rev. O. H. Lafferty officiating. Burial in the Keeton family Cemetery with Wylie Funeral Home in charge.

Mrs. Adkisson died Wednesday at the home of her son, B. B. Keeton. She had lived in the

same community of Decatur County all her life. She was a member of Keeton Springs Methodist Church and the Order of Eastern Star.

Mrs. Adkisson leaves four sons, John Keeton, B. B. Keeton and Oval Keeton, all of Bath Springs, and Jim Keeton of Decaturville; three daughters, Mrs. Hester Brigrance of Bath Springs, Mrs. Vestie Kelley of Finger, and Mrs. Margaret Britt of Decaturville; three sisters, Mrs. Estelee Stevens of San Antonio, Tex., Mrs. Katherine Brock of Nacogdoches, Tex., and Mrs. Jennie Maners of Sardis; 42 grandchildren and 65 great grandchildren.

Note of Thanks--

Your acts of kindness and sympathetic understanding during the illness and death of our loved one, Mrs. Sarah Emily Adkisson, has been a source of great comfort to us. We want to express our thanks and appreciation to each of you.

The family of Mrs. Sarah Emily Adkisson

More About SARAH EMILY TUCKER:

Burial: Jun 1955, Keeton Cemetery, Bath Springs, Decatur County, TN

Religion: Keeton Springs United Methodist Church

Children of ROBERT KEETON and SARAH TUCKER are:

- i. JOHN LAWSON⁹ KEETON, b. 12 Mar 1882, Bath Springs, Decatur Co., TN; d. 20 May 1973, Decatur Co., TN; m. MARY SUSAN KELLY, 22 Jan 1903, Decatur Co., TN; b. 07 Feb 1881; d. 19 Sep 1954, Madison Co., TN.

Notes for JOHN LAWSON KEETON:

Obituary for John L. Keeton:

Decaturville -- Funeral services for John Lawson Keeton, 91, were held at 3 p.m. today at the Pleasant Hill Methodist Church with the Rev. B. I. Crider and the Rev. Horace Melton officiating. Burial was in the church cemetery with Masonic Rites at graveside. Decaturville Funeral Home was in charge.

Mr. Keeton died Sunday afternoon at the Decatur County Hospital in Parsons after a long illness. He was a retired farmer, a member of the Keeton Springs Methodist Church and a Mason. He was son of the late Robert Forrester and Sarah Emily Keeton.

Surviving are a son, Curtis Keeton of Decaturville; a daughter, Mrs. Irona Leasure of Decaturville; six grandchildren, eight great-grandchildren; a brother, Bedford Keeton of Bath Springs; and a sister, Mrs. Hester Brigrance of Bath Springs.

Funeral Services Held For Mr. Keeton

John L. Keeton, aged 91, was born to Robert F. and Sarah Emily Keeton March 12, 1882 and departed this life May 20, 1973. He was the oldest of seven children. He spent his entire life in Decatur County.

In January 22, 1903, he was married to Susan Kelly. To this union was born three children: Curtis Keeton of Decaturville, Ben, who preceded him in death in 1924 and Irona Keeton Leasure, also of Decaturville.

He leaves six grandchildren and eight great grandchildren. He leaves one sister, Mrs. Hester Brigance of Bath Springs and one brother, B. B. Keeton of Bath Springs. A host of friends and relatives will also mourn Uncle John's passing.

He became a Mason in 1910. He was a member of Keeton Springs Methodist Church professing faith at an early age. He was engaged in farming until he retired.

Funeral services were held Monday May 21 at the Pleasant Hill Cemetery with Decaturville Funeral Home in charge of arrangements. Bro. B. I. Crider and Bro. Horace Melton officiated. Pallbearers were the following nephews: Bonnie Keeton, Olen Britt, Forrest Newman, Bryan Keeton, Sidney Keeton and Earl Brigance.

More About JOHN LAWSON KEETON:

Burial: 21 May 1973, Pleasant Hill Cemetery, Decatur County, TN

Occupation: Farmer

Religion: Keeton Springs United Methodist Church

Notes for MARY SUSAN KELLY:

Obituary for Mrs. John L. Keeton:

Decaturville, Tenn., Sept. 19.--Services for Mrs. Mary Susan Kelly Keeton, who died Sunday in a Jackson, Tenn., hospital, will be held at 2:30 Monday afternoon at Pleasant Hill Methodist Church near here. The Rev. C. W. Brinkley and the Rev. O. H. Lafferty will officiate. Burial will be in the church cemetery with Wylie Funeral Home in charge.

Mrs. Keeton, who was 73, was a Methodist and a member of the Order of the Eastern Star. She leaves her husband, John L. Keeton; a son, Curtis Keeton, and a daughter, Mrs. Orville Leasure, both of Decaturville; two brothers, Bruce Kelly and Henry Kelly of Bath Springs, Tenn., and three sisters, Mrs. Lissie Maners and Mrs. Ollie Lancaster of Bath Springs and Mrs. Tennie Maness of Saltillo, Tenn.

Pallbearers were Bonnie Keeton, Lewis Keeton, Alton Maners, Harbert Kelly, Earl Brigance, and Charles Keeton.

In Memory

In Loving memory of Mrs. Susan Keeton. Just one year ago today, September 19th, dear mother we had to say farewell but not forever. Mother we are going to see you again. We've missed you so much since you have been gone; it is

so lonely without you. Mother, it seems more than we can bear; we don't see you sitting around in the rocking chair or hear your foot steps in the house. We can't see why you were taken away from us but the good lord knew best. Your words of advice meant so much to us, you were always here to comfort and cheer.

Dear mother we loved you so much and we'll never forget you. We are praying and hoping to meet you again some sweet day where there will be no more farewells.

Dear mother we can't see why you had to be taken away from our old Dad to leave him so lonely and sad. There the grandchildren come every day and tell something that grandmother had told them to do. Oh, that makes heart ache and pain.

Oh mother dear we loved you so much your place is vacant in our home no one else can fill. Mother we often wonder why you had to leave us here we loved you so well and we'll never forget you as long as we live. As we look at mother's picture hanging on the wall we can think of days that have come and gone hoping and praying, looking above to meet our dear mother in that home above. -- Written by daughter Mrs. Irona Leasure

In Memoriam

In the year eighteen hundred eighty-one

Our God in his power

Sent down to this earth

A rare kind of flower.

An orchid or Bluebell

Just couldn't compare,

With the sweet Susan Keeton

So kind and so fair.

She was sweet as the rose

And true as the blue,

Her eyes held the stars

And the soft morning dew.

She lived and she loved

In a rare sort of way

And the lives that she touched

Still love her today.

But heaven got lonely

And something was missing,

Then God thought of Susan

And it set him to wishing.

He thought how her smile

Would brighten his throne

So he bent down one day

And whispered "Come Home."

I need you so badly --
To make heaven bright
"Don't weep for your loved ones
I'll see they're alright."
So she went home to God
And lives there with him
And as for her loved ones
She waits there for them.
No, she isn't dead--
Just gone for a while
Until once again we shall
See her sweet smile.
So today we remember
This flower so fair
And we cherish her memory
Til we meet her up there.
John Keeton

Card of Thanks

We wish to express our thanks to the many friends and neighbors who brought food and who were so kind to us during the illness and at the time of the death of our wife, mother and grand mother; To Dr. R. L. Wylie for his splendid service; to Wylie Funeral Home for their kindnesses and sympathetic words; and to the florist; To Rev. C. W. Brinkley and Rev. O. H. Lafferty for their comforting words. May God's richest blessings be with you all. John L. Keeton and family -- Curtis Keeton and family --Mrs. Orville Leasure and family

More About MARY SUSAN KELLY:

Burial: 20 Sep 1954, Pleasant Hill Cemetery, Decatur County, TN
Religion: Keeton Springs United Methodist Church

- ii. JAMES ROBERT KEETON, b. 20 Jan 1883, Bath Springs, Decatur Co., TN; d. 11 Apr 1964, Decatur Co., TN; m. (1) MARGARET CAROLINE BRIGANCE, 20 Dec 1903, Decatur Co., TN; b. 08 May 1882; d. 08 Aug 1923, Decatur Co., TN; m. (2) MARY FRANCES WRIGHT, 20 Apr 1924, Decatur Co., TN; b. 23 Oct 1883, Decatur Co., TN; d. 23 Jan 1973, Decatur Co., TN.

Notes for JAMES ROBERT KEETON:
Final Rites Held For J. R. Keeton

Funeral services for James Robert Keeton, 79, were held at 2 p.m. at the Pleasant Hill Methodist Church, with the Rev. David Haley and the Rev. Jerry Hassell officiating. Masonic rites were at the grave. Burial was in Pleasant Hill Cemetery with Wylie Funeral Home in charge.

Mr. Keeton died at his home on the Largo Road at 4:05 Saturday. He was

born in Decatur County, son of the late Robert F. and Sarah E. Tucker Keeton and lived here all his life. He was first married to Miss Maggie Caroline Brigance and after her death in 1923 was married to Miss Mary Frances (Fannie) Wright. He was a Mason for more than 51 years and had served as a magistrate and Decatur County Highway Commissioner and was president of Peoples Burial Association since 1942.

He is survived by his widow, Mrs. Mary Frances Keeton; two daughters, Mrs. Bertie Wright, Mrs. Sallie Blount; six sons, Andy Keeton, Bonnie Keeton, Bob Keeton, Rodgers Keeton and Lewis Keeton all of Decaturville, Ovid Keeton of Parsons; three brothers, J. L. Keeton of Decaturville, O. U. Keeton and B. B. Keeton of Bath Springs; one sister, Mrs. Hester Brigance of Bath Springs; 17 grandchildren and 13 great grandchildren.

More About JAMES ROBERT KEETON:

Burial: Pleasant Hill Cemetery, Decatur County, TN

Occupation: Farmer and Highway Commissioner

More About MARGARET CAROLINE BRIGANCE:

Burial: Pleasant Hill Cemetery, Decatur County, TN

Notes for MARY FRANCES WRIGHT:

Obituary For Mrs. Fannie Keeton:

DECATURVILLE -- Funeral services for Mrs. Fannie Wright Keeton, 89, will be held at 2 p.m. Wednesday at Pleasant Hill Methodist Church with the Rev. Charles White and the Rev. Horace Melton officiating. Burial will be in the church cemetery with Decaturville Funeral Home in charge. Mrs. Keeton died this morning at the Decatur County General Hospital in Parsons after a long illness. She was a lifelong resident of Decatur County and made her home in the Largo Community. On April 20, 1924, she married J. R. Keeton and became the mother of his seven sons and daughters. A son, James W. Keeton, died May 16, 1937.

Surviving are six sons, Andy Keeton, Bonnie Keeton, Bob Keeton, Rogers Keeton, and Lewis Keeton, all of Decaturville, and Ovid Keeton, Parsons; two daughters, Mrs. Sally Blount and Mrs. Bertie Wright, both of Decaturville; a brother, Ed Wright, Decaturville; 17 grandchildren and 33 great grandchildren.

More About MARY FRANCES WRIGHT:

Burial: Pleasant Hill Cemetery, Decatur County, TN

- iii. MARGARET JANE KEETON, b. 30 Nov 1887, Bath Springs, Decatur Co., TN; d. 24 Jun 1957, Decaturville, Decatur Co., TN; m. ROBERT LEE BRITT, 04 Jan 1903, Decatur Co., TN; b. 18 Jul 1876, Decatur Co., TN; d. 14 May 1964, Decaturville, Decatur Co., TN.

More About MARGARET JANE KEETON:
Burial: Pleasant Hill Cemetery, Decatur County, TN

More About ROBERT LEE BRITT:
Burial: Pleasant Hill Cemetery, Decatur County, TN
Occupation: Farmer

- iv. OVAL URBAN KEETON, b. 06 Aug 1890, Bath Springs, Decatur Co., TN; d. 11 Nov 1972, Bath Springs, Decatur Co., TN; m. FLORA MARGARET DUNNAVANT, 14 Nov 1909, Decatur Co., TN; b. 17 Mar 1891; d. 01 Mar 1981.

Notes for OVAL URBAN KEETON:
Obituary for O. U. Keeton:

BATH SPRINGS -- Services for Mr. O. U. Keeton, 82, were to be at 2 p.m. today at Keeton Springs Methodist Church with Rev. B. I. Crider officiating. Burial was to be in Adkisson Cemetery, with Parsons Mortuary in charge.

Mr. Keeton died Saturday night at Decatur County Hospital. He was the son of the late Mr. and Mrs. R. F. Keeton. Born and reared in the Keeton Springs Community, he was married to Miss Flora Dunavant in 1909. Mr. Keeton was a retired farmer, a mason, and a member of eastern star.

Surviving are his widow, Mrs. Flora Keeton; two sons, Sidney Keeton of Bath Springs, and Milburn Keeton of Cleveland, Ohio; two daughters, Mrs. Brady Lafferty and a foster daughter, Mrs. Leona Montgomery, both of Bath Springs; two brothers, John Keeton of Decaturville and Bedford Keeton of Bath Springs; nine grandchildren and seven great grandchildren.

More About OVAL URBAN KEETON:
Burial: 13 Nov 1972, Pleasant Hill Cemetery, Decatur County, TN
Occupation: Farmer
Religion: Keeton Springs United Methodist Church

More About FLORA MARGARET DUNNAVANT:
Burial: Pleasant Hill Cemetery, Decatur County, TN

- v. HESTER ANN KEETON, b. 23 Aug 1893, Bath Springs, Decatur Co., TN; d. 09 Jan 1987, Decatur Co., TN; m. ANDY JACK BRIGANCE, 15 Aug 1909, Decatur Co., TN; b. 31 Jan 1886; d. 15 Oct 1977, Decatur Co., TN.

Notes for HESTER ANN KEETON:
Obituary for Hester Ann Brigance:

BATH SPRINGS -- Services for Hester Ann Brigance, 93, will be at 1 p.m. Saturday at Parsons Mortuary with the Rev. W. C. Howard officiating. Burial will be in Pleasant Hill Cemetery near Bath Springs.

Mrs. Brigance, widow of Andy J. Brigance, died early this morning at Decatur County General Hospital in Parsons. A Decatur County native, she was a member of Keeton Springs Methodist Church. A daughter, Gracie Pauline Mitchell, is dead.

Surviving are two daughters, Graple West of Decaturville and Mable Johnson of Memphis; and three sons, Festus Brigance and Earl Brigance, both of Decaturville, and Neal Brigance of Bath Springs. She has three grandchildren and four great grandchildren.

More About HESTER ANN KEETON:

Burial: 10 Jan 1987, Pleasant Hill Cemetery, Decatur County, TN

Religion: Keeton Springs United Methodist Church

Notes for ANDY JACK BRIGANCE:

Andy's mother was Sarah Shannon, wife of Pleasant Brigance. Sarah was a sister to Ada Jane Shannon, daughter of Thomas Shannon. Ada Jane was Ora Duck Keeton's mother.

More About ANDY JACK BRIGANCE:

Burial: Pleasant Hill Cemetery, Decatur County, TN

- vi. BEDFORD BENARD KEETON, b. 19 Sep 1896, Bath Springs, Decatur Co., TN; d. 04 Mar 1975, Bath Springs, Decatur Co., TN; m. ORA DUCK, 05 Oct 1919, Bath Springs, Decatur Co., TN; b. 02 May 1895, Point Pleasant, Decatur Co., TN; d. 10 Nov 1983, Parsons, Decatur Co., TN.

Notes for BEDFORD BENARD KEETON:

Bedford Benard Keeton, the sixth of seven children of Robert Forrester and Sarah Emily Tucker Keeton, was born September 19, 1896, in the Keeton home at Dunbar, Bath Springs, TN. He received the schooling available at the time while doing his share of work on the family farm. Bedford was just a teenager when his father died in 1911. He dutifully shouldered the heavier load of family responsibilities and household and farm chores expected of him following his father's death. All of his older brothers and sisters were already married when his father died, and their priorities were no doubt shifting toward their separate families and homes. Thus, at the age of 14, Bedford effectively became the man of the house responsible for his mother and his 12-year-old sister, Vestie.

Those early years and the hardship of losing his father would significantly influence Bedford's work ethic in later years. He matured into a hard-working, generous man who cared deeply for his family, his church, and his community. He knew at an early age that he wanted to continue the tradition of farming the land that his forefathers had farmed and preserve and perpetuate the family homestead and raise a family of his own there.

Bedford had only one home his entire life--the house on the Keeton Farm where he was born. It is believed that the log house, which probably was built

before 1850 and before milled lumber was readily available, originally consisted of one room, or "pen," approximately 18' X 18' with a limestone rock fireplace in the end away from the entrance. Log houses of that era had several different ground plans but all were based on the pen, a 16 by 16 to 18 by 18-foot square box because a log that size was about what one man with a mule could bring in from the forest. It is also about the maximum that two men can lift as they build up the walls. The logs were put together with notched ends. A few years later another pen, also about the same size and almost a mirror image of the first, was built a few feet away from the original pen. The space in between was connected with a roof, forming a breezeway, or dogtrot, open on the two ends, with the west end being the front. Over the years a number of changes have been made to that old house but through it all the two original log pens remain in place and in use. They have been surrounded and covered up with later construction and additions but those of us who grew up in the house can easily envision which portion of the present structure is the log house portion. One would guess that Bedford's ancestors stood in the breezeway of the Keeton home and watched the Confederate troops as they marched by on the Old Stage Road between Lexington and Clifton (now Tenn. 114) in 1863. Bedford's mother remembered hearing stories about the soldiers stopping to rest and eat under the huge oak trees in front of the house.

World War I broke out at just about the time Bedford reached the prime age for taking up arms. When the call to active military duty came, he served honorably in the U. S. Army. His footstone military grave marker reads "Pvt US Army World War I." Shortly after returning home from the Army, Bedford and Ora Duck, who had been courting each other for some time, were taking a ride in a mule-drawn wagon on a lazy Sunday afternoon when they met up near the crossroads with the local pastor, The Reverend A. G. Barnes, M. G., who was riding horseback. All three parties--bride, groom and minister--were willing and ready to proceed with marriage vows. They sensed that a rain storm was coming toward them so they hurriedly proceeded with the ceremony with the bride and groom sitting on the wagon and the minister mounted on his horse. The rain poured down but the ceremony continued. Thus it was that Bedford and Ora became man and wife on that Sunday afternoon, October 5, 1919. Their union resulted in nine children, all of whom were born and raised at the Keeton home place during the era of the Great Depression.

Bedford was a Christian and life-long member of the Keeton Springs Methodist Church, now named Bath Springs United Methodist Church. The church house, as it was known, was built on land donated by the Keeton family. For many years, the one-room church house was situated about 300 yards off the Scotts Hill-Clifton road about 1/4 mile east of Dunbar. Then, shortly after World War II, Bedford and Ora donated a tract of land up on the Scotts Hill-Clifton road nearer to the Dunbar store and just across a small field from his cherished home place. Several years later, the church charge parsonage was relocated to Keeton Springs and Bedford and Ora donated the land upon which it was built.

The church congregation raised enough money to erect a modern stuccoed building soon after World War II ended. I recall one fund raiser was a hamburger stand at the county fair in Decaturville. Bedford and Ora donated beef from their herd and others donated produce from their gardens. The hamburger sale was a huge success and brought in enough profit to get the new church building started right away.

Bedford was a merchant. For many years, he ran the general store at Dunbar. The store had been in the family for decades and operated out of a log building situated at the top of the "T" where the roads come together. Bedford is responsible for building the present modern structure, across the road. He also was instrumental in providing space for and relocating the Old Center Masonic Lodge to Dunbar. The lodge in Center had burned down. Bedford proposed to the lodge membership--and they accepted his offer--that they build above the new store he was planning at Dunbar. The Eastern Star and other lodges hold their meetings at Dunbar as well. As a merchant, he was generous in extending credit to friends and neighbors in times of need so they could buy groceries, sometimes even when he knew there was little hope those debts would ever be collected.

As a parent, Bedford was actively involved with and very supportive of the local schools. He served as a member of the Decatur County School Board in the 1930s.

Some years ago, Bedford's grandson, Tim Keeton, related some musings told to him by Cousin William Curtis Keeton: Curt said he once took a team of mules and wagon to Perryville and brought back a barrel of coal oil for Bedford. He stayed all night with his grandmother, Sarah Emily Tucker Keeton Adkisson, in Decaturville, then came home the next morning. Bedford was one of the first to buy from Standard Oil Company. The Keeton Farm was started in 1855. Bedford's grandfather was Dr. John L. Keeton, a medical doctor. The farm was run by slaves. During the war, the slaves would hide Dr. Keeton's best saddle horse to keep the soldiers from getting it, so he would have it to make his house calls and treat the sick. Some slaves are believed to be buried in unmarked graves in the lower right side of Keeton Cemetery.

Bedford was a very active farmer, raising hogs, sheep, and cattle. In addition to pastureland for hay and grazing, he raised row crops such as corn and cotton, as well as a garden big enough to feed his large family and to sell enough meat and produce to provide the family's cash needs. Bedford was a good steward of the land, leaving it vastly improved. The farm is still active and managed by Bedford and Ora's grandson, Tim.

Bedford died March 4, 1975 in the same house in which he was born and is buried at the Keeton Cemetery in a double grave shared with Ora. His obituary follows:

"Bedford Benard Keeton, age 78, died March 4, 1975 after a long illness at his home in the Keeton Springs Community where he had spent his entire life.

"He was engaged in farming until his retirement and was an extensive landowner and cattleman. He also operated a grocery store at Dunbar for many years.

"He was active in community, civic and church affairs. He served as Sunday School superintendent, Sunday School teacher, steward and in various activities in the Keeton Springs United Methodist Church, where he professed faith and had been a loyal member since early childhood.

"He was a member and past master of Old Center Lodge No. 380. He was a Scottish Rite and York Rite Mason and Shriner. He was also a charter member and past patron of Bath Springs Chapter 416 Order of the Eastern Star.

"He served on the Soil Conservation Service Board of Supervisors and was an active member of the Farm Bureau for a number of years.

"On October 5, 1919, he was married to Ora Duck, who survives him. Nine children were born to this union, all of whom survive--four sons: Charles and Bryan of Bath Springs, Billy of Huntingdon, and Donald of Greensboro, NC; five daughters: Ruth Lafferty of Parsons, Helen Hearington of Memphis, Dorothy Blankenship of Jackson, Marjorie Fiddler of Lexington and Sue Reynolds of Ft. Worth, Texas. He is also survived by seventeen grandchildren and one sister, Hester Brigance, of Bath Springs.

"The funeral services were held at 2:00 PM Thursday, March 6, in the chapel of Parsons Mortuary with Rev. Charles Brinkley officiating. Masonic rites were held with Masons also serving as pallbearers. Interment followed in the Keeton Cemetery."

The following is a brief historical sketch of the farm where Bedford lived:

Keeton Farm

By Tim Keeton

The ideas of progressive farming have shaped the twentieth century rural landscape. The Keeton Century Farm is a perfect example of how farmers over the last 100 years have changed the look of the land. The Keeton Farm dates to 1851 when Robert and Catherine Keeton acquired just over 157 acres of land seven miles south of Scotts Hill in the 1st District of Decatur County. The Keetons grew corn, cotton and hay and raised cattle. During the Civil War, the Confederate army used the farm site as a mustering station.

Dr. John L. Keeton, one of Robert and Catherine's eleven children, was the second family owner of the farm. A practicing medical doctor, John managed the farm with the help of his wife Margaret Kelley. The third generation owner was Robert F. Keeton, the founders' grandson. Robert

erected a log building on the property which became the genesis of the Dunbar community. Through the remainder of the nineteenth century, the building served as a general store and stagestop. It also served as the community post office during Robert's two separate terms as the Dunbar postmaster.

In 1922, the family farm passed into the hands of Bedford B. Keeton, who owned the property for the next 53 years and expanded its 157 acres to almost 900 acres. According to the family, Bedford "served as a member of the Decatur County School Board, a Farm Bureau director, . . . and was a charter member of the Soil Conservation Board of Supervisors." He convinced many of his neighbors to follow the progressive farming practices popular in the mid-twentieth century. Today, terraces, grass waterways, permanent pasture, crop rotation and soil-tested fertilized fields are a commanding part of the local farming landscape.

Bedford Keeton died in 1975 and the farm passed into the hands of four children and one grandson. Charles and Billy Keeton, along with Marjorie K. Fiddler, inherited timber land while Bryan E. and Timothy B. Keeton inherited the farming operation. Timothy Keeton is the owner of the farm today. Today four pre-1886 buildings remain intact on the farm: the farmhouses of both John Keeton and Bedford Keeton, the log store and a log barn.

More About BEDFORD BENARD KEETON:

Burial: 06 Mar 1975, Keeton Cemetery, Bath Springs, Decatur County, TN

Military service: PVT US Army World War I

Occupation: Farmer and Merchant

Notes for ORA DUCK:

Ora Duck was born May 2, 1895, at Point Pleasant, Decatur County, TN, the middle child of seven children born to Pleasant Wright and Ada Jane Shannon Duck. She was a few months shy of her ninth birthday when her father died on February 14, 1904 and she was not yet a teenager when her mother died on January 20, 1908. Those two life events and loss of parental love and nurturing at such young age, no doubt, played an important role in shaping the loving, caring mother that Ora later became. She was sent to live with her oldest sister, Flora, after her parents died. She and Bedford Keeton were married in Decatur County on October 5, 1919, and the first of nine children was born in 1920 during the difficult times between World War I and the Great Depression. (See also notes for Bedford Keeton)

After receiving the schooling available at the time in Decatur County, Ora, following in the footsteps of her mother and father, worked for several years as a teacher at Decatur County schools, such as Unity, Corinth, Cedar Grove and Turman's Creek Baptist Church. Betty Sue Gurley Hughes told about going through her mother's (Vera Addie Maners) trunk after she died in 1992 and finding a letter from Ora Duck to Vera. Vera described Miss Ora as one of her favorite teachers at Turman's Creek Baptist Church School. As was often the custom at the time, Ora took room and board with families living near the

schools where she taught.

Ora managed the home and family every bit as efficiently as Bedford managed the farm and store. And she spent many long hours working beside him in the fields and helping out at the store, usually while supervising the young ones at the same time.

She was a very active member of and leader in Keeton Springs United Methodist Church. She had a special knack for teaching Sunday School classes and was the person to go to when anything needed to be done. She saw to it that the preacher and his family had a good lunch in the home of a church family after Sunday services. Ora always had a meal prepared and could make room for a few more at the table on a moment's notice. Visitors at her house raved about her cooking and the judges at the county fair must have liked it too because she had a collection of ribbons for her prize-winning entries.

Ora was also active in the Eastern Star and held regional and statewide positions of leadership in that lodge.

Ora died at the age of 88 on November 10, 1983 and is buried beside Bedford at the Keeton Cemetery.

More About ORA DUCK:

Burial: 12 Nov 1983, Keeton Cemetery, Bath Springs, Decatur County, TN
Religion: Keeton Springs United Methodist Church

- vii. VESTIE MAE KEETON, b. 09 Oct 1898, Bath Springs, Decatur Co., TN; d. 24 Sep 1962, Finger, Chester Co., TN; m. ATLAS X. KELLEY, 14 Aug 1915, Decatur Co., TN; b. 25 Oct 1891; d. 18 Sep 1985.

Notes for VESTIE MAE KEETON:
Obituary for Mrs. Atlas Kelley:

HENDERSON, Tenn., Sept. 25 -- Mrs. Vestie Mae Kelley, wife of Atlas X. Kelley, died Monday morning at her home near Finger after a three-year illness. She was 63.

Services were held Tuesday at Old Friendship Baptist Church. Burial was in the church cemetery, with Morgan Funeral Home in charge.

Mrs. Kelley was born in Decatur County and had lived near Finger since 1935. She was a Methodist.

She also leaves four sons, Clyde Kelley and Joe Kelley, both of Henderson; Edman and Fredman Kelley both of Finger; four daughters, Mrs. Vaudie Smith of Henderson, Mrs. Martha Phillips of Venesel, Ill.; Mrs. James Lyman Plunk of Jacks Creek and Mrs. Thurman Wamble of Wichita, Kan.; four brothers, John Keeton, Jim Keeton, Ove Keeton and Bedford Keeton; and a sister, Mrs. Andy Brigance, all of Decaturville; 19 grandchildren and four great

grandchildren.

More About VESTIE MAE KEETON:

Burial: 25 Sep 1962, Old Friendship Baptist Cemetery, Finger, Chester Co., TN

Religion: Methodist

Notes for ATLAS X. KELLEY:

VESTIE MAE (KEETON) KELLEY - wife of Atlas X. Kelley, died Monday morning at her home near Finger after a 3 year illness. She was 63.

Mrs Kelley was born in Decatur Co and lived in Finger since 1935. She was Methodist. She leaves four sons, Clyde Kelley and Joe Kelley, both of Henderson, Edman and Fredman Kelley both of Finger. Four daughters, Mrs. Vaudie Smith of Henderson, Mrs Martha Phillips of Venesel, Ill, Mrs James Lyman Plunk of Jacks Creek and Mrs. Thurman Wamble of Wichita, Kan. four brothers, John Keeton, Jim Keeton, Ove Keeton, and Bedford Keeton and a sister, Mrs Andy Brigance all of Decaturville. 19 grandchildren, four great grandchildren

Services were held Tuesday at Old Friendship Baptist Church. Burial was in the church cemetery, with Morgan Funeral home in charge.

Lexington Progress 25 Sep 1962

More About ATLAS X. KELLEY:

Burial: Old Friendship Baptist Cemetery, Finger, Chester County, TN

19. FINETTA JANE⁸ KEETON (*JOHN LAWSON*⁷, *JOHN ROBERT*⁶, *HEZEKIAH*⁵, *JAMES*⁴, *WILLIAM*³, *WILLIAM*², *JOHN*¹) was born 01 Oct 1849 in Bath Springs, Decatur Co., TN, and died 25 Oct 1879 in Kerrville, Kerr Co., TX. She married DAVID MARION LOWRANCE 15 Dec 1869 in Hardeman Co., TN, son of JACOB LOWRANCE and SUSAN GAGE. He was born 10 Feb 1834 in McNairy Co., TN, and died 23 Mar 1914 in Sayre, Beckham Co., OK.

Notes for FINETTA JANE KEETON:

See notes for Finetta Jane's husband, David Marion Lowrance.

More About FINETTA JANE KEETON:

Burial: Starkey Cemetery, Kerrville, Kerr County, TX

Notes for DAVID MARION LOWRANCE:

David M. Lowrance, second child of Jacob and Susan Lowrance, was born on February 10, 1834. He was a refugee at the Civil War Battle of Shiloh, which was only a few miles from his family home. Shortly after this, he substituted in the army for his cousin, Abe Plunk, for a month, while the cousin went home to care for his cotton crop. David remained with the army

as a scout, but not enlisted, nor was he on the army records for a period of 14 months. He then went to Carbondale, IL for the remainder of the war. There he did carpentry work with a man named White James.

After the war, David returned to Tennessee, where he was married to Finetta Jane Keeton December 15, 1869. In 1872 when their first child, John Francis, was still a toddler, David and Finetta Jane loaded a wagon and the three of them traveled overland in a wagon pulled by a pair of mules to Kerr County, TX. They settled at Center Point. David did carpentry work building houses and schools in the vicinity of Kerrville. He also raised horses and raced them.

Finetta Jane died in 1879. David's father died in 1882 so he returned to Tennessee, taking his children and several of his horses with them. He also left a number of his livestock behind in the care of a trusted friend, Angus Terry.

Back in Tennessee, David met and married Isabell (Belle) Tedford, who was about 40 years old at the time. He remained in Tennessee for a year or so before moving to Cedar Glades, Montgomery County, AR, where he ran a grocery store.

After a year in Arkansas, he returned to Texas and reclaimed his animals, did carpentry work and farmed. During the Cleveland administration, he lost his investments and moved to Oklahoma, near Willow, where he and his sons all filed on land.

More About DAVID MARION LOWRANCE:

Burial: Spring Creek Cemetery, Beckham County, OK

Children of FINETTA KEETON and DAVID LOWRANCE are:

- i. JOHN FRANCIS⁹ LOWRANCE, b. 18 Sep 1870, McNairy Co., TN; d. 18 Dec 1951, Sayre, Beckham Co., OK; m. SARAH ELLEN DAY; b. 15 Apr 1878; d. 12 Sep 1941.

Notes for JOHN FRANCIS LOWRANCE:

John Francis was born in McNairy County, TN, September 18, 1870. He was a farmer and lived near Sayre, OK. He married Sarah Ellen ("Ellie") Day, who was born April 15, 1878 and died September 12, 1941. He died December 18, 1951 at Sayre.

More About JOHN FRANCIS LOWRANCE:

Burial: Spring Creek Cemetery, south of Sayre, Beckham County, OK

More About SARAH ELLEN DAY:

Burial: Spring Creek Cemetery, south of Sayre, Beckham County, OK

- ii. ALBERT LAWSON LOWRANCE, b. 05 Jul 1873; d. 01 Dec 1948; m. JOSEPHINE DAY; b. 06 Nov 1874; d. 24 Jun 1976.

Notes for ALBERT LAWSON LOWRANCE:

Albert Lawson was a farmer near Sayre, OK. Clearly, he was named after his mother's brother Albert, with the Lawson from his maternal grandfather.

More About JOSEPHINE DAY:
Burial: 26 Jun 1976, Lone Oak Cemetery

- iii. HENRY MILTON LOWRANCE, b. 05 Nov 1875, Kerr Co., TX; d. 10 Apr 1954;
m. ANNIE BITTLE; b. 10 Sep 1874; d. Jun 1970, Mangum Co., OK.

Notes for HENRY MILTON LOWRANCE:
Henry was a farmer near Sayre, OK.

More About HENRY MILTON LOWRANCE:
Burial: Spring Creek Cemetery, south of Sayre, Beckham County, OK

More About ANNIE BITTLE:
Burial: Spring Creek Cemetery, south of Sayre, Beckham County, OK

- iv. GEORGE WASHINGTON LOWRANCE, b. 05 Mar 1877, Near Kerrville, TX; d.
26 Aug 1941, Delhi, OK; m. (1) AMELIA SCOTT; m. (2) ELLA JANE WOODY,
18 Oct 1900, Dunbar, Bath Springs, Decatur County, TN; b. 09 Sep 1879,
Alabama; d. 19 Jul 1953, Sayre, Beckham County, OK.

More About GEORGE WASHINGTON LOWRANCE:
Burial: 27 Aug 1941, Spring Creek Cemetery, south of Sayre, Beckham
County, OK

More About ELLA JANE WOODY:
Burial: 21 Jul 1953, Spring Creek Cemetery, south of Sayre, Beckham County,
OK

- v. JACOB DAVID LOWRANCE, b. 22 Oct 1879; d. 06 Feb 1964, Sayre, Beckham
Co., OK; m. MARY WATKINS CULVER, 21 Dec 1903; b. 25 Mar 1887,
Manteno, Shelby Co., IA; d. 06 Nov 1973, Sayre, Beckham Co., OK.

Notes for JACOB DAVID LOWRANCE:
Just a few days after Jacob David Lowrance was born, his mother died. He
was raised, until the age of two, by a family named "Words." His father paid
the expenses and furnished a cow. He went to school in Kerrville and later
worked for a surveying crew. Later he collected bills for a wagon company.
On November 30, 1900, he filed on the SW-1/4 of the SW-1/2 of Sec. 3, and
the N-1/2 of the NW-1/4, and the SE-1/4 of the NW-1/4 of sec. 10, T. 7, N.R.
22 W., Indian Meridian, being 160 acres. The property was patented May 13,
1907. In 1903 he made a trip to Hot Springs, Arkansas, with his father. Also,
on December 21, 1903, he married Mary W. Culver. They lived near Willow,
where their first child, Willard, was born, then purchased and ran a wagon yard
for a short period of time. Mary Lowrance's grandfather, Archer Mathews,
worked for them there. Their second child, De Witt, was born there. Later,
they moved to a property near Sayre, where their home was built in 1918-
1919.

Jacob Lowrance died February 6, 1964 at Sayre and is buried at Sayre-Doxey

Cemetery. Jacob David and Mary's children were: Willard, De Witt, Miles, and Maudie Belle.

More About JACOB DAVID LOWRANCE:

Burial: Sayre-Doxey Cemetery, Sayre, Beckham County, OK

More About MARY WATKINS CULVER:

Burial: 09 Nov 1973, Sayre-Doxey Cemetery, Sayre, Beckham County, OK

20. HORATIO FRANCIS⁸ KEETON (*JOHN LAWSON*⁷, *JOHN ROBERT*⁶, *HEZEKIAH*⁵, *JAMES*⁴, *WILLIAM*³, *WILLIAM*², *JOHN*¹) was born Aug 1853 in Bath Springs, Decatur Co., TN, and died Abt. 04 May 1907 in Franklin Co., AR. He married (1) BETTY A. WEATHERFORD. She was born Abt. 1852 in Tennessee, and died in Marion Co., AR. He married (2) MARTHA A. WEATHERFORD Abt. 1887. She was born Jan 1839 in Alabama.

Notes for HORATIO FRANCIS KEETON:

Horatio Francis Keeton was born in August 1853 at the Keeton home in Decatur County, TN. He grew up on the family farm and worked in the fields alongside other family members and helpers. In April of 1862, he would have heard the big guns at Shiloh, which were the rallying call for able-bodied men to get their rifles and go join the fighting that quickly turned into a major battle.

And Horatio surely would have been present on that day in 1863 when General Nathan Bedford Forrest and his troops stopped to rest in the shade of the big oak trees in front of the Keeton home. The neighborhood women, with their meager food supplies, hastily prepared and served a meal to the tired and hungry soldiers. It seems reasonable to imagine that Horatio may have talked with some of the soldiers or even helped with serving the meal.

At some point in time, perhaps in the 1870s, he moved to Arkansas and lived in Marion, Logan and Franklin Counties. It is believed that all three of his children were born in Arkansas--we are still searching for confirmation of son Johnny's birthplace--between about 1880 and 1883. The youngest, Sarah Eva Keeton, declared on her delayed birth certificate, which she obtained in 1941, that both her father and mother were born in Tennessee and that her father was 33 years old and her mother 31 years old when Sarah Eva was born.

There is no record that Horatio married in Decatur County, TN prior to going to Arkansas [source: Early Marriage Records (1869 - 1921) of Decatur County, Tennessee, By Fred and Margie Alexander] nor is it clear what motivated him to move to Arkansas.

Horatio became a land owner in Arkansas, as evidenced by land transaction records on file at the court house in Roseville, Logan County, AR:

January 9, 1904

Grantors: W. P. Van Hoozer and wife Ada G. Van Hoozer

To: H. F. Keeton (Buying land)

\$150.00 paid for the East 3 acres of the North half of Northeast Quarter of Northwest Quarter of Section 8, Township 8 North, and Range 26 West

December 10, 1904

Grantors: H. F. Keeton and wife Martha A. Keeton (selling land)

To: Hugh S. Agnew

\$225 paid for the East 3 acres of the North half of the Northeast Quarter of the Northwest Quarter of Section 8 North, Range 26 West

Also on December 10, 1904, a quitclaim deed was filed with a note "Apparently Martha A. Keeton signs by a mark and is attested by N. A. Williams."

Horatio's occupation was listed as farmer in census records and on Sarah Eva's delayed birth certificate. A separate note was found stating that "Francis was a sales person and went through countryside selling yardage."

After Horatio's first wife, Betty A. Weatherford, died, he married her sister, Martha A. Weatherford, "so she could help raise the children."

In her delayed birth certificate, Sarah Eva, gives her father's name as Horace Francis Keaton. In Sarah Eva's death certificate, her father is listed as Francis C. Keeton. In addition to "Horace" and "Francis," Horatio also went by nickname "Cisco."

Connie Hollis, 2nd great granddaughter of Horatio, advises that he is buried in an unmarked grave at Pilot Grove Cemetery in Franklin County, AR. She says she is one of only two people who know where the grave is and even she is not certain she could still locate it. She pledges to do whatever she can to find and mark the location. 11/30/2008

More About HORATIO FRANCIS KEETON:

Burial: Pilot Grove Cemetery, Franklin Co., AR

Children of HORATIO KEETON and BETTY WEATHERFORD are:

- i. JOHNNY⁹ KEETON.

More About JOHNNY KEETON:

Burial: Pilot Grove Cemetery, Franklin Co., AR

- ii. DORA KEETON, b. 30 Nov 1881, Arkansas; d. 10 Aug 1945, Logan Co., AR; m. JASPER ROGERS KIRKPATRICK, 18 Apr 1901, Logan Co., AR; b. 24 Jun 1879, Arkansas; d. 22 Mar 1953, Arkansas.

More About DORA KEETON:

Burial: Cemetery Ridge Cemetery, Franklin Co., AR

More About JASPER ROGERS KIRKPATRICK:

Burial: Cemetery Ridge Cemetery, Franklin Co., AR

- iii. SARAH EVA KEETON, b. 15 Apr 1883, Lead Hill, Marion Co., AR; d. 07 Aug 1970, Paris, Logan Co., AR; m. (1) WILEY RICHARD HINTON, 24 Aug 1900, Ozark, AR; b. 06 Aug 1876, Ozark, AR; d. 25 Aug 1945, Paris, Logan Co., AR; m. (2) W. S. SANDERS, 24 Aug 1900, Ozark, AR.

More About SARAH EVA KEETON:
Burial: Cemetery Ridge Cemetery, Franklin Co., AR

More About WILEY RICHARD HINTON:
Burial: 27 Aug 1945, Cemetery Ridge Cemetery, Franklin Co., AR

21. MARGARET FRANCIS⁸ KEETON (*JOHN LAWSON⁷, JOHN ROBERT⁶, HEZEKIAH⁵, JAMES⁴, WILLIAM³, WILLIAM², JOHN¹*) was born 24 Nov 1854 in Bath Springs, Decatur Co., TN, and died 15 Feb 1920 in Clay Co., TX. She married WILLIAM HENRY SIMS 04 Nov 1877 in Decatur Co., TN, son of ELISHA SIMS and SARAH HERFORD. He was born 21 Oct 1840 in Franklin Co., Tennessee, and died 25 Nov 1914 in Clay Co., TX.

Notes for MARGARET FRANCIS KEETON:
According to Patricia Moore, a descendant of Margaret Keeton and Henry Sims, Margaret was Henry's third wife.

More About MARGARET FRANCIS KEETON:
Burial: Bluegrove Cemetery, Clay County, TX

Notes for WILLIAM HENRY SIMS:
Bride Index to Early Marriage Records (1869-1921) of Decatur County, TN shows name as W. W. Sims.

More About WILLIAM HENRY SIMS:
Burial: Bluegrove Cemetery, Clay County, TX
Military service: C.S.A. Soldier

Children of MARGARET KEETON and WILLIAM SIMS are:

- i. WILLIAM HENRY⁹ SIMS, JR., b. 01 Nov 1879, Decatur Co., TN; d. 09 Aug 1939, Wichita Falls, Wichita Co., TX.
- ii. NETTIE MAUD SIMS, b. 17 Dec 1881, Tennessee; d. 12 Aug 1946, Henrietta, Clay Co., TX; m. JAMES WALTER WOOD, 30 Jan 1898, Decatur Co., TN; b. 06 Aug 1876, Arkansas; d. 19 Apr 1953, Henrietta, Clay Co., TX.

More About JAMES WALTER WOOD:
Burial: 20 Apr 1953, Blue Grove Cemetery, Clay County, TX

- iii. BENSON HOLIDAY HOWL SIMS, b. 19 Mar 1883, Decatur Co., TN; d. 20 Oct 1962, Henrietta, Clay Co., TX.

More About BENSON HOLIDAY HOWL SIMS:
Burial: 1962, Blue Grove Cemetery, Clay County, TX

- iv. JULIA CLEVELAND SIMS, b. 16 Jan 1885, Decatur Co., TN; d. 18 Apr 1946.

More About JULIA CLEVELAND SIMS:
Burial: Cambridge Cemetery, Clay County, TX

- v. GEORGE THOMAS SIMS, b. 16 Dec 1886, Near Swallow Bluff, Decatur Co., TN; d. 08 Oct 1969, Henrietta, Clay Co., TX; m. SALLY LOU BAKER, Abt. 1909, Texas; b. 28 Oct 1892, Texas; d. 08 Apr 1972, Texas.

More About GEORGE THOMAS SIMS:

Burial: 1969, Hope Cemetery, Clay County, TX

More About SALLY LOU BAKER:

Burial: 1972, Hope Cemetery, Clay County, TX

- vi. CLARA MAY SIMS, b. 14 Nov 1888, Decatur Co., TN.
- vii. ADA SIMS, b. 10 Dec 1890, Decatur Co., TN; d. 27 Dec 1890, Decatur Co., TN.
- viii. IDA SIMS, b. 10 Dec 1890, Decatur Co., TN; d. 06 Aug 1902, Clay Co., TX.

More About IDA SIMS:

Burial: 1902, Bluegrove Cemetery, Clay County, TX

- ix. LEVICE LEONA SIMS, b. 23 Feb 1893, Decatur Co., TN; d. 30 Jun 1965, Henrietta, Clay Co., TX; m. WILLIAM JEFF KING; b. 05 Dec 1891; d. 20 Apr 1971, Henrietta, Clay Co., TX.

More About LEVICE LEONA SIMS:

Burial: 1965, Hope Cemetery, Clay County, TX

More About WILLIAM JEFF KING:

Burial: 1971, Hope Cemetery, Clay County, TX

- x. LISHA LEON SIMS, b. 23 Feb 1893, Decatur Co., TN; d. 29 Jun 1970, Texas; m. SARAH AMANDA MOODY, 01 Jul 1914, Henrietta, Clay Co., TX; b. 02 Jul 1898, Rogersville, Hawkins Co., TN; d. 16 Aug 1982, Henrietta, Clay Co., TX.

More About SARAH AMANDA MOODY:

Burial: 1982, Hope Cemetery, Clay County, TX

- xi. JOHN LAWSON SIMS, b. 20 Feb 1895, Decatur Co., TN; d. 18 Feb 1974, Clay Co., TX; m. CORA MAE MOODY; b. 19 Sep 1894, Hawkins Co., TN; d. 17 Jun 1970, Henrietta, Clay Co., TX.

More About JOHN LAWSON SIMS:

Burial: 1974, Hope Cemetery, Clay County, TX

More About CORA MAE MOODY:

Burial: 1970, Hope Cemetery, Clay County, TX

- xii. ROBERT TROY SIMS, b. 18 Apr 1898, Decatur Co., TN.

22. SANDERS LACURTIS⁸ KEETON (*JOHN LAWSON*⁷, *JOHN ROBERT*⁶, *HEZEKIAH*⁵, *JAMES*⁴, *WILLIAM*³, *WILLIAM*², *JOHN*¹) was born 05 Jun 1860 in Bath Springs, Decatur Co., TN, and died 12 Jul 1936 in Bath Springs, Decatur Co., TN. He married AMANDA ELLEN HAY 22 Dec 1878 in Decatur Co., TN, daughter of THOMAS HAY and VIOLET JACKSON. She was born 01 Dec 1856 in Tennessee, and died 04 Feb 1944 in Decatur Co., TN.

More About SANDERS LACURTIS KEETON:

Burial: Decaturville City Cemetery, Decaturville, Decatur County, TN

Notes for AMANDA ELLEN HAY:

Someone once asked Mrs. Keeton (Ellen) how she raised eight boys and she replied that when they did something bad, she just looked the other way.

More About AMANDA ELLEN HAY:

Burial: Decaturville City Cemetery, Decaturville, Decatur County, TN

Children of SANDERS KEETON and AMANDA HAY are:

- i. MARGARET VICTORIA⁹ KEETON, b. Oct 1879, Decatur Co., TN; m. JAMES K. MARTIN, 08 Oct 1911, Decatur Co., TN; b. 1862; d. 1935, Decatur Co., TN.

More About MARGARET VICTORIA KEETON:

Burial: Space reserved beside her husband's grave--still empty in 2003.

More About JAMES K. MARTIN:

Burial: Simmons Cemetery, Bath Springs, Decatur County, TN

- ii. WILLIAM ROBERT KEETON, b. 13 Dec 1880, Decatur Co., TN; m. ERNESTINE TUTEN, 31 Dec 1906, Decatur County, TN.
- iii. DR. JOHN THOMAS KEETON, b. 30 Sep 1882, Decatur Co., TN; d. 1954, Clifton, Wayne Co., TN; m. CORDIE A. HOLLAND, 09 Feb 1902, Decatur County, TN; b. Of Saltillo, TN.

Notes for DR. JOHN THOMAS KEETON:

The following is quoted from an article found in Tennessee the Volunteer State, Biographical, 1769-1923: Volume III, Page 128:

Dr. John Thomas Keeton has practiced in Sardis for many years and he is numbered among the representative members of the medical profession in Henderson County. He was born in Decatur County, on the 30th of September, 1882, a son of Sanders L. and Amanda Ellen (Hay) Keeton, natives of Tennessee. The paternal great-grandfather, Dr. Robert Keeton, was born in North Carolina and was one of the pioneer settlers of Decatur County, Tennessee. His son, Dr. John Lawson Keeton, was born in this state and died in 1862. The maternal grandfather was Thomas Hay, a native of Ireland, who came to this country at an early age. He located in Tennessee and married Violet Jackson. He was a minister and farmer. Mr. and Mrs. Keeton are now residing in Texas and are prominent and highly esteemed citizens of the

community in which they make their home.

The common schools of Decatur County afforded John Thomas Keeton his early education and in due time he entered the Huntingdon high school. After graduation he enrolled in the University of Tennessee, taking up the study of medicine, and he was graduated from that institution in 1909, with the M.D. degree. He practiced first at Vise, in Decatur County, between terms but after receiving his degree he came to Sardis, where he has since resided. He enjoys an extensive practice and has won an enviable position among the foremost members of the profession in the county. Aside from his practice he is active in financial circles, being a director of the Peoples Bank. Upon the entrance of the United States into the World war the Doctor was very anxious to enlist and he was among the first to volunteer his services. He became a member of the Medical Corps but was not in active service, the armistice being signed before he was called.

In Decatur County, on the 9th of February, 1902, was celebrated the marriage of Dr. Keeton to Miss Cordie A. Holland, a daughter of William Francis Holland, whose death occurred in 1904. Her mother was Mary Wyatt, who died in 1906. Her paternal grandfather, William Holland, lived to the age of ninety-six, while her grandmother also lived to an advanced age. Her grandmother was a member of the well known Gardner family. To Dr. and Mrs. Keeton four children have been born: Mildred M., whose death occurred in childhood; Mabel E.; Paul Holland; and Flora May.

Dr. Keeton has given his strict allegiance to the Democratic party since age conferred upon him the right of franchise. He has never sought nor desired public office, preferring to devote his entire time and attention to his profession. He is, however, a public-spirited citizen and one whose aid can always be counted upon in time furtherance of any movement for the upbuilding of the community. Fraternally he is a Master Mason and is also identified with the Eastern Star lodge, the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, the Woodmen of the World, and the Modern Woodmen of America. Along strictly professional lines he is identified with the Southern Medical Association and the Tennessee Medical Association. His religious faith is that of the Methodist church.

- iv. GEORGE PERRY KEETON, b. 02 Jan 1884, Decatur Co., TN; m. MAGGIE UNKNOWN.
- v. ARTHUR HENRY KEETON, b. 21 Apr 1886, Decatur Co., TN; d. Nov 1980, Decatur Co., TN; m. WILLIE JACKSON, 29 Dec 1909, Decatur County, TN; b. 31 Aug 1886; d. 1964, Decatur County, TN.

Notes for ARTHUR HENRY KEETON:

Arthur recalled hauling crossties to Bob's Landing and Point Pleasant on the Tennessee River.

More About ARTHUR HENRY KEETON:

Burial: Decaturville City Cemetery, Decaturville, Decatur County, TN

More About WILLIE JACKSON:

Burial: Decaturville City Cemetery, Decaturville, Decatur County, TN

- vi. GROVER CLEVELAND KEETON, b. 14 Jun 1888, Decatur Co., TN; d. 01 Oct 1928.
- vii. SALLY ELLEN KEETON, b. 13 Mar 1890, Decatur Co., TN; m. SPENCER HUTCHINSON.
- viii. LEORA MAY KEETON, b. 05 Sep 1891, Decatur Co., TN; d. 1969; m. JOHN GARRETT YARBRO, 28 Sep 1913, Decatur Co., TN; b. 1890; d. 1973.

Notes for LEORA MAY KEETON:

Bride Index to Early Marriage Records (1869-1921) of Decatur County, TN shows name as Leora Keeton.

- ix. JAMES ALLEN KEETON, b. 24 Jan 1893, Decatur Co., TN; m. BONNIE RAINES, 11 May 1913, Decatur County, TN.
- x. ERNEST CLYDE KEETON, b. 28 Dec 1895, Decatur Co., TN; d. 28 Jan 1897, Decatur Co., TN.

More About ERNEST CLYDE KEETON:

Burial: Keeton Cemetery, Bath Springs, Decatur Co., TN

- xi. FLORA CATHERINE KEETON, b. 01 Oct 1896, Decatur Co., TN; d. 07 Jan 1919, Decatur Co., TN.

More About FLORA CATHERINE KEETON:

Burial: Keeton Cemetery, Bath Springs, Decatur Co., TN

- xii. DEWEY BRYAN KEETON, b. 28 Aug 1898, Decatur Co., TN; m. ANNETTA UNKNOWN.

More About DEWEY BRYAN KEETON:

Military service: U S Marines World War I

23. SARAH CATHERINE⁸ KEETON (*JOHN LAWSON*⁷, *JOHN ROBERT*⁶, *HEZEKIAH*⁵, *JAMES*⁴, *WILLIAM*³, *WILLIAM*², *JOHN*¹) was born 05 Mar 1862 in Bath Springs, Decatur Co., TN, and died 09 Feb 1908 in Bath Springs, Decatur Co., TN. She married HENRY W. MYRACLE 30 Aug 1882 in Decatur Co., TN, son of LAWRENCE MYRACLE and JANE COX. He was born 10 Feb 1839 in Decatur Co., TN, and died 04 Feb 1908 in Decatur Co., TN.

More About SARAH CATHERINE KEETON:

Burial: Campground Cemetery, Decatur County, TN

Notes for HENRY W. MYRACLE:

From Goodspeed's "History of Tennessee:"

Henry, a farmer of the 4th district, was born in Decatur County in 1838. His father, Lawrence

L., was a native of Warren County, but came to Decatur County at an early time where he married Jane Cox, a native of N.C. Lawrence was a Baptist minister and a farmer. He was a strong Union man and died in March 1881. The mother bore 12 children. Three of those were James K., who served in the Federal Army, was captured and died in Andersonville Prison; J.C.P.; and Henry W. Henry enlisted in the 81st Illinois Infantry, Company E, under command of Capt. Dallins, in 1862, serving until the close of the war. He returned to Decatur County where he married Miss Rushing, who died in 1878, leaving 2 children: James W. and Emma J. He then married Nancy E. Newman in 1879. She died in March 1880. Then he married Catherine Keeton, who has borne 2 children: Arthur and Allen. Henry was a member of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church and a Republican.

A visionary anxious to get a town started on land he owned, Henry Myracle gave a large parcel of flat land to the Tennessee Midland Railway for that purpose. Parsons, the largest town in Decatur County, was developed on that land. The gift is recorded in Decatur County Deed Book ft II, page 85-86, showing that he deeded one hundred forty-three and one-third acres on April 11, 1889.

The Tennessee Midland Railway was chartered December 29, 1886, and constructed 135.6 miles of track in 1887-1889 to connect Memphis to the Tennessee River at Perryville, TN. The first train pulled into Parsons June 30, 1889 with six coaches--two passenger cars, a baggage car and three freight cars. Trains operated over that route for more than 45 years. The last run of the "Pea Vine" was on October 31, 1936.

It has been said that had it not been for Henry Myracle, Parsons would not be on the map today. The town of Parsons was created in the late 1880s but did not receive its charter until 1913. A surveyor for the Tennessee Midland Railway is credited with surveying and laying out the town.

More About HENRY W. MYRACLE:
Burial: Campground Cemetery, Decatur County, TN
Military service: 81st Illinois Inf Co E Union Army
Religion: Cumberland Presbyterian Church

Children of SARAH KEETON and HENRY MYRACLE are:

- i. ORVILLE M.⁹ MYRACLE, b. 25 Jan 1894, Decatur Co., TN; d. 26 Oct 1973; m. NANNIE CULP, 08 Nov 1913, Decatur Co., TN; b. 18 Dec 1888; d. 13 Sep 1968.

More About ORVILLE M. MYRACLE:
Burial: Campground Cemetery, Decatur County, TN

More About NANNIE CULP:
Burial: Campground Cemetery, Decatur County, TN

- ii. ALLAN MYRACLE.
- iii. JOHN W. MYRACLE, b. 01 Dec 1887; d. 13 Jan 1980, Parsons, Decatur Co., TN; m. EULA PARSONS, 19 Jul 1908, Decatur Co., TN; b. 05 Feb 1889; d. 27

Feb 1949, Decatur Co., TN.

Notes for JOHN W. MYRACLE:

Military marker footstone: "PFC U S Army World War II"

JOHN W. MYRACLE - Services for John W. Myracle were Tuesday at Brew-Wylie Funeral Home with the Revs. Neal Morris and Jesse Douglas officiating. Burial was in Campground Cumberland Presbyterian Church Cemetery. Mr. Myracle, 92, died Sunday at Decatur County Hospital. He was reared in Decatur County and was a retired farmer. He was a Cumberland Presbyterian. He leaves a son, Alvin Myracle of Decaturville; a brother Harvey of Reagan, two grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

Lexington Progress 16 Jan 1980

More About JOHN W. MYRACLE:

Burial: Campground Cemetery, Decatur Co., TN

Military service: Pvt, U S Army, World War Ii

More About EULA PARSONS:

Burial: 28 Feb 1949, Campground Cemetery, Decatur County, TN

- iv. HARVEY W. MYRACLE, b. 23 Oct 1885; d. 09 May 1998; m. ARBIE D. DENNISON, 26 Sep 1915, Decatur Co., TN; b. 10 Feb 1897; d. 03 Mar 1986.

More About HARVEY W. MYRACLE:

Burial: Campground Cemetery, Decatur County, TN

More About ARBIE D. DENNISON:

Burial: Campground Cemetery, Decatur County, TN

- v. SALLIE MYRACLE.
vi. CLYDE MYRACLE, b. 22 Oct 1891; d. 27 Nov 1899.

More About CLYDE MYRACLE:

Burial: Campground Cemetery, Decatur County, TN

24. WILLIAM BEDFORD⁸ KEETON (*JOHN LAWSON*⁷, *JOHN ROBERT*⁶, *HEZEKIAH*⁵, *JAMES*⁴, *WILLIAM*³, *WILLIAM*², *JOHN*¹) was born 04 Dec 1863 in Bath Springs, Decatur Co., TN, and died 1937. He married (1) STELLA BAGBY in Henderson County, TN, daughter of JAMES BAGBY and MARTHA RUSHING. She was born 1881, and died 1945. He married (2) CORA ELLA BRASHER 27 Mar 1890 in Decatur Co., TN, daughter of MARK BRASHER and LINDY LAFFERTY. She was born 12 Nov 1875, and died 06 Feb 1899.

Notes for WILLIAM BEDFORD KEETON:

From Gordon H. Turner, Sr., *The History of Scotts Hill, Tennessee* (Carter Printing Company, Southaven, Mississippi, 1977):

"Dr. William Bedford Keeton was another local Medical Great. Born Dec. 4, 1863 in the Keeton Springs community (Dunbar), he was in the middle of a line of doctors by that name. His parents were Dr. John L. and Margaret Brigrance Keeton born respectively in 1826 and 1823. They were married in the 1850's.

"Dr. W. B. Keeton's grandparents were Dr. Robert and Mrs. Catherine Keeton, born likely in N. Car., but who moved to what was then Perry County (became Decatur in 1845) in the 1820's - first Keetons to come to this area.

"Dr. W. B. Keeton began practice also in and around Shady Hill just north of Scotts Hill. A close friend of Dr. Tav Rogers, he relocated here in 1884, moving into the house (still standing) across the street from our home. Dr. Keeton, between practice periods, studied Medicine at Vanderbilt University from which he took an M.D. degree in 1895.

"He was in the forefront of all good things here. A dedicated leader in the Methodist church, he was also a strong supporter of Scotts Hill College. His first marriage was to Cora Ella, daughter of Mark and Lindy Lafferty Brasher. Their children were: Orville, deceased, long manager of the big Clover Farm dairy in Memphis; Will, Jr. ('Wibb'), now retired in Bruceton, who chalked up one of the best engineering records ever made in American railroading (on the N.C.&St.L., now L&N). With never a demerit and no serious accidents, he advanced to Chief Travelling Engineer.

"He handled two special trains which hauled U.S. Presidents. Among prized possessions are letters from them commending his fine service; then there was Ewing Keeton, a retired Memphis businessman. Another son's (Dr. R. T. 'Bob' Keeton) record I appear; further on.

"After the death of his first wife, Dr. W.B. Keeton married Stella Bagby (daughter of James L. and Mattie Frances Rushing Bagby, see Civil War chapter). Keeton children by this marriage were Waters, now of Medina, and Mrs. Hazel Hardaway of Humboldt.

"After Dr. R. L. Wylie located here in 1906, he formed a partnership with Dr. Keeton centering in a small two-room clinic. At first they dispensed their own drugs but man they and Oliver Helms had combined to form a town drugstore with Helms as manager. Hugh A. Smith shortly replaced Helms and remained as druggist for many years until he moved to Paris, Tenn.

"But the fatal Go West fever had so infected the Keetons that, following the town's 1917 tornado (May 27) and then the catastrophic fire on Oct. 16, reluctantly set out for better fortunes to Medina. Possibly the move was well. His practice there was pleasant and successful until his death in 1937. Mrs. Stella Keeton died in 1945. They are buried in Medina.

"Older Scotts Hillians still have fond memories of the Keetons. I 'played' much with the boys just across the street. Dr. Keeton had accompanied the stork to my parents' little home when I was born on Nov. 22, 1898. I felt a special closeness to the family. The genial doctor practiced for 20-odd years over these clay roads, all but impassable in winter time.

"His heart was almost as big as his big body and he shared with all in need. When farmers came by selling fresh meat or fish from a wagon bed, Dr. Keeton bought not just a mess. He

would tell his wife to pick out the best and buy 'plenty' to go around!

"Until he bought a Model T Ford about 1913 - and long after - he kept three fine riding horses. As were horses of army Generals to their soldiers, so were the horses of doctors to their patients and friends. Dr. Keeton was partial to his big roan, Charlie, but his boys took equal care of all three.

"When Dr. Keeton and Dr. Wylie bought the second and third automobiles to come here it was necessary to find chauffeurs to drive them in. The problem was soon solved. Dr. Keeton got word to Jim Russell, an acquaintance beyond Saltillo (he had learned to drive a car in Memphis) to come and drive one car. And Brown Brothers of Lexington, the Ford agency, agreed to let their faithful old Negro specialist, Hershel, drive the other.

"Incidentally, a big crowd gathered atop Bevill (Devil?) hill here to watch the arrival of the automobiles and to see whether they could 'make' the big hill! They made it but only in 'low' gear. It was some time before the boys could pull that hill in high gear!

"Dr. Keeton wanted the best of anything that came around. He was the first to leave the Ford when a few years later, he bought an Overland. It was a wonder to behold in these parts! Dr. Wylie stayed with small cars throughout his long practice, however.

"Dr. Keeton was a strict disciplinarian. There was no such thing here as a bathroom (there were some privies for the gentler sex but more often our earlier homes had stove wood piles and nearby thickets to shield women and girls; those of the male gender went farther and in a different direction!) Thus Dr. Keeton could have no 'bathroom' conferences with his sons, like those popular in later years.

"So he contrived the idea of a nice privy where after rush hours if need be, he would go into a serious conference with one or two of the boys - never all three at one time for in that case they might gang up on him; one or two was always excluded and never knew what he would say! It was a convenient rest-conference room with three holes, a large one for the doctor, and middle and small sizes for one or two of the boys.

"Here many comfortable decisions were arranged with the Keeton father and sons and it was all dead serious. Many years later, FDR introduced one and two holers but he had nothing on good Dr. Keeton. Many people came to see the Keeton three-holer during its heyday. Had a collection been taken up, the family earnings might have been enhanced! Oh, for more such Privy Conferences nowadays!"

More About WILLIAM BEDFORD KEETON:

Burial: Centerville Cemetery, near Medina, TN

Occupation: Medical Doctor

More About STELLA BAGBY:

Burial: Centerville Cemetery, near Medina, TN

More About CORA ELLA BRASHER:

Burial: Scotts Hill Methodist Church Cemetery, Scotts Hill, Henderson Co., TN

Children of WILLIAM KEETON and STELLA BAGBY are:

- i. WATERS⁹ KEETON, b. 1904; d. 1996; m. ALBA MAETERRY; d. 2000.

More About WATERS KEETON:

Burial: Centerville Cemetery, near Medina, TN

More About ALBA MAETERRY:

Burial: Centerville Cemetery, near Medina, TN

- ii. HAZEL MATIE KEETON, b. 1909; m. BRUCE HARDAWAY; b. 1905; d. 1998.

More About BRUCE HARDAWAY:

Burial: Center Cemetery, Humboldt, TN

Children of WILLIAM KEETON and CORA BRASHER are:

- iii. ORVILLE M.⁹ KEETON, b. 1891; d. 1974; m. OLLIE UNKNOWN.

Notes for ORVILLE M. KEETON:

See notes for Dr. William Bedford Keeton.

More About ORVILLE M. KEETON:

Burial: Memorial Park, Memphis, Shelby County, TN

- iv. WILBURN BRADFORD KEETON, b. 1893.

Notes for WILBURN BRADFORD KEETON:

See notes for Dr. William Bedford Keeton.

More About WILBURN BRADFORD KEETON:

Burial: Prospect Cemetery, Hollow Rock, TN

- v. EWING BRIGGS KEETON, b. 17 Mar 1896, Tennessee; d. Nov 1982, Memphis, Shelby Co., TN.

Notes for EWING BRIGGS KEETON:

See notes for Dr. William Bedford Keeton.

More About EWING BRIGGS KEETON:

Burial: Memorial Park, Memphis, Shelby County, TN

- vi. ROBERT TAYLOR KEETON, b. 12 Oct 1892, Scotts Hill, Decatur Co., TN; d. 01 Feb 1985; m. (1) JEWELL LEE WHITE, Henderson County, TN; d. 1934, Brownsville, TX; m. (2) HANNAH THERESA CURLIN, 1935; b. 1909, Brownsville, Haywood Co., TN; d. 1994.

Notes for ROBERT TAYLOR KEETON:

From Gordon H. Turner, Sr., The History of Scotts Hill, Tennessee (Carter Printing Company, Southaven, Mississippi, 1977):

"Dr. Robert T. ('Our Bob') Keeton just couldn't avoid his ancestral tradition. Like a great grandfather, like grandfather, like father and like uncle John T. Keeton (who practiced mostly at Saltillo and Clifton), Bob chose to make it five doctors by the Keeton name.

"Born here to Dr. W. B. and Cora Brasher Keeton in the early 90's, he attended health schools and the old college. He did his pre-med work at Valpariso University and then entered the Medical College of Chicago's Loyola University. There he graduated with an M.D. degree in 1917. He returned here to start practice with Dr. Wylie and live in his home. He married Jewell Lee White, foster-daughter of the Till Whites and here one daughter was born.

"Except for a hitch in the medical service of Nashville's big DuPont War Powder plant, the Bob Keetons remained here, but not for long. The fatal Go West fever had anything but subsided and in 1922 they moved to Brownsville where he had a splendid practice. Jewell Lee died on March 4, 1934 and was buried in Brownsville.

"In 1935 Dr. Bob married Hannah Theresa Curlin. During 1936 he did postgraduate work at Vanderbilt University. In 1936 their son was born, Robert Keeton Jr. He is now a prominent attorney.

"Looking for a place of wider service, the Bob Keetons, in 1940, relocated in Bruceton. With a modern clinic fitted with several beds, he is yet in full practice, and has chalked up nearly 60 years as a family doctor."

More About ROBERT TAYLOR KEETON:

Burial: Oakwood Cemetery, Brownsville, TN

More About JEWELL LEE WHITE:

Burial: Oakwood Cemetery, Brownsville, TN

More About HANNAH THERESA CURLIN:

Burial: Oakwood Cemetery, Brownsville, TN

25. ROBERT H.⁸ GARRARD (*JULIA M.*⁷ *KEETON*, *JOHN ROBERT*⁶, *HEZEKIAH*⁵, *JAMES*⁴, *WILLIAM*³, *WILLIAM*², *JOHN*¹) was born Abt. 1854 in Probably Tennessee. He married LAURA VIRGINIA KELLEY 25 Dec 1878 in Decaturville, Decatur Co., TN, daughter of KINCHEN KELLEY and NANCY MCCLAREN. She was born 1858 in Saltillo, Hardin Co., TN, and died Aft. 1939 in Iuka, Tishomingo Co., MS.

More About ROBERT H. GARRARD:

Census: 1880, Age 26, Hardin Co., TN

Occupation: Commercial Drummer

More About LAURA VIRGINIA KELLEY:

Census: 1880, Age 21, Hardin Co., TN

Children of ROBERT GARRARD and LAURA KELLEY are:

- i. NORMA NAOMA⁹ GARRARD, b. 24 Nov 1889; d. 24 Sep 1892.

More About NORMA NAOMA GARRARD:

Burial: Kelley Cemetery, Bath Springs, Decatur County, TN

- ii. BERTHA H. GARRARD.
- iii. WALTER LAMONT GARRARD.

26. FRANCES KATHERINE⁸ CLARDY (*IANTHA ADELINE⁷ KEETON, JOHN ROBERT⁶, HEZEKIAH⁵, JAMES⁴, WILLIAM³, WILLIAM², JOHN¹*) was born 17 Apr 1851 in Tennessee, and died 03 Feb 1889 in Shelby Co., TX. She married ALFRED BEASLEY CORLEY. He was born 09 Sep 1837 in Tennessee, and died 27 Mar 1914 in Shelby Co., TX.

More About FRANCES KATHERINE CLARDY:

Burial: Clardy Cemetery, Center, Shelby Co., TX

More About ALFRED BEASLEY CORLEY:

Burial: Clardy Cemetery, Center, Shelby Co., TX

Military service: Pvt, 1 Regiment, Texas Lancers, C.S.A.

Children of FRANCES CLARDY and ALFRED CORLEY are:

- i. DAISY L.⁹ CORLEY, b. 30 May 1880; d. 04 Jun 1905; m. JOHN L. SMITH; d. 14 Feb 1918.

More About DAISY L. CORLEY:

Burial: Clardy Cemetery, Center, Shelby Co., TX

More About JOHN L. SMITH:

Burial: Clardy Cemetery, Center, Shelby Co., TX

Military service: CSA, Co. F 2nd Regmt., Texas Infantry

- ii. LITTLE FANNIE CORLEY, b. 01 Feb 1882; d. 03 Sep 1886.

More About LITTLE FANNIE CORLEY:

Burial: Clardy Cemetery, Center, Shelby Co., TX

27. WILLIAM T.⁸ JOBE (*SOPHRONIA⁷ KEETON, JOHN ROBERT⁶, HEZEKIAH⁵, JAMES⁴, WILLIAM³, WILLIAM², JOHN¹*) was born Abt. Jun 1863 in Tennessee. He married PARLEE ELIZABETH UNKNOWN. She was born 27 Jan 1860, and died 13 Sep 1910.

More About WILLIAM T. JOBE:

Census: 1880, Age 16, Hardin Co., TN

More About PARLEE ELIZABETH UNKNOWN:

Burial: Clifton City Cemetery, Wayne County, TN

Children of WILLIAM JOBE and PARLEE UNKNOWN are:

- i. FRANK H.⁹ JOBE, b. 24 Jun 1885; d. 16 Mar 1900.

More About FRANK H. JOBE:

Burial: Clifton City Cemetery, Wayne County, TN

- ii. GROVER JOBE, b. Abt. Aug 1889, Probably Wayne Co., TN.
- iii. KENNETH JOBE, b. Abt. Apr 1891, Probably Wayne Co., TN.
- iv. VERNA MAE JOBE, b. 27 Jan 1893, Probably Wayne Co., TN; d. 10 Nov 1899, Wayne Co., TN.

More About VERNA MAE JOBE:

Burial: Clifton City Cemetery, Wayne County, TN

- v. NOVELLA JOBE, b. Abt. Mar 1896, Wayne Co., TN.

28. ROBERT E. LEE⁸ JOBE (*SOPHRONIA*⁷ *KEETON*, *JOHN ROBERT*⁶, *HEZEKIAH*⁵, *JAMES*⁴, *WILLIAM*³, *WILLIAM*², *JOHN*¹) was born 06 Sep 1866 in Probably Decatur Co., Tennessee, and died 29 Oct 1928 in Tarrant Co., TX. He married SARAH ALICE JOHNSON. She was born Abt. May 1874, and died 08 Apr 1929 in Texas.

More About ROBERT E. LEE JOBE:

Census: 1880, Age 14, Hardin Co., TN

More About SARAH ALICE JOHNSON:

Burial: Crowley Cemetery, Tarrant County, TX

Children of ROBERT JOBE and SARAH JOHNSON are:

- i. LAURA⁹ JOBE, b. Madison County, TN.
- ii. FRANK JOBE, b. Abt. 1895, Saltillo, Hardin County, TN; d. 29 Oct 1896, Decatur County, TN.
- iii. FORREST JOBE, b. 30 Mar 1897, Decatur County, TN; d. 05 Jul 1897, Decatur County, TN.
- iv. JAMES RICKETTS JOBE, b. Abt. Apr 1898, Probably Decatur County, Tennessee; d. 1962, Dallas, TX.

More About JAMES RICKETTS JOBE:

Burial: Grove Hill Cemetery, Dallas, TX

- v. JOEL HENSLEY JOBE, b. 14 Aug 1901; d. Feb 1951, Arlington, Tarrant County, TX; m. CAMMIE LEE WYNN.

More About JOEL HENSLEY JOBE:

Burial: Parksdale Cemetery, Arlington, Tarrant County, TX

- vi. WILBUR JOBE, b. 1905.
- vii. LEILA LUCILLE JOBE, b. 17 Mar 1908, Lennan County, TX; d. Aft. Jun 1977; m. FRED HALL WALTERS, 1929, Fort Worth, Tarrant County, TX; b. 06 Oct 1898, Denton, TX.
- viii. SOPHRONIA ELLEN JOBE, b. 17 Apr 1912; d. 16 May 1913, Tarrant County, TX.

More About SOPHRONIA ELLEN JOBE:

Burial: Crowley Cemetery, Tarrant County, TX

29. ARTEMUS S.⁸ JOBE (*SOPHRONIA⁷ KEETON, JOHN ROBERT⁶, HEZEKIAH⁵, JAMES⁴, WILLIAM³, WILLIAM², JOHN¹*) was born May 1868 in Decatur Co., TN. He married EULA UNKNOWN Abt. 1898. She was born Oct 1881 in Mississippi.

More About ARTEMUS S. JOBE:

Census: 1880, Age 12, Hardin Co., TN

Child of ARTEMUS JOBE and EULA UNKNOWN is:

- i. ELMA⁹ JOBE, b. Jun 1899, Tunica County, MS.

30. JOHN TIMMONS⁸ JOBE (*SOPHRONIA⁷ KEETON, JOHN ROBERT⁶, HEZEKIAH⁵, JAMES⁴, WILLIAM³, WILLIAM², JOHN¹*) was born Abt. 1871 in Tennessee, and died Bet. 1935 - 1940 in Jackson, Madison Co., TN. He married SARAH D. UNKNOWN Abt. 1901 in Probably Hardin County, TN.

More About JOHN TIMMONS JOBE:

Census: 1880, Age 9, Hardin Co., TN

Children of JOHN JOBE and SARAH UNKNOWN are:

- i. WALTER K.⁹ JOBE, b. 1902, Hardin County, TN.
- ii. JOHN H. JOBE, b. 1906, Hardin County, TN.
- iii. JESSIE M. JOBE, b. 1907, Hardin County, TN.

31. DORA ALICE⁸ KEETON (*MAQUIS DE LAFAYETTE⁷, JOHN ROBERT⁶, HEZEKIAH⁵, JAMES⁴, WILLIAM³, WILLIAM², JOHN¹*) was born 1872. She married (1) GRANT G. MURPHY 09 Sep 1888 in Decatur Co., TN. He was born 19 Jul 1871 in Decaturville, Decatur Co., TN, and died Sep 1925 in Dyersburg, Dyer Co., TN. She married (2) PETER E. YARBRO 25 Aug 1901 in Decatur County, TN.

Children of DORA KEETON and GRANT MURPHY are:

- i. CLARENCE⁹ MURPHY, b. Memphis, Shelby Co., TN.
- ii. VERNON GRANT MURPHY, b. Memphis, Shelby Co., TN.
- iii. UNKNOWN MURPHY, b. Calipatria, CA; m. N. G. MCGUIRE.
- iv. UNKNOWN MURPHY, b. Memphis, Shelby Co., TN; m. J. A. GRIGGS.
- v. HOLLIS MURPHY, b. Helena, AR.

32. WILLIAM IRENEOUS⁸ GIBSON (*MARGARET⁷ KEETON, ELIZABETH⁶, HEZEKIAH⁵, JAMES⁴, WILLIAM³, WILLIAM², JOHN¹*) was born 23 Sep 1844 in Bedford Co., TN, and died 30 Apr 1931 in Memphis, TX. He married CYNTHIA ANNE ISABELLE MESSICK 28 Nov 1868 in Marion Co., AR, daughter of JOHN MESSICK and CELIA WILKERSON.

More About WILLIAM IRENEOUS GIBSON:

Military service: 1861, 2nd Arkansas Calvary, Trans Mississippi CSA

Child of WILLIAM GIBSON and CYNTHIA MESSICK is:

- i. JOHN KEETON⁹ GIBSON, b. 02 Jun 1871, Marion Co., AR; d. 17 May 1944, Memphis, TX; m. SARAH FRANCIS WILTON, 02 Sep 1891, Texas; b. 06 Mar 1872.