

# ◀ The Summitt Family Quarterly ▶

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## From The Editor

OK, late as usual. Sorry. Spent the first week of April in Dallas studying and testing on Microsoft SQL Server 2000. I'm now certified on that product also. Just a couple of more tests and I'll be a Microsoft Certified Database Administrator as well as an Oracle Certified Database Administrator. Maybe soon my computer studies won't interfere with my family history research.

This issue is really interesting to me. Paul C. and Glen have both worked in the past on the Kentucky and Swank sides of the family. A descendant of that line, Charlotte Carl-Mitchell has provided us with quite an extensive update on our information concerning that line. This issue represents the first installment of that update.

Of course, this is also the first issue of our ninth year of publication. It was April 1995 when I sent out the first twenty-five or so issues and told everyone that if I didn't get at least ten subscribers I wasn't going to continue. My dad and Paul C. and eight others subscribed at that time and we have been trying to improve this newsletter with each issue. We now have subscribers in Arizona, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Delaware, Florida,

*(Continued on page 2)*

## The Carl Descendants of John and Rosanna Summit Swank

*by Charlotte Carl-Mitchell*

This article came about because of a mistake. While doing genealogical research, I discovered two websites that had the same incorrect information on my great grandmother, Mary Elizabeth Swank. She was listed as having married John H. Earl, but my great grandfather's surname was Carl, not Earl. I contacted the websites owners and after explaining my ancestry, was asked to write an article about my part of our extended Summit family.

After agreeing to do the article, I got information from several researchers and printed sources, and to show how one mistake can take on a life of its own, the same incorrect information appeared in all their notes. I'm not sure what was the original source of the mistake, but it has permeated the genealogical record. I would like to try to set that record straight. I can sympathize with whoever made the mistake, however. I too have had trouble reading the names in some of the letters and documents in my collection and if I've made any mistakes, I hope someone will let me know.

To put myself quickly into perspective, I'm descended from John and Rosanna Summit Swank's son Jacob Swank who married Elizabeth Van Meter and had David Swank who married Amanda Miller and had Mary Elizabeth Swank who married John H. Carl and had Edward Miller Carl, Sr. who married Euna Ellerfair Posey and had my father, Edward Miller Carl, Jr. who married Mercy Ramsey and had me and my two sisters.

In 1998, Paul C. Summitt with the help of Bill and Vanessa Adams and several others, collaborated on an extensive research project on the descendants of John and Rosanna Summit Swank. The result was published in the Summitt Family Quarterly, Vol. 4, Issue 4 (January 1999). Mr. Summitt was kind enough to send me a copy of the article as well as a lot of his research material. In an e-mail message he admitted the article contained a lot of information on Jacob and Elizabeth Van Meter Swank, however the only entry he had for their son David Swank was "(1823-1906) married Amanda Miller." I hope my information can help fill the gap of knowledge on David and Amanda Swank and their descendants.

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## St. Paul Lutheran Church Records (continued)

*(Editor's Note: In the last issue we left off at the end of page 24 having just finished the baptism of infants information. This issue we begin with Adult Baptisms.)*

### ADULT BAPTISMS

John Lankford was baptized April 23, 1876 by J. Cloninger  
 John G. Davis was baptized March 4, 1877 by J. Cloninger  
 Joseph Gaston was baptized Oct. 13, 1878 by J. Cloninger  
 John Coffman was baptized Oct. 13, 1878 by J. Cloninger  
 Elviry Josephine Cloninger was baptized May 8, 1881 by J. Cloninger  
 Mary Ann Clemmer was baptized May 8, 1881 by J. Cloninger

Names of the confirmed members of St. Pauls Church, Monroe County, Tennessee, on the tenth day of October 1874, and their age at this time. Also the number of baptized children unconfirmed.

Confirmed	Years	# Children	Confirmed	Years	# Children
John Moser, Sr.	80	2	Jospeph Shields	64	3
Eusebius Summitt	59	3	G. S. Clemmer	53	3
J. P. Moser	48	5	J. M. Shaffer	60	2
D. M. Moser	35	5	Adam Mowry	69	
Joseph Summitt	50	3	Francis Moser	27	2
D. E. Summitt	24		M. L. Summitt	25	2
J. C. Summitt	17		N. J. Davis	31	
J. O. Summitt	19		W. A. Clemmer	27	
W. H. Moser, Jr.	22		J. S. Summitt	18	
J. L. Davis	24		J. F. Clemmer	22	
J. W. Clemmer	26		Thomas Wright	20	
W. L. Brakebill	18		J. H. Summitt	15	
D. K. Nowman	36	2	J. Fino	35	
J. S. Summitt	35	2	Isam Moser	18	
J. H. Hames	44	2	Noah Moser	52	

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Georgia, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Mississippi, Missouri, New Hampshire, New Mexico, North Carolina, Ohio, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia, Wisconsin, and even one in merry ole' England. As I told Charlotte, I enjoy meeting and talking to each and every one of the relatives I discover or who discover me. The Web sites seems to be a way that many have discovered their history and their family. I know that I appreciate everyone who visits and who drops me an email or a message.

As we start this ninth year of publication I hope that each of you will take a moment to visit the Web site and check the information we might have on your branch of the family and then write or email us and help us update the database. Future visitors will appreciate your efforts.

Paul

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I also received an impressive and meticulously researched report by Glen Summitt on the descendants of John Swank that added additional information on David Swank and Amanda Miller and their children. But he too had David and Amanda's daughter, Mary Elizabeth Swank, marrying Mr. Earl and having lots of little Earls. Because of the information available on the two earlier generations, Jacob and Elizabeth Van Meter Swank, and John and Rosanna Summitt Swank, I am going to focus on the generations that followed. I am relatively new to genealogy and my information is from notes and research my father did before his death in 1987 and the research I've done since then. My comments will come equally if not more from family lore than documented research but at least it's a place to start.

According to notes compiled by Ed Carl, Jr., the Swanks were part of the group of early Americans called Pennsylvania Dutch. (The Dutch was a corruption of Deutsch, meaning German.) This name was applied to Swiss, German and even French Huguenots who arrived in America in the 1700s and early 1800s and settled in south-central and eastern Pennsylvania. Almost all of these immigrants came from the area of South Germany known as The Palatinate so they were called Palatines. The Swanks initially arrived and settled in Pennsylvania but later migrated to Kentucky as recruited members of one of Daniel Boone's return trips. Later, probably because of Indian uprisings in Kentucky, they moved to what is now Mississippi County in Missouri.

My great grandmother, Mary Elizabeth Swank Carl said that some of her Swanks fought in the American Revolution under Gen. Mad Anthony Wayne, but I haven't been able to verify that. She also said her Swanks were related to "Molly Pitcher" (the heroine of the Revolutionary War who tore off her petticoat to swab out the American cannons and brought pitchers of water to the men and her husband in an artillery battery at the Battle of Monmouth). I've not been able to verify that either.

Jacob Swank was born on 28 Jan 1776 in Monongalia, Virginia/Pennsylvania. He married Elizabeth Van Meter 20 Apr 1797 in Hardin Co., Kentucky; and died in 1853 in Mississippi County, Missouri. Elizabeth Van Meter was of Dutch descent, born on 25 July 1780 to Abraham and Elizabeth Cline (or Kline) Van Meter. Elizabeth Van Meter Swank died on 15 Sept 1846. Both Jacob and Elizabeth were buried in Mississippi County. They had eleven children:

John Swank (1798-1866) married Sarah Lee  
Letitia (Lettice) Swank (1799-1851) married  
Garrard Goodin

Jacob Swank Jr. (1804-1894) married Mary  
Quigley

William Swank (1807-1889) married Lettie Ashby  
or Lettia Van Meter

Eleanor Swank (1809-1851) married (1) Thomas

Vernon, (2) Joseph Dyson  
Catherine Swank (1812-1867) married John Goodin  
Elizabeth Swank (1813-1845) married James  
Washington Smith  
Sarah Swank (1816- ) married (1) James Alton, (2)  
James Crutcher  
Silas Swank (1819-1885) married (1) Sarah  
Thompson Randall, (2) Frances Thompson  
\*\* David Swank (1823-1906) married Amanda Miller  
Mary Swank

According to my notes and pages from the family Bible, David Swank was born on 15 Sept 1823 in Hardin County, Kentucky. [Mr. Glen Summitt says it was 23 Sept 1823.] David was approximately 13 years of age when his family moved from Kentucky to Charleston, Missouri in 1836. Charleston is in the southeastern most corner of the state in an area called Missouri's Bootheel because of the shape of the area that abuts Illinois, Kentucky, Tennessee and Arkansas. David married Amanda Miller on 15 Mar 1849 in Arkansas.



(MAP OF MO AND SURROUNDING STATES)

David and his siblings lived at a turbulent time in American history. We have a photocopy of a letter Silas Swank wrote his brother David on 19 Dec 1860 in which he talks about the trials and tribulations of his family - a bad bout with measles over the winter, the death of a child and other illnesses. But he also included happy news, that "our niece, Beck McFarland and Dr. Simpson is about to get married ... as I believe also May Swank and Price Lane also, Laura and Thomas Beckwith." They had had a good corn crop and the wheat looked fine but the river had been very low so freight costs were high. It was at this point he mentioned his fear the Union would split and launched into a diatribe against those "professional men who are willing to bow their heads and ware old Abe Linkins yok." He might not have been educated or a good speller, but he was aware of what was going on around him.

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*professional man who is willing to bow to the old the Linkers job and submit to your court.*

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(COPY OF QUOTE FROM ORIGINAL LETTER. See full transcript of letter beginning on Page 14.)

We also have a copy of a letter David Swank wrote to his niece, by marriage, Mrs. Emma Embree in 1896. After some research, I was able to identify Mrs. Embree and discover her relationship to David. Mary Emma Fairly (or Fairleigh) was born on 31 Mar 1851 in Union Church, Jefferson Co., Mississippi. She married James William Swank on 2 June 1870. James was born on 17 Jan 1832 in Kentucky. He was the son of David's brother Jacob Swank, Jr. and his wife Mary Quigley. According to Paul C. Summitt, "Jacob Swank Jr. (1804-1894) apparently lived in Hardin County until the mid-1830s and then went to Missouri with his father. Both a Jacob Swank and a Jacob Swank Jr. are listed in the 1840 census for Scott county, Missouri, which in 1845 would give birth to Mississippi county." Jacob Jr. and Mary had two other children. Their son, John Swank died at 12 years of age. Another son, Jacob "Jake" Swank married Martha Miller, David's wife Amanda's sister, and had one son who also died young. It might seem strange for David's nephew to marry David's sister-in-law since David and Jake would be of two different generations, but Jake's father Jacob, Jr. was 19 years older than David.

James William or 'Wills' was married before Emma to Mary Ellen McDonald. There seems to be a disagreement about how many children resulted from which marriage. Karalee Goranflo listed four children from the first marriage and five from the second, but in her list two of the children's names repeat. Mrs. Elma Rust, a genealogist who worked with my father in 1979 and the early 1980s, said there were two children from the first marriage to Mary Ellen McDonald and six from the second to Emma Fairly. Glen Summitt also listed eight children and noted the first two, Mary and John William, were probably from a previous marriage.

Combining information from Mrs. Rust and Mr. Summitt, the children of James William Swank were:

- Mary Jane "Molly" Swank m. Ed Taliaferro
- John Swank m. Anna May Luiton
- Lula (Talula) Alice Swank, b. 10 March 1871 in Texas, m. A. M. Shipe
- James Clay Swank, b. 13 Oct 1872 in Texas, m. Maggie Maulding
- Robert E. Lee Swank b. 8 Feb 1876, never married
- Emma Belle Swank b. 10 Dec 1877 in Turners Bend on Brazos River, Somervell Co, Tx, never married
- Katie Effie Swank b. 8 Aug 1878, died young
- Minnie Ella Swank b. 24 March 1880 in Texas,

never married

James William Swank died on 14 Sept 1881 and was buried in Squaw Creek Cemetery, Rainbow, Somervell County, Texas. Emma Fairly Swank then married Perry Lincoln Embree in 1883 and had three children with him between 1884 and 1894. Since the letter from David to her was dated 1896, he obviously kept up with her even after her second marriage and family. Referring to his nephew, he said, "our fathers fought under Gen Wayne and his father under Washington. Our father was born in Ky. during the first settlements of that State in a fort owned by our Grandfather. Will's Grandma on our side was born in the same state in a fort owned by her Pa where Louisville Ky. now stands. Her people are Vanmeters Hay Cooffs Nandius and Ex president Tyler. All of the most leading families of that state. Will's Ma was a Miss Mary Quigly whose father died whilst she was quite young but [who was] one of the leading men of that day."

# FAMILY RECORD.

BIRTH.	BIRTH.
1 Robert R. Miller born the 10 <sup>th</sup> day of April 1809.	13 William Samuel Miller born April 1 <sup>st</sup> 1851.
2 Pamela Caroline Carothers born the 14 <sup>th</sup> day of November 1816.	14 Elizabeth Thompson was born on the 5 <sup>th</sup> day of May 1817.
3 Amanda Miller born the 24 <sup>th</sup> day of December 1831.	15 Virginia Caroline Miller born the 7 <sup>th</sup> day of March 1833.
4 John Richardson Miller born the 9 <sup>th</sup> day of March 1833.	16 Martha Miller born on the 23 <sup>rd</sup> of September 1834.
5 Mary Miller born the 9 <sup>th</sup> day of August 1836.	17 James Miller born the 23 <sup>rd</sup> of August 1838.
6 Pamela Miller born the 23 <sup>rd</sup> day of February 1840.	18 Elizabeth Miller born the 7 <sup>th</sup> day of December 1841.
7 Elizabeth Miller born the 7 <sup>th</sup> day of December 1841.	19 James Richardson Miller born April 16 <sup>th</sup> 1843.
8 James Richardson Miller born April 16 <sup>th</sup> 1843.	20 Jacob Henry Miller born January 6 <sup>th</sup> 1845.
9 Jacob Henry Miller born January 6 <sup>th</sup> 1845.	21 Virginia Miller born December 3 <sup>rd</sup> 1846.
10 Virginia Miller born December 3 <sup>rd</sup> 1846.	22 Robert Carothers Miller born May 5 <sup>th</sup> 1849.

(PICTURE OF ONE OF THE MILLER FAMILY BIBLE PAGES)

Amanda Miller was the daughter of Pamela (Pamela or Permelia) Caroline Carothers and Robert Richardson Miller. R.R. Miller was born in Virginia on 10 Apr 1809 and died on

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25 Sept 1876. Pamela Carothers was born in Tennessee on 14 Nov 1814 and died 6 Mar 1859. Her family was of Scot/Irish roots. Pamela and R. R. were married 6 Jan 1831 according to an entry in the family Bible. In 1850 the family was living in Union Township of St. Francis County, Arkansas. By 1860, the Miller family had moved to Greene County, Arkansas and settled in St. Francis Township. After Pamela's death in 1859, Robert Miller married again because the 1860 census listed his wife as Matilda. It also listed him as owning real property worth \$3,000 and personal property valued at \$1,800. \$4,800 in 1860 would be \$104,347 in 2002 dollars. In the 1870 census, R. R. was listed as blind, but he was obviously a man of some substance. Pages from the family Bible list the births and deaths of these children:

- \*\* Amanda Miller (24 Dec 1831- )
- John Middleton Miller (9 Mar 1833- )
- Martha Miller (23 Sept 1834- ) married Jacob "Jake" Swank, David's nephew, Oct 1852
- Mary Miller (9 Aug 1836- ) married John Armstrong
- Jane Miller (23 Aug 1838- ) married Noble J. Self, Oct 1861
- Lucinda Miller (25 Feb 1840-29 Aug 1844)
- Elisabeth Miller (7 Dec 1841- ) married Elisha Bobo, 14 Mar 1861 (?)
- James Marshall Miller (16 Apr 1843-30 Jan 1854)
- Jacob Morris Miller (6 Jan 1845- )
- Virginia Miller (5 Dec 1846- ) married James Thompson 28 June 1866
- Robert Carothers Miller (5 May 1849-14 Sept 1850)
- William Samuel Miller (4 Apr 1851- ) married Mary Victoria Stepp

Amanda Miller was born on 24 Dec 1831 in Arkansas. A family story says that she was a good horsewoman (perhaps her Virginia heritage) and that she and David Swank met when he rescued her as she tried to ride across a swollen stream. Amanda and David Swank married on 15 March 1849. In the 1850 census, she was listed as living with her parents. That was because David was at the California Gold Rush. Their first child was born on 22 Dec 1849, but their second not until 24 Apr 1852 so either she lost a baby or David didn't get back from the California gold fields until the middle of 1851.

In 1980, a granddaughter of William Samuel Miller, Amanda's youngest brother, reminisced about her Miller ancestors. She remembered Jacob Morris Miller, "Uncle Jake," as being of very small stature, as were all the Millers, it seems. She remembered her great aunts Virginia Miller Thompson, whom she called "Aunt Vir" and Elisabeth Miller Bobo whom she called "Aunt Liz." Virginia named two of her daughters after her sisters, one being Amanda and the other Elisabeth, whom the granddaughter called

"Aunt Lizzie." In later years, Virginia told stories about when her father lived in Virginia and owned slaves. "On Sunday mornings when they were preparing to go to church, they would have slaves put 'grease' (bacon?) on their faces so they would look well fed. Negroes tend to look 'ashey' when they are poorly fed," she explained. According to the 1830 census, Richard Miller had four slaves and William Carothers, Pamela's father, had five. In the 1840 census, Mr. Carothers had nine slaves. Both Edward Miller Carl Sr. and Jr. were given the Miller name to honor Amanda's family.



(PICTURE OF AMANDA MILLER SWANK AND MARY ELIZABETH SWANK)

We have a transcription of a letter Mary Swank wrote. In it she says about her father, "The Rev. David Swank was born in Harden, now LaRue county Ky. Sept. 15, 1823 in the community with Abraham Lincoln with whom he was intimately acquainted in his early manhood days. His mother was Elizabeth Vanmeter whose father settled in Louisville, Ky. and was a cousin of President John Tyler; his father Jacob Swank fought under Mad Anthony Wayne and was with him at Stoney Point and at early age he my father migrated to Missouri, going into the general merchandise business at Charleston, of which city he served as mayor. After getting burned out at Charleston he went to California in 1849 to try to retrieve his fortune. Later he came to Texas and engaged in the merchantile business at Wanahachie first and then at Peora, in Will County. He voted against secession but when it carried he cast his lot with his adopted home Texas serving as bookkeeper in the quartermaster department at Wourton (Houston? Wharton?) for a time and afterwards as Captain of a company who guarded our frontier from the Indians. After the Civil War he removed with his family to Benton Co., Ark and to this union twelve children were born."

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FAMILY RECORD	
BIRTHS	DEATHS
William Henry Swank Was born Dec 22 <sup>nd</sup> 1849	Died in Texas (Murdered by a Baptist Preacher)
David Hervey Swank Was born April 24 <sup>th</sup> 1852	
Mary Elizabeth Swank Was born Dec 6 <sup>th</sup> 1853	
Catherine Miller Swank Was born Dec 2 <sup>nd</sup> 1855	Drowned in Spavinaw Creek July 16 <sup>th</sup> 1869
Alma Marshall Swank Was born Sept 14 <sup>th</sup> 1857	Died June 26 <sup>th</sup> 1861
Amanda Eliza Swank Was born May 26 <sup>th</sup> 1859	

(PAGE FROM SWANK BIBLE)

According to census, Bible and other records, David and Amanda Miller Swank's children were:

- William Henry Swank b. 22 Dec 1849 in Arkansas, died in Texas, murdered by a Baptist preacher.
- David Hervey Swank b. 24 Apr 1852 in Arkansas [GS says 1851] m. Susan Bright, son, David Jr.
- \*\* Mary Elizabeth Swank b. 6 Dec 1853 in Phillips Co, Arkansas [GS says Greene Co.] m. John H. Carl
- Catherine Miller Swank b. 2 Dec 1855 in Arkansas and drowned in Spavinaw Creek, 16 July 1869
- Alma Marshall Swank b. 14 Sept 1857 in Missouri; died single
- Amanda Elizabeth Swank b. 26 May 1859 in Texas [GS has Amanda Eliza Mittie Swank b. in Missouri]
- Martha Ellen Swank b. 18 Aug 1861 in Texas [GS

says Charleston], m. Zeph (or Zeph)  
Phillips 27 Apr 1880 and d. 21 June 1883  
Charlie Pierce Swank b. 22 May 1864 in Texas, d. 8 Aug 1866  
Samuel Jacob Swank b. 27 Apr 1866 in Texas; died single  
John Walter Swank b. 24 Sept 1868 in Arkansas and killed in a mine accident 3 Sept 1884  
Robert Richardson Swank b. 5 Sept 1869 [GS says Sept 1871]  
Laura Jane Swank b. 26 May 1873

David Swank was a lay Methodist minister and circuit rider. In addition, he became a gold prospector in 1849, the same year he and Amanda married, when he, along with some of his brothers, took part in the California Gold Rush. From birth records of their children, it appears David and Amanda moved from Arkansas to Missouri sometime between 1855 and 1857 since their child Alma Marshall was born 14 Sept 1857 in Missouri. They then moved from Missouri to Texas during the period 1857-1859. This matches what their daughter Mary said in later years, that she was about five years old at the time. She also said the move occurred on the advice of a doctor in Missouri. Amanda suffered from a health condition and it was thought she needed the dry air of Texas for recovery. Another theory, advanced by Ed Carl, Jr. was that David foresaw the coming of the Civil War and did not wish to become involved or to subject his family to the possible hazards of war. For whatever reason, David moved his family and settled on Paluxy Creek, which was near what is now Glen Rose, west of Ft. Worth. Mary often reminisced about the times she and her brothers and sisters would go down to the stream to play and gather wild mustang grapes. They later moved to Johnson County, near the Brazos river. Once established in a log cabin, David began raising horses and cows. He eventually was appointed a captain of a local Ranger company for protection from raiding Indian groups. Once, when he and the local rangers were away, Indians raided their home and stole their horses. She was later quoted as saying she lived through many Indian raids and on more than one occasion manned the powder horn while the men prepared the long muzzle-loaders. One time, as Mary told the story, Amanda noticed corn missing from their corn crib. That night she told her children to hide, got her musket, opened their cabin door and waited for the thief to go by. She called a warning, then shot into the darkness. The next day the children saw their neighborhood doctor sitting on a grapevine on Paluxy Creek, bleeding. Not all the people who stole in those days were Indians!

The record in the family Bible states that David and Amanda's daughter, Amanda Elizabeth Swank was born on 26 May 1859 in Texas. Glen Summit listed her name as Amanda Eliza Mittie Swank. Information on the Swanks compiled by Mrs. Elma Rust and sent to my father, Ed Carl, Jr. in 1979 also listed Amanda that way. According to Mrs. Rust, Amanda Eliza Mittie was born in 1859, married in 1885 Gustave Ferdinand Von Fintel and with him had four children: Gus. F. Jr. (1886-

(Continued on page 7)





MARY SWANK CARL AND  
MITTIE SWANK VON FINTEL

(Continued from page 2)

H. H. Clemmer	27	
Peter Summitt	41	6
H. H. Weathers	41	7
John Sheets	48	
Daniel E. Shaffer	18	
G. E. Gaston	46	
William Davis	71	
Jphn Davis, Sr	68	2
W. H. Davis	24	3
Margaret D. Davis	25	
W. H. Clemmer	41	7
John Clemmer, Sr.	56	1
Jonathan Summitt	57	2
Philip Moser	58	4
Margaret A. Clemmer	20	
Rachel L. Clemmer	18	
Lucinda E. Summitt	21	
Caldonia Summitt	21	
Alice E. Clemmer	17	
Rachel	17	
Nancy E. Clemmer	24	
B. C. Moser	16	
Manda L. Lillard	15	
Manda I. Brakebill	15	
Susannah T. Summitt	14	
Annie E. Moser	24	
Rachel N. Newton	45	
Polly Samples	69	4
M. J. Davis	33	
Rachel Sheets	51	
Emily C. Vinsant	44	4
Mary M. Shaffer	24	
Julia Clemmer	26	2

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(Continued from page 6)

1909); Edward Henry (1888-1907); Jennie Mittie (1889- ); and Elizabeth Rhea (1891- ). My father admitted that until he saw the information, he hadn't known which of David and Amanda's children was 'Mittie.' He remembered meeting 'Aunt Mit' when he was in high school. and she came to visit her sister, Mary, Ed's grandmother. He noted that both women were small and dainty, but very active and sturdy. "Aunt Mit was a 'honey blonde' with blue eyes, both of which she inherited from her father. Grandma Carl had jet black hair and dark eyes, which she inherited from her mother, Amanda." A death notice for Mary Carl in 1949 noted that her sister, Mrs. Mittie von Fintel of Indian, Oklahoma was one of her survivors.

Unfortunately, Mrs. Rust's list also had Mary marrying a John H. Earl (instead of Carl), two of their sons marrying women named Bouner (instead of Bonner), one son being named David Harvey instead of David Hervey and another son marrying a woman named Wilderman (instead of Wideman) - incorrect information that was assumed correct by later researchers. Mrs. Rust may have been the source of the errors or passed them along from somewhere else. In addition, her list noted that David and Amanda's son David married a Susan Bright and had a son, David H. Jr.; that their daughter, Martha Ellen married Zeph Phillips but had no children; and that Laura Jane married a Mr. Swimford and had a child, Earl. Both Glen Summit and Karalee Goranflo list Martha Ellen's husband as Zeph Phillips. Mrs. Rust obviously worked very hard in compiling information on the Swanks and in 1982 published a 172 page book entitled "John Swank, ca. 1750-1794, and some of his descendents." Even with the mistakes on some of my family, her report is still a helpful source of information.

(Editor's Note: We hope to publish Mrs. Rust's full list in some future issue.)

According to genealogical records, David must have moved his family back to Arkansas between 1866 and 1868 because a son was born in Texas on 27 Apr 1866 and another son in Arkansas on 24 Sept 1868. We have a copy of a receipt dated 6 Dec 1866 and signed by Amanda Swank selling her entire stock of cattle running within Hood, Johnson, Erath, Bosque and Hill counties in Texas for \$475. Perhaps they were liquidating their property before they moved. The 1870 census for Round Prairie Township, Benton County, Arkansas lists David, Amanda, their children William, David, Alma, Amanda, Ellen, Samuel and John and a housekeeper named Virginia. David was listed as a farmer and Alma, Amanda, Ellen and Samuel were students. David and Amanda didn't stay in Arkansas, however. After the California Gold Rush, there was a Silver and Gold Rush in Colorado in the 1870s and 1880s. According to Mary, David and Amanda Swank and some of their family joined that Rush along with Mary's husband, John H. Carl. The timing of this journey was referred to years later by one of David's grandsons. Newt Carl said his "Grandfather Swank, Uncle Al, Uncle Dave" and his Father left with the gold rush for Ledville, Colorado a little while after his sister Ella was born, in March 1879. In the 1880 census for Osage Township, Benton County, Arkansas, the Swank family name was listed, but David himself wasn't named. He was noted as being 55, white and married. Amanda was 53, a wife and housekeeper. Their son David (the "Uncle Dave" from Newt's letter) was listed as being 27, a farmer and a widower. In the letter David Swank wrote to Emma Embree in 1896, he mentioned "the trouble in which my son Dave got into here arose from leaving his wife." David went on to say Dave's wife had an uncontrollable temper, that he stood it for 11 years and then divided (separated?) and left. He also said that Dave's brother and sisters in Colorado were doing well. The next child listed in the 1880 census was Allen ("Uncle Al?"), 23, single and a farmer. That confused me because I thought the child born after David, Alma Marshall Swank, was female, but the child was listed as male in the 1870 census as well as the 1880, though in 1870 the name was listed as Alana and in 1880 as Allen. To make things more confusing, we have a copy of a calling card for Alma M. Swank that has a bouquet of flowers on it and looks very feminine. One of David and Amanda's grandsons, J.F. Carl, named his daughter Alma. If Newt's

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Eliza J. Moser	35
Margaret Shields	22
Elizabeth Moser	50
Barbary Shaffer	20
Susannah Davis	26
Mary Magdaline Moser	22
Nancy E. Shields	27
Hannah Winsant	22
Sarah E. Wright	25
Martha A. Shaffer	16
Margaret Sheilds	64
Margaret Keys	62
Martha E. Keys	56
Matilda Davis	68
Julyann Moser	71
Martha M. Brown	77
Lonora Brown	46
Lavina Brakebill	48
Sarah Summit	63
Elizabeth Moser	57
Sarah Summit	52
Elizabeth J. Moser	25
Mary Gaston	78
Rachel Kiser	35
Issabelle Summit	47
Nancy J. Summit	41
Margaret Mowry	71
Betty S. Summit	58
Catherine Moser	46
Easter C. Johnston	38
Isabella Fino	31
Martha Shield	34
Sarah H. Samples	38
Matilda James	43
Sarah Miller	21
Elizabeth Gaston	
Matilda Hutson	47
Sarah A. Airheart	36
Francis Gaston	37
Lucinda Sheilds	40
Sintha Sitsler	39
Sarah C. Shaffer	14
Mary M. Moser	19
Anderson F. Shaffer	14
Filmore Clemmer	15
Elizabeth Phillips	45
Mary E. Moser	22
Josefine Summit	13
Rebecca E. Shaffer	
Mary Jane Cloninger	15
John W. Cloninger	53
Henry W. Lones	22
James P. Lones	20
John L. Clemmer	76
John Lewis Cloninger	13
Catherine Cloninger	44
Francis J. Lillard	12

## Obituaries

(Editor's Note: Glen sent this via email recently. Anyone having information as to how these ladies connect into the family tree please let one of us know.)

Here are some obituaries for the newsletter. Does anyone know who the first three are. I am also at a loss as to who Decimaee Allison Summitt is. Is there a connection to our line. I cannot find her in my database.

MULLINS, Bessie L (SUMMITT); 86; Russellville AR; Yell Co R; 2002-12-25  
SUMMIT, Lisa (DUNCAN); 43; Kingsport TN; Kingsport T N; 2002-5-10  
SUMMIT,Summit, Etna Mae ( ); 77; Fort Smith AR; SW Times; 2002-3-28

<http://greenvilleonline.com/obits/archives/20020819185431.htm>

### **Decimae Allison Summitt, Gaffney**

Decimae Allison Summitt, 86, of 916 Northside Drive, died Sunday, Aug. 18, 2002, at Carolinas Medical Center in Charlotte.

She was born in Gaffney and was a retired textile employee.

Visitation: 7 to 8 p.m. today at Shuford-Hatcher Funeral Home. Service: 11 a.m. Wednesday at the funeral chapel. Burial: Camps Creek Baptist Church Cemetery. The family will be at their respective homes.

<http://www.shelbystar.com/portal/ASP/article.asp?ID=1768>

### **Bobbie Rayfield**

SHELBY — Mrs. Bobbie Faye Summitt Rayfield, 81, of 134 Chickasaw Drive, formerly of 404 Valley St. in Stanley, died Saturday, Aug. 10, 2002, at Crawley Memorial in Boiling Springs.

A native of Gaston County, she was the daughter of the late Cleveland and Bryte Ormond Summitt and the widow of Thurman Conley Rayfield. She was retired from Textron in Gastonia and a member of First United Methodist Church in Stanley.

She is survived by a son and daughter-in-law, Cleve and Linda Rayfield of Shelby; two grandchildren, Stephen Rayfield and Paula Hamrick and husband, Brad, all of Shelby; two great-grandsons, Wesley and Jon Michael Hamrick of Shelby; three sisters, Elizabeth Dameon of Lincolnton, Billie Sue Rhyne of Bessemer City and Pearl Wright of Hawthorne, Fla.

The funeral will be Tuesday at 2 p.m. at First United Methodist Church in Stanley with the Rev. Patricia Lewis officiating. Burial will be in Hillcrest Gardens in Mount Holly.

The family will receive friends Monday night from 7 to 9 at Carothers Funeral Home in Stanley.

Memorials may be made to Bethel Baptist Church, 400 S. Dekalb St., Shelby, NC 28150.

Sarah A. Cloninger	41	Susan E. Lones	22
Francis A. Cloninger	20	Hulda J. Cloninger	18
M. E. Cloninger	50	Nancy J. Kinser	24
Julda J. Howard	37	Joseph Sheilds, Jr.	
Maranda T. Summit	19	Molly Samples	
Martha Summit		John Brakebill	15
Henry Sheets	45	John H. Smith	22
M. Moser	16	Laura A. Moser	13
Thomas J. Farmer	20	Anna James	12
Frances E. Moser	11	Mary E. Weathers	15
Sarah C. Lankford	15	Joseph Gaston	
W. H. Howard	15	John Coffmann	21
John H. Summit	15	Wm. H. Summit	14
Jacob Shields		P. L. Summit	



(Continued from page 7)

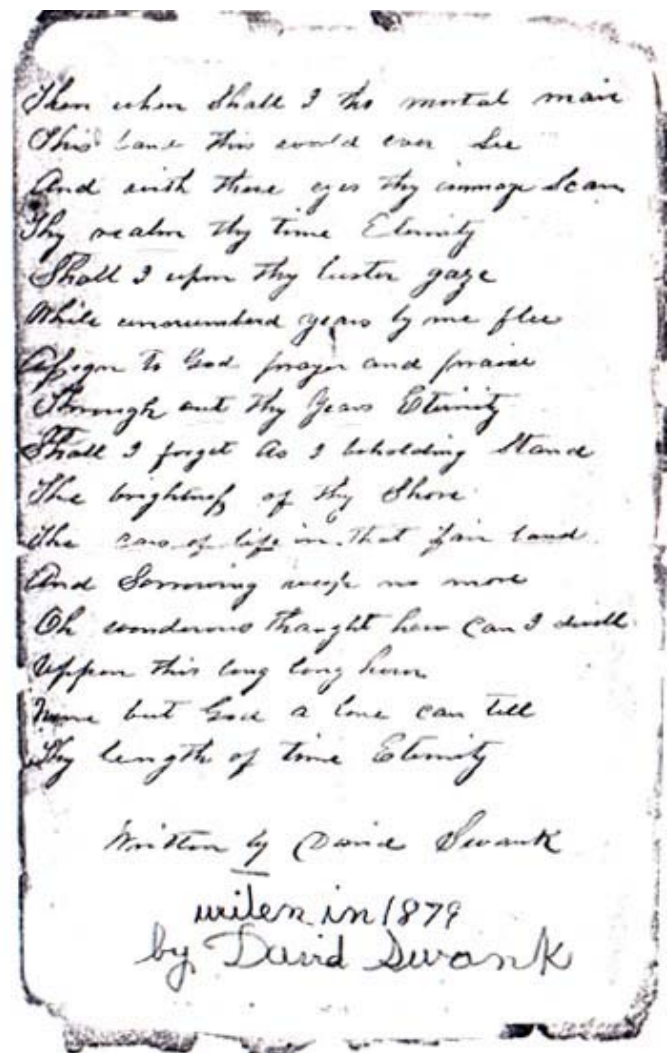
memories were correct, David could have been in Colorado when the census enumerator came to call on 5 June 1880, but if so, Al and Dave weren't with him, at least on that day. Continuing down the 1880 census list, Mittie was 19 and a teacher; Samuel, 15, John, 13 and Robert 10, were at school. Laura, 6, was not.



(ALMA M. SWANK'S CALLING CARD)

Whatever the timing, the trek to Colorado occurred and resulted in two tragedies. Amanda died on 12 October 1881 and was buried in Denver, and one of David and Amanda's sons, John Walter Swank, was killed in a mine accident on 3 Sept 1884, just a few weeks before he turned 16. In later years, Mary used large chunks of gold and silver quartz rock for door-stoppers as mementos of her Swank family's trek to Colorado. In addition to being a minister and prospector, David seems to have also been an expert in homeopathic medicine and passed that knowledge on to his daughter. His grandson graduated from Dr. David Swank's School of Pantherapy and Osteopathology in 1902. It's possible that the 'Dr. David Swank' who ran the school could have been the Rev. Swank's son David, but the older Swank was alive in 1902 so the school could have just as well been his. David Swank Sr. eventually moved back to Texas. In the letter David wrote Emma Embree in 1896, he said he sometimes felt bad when he thought of the past, the loss of his wife and six children. "How sadly I am. Poor in this world's goods. No permanent home. a wayfaring man. I look forward to the day when I shall meet those gone before. My dear niece and children I may never see you in this life as I do not think [it] possible for me to pay you a visit. I am so poor and old. You see from my writing that I am so nervous. I hope this may find you all well and God's blessings resting upon you." David Swank died in Corsicana from myocarditis, or inflammation of the heart muscle, on 11 Feb 1906 and is buried in Pettys Chapel Cemetery.

In addition to being a Methodist minister, a gold prospector, a farmer, rancher, ranger and father, David Swank was a poet. We have copies of two of his poems written in 1879 and another undated one.

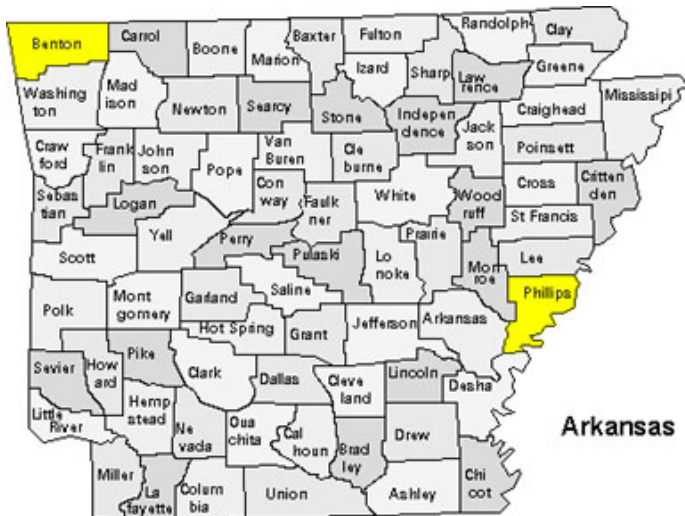


(ONE OF DAVID SWANK'S POEMS)

Amanda Miller and the Rev. David Swank were the parents of Mary Elizabeth Swank who was born on 6 Dec 1853 in Phillips County, Arkansas. (In a letter written by Mary's son Newt in 1952, he said she was born either in Northeast Arkansas or Charleston, Missouri, but the record in the family Bible says Phillips County, Arkansas.) According to Wanda Pyburn, Mary's great granddaughter through Tom Carl, Mary was taught 'homeopathic medicine' from her father, David Swank. It was said that "when the men were away at [the Civil] war she kept the women and children from starving in the winter by collecting roots and herbs in the forest." In 1988 Mrs. Pyburn donated to the Fort Worth Museum of Science and History the 'Civil War Quilt' that tradition says Mary made out of old Civil War uniforms.

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(Continued from page 9)

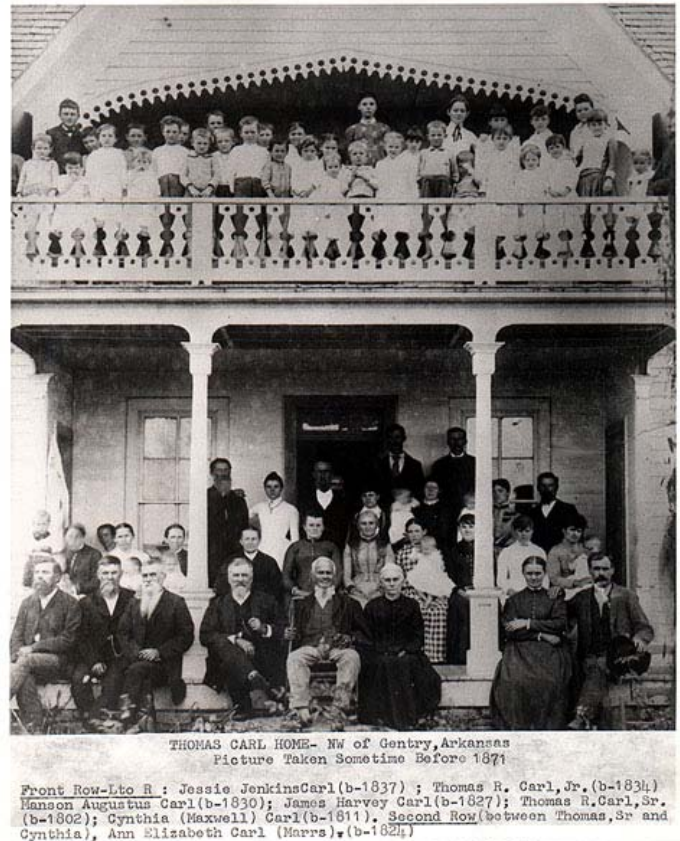


In 1868, Mary met her future husband, probably in Benton County, Arkansas. John Hammack Carl (sometimes spelled Hammock but family Bible records say Hammack) was born on 5 Apr 1847 in Benton County. He was the son of Thomas Carl who had moved to Arkansas in 1838. Thomas Carl was born on 24 Mar 1802 in Dutchess County, New York. After moving to Tennessee and having a family with his first wife, he moved to Van Buren, Arkansas. After the death of his first wife in 1839, he sold his farm and moved to a place on Osage Creek, six miles south of Bentonville, Arkansas. It was here he met and married his second wife, Synthia W. Maxwell, John's mother, who was born on 6 Jan 1811. Benton County, founded in 1836 only two years before Thomas Carl arrived, was formed from Washington County. It is located in the northwest corner of Arkansas on the Ozark plateau and adjoins Oklahoma to the west and Missouri to the north. Bentonville is the county seat. It was named in honor of US Senator Thomas Hart Benton of Missouri, who was instrumental in helping the Arkansas Territory achieve statehood in 1836. Thomas Carl had been apprenticed in New York to a tailor who treated him badly. As soon as he learned how to make a suit of clothes, he ran away eventually making his way to Tennessee. Although he and most of his sons made their livings as farmers, one of his grandchildren remembered Thomas sitting on a table sewing. She also remembered he was small. Another family legend says that Thomas Carl made clothes for the Jesse James gang and that they would sleep in the barn when they came to get their garments! Synthia died on 21 Feb 1871 and Thomas died on 14 Jan 1891 near Decatur, Arkansas. Thomas and Synthia (sometimes spelled Cynthia, but her tombstone says Synthia) are buried at the Word Cemetery on Spavinaw Creek, Arkansas. The Carls were a prominent family in northwest Arkansas.

Thomas and Synthia Carl had seven children:

Nancy Jane Carl, b. 12 June 1840 m. Dennis Chastain  
Sara Carl b. 15 May 1843 m. Jim Powell  
Syble (or Sybel or Sible) Carl, b. 17 Feb 1845 d. in infancy

\*\* John Hammack Carl, b. 5 April 1847 in Benton County m. Mary Elizabeth Swank  
Zachary T. "Zack" Carl, b. 25 Nov 1848 d. in infancy  
David Newton Carl, b. 17 Feb 1850. He lived for many years in Austin, Texas then moved to California and then back to Arkansas where he died on 5 Sep 1920. He had a son, Dennis Carl and a daughter, Myrtle V. Gage who both lived in Tucson at the time of his death.  
Henry C. Carl, b. 17 Oct 1853 in Arkansas; m. Mary Ellen (Nellie) Word abt 1878; d. 1932 in Arkansas



(PICTURE OF THOMAS AND SYNTHIA CARL AND HIS FIRST FAMILY)

John had half siblings from his father Thomas Carl's first marriage to Nancy Shed, b. 24 Nov 1804, d. 1839 in Mulberry, Arkansas. Some of this information came from Barton Carl's granddaughter, Mildred Jackson from Denver, Colorado and Dr. Caldeen Gunter of Siloam Springs, Arkansas.

Elizabeth Ann Carl, b. 12 July 1824 in Franklin, Tenn, m. James Nathaniel Marrs Jan 1840 in Arkansas, moved to Texas in 1861, d. 20 Feb 1895 or 96. Elizabeth and James are buried in Florence, Texas.

James Harvey Carl, b. 24 Aug 1826 in Tenn, d. 15 Aug 1911. His father bound him out to a farmer in Washington County, Arkansas but he wasn't treated well and came home. His wife was Elrena b. 22 Oct 1833, d. 14 Sept 1914

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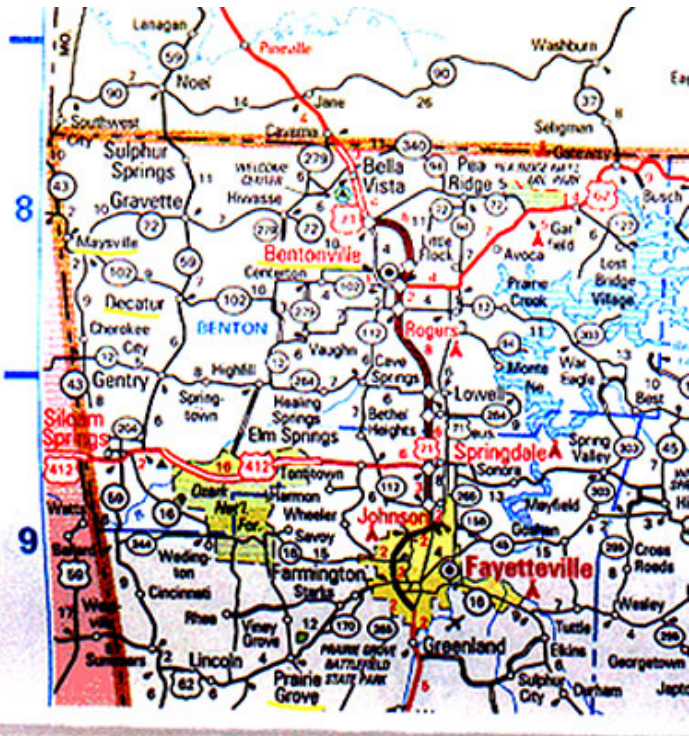
William S. Carl, b. 16 Aug 1828. He was on one list of children, but not on others. Perhaps he died young.

Manson Augustus Carl, b. 7 Aug 1830 in Tenn, d. 27 Dec 1912. His wife was Mahala, b. 1 Feb 1836, d. 26 June 1915. He and Mahala lost four children to an epidemic in 1861.

Barton Arnold Carl, b. 12 Sept 1832 in Coffee County, Tennessee, m. Sarah S. Parks 20 Jan 1857. He went to the California Gold Rush then returned to live in Prairie Grove, Arkansas and was a Confederate soldier in the Civil War. He and Sarah had eight children. He is buried in Prairie Grove.

Thomas Robert Carl, Jr. b. 7 Oct 1834 in Alabama; d. 19 Feb 1917. m. (1) Mary A. King and had three children: S.T., Carl, and Margaret (Mitchell); m. (2) Kate McPhail and had four children: G.D., W.L., Mabel, and A.H. He also fought in the Civil War.

Jessie Jenkins Carl, b. 17 Apr 1837 on a visit back to Tenn. He married a Josephine Roundtree. He lived near Bloomfield, Arkansas.



(MAP OF ARKANSAS SHOWING BENTON COUNTY)

John and his blended family lived on farms in several areas of northwest Arkansas near Bentonville and after the Civil War, on a farm on Spavinaw Creek, eleven miles from Maysville, just east of the Oklahoma state line. According to one of John's grandsons, at the beginning of the Civil War several of his older half brothers had joined the conflict but John was too young. John's mother wanted to keep him safe at home and insisted he hide in a wood pile when some Northern soldiers came by asking if any young men were around. His mother told the soldiers there weren't any young men around,

but they searched the area anyway and fired into their wood pile, hitting John three times in the chest. The miniballs lodged in his back, but he survived. Either because of this assault and/or because he became old enough to join, from notes he himself made, in September 1863, at the age of 16, John enlisted in Company B, Browns Battalion, Confederate Cavalry where he served until September 1864. He was then transferred to Company H, 17th Arkansas Cavalry and served until May 1865 when he was paroled at Jackson, Mississippi. His name didn't appear in the official Confederate records, but it was on a list of prisoners of war after the conflict was over. Whether he got them in a wood pile or in battle, he carried those three miniballs in his body until the end of his life. John married Mary Elizabeth Swank on 5 Sept 1869. He was 22 and she was not yet 16. They lived with his father, Thomas Carl, for a while after the death of Thomas' wife Synthia in 1871. The 1880 census listed Mary E. Carl and her six children as living in Wallace Township, Benton County, Arkansas. John was not listed, but this might be when he joined Mary's parents in their trek to the Colorado gold fields. According to Mary, he loaded two wagons with Arkansas apples which were known to be selling at high prices among the miners. He didn't stay long and soon rejoined his family.



(PICTURE OF MARY ELIZABETH SWANK AND JOHN H. CARL ON THEIR WEDDING DAY)

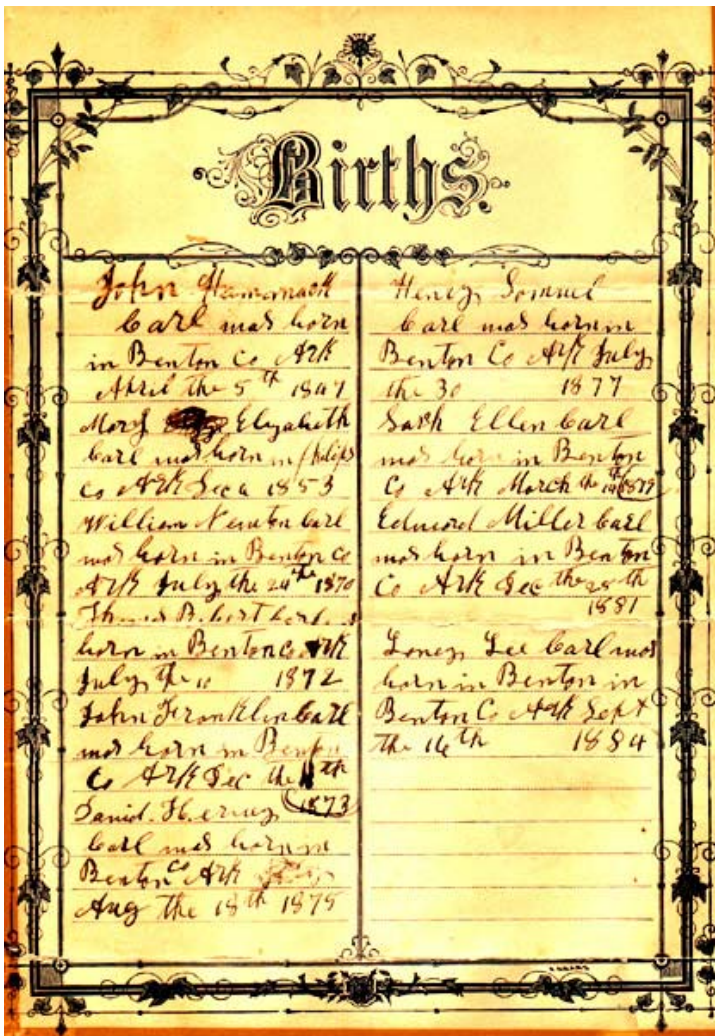
In a letter Newt Carl wrote his mother, Mary on 14 March 1949, he reminisced about his youth in Arkansas. He told of eating redbud blooms that grew in the woods near their home.

(Continued on page 12)



(Continued from page 11)

He remembered they had a seven acre orchard (probably where the Arkansas apples came from) and that there were strawberries back of his 'Grandpap's' orchard and huckleberry [sic] bushes at the back side of the farm. He said, "The neighbor boys are probably grabbing suckers in Spavinaw as Uncle Newt and Henry [Carl] did in the days when both orchards were young. It was about Easter time when you made suits out of yellow shambrie [chambray is a finely woven cotton, usually with white and another color] for Tom and I, and we all rode up to Bethel for Easter services and dinner on the ground. I remember that the women asked if Tom and I were twins... memory is like sweet incense."



(ORIGINAL PAGE FROM CARL FAMILY BIBLE)

Mary and John had eight children, the last born in 1884. On 20 Oct 1885, they left Arkansas for Texas. In a letter Newt wrote to his sister, Ella Wideman on 4 Sept 1952, he said "Our parents and all the children left on a cold frosty morning, the farm of Uncle Jim Carl's, situated two miles from Siloam Springs, Benton County, Arkansas. The whole family and such household goods as could be put in two wagons were loaded and four fine horses hitched to them. The object of the 'exodus' was Texas. Our father

drove one of these fine teams and the writer (Newt) drove the other team. I do not remember what date we landed in Texas, but I do remember that we reached Austin, Texas Dec. 11, 1885. We crossed the Colorado River that night and camped on the sand bar. Dec 12, we camped near Bluff Springs, Texas and the next day we moved into a small house in a pasture adjoining that of Uncle Billy Swank." They lived there for several years and the children attended Pleasant Hill School. (Mary's oldest brother, William ("Uncle Billy") was eventually murdered by a Baptist preacher according to an entry in the family Bible!) John worked as a farmer, moving several times where he could find work. In a letter J.F. Carl wrote his brother Ed in 1954, he talked about their family's early days in Texas. "In 1886 we made crop out on the prairie; in 1887 (driest year on record) we farmed a part of Uncle Billie Swank's farm; in 1888, we went back to the Cherokee Nation (Oklahoma) and worked at a saw mill. In the late spring of 1888, we came back to Travis County and picked cotton." John, Mary and their family lived west of Pleasant Hill School south of Austin until most of their children were married. They then moved to Corsicana, to Dallas then back to Austin in 1911 where John and Mary had a house across the street from Brackenridge Hospital near the State Capitol. He joined the State Capitol Police force where he was in charge of the guards on the Capitol grounds, a position created for elderly Confederate veterans. When John's health failed in 1919, they moved in with their newly divorced son, Edward and his two children in San Antonio. John died in San Antonio on 5 Dec 1919 from cholecystitis. (Cholecystitis is an inflammation of the gallbladder caused by obstruction of the cystic duct, usually due to a gallstone.)



(PICTURE OF MARY ELIZABETH, JOHN H. CARL AND THEIR CHILDREN)

Because of his service in the Civil War, his widow received a pension the rest of her life. (Confederate Pension Warrant No. 101715.) His funeral expenses totaled \$220.80

(Continued on page 13)



(Continued from page 12)

(\$2,291.67 in 2002 dollars). John was a Mason, a member of Onion Creek Lodge, No. 220 in Travis County, and a member of Prospect Hill Methodist Church where his son, Newt, was pastor.



(PICTURE OF MARY AND JOHN CARL OLDER)

According to her grandson, Edward Jr., after John's death, Mary, at the age of 65 "continued to care for my father and us children by doing the cooking, mending, housekeeping and washing for all of us. She was an amazing little woman. I thoroughly loved my Grandmother Carl's cooking. It was a 'pinch of this and a pinch of that'. Her biscuits were big and fluffy. She used dried fruits to make tarts and diced bacon to make corn bread pone patties and mashed potatoes with onions to make potato patties. She was a devout Christian and a strict disciplinarian, in addition to being thrifty and frugal." Her granddaughter-in-law, Mercy Carl, remembered Mary as being a skillful practitioner of reflexology, therapeutic foot massage. From her business card, Mary Carl was the proprietress of the Ladies Massage Parlors in Austin. (I'm sure it was very different from the massage parlors of our day.) An article ran on her when she was 87. In it she said she still liked to crochet and embroider and could do it without glasses. She admitted to wearing glasses, but only at baseball games and to see things

far away. At that time she'd lived in San Antonio for 21 years and was quoted as saying she liked the town, the climate and 'just about everything.' According to two of her grandsons, Mary was tiny. She probably didn't weigh 75 pounds, but she was as 'tough as a boot.' Fred Carl remembered her as being very quiet, not starting a conversation unless someone talked to her and that she was always frowning. With her long, hard life, she must not have had a lot to smile about. Mary died in San Antonio on 24 Apr 1949 at the age of 95. According to her death certificate, her death was from a cerebro vascular accident (stroke) due to generalized arteriosclerosis and hypertensive heart disease. She was buried next to her husband in the Mission Burial Park in San Antonio. A newspaper article on her death noted that she had broken her leg in 1947 and had been unable to walk since that time. It also noted she had 35 grandchildren, 49 great grandchildren and one great great grandson. A notice about her funeral said she had 32 grandchildren and 30 great grandchildren. (I can't say which numbers are correct until I track down the names of all her descendants alive at that time.)

According to my father's files, the children of Mary Elizabeth Swank and John H. Carl were:

William Newton Carl (24 July 1870 - )  
 Thomas Robert Carl (7 Oct 1872 - 15 Dec 1974)  
 John Franklin Carl (11 Dec 1873 - )  
 David Hervey Carl (18 Aug 1875 - Jan 1967)  
 Henry Samuel "Den" Carl (30 July 1877 - 15 Apr

1966)

Sarah Ellen "Ella" Carl (14 Mar 1879 - )  
 \*\* Edward Miller Carl (25 Dec 1881 - 8 Jul 1956)  
 Loney Lee Carl (16 Sep 1884 - 12 Feb 1919)

If anyone has additions, corrections or comments about my article, please e-mail at [ccm@tic.com](mailto:ccm@tic.com).

*(Editor's Note: We will continue with this wonderful family history in our next issue of the newsletter. We look forward to this and other family histories by you, our subscribers.)*



A friend of mine and I in Cozumel, Mexico. February 2003

December 19, 1860.

Dear Brother:

I received your kind letter some three days ago. I will try to answer it. It gives me a good deal pleasure to hear from you and family and that you was ----- all well satisfied with your country. Would be very glad to hear from you all frequently and would be still gladder to see you all althou we live at a distance we can write to each other and let each other know how we are a-getting along and tell of our prospects and diversities. Brother, my family is not in such health as yours was when you wrote your letter. I have had a good deal of sickness in my family this winter. I had the measles in my family and they was of a very bad caractor, in fact, they was the worst that I ever seen. But they are all up again except John Bendel. He caught cold and came very near dieing. He has been confined to the house about 10 week and confined to the bed the most of the time. He is now beginning to walk about the house and yard. He has got a very bad cough yet. Abby Thompson lost his little daughter the same way. She was sick about six weeks. William Goodin is a very little better. I have my fears that he won' ever get well again. His general health is good and he looks well enoug'; from his hips up, but he has no use of himself from his kidneys down. His legs are not larger than his arms, he talks of going to St. Louis in a few days to see if he can't have something done for him. You said give all the news, well, I will try. Our niece, Beck McFarland and doctor Simpson is about to get married. It is to come off soon that is what I hear and from good authority as I believe also my Frank and Fride Larc also, Laura and Thomas Beckwith, old Cyrus Beckwiths son. I will now tell you about crops and so on in general. We have very good corn crops in the bottom we will have more corn than was ever raised in this settlement before the praires are not more than half crops. Our wheat looks very fine for the season our winter has been very dry and pleasant. People are nearly all done gathering althou it has commenced raining and looks like we might have a rainy spell from this out.



The rivers have been extremely low the upper Mississippi at this time has only four feet water between here and St. Louis, consequently freight to New Orleans are very high and corn is low at this time it owing to money matters all the banks having suspended North or South. I tell you times look gloomy I do believe that this Union will split all to pieces. Brother, you hardly hear anything talked of or read of anything except the dissolution of the States. It is the all absorbing topic of the day. business and religion and in fact nearly everything is lost sight of except the one question. The clergy as well as all others seem to be engaged in the general excitement. You may go where you will you will see groups of men engaged in deep discussion on the probability of disunion. They all seem to think the time has come when North and South must and will separate here you can tell almost every man that is in favor of disunion. It is the farming element the very bone and sinew of our country who think we have borne enough from the North We have some of those professional men who are willing to bow their heads and were old Abe Linkins yok and submit Nigger Equality but I do feel thankful that there is none of our blood as I no of here that is willing to submit to Abolition diction. If the time is to come in my day and generation I say it might as well come in my day as my childrens, so let it come. I will trust in Him who rules all things in the end for his glory he alone only know how it will end. David you spoke of religion being at pare in Texas. I must confess that I am sorrow to say that it is not the case here the Baptists had a supper sometime back to raise means to finish their church in Charleston. All after supper some played while others went to the court house and had a regular set to. They raise about \$200 dollars. the good people of Benton hearing of their success have determined to try their hand raising money to finish their church so they have advertised in the Courier that they will give a Christmas party to raise money also for their Church. They give notice in the paper that all who wishes to dance can repair to the court-house and enjoy themselves in that way. Those who are too religious to dance can find at my parts a place that they can amuse

The Summitt Family  
Quarterly  
312 Proctor Drive  
Columbia, MO 65202

Mailing  
Address  
Goes  
Here

### In This Issue...

The Carl Descendants of John and Rosanna Summit Swank by Charlotte Carl-Mitchell

*St. Paul's Lutheran  
Church Records  
(continued)*

*Obituaries*

*My New Friend*

Page 3 of letter Silas Swank wrote his brother David on 19 Dec 1860.

themselves in playing cards that is seven up or uore or smut or if to  
religious to dance or play cards they can play old sister or plebe or  
pleased and displesed just at it suits <sup>their</sup> ~~them~~ fancy but there is no place  
mentioned where prayers can be held. I suppose they think that as it is  
to raise money for buiding God a house that it will be no harm to serve  
the Devil or anything else so they raise money. I mus now bring my letter  
to a close give my love to all the friends and retain a good portion for  
yourself and family. Sarah joins in love to you all so fare well for  
the present. Write soon and let us hear from you as often as we cannomore  
but I remain your Brother untill death

Silas Swank

p.s. tell Wm. Goodin Frank has received his letter and  
will answer before long.

S. Swank