

The Poplin Family
By Dick Poplin

The name Poplin most likely came from the fact that they were weavers of the cloth that was used by the pope in Avignon, France. The cloth was first called papeline and later popeline and poplin. Some of the weavers took the name of the cloth. They were Huguenots, and with the revocation of the Edict of Nantes they fled to The Netherlands and from there went with William of Orange and established the Irish Poplin weaving industry in Belfast, Ireland. The fact that there are still Poplins in France substantiates that theory. The tradition in the family was that "Old Grandpap," William Poplin, who came to Bedford Count [TN] from Montgomery County, NC, between 1815 and 1820, was "a full-blooded Irishman," the French blood having been greatly diluted by the time they reached America.

The first Poplins of which there are records in America were the family of George and Every (various spellings) Poplin in Chatham Co., NC, although some believe there were Poplins in Maryland before that. Most all Poplins in America trace back to North Carolina, and are believed to be descendants of the children of George and Every although no sure record of descent from George to the third generation has been established. George (or Gorg as it is sometimes spelled) Poplin left a will dated 20 June 1775 in Chatham County, NC, and named five sons, William, John, Gorg, Richard, and Henry, and four daughters, Jane, Nansy, Ave, and Mimy. John, William, George and Every witnessed the will by making their marks. The name at one place is Popling. Other records sometimes have Popland.

In 1761 George Poplin of Orange County made an agreement with *John Earl Granville* to pay rent on 550 acres in the amount of 22 shillings each year on (a) creak (on) the waters of Rocky River. Since later Poplins were on Rocky River in Stanley County which had been cut off from Montgomery County, it is possible that George was there in 1761 and 1775, that having been in Orange and Chatham counties in those dates.

Sons William and George were both in the Revolutionary War. On April 25, 1840, Lucy Poplin, age 89, made application in Montgomery County for a pension as the widow of William Poplin "late a pensioner of the United States." Lucy said she had three children before the war but did not name them.

William W. Poplin, born 1789 and **Martha Patience Lee**, born 1798, were married in 1814 and came to Bedford County [TN] from Montgomery County, NC, between 1815 and 1819. Son **Green Lee Poplin** was born in Montgomery County, NC, in 1815, he said, and **Alfred Poplin**, according to the census, was born in 1819 in Bedford County, TN. **Hampton Poplin** was born in 1832, and disappeared from home in 1850 after the census. Whether there was foul play or if he just ran away from home is not known. Daughters of William and Patience Lee Poplin were **Harriet Elvira** who married **David Potter Wheeler** (they lived in North Alabama before the Civil War and then in Texas after some years at Unionville [TN] during part of the war; there are descendants in Texas); **Louisa** born 1820, married **Samuel Wheeler**, son of **Jesse Wheeler** (they lived

around Jackson, TN, and some descendants went to Asheville, NC); **Nancy**, born 1830, married **Charles Hay**, a Presbyterian preacher (they moved to Graves County, KY); **Lucinda** born 1834 married **Henderson Gregory** and lived in Graves County, KY. **Malite** (no dates) married **Carlin Montgomery** according to a letter from a Hay descendant, but a record of a marriage in Marshal County shows **Matilda Poplin** married **Stewart Montgomery** Sept. 14 1837, **Nannie Lucinda** married **Charles E. Hay**.

William W. Poplin married after the death of Patience to **Sarah Whitworth** in Henry County, TN, 10-11-1841. Records show **Sarah Poplin** and **Sarah Poplin Jr.** becoming members of Enon Primitive Babtist Church, near Unionville in October of 1842. The only knowledge of Sarah Poplin Jr. is found in the Enon minutes. She died a short time later at age 19. William and Sarah (called Sally) had three children and lived in Graves County, KY but he came back to Bedford County and died in the home of his sone Alfred near Unionville in 1880.

Children of **William W.** and **Sally Poplin** were; **Jane** who married **Bob Motheral** and lived in Gleason, TN; **Mat** who married _____ **Dossett**; and **Robert** who married **Mary Louise Doran**.

Dr. Green Lee Poplin married first to **Martha Locke**, daughter of **Martha A. Locke** at Unionville, who died soon after their daughter **Martha Locke Poplin** was born. She married **James Smith Boyd** and lived in Graves County, KY where there are still descendants. **Green L. Poplin's** second wife, **Sarah Perry**, died 22 Jan 1843 after their child died on 17 Jan. He married **Rebecca Emily Rucker**, daughter of **William Rucker** of Bedford County, TN. They had descendants who lived in Arkansas. Children of this marriage were:

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G. L. Poplin married 4th to **Mattie E. Hall** and they had a son **Roy Poplin** who was a railroad engineer in Albuquerque, NM.