

POPLIN PATTEN

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Dick Poplin, Editor

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POPLIN REUNION PICTURE



This is a picture taken at a Poplin reunion at the home of my father and mother around 1950. Seated on the front row, left to right, are my father, William Amna Jackson Poplin, Aunt Kizzie Poplin Farris, Alla Poplin Baldwin, W.E. (Ed) Poplin, Ivin Taylor, Mitchel Poplin; standing on the back row are Mrs. Ambrose Crass whose first husband was Dr. Thomas Ivin Poplin, my mother, Mrs. Ed Poplin, Mr. and Mrs. Rush (Rushing) Taylor, Mrs. Ivin Poplin and Mrs. Mitch Poplin.

Only four are still living, Mrs. Billie Poplin (my mother), Mrs. Rush Taylor, Mrs. Ivin Taylor and, I suppose, Mrs. Mitchel Poplin.

Aunt Kizzie Farris was the daughter of Alfred and Martha Rushing Poplin. Her brother, William Richard Poplin was the father of my father. Her brother, Alfred Lee Poplin was the father of Ed Poplin, Alla Poplin Baldwin and Mitchel Poplin. Her sister Tennessee (Aunt Tennie) Poplin Taylor was the mother of Rush and Ivin Taylor.

Ed Poplin was the old time fiddler whose Old Time String Band was heard over radio station WSM in Nashville for many years some 35 or 40 years ago. He heard from Poplins from several states while he was on radio. He was also a rural mail carrier out of Lewisburg, Tenn.

Ed was a singer as well as a fiddler and was featured on many songs on his programs, two of which that he often sang were "Pray for the Lights to Go Out" and "Left My Gal in the Mountain." The story is told that on one Saturday night he was going to sing "Left My Gal in the Mountain" and had trouble getting started in the right key. When the Grand Ole Opry was over and all the musicians were gathering up their instruments in order to leave, Ed asked, "Am I leaving anything?"

George D. Hay, the Solemn Old Judge, famed master of ceremonies of the Grand Ole Opry, said, "You have still left your gal in the mountain."

Alden Lee Poplin, son of Ed Poplin, says aunt Kizzie Farris had about eleven other names in addition to Kessiah. Alden said his father told him that she was named for all of the neighbor women but the names have been forgotten.

She probably was named for her grandmother who was Kessiah Maxwell and married first Evan Rushing, or Ivin Rushing, second to a Taylor and last to a Steed and was remembered by my father as Grandma Steed. In the 1850 census of Bedford County, Tenn. she was listed as Kessiah Taylor and in the home of her son-in-law Alfred Poplin and Martha Rushing Poplin. The name Kezia, or Keziah, is found in the Bible as

as one of the daughters of Job (Job 42:14). Although that is an unusual name, I find a Kiziah Poplin as the daughter of Richard Poplin and Elizabeth Hinson who also had a son named John who was born at Guilford Court House, or rather in Guilford County, on November 10, 1826. This Richard and wife moved to Hickman County, Tenn. when their son John was about four years old. More about this later.

OLD GRANDPAP

When I began to look into the history of the Poplins some twenty years ago, Aunt Kizzie Farris was past 80 years old. She could remember her grandfather William (Billie) Poplin, known to his descendants in his old days as Old Grandpap. The tradition was that he was 105 years old when he died, but if the 1850 census gave his age correctly, he was born in 1789 and as he died in 1880, he would have been 91 years old at death. Aunt Kizzie was a girl of 9 when he died. She could remember reading to him. She said he had been left an orphan at an early age and did not have a chance to go to school and learn to read and write. I do not know whether or not she was correct about the early death of his parents, but records at the court house in Bedford County show that he made his mark instead of a signature, indicating that he could not write.

A WRESTLER

There are a few stories I have heard from my father about Old Grandpap. Back in the early 1800's wrestling was a popular sport and it seems that there were no holds barred. Billie Poplin was said to have been "a full blooded Irishman" and was a good wrestler. One day a stranger rode up to his house and asked, "Are you Billie Poplin?"

Old Grandpap replied that he was. The stranger then said, "I hear that you are a good wrestler and I have come to whip you." Grandpap gave the opportunity to him to try and the stranger was just about to make Billie say 'nough until Billie got his thumbs under the stranger's eyes. When he put the pressure on the eyeballs, the stranger had to say 'nough. Grandpap was then the victor, they parted friends and the stranger rode away.

After the death of his first wife, Patience Lee, Billie Poplin married Sarah (thought to have been a Crittenden) and they had children. They were listed in the 1850 census of Bedford County. (See last issue of Poplin Patter).

Sometime after 1850 he moved to Graves County, Kentucky. There are still descendants of his living in that county. A son, Bob Poplin, had three daughters, and some of their children still live in Graves County.

In his old days, Old Grandpap came back to Tennessee and lived with his son Alfred Poplin, my great grandfather. Aunt Kizzie said he was a Republican. His son Alfred was a Democrat as have been most of his descendants. Alfred would go and bring another man who was a Republican to visit with his father on occasions. Dr. Green Lee Poplin who became a doctor while in Bedford, also moved to Graves County, Ky., then to Poplar Bluff, Mo., then back to Kentucky. He was a Republican also, it seems. Whether or not Billie's and Green Lee's sympathies were with the South during the Civil War is not known.

Aunt Kizzie said Old Grandpap was a Missionary Baptist, but Alfred and some of his family were either members of or "leaned to" the Primitive Baptist belief.

When he was old, Old Grandpap would visit my grandmother, Anna Milissa Susan Jackson Poplin, who had been left a widow with seven children. He would go out between the house and the barn and pray beside the barberry bush. Some of the children slipped out and heard him praying for Ambly (some pronounced it Ammie or Amlie) and the children.

DR. GREEN LEE POPLIN

Although William Poplin seems not to have had an education, his son Alfred was a prominent man in the community. The 1850 census lists him as a grocery merchant. He was a magistrate and was a 1st Lt. in Captain W.C. Blanton's company raised at the beginning of the War. He was past forty years old at the time. After a year or more, he came home and his son William Richard, my grandfather, went. He was less than twenty years old. He was a member of Forrest's Escort. Alfred was

in the Twenty-Third Tennessee Infantry Regiment, Second Company F. Also Dr. Green Lee Poplin gained some prominence in three states. From KENTUCKY, A HISTORY OF THE STATE, by J. H. Battle, W.H. Perrin and J.C. Kniffin, Published by F.A. Battey Publishing Company 1885, I copy the following:

Dr. Green L. Poplin was born Dec. 19, 1815, in Montgomery County, N.C., and reared in Bedford County, Tenn. He commenced the study of medicine at the age of seventeen, and graduated at the Louisville Medical Institute, March 5, 1842. He then returned to his home in Tennessee and continued to practice his profession eighteen years from the same office in which he studied. In 1853 he came to Graves County and practiced his profession here five years; then he moved to Bloomfield, Stoddard Co. Mo., in the winter of 1858, and continued to practice his profession until the breaking out of the war. In the fall of 1867, the doctor moved to Poplar Bluff, Mo., and opened a drug store and also practiced his profession until 1877, when he left that place for Mayfield, Ky. where he now resides.

During his stay at the Bluffs he entered heart and soul into every public enterprise, and assisted with all his energy in the organization of the Poplar Bluffs Immigration Society; was elected its president and continued to act in that position as long as it lasted. He also assisted in establishing the Black River Seminary of which he was elected president. In connection with Dr. G.T. Bartlett, the doctor founded a newspaper at that place, called the Black River News, and continued editor and proprietor for five years. He served two years as one of the judges of the county court, during which time the great railroad contract was made; he acted as chairman of the court, and this contract was the means of laying the chief corner-stone of the present and prospective greatness of Poplar Bluff. In 1866 he was elected to the legislature from Stoddard Co., Mo., and served two years. The doctor has been married three times; his last union was October 16, 1873, with Mattie E. Hall, of Ripley County, Mo., by whom he has one son. He has three children by his former marriages.

Believe it or not, this man who was born in 1815, 154 years ago, still has a son, Roy L. Poplin, living in Albuquerque, N.Mex. He is a retired engineer on the Santa Fe railroad.

I UNDERESTIMATED THE NUMBER OF POPLINS ! I have been made to feel something like Elijah must have felt when he said, "I, even I only, remain a prophet of the Lord." But the Lord told him there were still seven thousand who had not bowed the knee to Baal.

For many years I thought all the Poplins were the few who were our relatives. About twenty years ago I learned there were some others scattered around.

Why No More News About North Carolina Poplins?

I have been asked why I did not have any more information about North Carolina Poplins in the first issue of POPLIN PATTERN put out last July. It is because I did not know there were so many of them there. When I began to try to find Poplins 20 years ago, I wrote to some in N.C. but did not get much information. Now I find there must be a thousand in Stanly County alone, counting descendants. I still would like to know just how many there are who wear the Poplin name.

POPLINS ARE WAKING UP

For a long time it seemed that those I was able to find had an interest in family history but did not have much information. Now I am glad to find a good many who are interested and working on the history. LET US WORK TOGETHER AND GATHER ALL THE INFORMATION WHILE WE CAN. Thanks to ONER G. POPLIN, P.O. Box 172, Lilesville, N.C. 28091, for a lot of information and for a gift to help with the cost of this effort. Others have sent information and stamps to send additional copies to addresses they furnished. Some have asked for copies of the first issue to send to others. Thanks to MRS. JUANITA P. MORRIS, Rt. 5, Box 276, Albemarle, N.C. 28001, and MRS. D.G. HARWOOD, Route 1, New London, N.C. 28127, for information. There have been others also. I will be glad to list your name in future issues (I hope to have one about every three months) if you would like it to be known that you are interested in working on the Poplin history (all Poplins, that is) and would like for others to contact you. It is possible that there are unrelated lines, but we are still

interested in all by the name.

THE HEAD OF THE STREAM

From information received from Mrs. Lectie Poplin Harwood of New London, N.C., it seems that the head of the stream as far as the Stanly County Poplins are concerned, and I am persuaded that all of us trace back through Stanly County, was near the community of Aquadale and Rocky River Springs. About 50 years ago the burial plot where those first Poplins were buried was visited by Mrs. Harwood, but even at that time, no names could be found. Now there is not even a trace of the plot.

MORE N.C. INFORMATION

I will try to include more North Carolina information, ^{next issue,} including the names of those listed in Stanly County in the 1850 census. I have told you about my people in Tennessee. Now I will go in other directions. How about hearing from you Oklahomans, Californians and Texans. It may be that when I have time to collate my material I already have the answers to some questions. I am copying below a clipping, a copy of which was sent me by Robert S. Poplin of Ventura, Calif. I no longer have his address. Could somebody furnish me with it ?

VENTURA STAR FREE PRESS OCTOBER 29, 1929

About 1750 three brothers of the name Poplin came from England with their families and settled in North Carolina, one of which brothers is the ancestor of the subject of this sketch. To one of the sons of this latter brother was born a son about 1782, who grew to manhood and married, and among other children of such marriage was born two sons named Green Lee and Richard. At the age of 22 years Richard married, and in 1803 of such marriage was born a son of the name of Richard. He likewise in 1825 was married to Elizabeth Hinson who was of Scotch-Irish parentage and of such marriage, on November 10, 1826, at Guilford County a son was born named John. Now when John was about four years old, his parents, taking him with them, with other members and relatives of their families, moved to Hickman County, Tennessee, where were born in due course of time, Kiziah, Nancy, Lazerus, Cordelia, Aaron, Myrick and Ruth, sisters and brothers of John.

In 1845 John was married to Mary Deaton who was of Scotch-Irish parentage on the side of her father, and German-Welsh on the side of her mother; and as issue of this marriage was born, at Hickman County, Tenn., on the 26th of September, 1846, a son named Houston Lafayette Poplin. Other Children were born, to wit: Permelia, Parlea, Martha, Ellen and Richard Winfield, the latter on Feb. 2, 1855 at which date their mother died and the body was buried in the Allen Jones cemetery on the brushy creek of Beaver Dam in Hickman County.

Thereafter John, the father, married a second time to Mahala Breeze, of English ancestry: and of this second marriage was born Alva Napoleon, Annette Adley, Greefield, Thomas Jefferson, Phelissa, Clara and Robert Lee. Of the above named, Alva N. who died in childhood, Martha E. Annette and Clara are deceased. About 1875 the mother Mahala died and her body was buried in Sutton Valley cemetery, Anderson County, Kansas, beside the grave of her son Alva Napoleon.

Thereafter, John married to Minerva J. (Hinson) Curry, a widow having two children, Amos Curry and Sarah Curry. Of this last marriage one daughter was born named Dilah.

Comments

It seems that there are too many generations given between 1782 and 1826. Perhaps there should have been one less. Can any of you connect with these Poplins ?

An interesting thing to me is the number of Green Lee Poplins. You have already read about my Green Lee. Now here is a Green Lee who was the brother of Richard Poplin. From an old letter written in 1963 from a lady in Baton Rouge, La., I learn of a Green L. Poplin from North Carolina who married Mary Ellen Dickenson. Then Mrs. Harwood lists a Green L. Poplin who married first to Nettie Hartsell and second to Minn's Burris. He was the son of Jerry Poplin Sr. who was the son of Richard "Dick" Poplin Sr.. no dates given. I intended to write about the Poplins and the Lees, but that will have to wait. You all write now.