

# POPLIN PATTER

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## POPLIN NEWS

I know many have wondered what has become of POPLIN PATTER. We are more than two months late. It is good to know that you have missed getting this news letter. I can only say that the press of other matters, along with a little Poplin laginess, perhaps, has caused the delay. But things have been happening.

### DR. GREEN L. POPLIN'S DESCENDANTS VISIT

Saturday, April 18, Mr. & Mrs. James Carr Cobb and Mrs. Lowell (Elizabeth) Sowle from Jonesboro, Ark., visited with us. James Carr and Elizabeth are children of Minnie Poplin Williams Cobb with whom I corresponded about the Poplin kin before her death several years ago. Minnie Poplin Williams was a daughter of Dr. James Williams and Letitia Elizabeth Poplin, daughter of Dr. Green Lee Poplin and Rebecca Rucker. Green Lee was born in Montgomery County (now Stanly), N.C. in 1815. (See previous issues for information on GLP).

We had a wonderful visit with these relatives. My mother, Mrs. Billy Poplin, was with us also. For many, many years we here in Middle Tennessee had been out of touch with that branch of the family in West Tennessee, Kentucky, Missouri and Arkansas. A few years ago Sybil and I visited two grandchildren of Uncle Bob Poplin who was a half brother to Dr. G.L. Poplin and my great-grandfather Alfred Poplin. Those cousins, Hafford Andrus and Enoch Hendon, live in Graves County, Kentucky. How about hearing from you folks out that way?

### A VISIT TO POPLIN COUNTRY

In May Sybil and I made a trip to Poplin country, Stanly and Anson counties in North Carolina, and saw more Poplins than we knew existed a few years ago.

On Monday, May 11, we left home and drove a little more than 400 miles to Charlotte, getting there about eight o'clock. Robert Luther Poplin, Charlotte city mail carrier (son of Odell Poplin, son of Johnny Poplin and Fabri Lou Mabry, son of Martin M. and wife Sarah Sides) and his wife Betty came to the motel to visit with us a little while.

We failed to reach Miss Pinze Poplin, Mrs. Ruth Cuddy or cousin Marion Poplin (Mrs. I. W. Leggett) by telephone in Charlotte. The next morning we did drive by to see Marion's home and where her father, my uncle, John Lee Poplin, called by a newspaper reporter who wrote about him the Prince of Providence Road, lived before his death in 1959. Next time maybe we will have more time, give advance warning and make plans before starting out.

We drove by way of Monroe to Wadesboro and out to Lilesville to see Oner G. Poplin (son of John Graham Poplin, son of John Alexander, Son of Thomas J., son of John and Mary Anna Poplin). Tuesday night we went to Oner G.'s home and had a most enjoyable visit with him and those gathered there -- his mother, Mrs. J.G. Poplin, his brothers Calvin C. and Robert Luther, his sisters, Mrs. Howard Lear and Mrs. Harry P. Hill, and his cousins, Mrs. Beattie Flake Price of Rockingham and Mrs. Ruth Hadden of Hamlet. Also Harry Hill, Mrs. Robert L. Poplin and children Robert Luther, Jr., Nancy and Tina, and Charles F. and Stephen Mark Lear. Hope I didn't leave out anyone. We talked until late in the night on their cool front porch, reminding me of family gatherings at our Tennessee home.

On Wednesday we drove up the highway to Norwood and failed to find A.D. Poplin at home. Learned later he was at work back in Norwood. Found several other Poplin homes along that road from Norwood to

Aquadale, but failed to find many at home. It seemed strange to see one mailbox after another with Poplin on them. We did visit for a short time with Mrs. Crowder Poplin (Estelle Mabry) and her daughter-in-law, Mrs. Elwood (Louise Green) Poplin. Crowder Poplin was the son of David Wesley and Sarah Elizabeth Lowder Poplin. David Wesley was a son of John and Mary Anna Poplin.

We visited for a short time with Earl Poplin, and later with his brother Bruce, sons of Oscar W. and Carrie Green Poplin ( I should have written W. Oscar). W. Oscar was the son of James Alston and Kizzie Allen Poplin, which gets us back to John and Mary Anna, beyond whom we can not go at this time. Was Mary Anna an Alston ?

Earl lives on the James Alston Poplin farm which is said to be part of the original grant.

At Albemarle I visited a few minutes with Smith Poplin. His mother Mrs. Walter Poplin (Bessie Smith) lives on the David Wesley farm which is part of the original grant. Mrs. Walter Poplin and Mrs. Crowder Poplin are the only ones of their generation living, being the daughters-in-law of David Wesley Poplin.

I failed to reach Richard Poplin by phone. Yes there are several Richards I have learned, but probably only one Richard Rufus. I talked to Mrs. M.R. Dry by phone, I missed Bruce Poplin at the post office -- what is there about the postal service that attracts Poplins? -- but visited with his sister and husband, Mr. and Mrs. J.D. (Juanita) Morris on Thursday morning. Juanita has been most helpful in furnishing Poplin information from the census records. Our visit with them was most enjoyable. You should see J.D.'s Model T station wagon with which he has won many antique auto shows.

We missed seeing J.D. Poplin and his sister Margaret Dick. We just couldn't seem to make connections. On Thursday afternoon we had a very pleasant visit with Mrs. Lectie Poplin Harwood, New London and then drove on to Hickory for the night. I noticed there were no Poplins in the Hickory telephone book. Mrs. Harwood is the daughter of Thomas Lafayette Poplin who was a son of James Alston and Kizzie Allen Poplin. She has furnished me much information. She had not been feeling well and had been to the doctor on Thursday morning but seemed to be feeling better.

Friday we drove home by way of Ashville, Cherokee, Gatlinburg and Knoxville. Again we failed to reach a Poplin with whom we have been in contact by mail. There was no answer to the telephone when I tried to call Mrs. Thomas (Alice Sue Poplin) Cogdill in Knoxville.

It was a very enjoyable, if hurried, trip. It was good to meet those with whom I have corresponded since beginning this newsletter. I was happy to find a lot of interest and that POPLIN PATTER has become known even to some who are not on the mailing list. A girl in the office at Wiscasset Mills where I went to see Smith Poplin asked, "Are you POPLIN PATTER?"

#### SAD NEWS

There is also sad news to report. Since sending out the last issue there have been three deaths of Poplins who were descendants of William Poplin who came to Bedford County, Tenn. from North Carolina before 1820.

#### Alden Lee Poplin

Services for Alden Lee Poplin, 62, were held at Lewisburg, Tenn., April 17, 1970. He was the son of William Ed Poplin who was a rural mail carrier at Lewisburg and performed on the Grand Ole Opry with his "old time string band" for many years. Ed was the son of Alfred Lee, son of Alfred, son of William. Alden is survived by his wife, Ruth Kerr Poplin, a daughter, Mrs. Robert W. McAdams, and one grandchild, and by a brother, Eddie Poplin, Jr. of Nashville.

#### Roy L. Poplin

Services for Roy L. Poplin, 81, were held in Albuquerque, N.Mex., April 10, 1970. He was the son of Dr. Green Lee Poplin and Mattie Hall. He had resided in Albuquerque for 57 years, going there from Kentucky. He is survived by his wife Mamie Poplin and one daughter, Ruth Poplin

Baker also of Albuquerque.

Mrs. Blanche P. Jennings, of North Carolina, attended the funeral. Roy L. Poplin is the one about whom I wrote in Number 2 of Poplin Patter that he was the living son of Dr. Green Lee Poplin who was born in 1815. Thus, my first known ancestor, William Poplin, who was born around 1789 or '90, His son Green Lee and grandson Roy L. -- ONLY THREE GENERATIONS -- spanned 180 years of history. Ours was a young country when the grandfather of this man who died this year was born.

#### Thomas William Poplin

Thomas William Poplin died in Quitman, Ga., June 8, 1970, after undergoing surgery. He was 71 years old. He was the son of John Lee Poplin and Alice Garrett Poplin and was a native of Bedford County Tennessee. He is survived by his wife, Olene Padgett Poplin of Quitman, two daughters, Mrs. W. T. Stanfield of Morecross, Ga., and Mrs. Robert Morrison of Wilmington, N.C., and by a sister, Mrs. I. W. (Marion Poplin) Leggett. He was a first cousin of the editor of this newsletter. He was buried in Wilmington, N.C.

#### Poplin Descendant Choreographer of Wizard of Oz

Some have written about reading the newstory which told that Alice Leggett Lamar, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. I. W. Leggett of Charlotte and granddaughter of the late John Lee Poplin, was the choreographer of the Wizard of Oz production in the North Carolina mountains. Alice's mother, Marion Poplin Leggett, my first cousin, was in Bedford County Tennessee a few weeks ago for the funeral of her aunt, Mrs. Sally Garrett Kimmins. Marion's father John Lee was my uncle and was one of the Tenn. Poplins who got back over into North Carolina.

#### Information Wanted

Back in 1950 I corresponded with Mrs. Mae (Poplin) Strother of Raleigh and she and her sister Mrs. V.A. (Rachel) Moore of Wilmington, stopped by to see us on the return trip from visiting a brother in Ark. I have not heard from them in several years. Their father was Lemuel Lee Poplin, son of Stephen Henry Poplin of Stanley, County. They had brothers named William Lee and Howard Poplin. Does anybody have information on these Poplins?

China Poplin and his sister Edna Poplin Shivers of Sumter, S.C. are excellent musicians, she with guitar and he with banjo. We visited them a few years ago and heard them play. They have played, with their band, on radio, television and at many folk music events and have had an album out a few years ago. Their father, Henry Poplin, left N.C. when a young man and went to South Carolina. After 45 years he went back to visit a brother in Monroe and learned that his father had just died at the age of 98. Then Henry died at the age of 68. Henry had brothers named George, Dave, Jim, Wess and John. What was their father's name? Can you give more information on these Poplins?

#### Tennessee Poplins in the Civil War

##### Federal Roster

William Poplin -- Pvt. M Co. 8th Cav. (This company was mustered at Camp Nelson, Ky. of men from East Tenn. counties).

##### Confederate Rosters

Aaron P. Poplin -- Pvt. C.Co. 48th (Voorhies) Inf. (Maury & Lewis Counties).

Alford Poplin -- 1st Lt. F. Co 23rd Inf. (Bedford Co.) My great grandfather.

Henry M. Poplin-Pvt. E. Co 54th Inf. (Lawrence County)

Johue (Probably should be John) Poplin Pvt. A. Co. 26th Inf. (Meigs)

William Poplin -Pvt. C Co. 5th Cav. (Knox, Union, Claiborne Counties)

William Poplin-Pvt. A Co. 26th Inf. (Meigs Co.)

William Poplin- Pvt. D Co. 59th MI (Mounted Infantry) (Knoxville)

W.R. Poplin -- Pvt., Jackson's Cav. Co. Bedford County.

(This was my grandfather. Capt. John Jackson was later to become the brother-in-law of William Richard Poplin when he married Capt. Jackson's sister Anna Jackson. This was Forrest's Escort).

M.P. Poplin - Pvt. 1 Co. 24th Inf. (Hickman Co.)  
 Murray P. Poplain - Pvt. C Co. 48th (Voorhies) Inf.

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John Poplin, 690 Meigs, 26th Inf.  
 Anna M. Poplin, 5177, Bedford, William Richard Poplin

The locations given are those where men of those companies were from generally. The Maury, Lewis, Hickman, Lawrence counties area, the Bedford County area and the East Tennessee area made up of Meigs, Knox, Union and Claiborne counties, seem to be the three general areas where there were Poplins in Tennessee in the 1860s.

No doubt the ones from the Hickman County area were connected with John Poplin who was born in Guilford County, N.C. Nov. 10, 1826. about whom I wrote in Vol. 1, No. 2, page 4 of POPLIN PATTERN.

John was taken with his parents to Hickman County, Tenn. at age 4. His father was Richard Poplin and his mother the daughter of John Hinson. John had a brother Aaron and a brother Myrick who could have been the M.P. Poplin.

I know nothing about the East Tennessee Poplins listed.

Letter from John Poplin of Hickman County, Tenn.  
 From Historical Sketches of Hickman County, Tenn. Compiled by  
 Jill K. Garrett.

John Poplin -- his recent visit. Hickman Pioneer, 17 Oct. 1884. John Poplin was then living in Kansas and had made a trip back to Tenn. He later moved to Ventura County, Calif. These are excerpts from the letter he wrote back to the newspaper after his visit.

"His recent visit to his old home and recollections of other days." He said he was brought up on the Brushy fork of Beaverdam, "My father emigrating from North Carolina about 1830 -- only a few little squatters' claims on those little creeks." His father stopped near a spring where Joel P. Morrison and the widow of David Hinson now live (1884). His father soon purchased a claim from David Lancaster where Lewis Baker now lives and remained there until the fall of 1854 when he moved to Coon Creek, where he remained until his death, "where remains of my father and mother are now interred. My mother was the daughter of Old John Hinson, the father of Uncle George Hinson, the father of the late David Hinson who fell by the hand of Mormonism in Lewis County."

He visited his brother-in-law Alva Breece, brother of his second wife, on lands part of old McClaren lands. Also Johathan Arnold a near relative of his wife.

His first wife was a daughter of Elias Deaton, and Old Baptist preacher who moved to West Tennessee from Beaverdam in an early day. He married his second wife, daughter of the widow Breece April 22, 1854. His grandfather John Hinson was an early settler of Hickman County. He mentions Katherine Arnold and her son Robert Green, the old gentleman Kimmins, Jacob Biler, Allen Jones and Harvey Hinson, a brother-in-law on Cane Creek.

He wrote, "Here is where the companion of my youthful days lies in silent repose in the little cemetery on J.P. Morrison's premises." He mentioned the old mill owned by Abram Whiteside and that the Farmer's Exchange post office was on Old John Lewis' land.

The letter was signed, John Poplin, Greeley, Kansas.

I recently had a letter from Mrs. Leland Muller, 320 N. Mission Dr. San Gabriel, Calif. 91775, who is the daughter of Thomas Jefferson Poplin, who was the son of John Poplin and Mahala Breece. She gave information on other descendants of John Poplin. Judge Houston Lafayette Poplin was the son of John and his first wife Mary Deaton. Jack Poplin who is an art director and does film work in Hollywood is the grandson of Judge Houston Lafayette Poplin. Robert Poplin of Ventura is a grandson of Dr. Robert Lee Poplin, son of John and Mahala Breece.

How that name Lee does persist in the different Poplin families. I still intend to write on the Poplins and the Lees, maybe next time. But for now, my space is running out.