

The Nelsonian



New Genealogical Newsletter

A new monthly newsletter to connect all of the Nelson Clan

Hey!! What happened to the May Issue?

We have converted the newsletter to a quarterly document.

Well, then what happened to the Third and Fourth Quarter Issues?

The editor spent more than three months in Germany this summer opening two hotels for Westin Hotels & Resorts (Berlin and Dresden). With this issue, we get back on track with quarterly issues.

New Biographical Information

In this issue, we include the following:

- A marriage record for Nelson Lorenzo Dow Cary and Daisy Elizabeth Pitman
- A copy of the sealing certificate for Stan and Florence
- A copy of the 1981 record of the Emery County history

article on everyone's favorite uncle, Uncle Rulon Nelson.

We plan to distribute new information in each issue. Each of these histories will be available to you on diskette. All you have to do is let us know which history and which format you would like to see.

Calling all Nelsons!!

We are pretty sure that each of you has information that the others in the family don't have. Please send it on to us and we will add it to the next newsletter. I would especially like to receive family group sheets on each of you and your parents.

New Genealogy Finds:

This last two months was very slow in genealogical finds. I received my first two issues of the Allen County Genealogical Society newsletter. There were two possible researchers on the Cary line, but no leads yet.

In one of the issues of "Sanders Siftings", I got a lead on the Sanders line from North Carolina. If you remember, Daisy Elizabeth Pitman was the great granddaughter of Elizabeth Hubbard. Judith Hubbard's mother

was Martha Sanders. Martha's grandfather was John Sanders who was married to Jane Crew. This famous Virginia couple was married on Dec. 28, 1727. I believe that my correspondence with the editor of this newsletter should bear some additional information on this family.

I have also been corresponding with several Pitmans. While we haven't found a matching relative yet, I believe that we are on the right track. As you might remember from the pedigree charts from prior issues, the Pitmans came from Deep River, Guilford Co., North Carolina in the early 1780s. At this time, Deep River was a big Quaker Meeting. Several of my correspondents have indicated that they were probably Quakers. This rings a familiar note with me. In several of the letters to Florence, Cary family members marked certain members of the families as "friends" or "not a friend". You might remember that Quakers called each other "Friends", short for Society of Friends.

Who was Lorenzo Dow?

Many families, not just the Carys, had a Lorenzo Dow. In my research, this month, I found a web page with the following information.

REV. LORENZO DOW

Rev. Lorenzo Dow was the first Protestant preacher to preach in any part of the territory that is now Alabama. He claimed to be a Methodist and affiliated with that denomination, but they would not be responsible for him in anything he did. In May, 1803, Rev. Mr. Dow preached to the settlers in the Tombigbee and Tensaw settlements.

This was the first preaching ever done in Alabama except by Romish priests. However, when these settlements along the Tombigbee were developed, and became safe from the Indians and their claims were ceded to the U.S., heralds of the cross found its people and the voice of the messengers of peace was heard in the wilderness.

Rev. Dow described in some of his writings the inhabitants as mostly English, but were like "Sheep without a shepherd," and while it was under Spanish government it was a refuge for bad men.

Lorenzo Dow was born Oct. 16, 1777, in Coventry, Tolland County, Connecticut. He was descended from the English ancestors. He was the subject of early religious impressions. Before he was four years old he expressed himself as "Mused upon God, Heaven and Hell."

He was united with a society of Methodists being received into it by Rev. G. Roberts. He claimed Hope Hull as his spiritual advisor. Rev. Mr. Dow made a long and hard struggle against the conviction that 'it was his duty to preach, but at last yielded to the conviction that God had called him to the ministry.

He met with strong opposition from his father as to this move and still stronger from the members of the church and when he sought to obtain a license to preach he was discouraged

and at first was rejected and sent away. He continued to press his claim and finally admitted on trial September 19, 1808. Ill health prompted him to come South. He was lured by the warm mild climate, and with his wife Peggy, made the long tiresome hazardous trip. The journey was both dangerous and difficult, but to Dow perils were a fascination. In his journals which have been sacredly kept, he tells of these many perils and adventures among the wild tribes he encountered.

Any feature of the uncivilized and the wilderness appealed to him. On the stages of the long journey Southward he preferred camping out at night, especially in the piney woods country.

Huge piles of a straw were raked up which served as the bed and he would be lulled to sleep by the soothing monotone of the sighing pines. There was also a hope entertained that the resinous regions possessed a curative power for his malady. A singular chapter in his life was a great desire and fancy to preach to the Roman Catholics and hearing Ireland was their greatest stronghold he would thither, but his pathway was not strewn with roses by any means. He requested a leave of absence from the Conference in order to make the trip abroad, but the request was not granted and he took the leave of absence anyway against their advice and entreaties. He consumed about twenty months on this trip, preaching the gospel incessantly and attending camp meetings.

Notwithstanding he had made the European tour against the authority of the Conference, he resumed preaching on his return and remained on "trial." However, he could not stand the test and his name was soon dropped from the minutes.

He was not careful to maintain the relationship with the Conference which he had so eagerly sought. He was sent out on circuit assignments but this did not correspond with the expansive

fields of his dreams. He was discontented. In a word he did not consider a circuit his right sphere, and claimed that his connection with the conference was severed. He was never really ordained to the ministry and was without authority to administer sacrament or organize societies. In doctrinal principles he was Methodist, but was without any church influence or allegiance. He was irregular and uncertain. He was a force, but uncertain, unreliable and inefficient.

He was restless and he was a dreamer. He was contradictory and never happier than when engaged in a wordy war. He possessed scant learning, but was a very close observer of mankind. The very face of Lorenzo Dow indicated his character. His features were both rough and delicate. It was rough and effeminate but in that face there was every mark of indomitable energy.

He parted his hair in the middle and wore it hanging down his neck and shoulders and his face was radiant with kindness. His wife, Peggy, whom he married before coming South, in her writings, "Vicissitudes" gives an account of their first trip coming South and also gives an account of a trip which she made with him passing through the Bigbee settlements in Nov., 1811, from Natchez, Mississippi to Milledgdville, Ga., in the wilderness some forty miles. She says "At night we camped out in lonely deserts, uninhabited by any being except wild beasts and savages."

"I was much alarmed and uneasy, but my husband was content and slept sweetly." In giving an account of her first meeting with him she says, "He is a most singular character, and admits himself that he was known by the name of 'Crazy Dow' and called himself 'Son of Thunder'.

Despite his ill health he boated that he held off death. He refused to die and said he must live to fight for the

Kingdom. He did not believe in founding churches but preferred to preach and praise God in the wilds and in the open. However, a prominent jurist of Alabama, who is closely connected with Lowndes County, claims to have the historical facts that Dow preached from the altar one time if no more. The small church known as "Union" which is nestled in a grove between the small settlements of Burkeville and Manack, Lowndes County, claims the distinction of having him preach there in its early history.

The tradition, in part, is that Sam Manac, the half-breed, who founded the latter place and from whom it was named, met Dow during his wanderings through the wilds and led him to that altar. Union Church, now obscure, holds an interesting part in the early history of Lowndes. Dow, the first man who passed the holy words around and around in Alabama, preached there. The Graves family, ancestors of Alabama's ex-governor, worshipped at that altar. Some of which sleep in the nearby churchyard, and it is built in the road that was the route of the thorough county stage coach line, 'most a hundred years ago.

Rev. Dow died February 2, 1834, in Georgetown, D.C., was buried near Washington, but remains were removed and re-buried in Oakhill Cemetery, near Georgetown.

He had one son, Neal, who was Brigadier in Union Army and author of "Main Law."

Where are you??

The last sheet shows all of the addresses that we have for the family. We have sent newsletters to each of them. But you can see that living away from the family for all these years has depleted our listing of addresses. Please help us by sending us missing addresses

of family members. We also had several packets returned this month for better addresses. Please take a minute and check the listing for missing Nelsons.

Who am I?

Last month's who am I was Andrew Nelson, Jr.

Who is the Editor?

Jeff and Rose Nelson are the editors of the newsletter. You can reach them at any of the places on the Address Sheet.

Free Disks!

To repeat, we are mailing genealogy and family history information on IBM format diskettes. Just let us know what format you would like (Word, WordPerfect, Ami Pro, etc.).

Questions & Answers

Readers Write

WHAT FAMILY DOES THIS REPRESENT?

The Stanley Christian Nelson and Florence Adelia Cary family.

WHAT'S THE DEAL WITH THE HOLES IN THE PAGES?

We hope that you will keep all of this information in your three-ring genealogy binder (HINT, HINT).

HOW DO I SEND INFORMATION TO YOU?

See page one for all of the addresses.

ISN'T ALL OF THE GENEALOGY WORK DONE? DIDN'T CONRAD DO IT ALL?

Genealogy is theoretically not done until Adam shows up at the end of your pedigree chart. From a practical standpoint, getting to 1400 AD may be "theoretical zero" unless you can tie into royalty. We hope that readers will see that genealogy includes family histories and photographs also.

I HEARD THAT JEFF AND ROSE HAVE LOTS OF OLD PICTURES. WHEN ARE WE GOING TO SEE THEM?

We are working to get them scanned so that you can have them electronically and to get photo quality copies made.

HOW CAN I GET STARTED WITH GENEALOGY?

Start by collecting everything that you know into one place. Once you have started that process, you are making good progress. Organization is the key to success in genealogy.

ONCE I HAVE ALL OF MY INFORMATION IN ONE PLACE, WHAT DO I DO NEXT?

Start capturing all of your information either on paper or through a genealogy program. The LDS church publishes one called "Personal Ancestral File" or PAF. This is the format that most Genealogists use, but there are many other programs that will also work just fine. Most of the other programs will read and write PAF files.

THERE IS SO MUCH INFORMATION TO TYPE INTO THE COMPUTER. IS THERE A SHORTCUT?

Sure, just ask us for our files and you can use them. One caveat, however, our mistakes will be your mistakes. Check each of the sources for correctness.

CAN I GET SOME HELP GETTING STARTED ON THE COMPUTER OR AT THE GENEALOGY LIBRARY?

Sure. Jeff and Rose plan to spend each Tuesday and Thursday night at the main genealogy library and as many Saturdays as possible. Give us a call and we would be happy to try to answer your questions or to meet you at the library.

DO I NEED TO HAVE A COMPUTER TO HAVE THIS INFORMATION?

Definitely not. Most LDS stake buildings and family history libraries have computers that you can use. The main genealogy library and the Joseph Smith Memorial building also have computers and staff to assist you.

WHEN WILL THE LETTER BE PUBLISHED?

The letter will be mailed on or about the first of each month. Anything that we receive by the 25th of the month will be in the next issue.

WHAT WAS THAT ABOUT DISKETTES?

We will be happy to send you diskettes of everything that we have. Just drop us a note or call to let us know what formats (IBM only) you need and we will forward them on to you. We are also happy to send the actual PAF files (PAF calls them GEDCOM files) for any individual, family, descendants, ancestors, etc. Just let us know.

HOW IN THE WORLD DO I KNOW WHAT YOU HAVE TO SEND?

Pedigree charts and group sheets will be published in this and all future issues. If in doubt, call us.