

Ballentine Branches

FAMILY NEWSLETTER FOR BALLENTINE, HUXFORD & CONNECTED FAMILIES

Volume 6, No. 6

November / December 2002

Balentines of Tennessee & Arkansas

Melissa Jason Carper

There are many **Balentine** Family Descendants alive today in the Stone County area and world wide because of a brave husband and wife. They traveled the mountains of Tennessee, waded the Mississippi River, and found their way to the hills of the Ozark Mountains near Onia, Arkansas over one hundred and twenty two years ago. I would like to introduce my Great Great Great Grandparents to you.

Benjamin Simmons Balentine (pictured above) was born in Wayne County, TN, August 11, 1833, to **John Balentine** and **Sarah Culpepper**. He was their youngest child. On December 22, 1855 **Benjamin** married **Melissa Elzura Erdine Sport** in Lauderdale County, Alabama. **Melissa** was born September 1839, in Lauderdale County, Alabama, to **James Sport** and **Catherine Baxter**.

Children of **Benjamin** and **Melissa** are:

1. **William "Bill" Joseph Balentine**, born October 31, 1856 in Lauderdale County, Alabama; died May 23, 1939 in Stone County, Arkansas. He married **Mahulda Jane Branscum** June 6, 1880 in



Stone County, Arkansas.

2. **Mary Minerva Balentine**, born April 25, 1858 in Wayne County, Tennessee; died October 13, 1958 in Stone County, Arkansas. She married **James Franklin Woody** December 7, 1881 in Stone County, Arkansas.

3. **Richard Houston Balentine**, born December 18, 1859 in Wayne County, Tennessee; died June 19, 1951 in Arkansas. He married **Sarah "Sallie" A. Branscum** October 5, 1879 in Stone County, Arkansas.

4. **Benjamin Simmons Balentine**, born July 23, 1862 in Wayne County, Tennessee; died May 20, 1960 in Arkansas. He married **Laura M. Anderson** December 21, 1884 in Searcy County, Arkansas.

5. **Harriet C. Balentine**,

born November 1865 in Wayne County, Tennessee. She married **Asa B. Lawrence**.

6. **John James Balentine**, born December 19, 1867 in Wayne County, Tennessee; died January 21, 1957 in Stone County, Arkansas. He married (1) **Malinda Louise Branscum** May 13, 1888 in Stone County,

Arkansas. (2) **Elizabeth Jane Sartin** October 18, 1915 in Stone County, Arkansas. (3) **Abbie Conway** September 13, 1947 in Stone County, Arkansas.

7. **Solomon "Daniel" Balentine**, born March 1869 in Wayne County, Tennessee; died October 1, 1931. He married **Olivia Sarah Vaughn** April 7, 1889

(See Balentine on page 2)

Disclaimer

This publication is not an original source document. Please do not quote it as the source for any genealogical information on these families. Some of the information may not have been verified for accuracy. Commercial use of this information is strictly prohibited.

Balentine

(Continued from page 1)

in Stone County, Arkansas.

8. **Nancy Ann Balentine**, born October 7, 1873 in Wayne County, Tennessee; died September 4, 1911. She married **V. E. Altaffer** January 23, 1900 in Stone County, Arkansas.

9. **Ladasky "Erdine" Balentine**, born October 8, 1876 in Alabama; died June 13, 1949. She married **William Rankin Ramsey** August 19, 1894 in Big Flat, Arkansas.

10. **Amanda Ioney "Maudie" Balentine**, born November 20, 1883 in Stone County, Arkansas, died November 1, 1911.

It is difficult to determine the exact year that **Ben** and **Melissa** moved to Stone County, Arkansas. In 1870 they are in Wayne County, Tennessee and in 1880 they are in Stone County, Arkansas. It looks like they moved from Wayne County to Alabama between 1873 and 1876. Because in the 1880 Stone County, Arkansas Census taken June 2, it states that their daughter **Nancy**

was born in Tennessee and 6 years old and their daughter **Daska** was born in Alabama and 3 years old. So they probably moved sometime after **Daska** was born in 1876.

Some contradiction of when **Ben** and his family moved comes from information in interviews with some of **John James Balentine's** (**Benjamin** and **Melissa's** son) children and grandchildren. The story is that the family moved when **John** was five years old, which would make it about 1873. Also another interview with **Ollie Woody Gilbert** says that her mother **Mary Balentine** (**Benjamin's** daughter) walked behind the wagon the whole way from Wayne County, Tennessee when the family moved to Arkansas carrying her little brother on her back. The only little brother this could have been would be **Daniel** who was born in 1869. The problem with **John** and **Ollie's** account is

that the 1880 Stone County, Arkansas Census shows that **Nancy** was born in Tennessee in 1873 and that **Dasky** was born in Alabama in 1877. **Ladasky Erdine** is listed in the 1900 Stone County Census and states again that she was born in Alabama. Another story in the family says that **Ben** and his family moved in the fall of 1878. So they could have left anytime after **Ladasky** was born in October of 1877. As you can see the exact time when they arrived in Stone County is not an easy thing to pinpoint.

A little bit of geography explanation may help in explaining some of the movement of the family. Wayne County, Tennessee and Lauderdale County, Alabama, are border counties and people moved from county to county and state to state in farming from year to year. Thus they did not pay much attention to

(See Balentine on page 6)

Know Your South Carolina Historical Markers



This church survived the Revolutionary War without any damage, probably due to the fact that the royal arms of Great Britain can still be seen over the chancel. These shots were taken in 1992; the Amoco Station is no longer there.

The marker is located on US Highway 52, 14.4 miles south of Moncks Corner. It reads: The Parish of St. James was founded by Act of Assembly in 1706. The present edifice was begun in 1714 and completed in 1719. The royal arms of Great Britain can still be seen over the chancel, and here is preserved the Iazard Hatchment, said to be one of only two in America.

Corrections

This is notice of omissions rather than corrections. In the last issue, I neglected to give credit for two photographs. The photograph on page 2 was graciously provided by **Natalie Schutz** of San Jose, California. She is a descendant of **Rev. John Ballantine** and **Mary "Molly" Gay** of Westfield, Massachusetts. The second photograph on page 6, Wilder Sisters, was provided by **Ellen (Huxford) Bobbitt** of Pineville, South Carolina. She is a daughter of **Joseph Huxford** and **Ida Diggs Wilder**.

My Luckiest Day

James Calvert Ballantyne, Jr.

My uncle **Floyd Elsom**, husband of **Ruth (Ballantyne) Elsom**, worked for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. He was out of town quite a bit working on projects.

One particular Saturday I was going to the airport with **Aunt Ruth** and **Uncle Floyd**. I always enjoyed seeing the airport and those planes. When we arrived at the airport it must have been my luckiest day. For some reason, my uncle asked me to go on the plane with him and see the inside.

Well, the stewardess knew my uncle and took me to see the pilots while my uncle got comfortable. As I was there looking [gawking] at the gauges that appeared to be everywhere I looked, that wonderful stewardess asked if I liked ice cream. I let her know I did and that vanilla would suit me just fine. Now I knew why my uncle liked these trips, ice cream! Let me tell you it gets better!

After the ice cream was served and the copilot arrived the pilot asked the one thing a kid my age dreams of. He asked "Do you want to see the propellers start up?" I could not lie, I said "Yes." Well, I watched the propeller on one side start. Then they said "Look out the other side." Watching I saw one of the other propellers start. Switching side to side I was able to see all four propellers start.

As I was thinking it could get no better, the plane began to move! Can you see this happening today? As we were taxiing to the take off ramp about the worst thing that could happen happened. The pilot asked if I was glad my uncle was taking me to Atlanta. I guess there was

something wrong in the way I said "I am not going with my **Uncle Floyd**, my **Aunt Ruth** is taking me to Shoney's" that caused the pilots to react the way they did. I saw one of them speaking in the microphone about needing a stair and passenger to be let off.

Anyway, I did not get to take-off as I had hoped but I did enjoy going to Shoney's, drinking my milkshake and eating strawberry pie. Driving the Crown Vic down the alley [seated in **Aunt Ruth's** lap] sort of made up for missing the plane ride.

Jim, son of **James Calvert Ballantyne, Sr.** and **Ethel Elaine Blicht**, lives in Durham, North Carolina and probably still has a fascination with airplanes.

Lieutenant Harry Norman Huxford

This information is extracted from **Sketches of Brooks [ME] History, Seth W. Norwood, 1935.**

Lieutenant Harry Norman Huxford, U.S. Navy, Commanding Officer of U.S.S. Lebanon of the Atlantic Fleet, during the World War, was the eldest and only son of **Norman Bentley Huxford** and wife **Mary Ellen (Long) Huxford**. He was born in Frankford, Delaware, in 1879, died January 26, 1926, (aged 48 years) at the U.S. Naval Hospital, Philadelphia, Pa., is interred in the Colonel Armwell Long Cemetery, Frankford, Delaware. He joined the U.S. Navy at the age of sixteen and served in the Spanish American War at Tampico, Mexico, and in the Boxer Uprising in China. During the World War, he was promoted to be Commanding Officer of

(See Huxford on page 4)

Marriages

BALLENTINE - WOFFORD



Sally Ann Ballentine and **Lane Samuel Wofford** were married July 20, 2002 at First Presbyterian Church in Moncks Corner, South Carolina. The bride is the daughter of **Robbie** and **Lillian (Keller) Ballentine** of St. Stephen. She is a graduate of the University of South Carolina with a Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering and is employed by Scana Energy Marketing in Columbia. The groom is the son of **Dr. Twyla Tuten** of North Augusta and **Herbert "Buck" Wofford** of Moncks Corner. He is also a graduate of USC with a Bachelor's in Broadcast Journalism and is employed as a sports reporter for WOLO ABC Channel 25 in Columbia.



**UNITED
WE
STAND**

Who Is This Baby?



This will, hopefully, be a continuing feature of our newsletter. This is the first submission of a photograph and all you have to do is determine, "Who Is This Baby?" I will even give you a couple of hints that might help.

The picture was taken in 1955; he is a great grandson of **Peter Huxford Ballentine** and **Amarintha Alice Huxford**; and he was at this year's reunion with his family. The first person to contact me or email me with the correct answer wins! Answer next issue.

Have a Happy Thanksgiving !



Congratulations !

The girls competitive program at the Roswell (Georgia) Recreation and Parks Gymnastics Center had an extremely successful year with several state champions, 16 Southeast Regional qualifiers, their youngest-ever Southeast Regional Floor Champion (10-year old **Annie Turner**), two National qualifiers (sisters **Megan** and **Sarah Durning**) and the USAIGC National All-Around and Floor Champion (**Meredith Camp**).

Annie Alexander Turner is the daughter of **James Alexander** and **Beverly (Bush) Turner, III**. The notice above, from The Atlanta Journal-Constitution, October 10, 2002, was submitted by the proud grandparents, **James Alexander** and **Betty (Morris) Turner, Jr.** Congratulations Annie!

Huxford

(Continued from page 3)

the U.S.S. Lebanon, of the Atlantic Fleet. The Navy Cross was conferred upon him, and he was cited for bravery, his citation reading: "The Navy Department having carefully considered all reported instances of meritorious conduct, by officer and enlisted men of the Navy through the World War, takes pleasure in commending **Lieutenant Harry N. Huxford, U.S.N.**, for the following service which is required as according with the best traditions of the Naval Service - the Commanding of the U.S.S. Lebanon serving in the Train U.S. Atlantic Fleet. He rendered meritorious service, showing energy and skill as well as good judgment and discretion." (signed) **Josephus Daniels**, 'Secretary of

(See Huxford on page 7)

Family Reunion - 1993



Sisters (l-r) **Kathryn (Jones) Roberts Dennis** and **Minnie (Jones) Bell**, daughters of **Caswell Middleton** and **Jessie (Hart) Jones**.

Deaths

DENNIS

KATHRYN (JONES) ROBERTS DENNIS died October 21, 2002 in a Charleston, South Carolina hospital. A resident of St. Stephen, she was 95. She was the widow of **Moultrie Quirk Roberts** and **Richard Chaplin Dennis**. She was born December 14, 1906 in Bonneau, South Carolina, a daughter of **Caswell Middleton** and **Jessie (Hart) Jones**. She was a member of Rehobeth United Methodist Church, several fraternal organizations and The Huguenot Society of South Carolina. She was predeceased by two daughters, **Irene Quirk Roberts** and **Ida Roberts Hiott**, and a grandson, **Steven Buist Hiott**. Surviving are two daughters, **Aurelia Roberts Allen** of Mt. Pleasant and **Katherine Roberts Kendrick** of Sumter, two sons, **Moultrie Quirk Roberts, Jr.** of Hilton Head, and **Rhame Roberts** of Sumter, one sister, **Minnie (Jones) Bell** of Charleston, one brother, **Jesse Hart Jones** of St. Stephen, 11 grandchildren, and 26 great grandchildren.

Merry Christmas



Donations

Thanks to all who made donations since last issue. If you enjoy the newsletter and have not made a donation, please consider making one to keep our newsletter coming. Donations go only to the costs of printing and mailing the newsletter.

GEORGIA

Tyrone

Wye & Vicki (Kindt) Huxford

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We Are On The Internet, Too!

<http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.com/~ballentinebranches>

Email:

gballentine@hotmail.com

If you have access to the Internet, take a moment and check out **OUR Ballentine-Huxford Family History Page** and **Ballentine Branches** websites above. I maintain these sites and am always updating. There are pictures and information about different branches of our tree. Information changes regularly, so check back often. Don't see what you want? ASK!

War Between the States Material Needed

Do you have any material from the War Between the States? This includes pictures, original letters and documents and other such papers. If so, I would like to get copies to use in a future newsletter issue.

With the number of ancestors that we had who served in the Confederate States Army and, undoubtedly, the United States Army during this four-year struggle for Southern Independence, there must be some of these items surviving in the family. If you have them, why not share them with the rest of the family. I know they would also like to see them.

Dig through those boxes, take a trip up to the attic or down to the basement. Bring that part of our family history back into the sunlight. The stories need to be told. It would be a shame if someone was to throw out those old "boxes of papers" without even looking to see what is in them. That happens more that you might believe. And, when it happens, that history is lost to future generations forever.

I will gladly pay for photocopies or reprints of pictures. Please let me know before you do it, though.

Marriages

HUXFORD - DAVIS



Bethany Lynn Huxford, daughter of **Samuel Wilder "Wye"** and **Vicki Lynn (Kindt) Huxford, III**, was married at First Christian Church of Tyrone, Georgia, on May 17, 2002, to **Chad Alan Davis**, the son of **Larry** and **Brenda Davis** of Tallahassee, Florida. He is a graduate of Atlanta Christian College and employee of KGPM, Atlanta as a computer technician. **Bethany** is a senior at Georgia State University, from which she will graduate in May, 2003. **Bethany** is employed as a part-time student worker in the Library at Georgia State. They are both active members of the First Christian Church of Tyrone where **Bethany's** father is minister. **Chad** and **Bethany** live in Newman, Georgia.

Birthdays are good for you. The more you have, the longer you live.

Balentine

(Continued from page 2)

county and state lines.

Benjamin's family came to what is now known as Stone County in a covered wagon and waded the Mississippi River. The family homesteaded at Hickory Grove, which is located between Onia and Big Flat. In an interview with **Lilly Shipman** (**Benjamin's** Granddaughter) she describes some details about the family.

"The children grew up working hard on the family farm to stay alive and to make a little extra money. They worked from sunrise to sunset six days a week and rested on Sunday. This left little time to go to school. Any schooling they received was at home."

Benjamin was a farmer and is described as being "Black Dutch." This term has many different meanings. It could be used to describe someone of a mixed race; for example, Caucasian and American Indian, or a various mixed-race and non-white peoples (particularly the remnants of Indian groups that had absorbed a lot of Black, White, and Mulatto people). It also has been used to describe someone of German culture descent that has dark hair and dark eyes because the word "Dutch" is the English form of Deutsch in German or Duits in Dutch. This means they could be from any area in Europe that has a sub branch of the German Language (Swedish, Danish, Icelandic, Austrian, Swiss, Scots, English, Irish, Bavarian, and the list goes on and on). Up to this point it is unknown why Benjamin was described as being "Black Dutch".

Benjamin grew up in Wayne County, Tennessee, a short distance

west of Cypress Inn. His parents, **John Balentine** and **Sarah Culpepper**, came to Wayne County in the late 1820's or early 1830's from South Carolina. They were in their early forties in age, and already had a large family. In the 1840 Census of Wayne County, Tennessee, **Benjamin's** father **John** is listed with three boys and one girl living at home; one boy is between five and ten years old (assumed **Benjamin Simmons**), one boy is between ten and fifteen years old (assumed **Richard Houston**), one boy between fifteen and twenty years old (assumed **J. H.**), one girl between fifteen and twenty years old (assumed **Sarah**) and a female between forty and fifty years old (assumed **Sarah Culpepper Balentine**). The 1850 Census for Wayne County, Tennessee lists: **Sarah**, age 24, and **Benjamin**, age 18, living with their parents **John**, age 65, and **Sarah** age 64. **John** is a farmer and is listed as blind at this time. **Sarah** (**John's** wife) is listed as not being able to read or write. It is told in family stories that **John** was known to have the nickname "**One Eyed John.**" In 1855 **John** and **Sarah** were married in Lauderdale County, Alabama.

The 1880 Stone County Census lists **Benjamin** as the head of household and 47 years old. His occupation is a farmer with his wife **Malisa** as keeper of the home and 40 years old. The other household members are: son **William**, age 23, born in Alabama, single, and working the farm; son **Benjamin**, age 17, born in Tennessee, single, and working the farm; daughter **Harriet**, age 15, and single; son **John**, age 12, working the farm, and son **Daniel**, age 10, working the farm.

(See Balentine on page 7)

Balentine

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We know that **Benjamin** could write his name because his signature is found on a bond for marriage license for his son **Benjamin Simmons Balentine, Jr.** in Searcy County, Arkansas, on December 19, 1884.

Benjamin is listed in the 1900 Stone County Census living with his wife **Malissia A.** and daughter **Amanda I.** It states that they had been married for 44 years and that both of **Ben's** parents were born in South Carolina. **Benjamin** has not been found on a 1910 Census so it is presumed that he died between 1900 and 1910. **Benjamin** is buried in the Pordue Cemetery at Onia, Arkansas. **Benjamin's** stone is a cement slab in the ground that reads as follows "**Ben Balentine** - Father of **John Balentine.**"

Melissa is the daughter of **James Sport** and **Catherine Baxter Sport**. Both of **Melissa's** parents were born in North Carolina. **Melissa's** date of birth has some discrepancies. According to the 1880 Census she was born September 1839 in Alabama, while the 1900 Census states that she was born September 1843 in Tennessee.

Family tradition is that **Melissa** was a full blood Cherokee Indian. There has been no evidence found to back up that tradition. That doesn't mean that she was or wasn't a Cherokee Indian. It just means that no one has found any documents proving her Cherokee Indian Race.

It is believed that **Melissa's** parents died before 1850. That is assumed because all the children of young age living at home in 1850 were living with other families. The

1850 Census for Lauderdale, Alabama, has **Melissa** living with her sister and brother in law, **Elizabeth** and **James Rhodes**. The census is in error because it lists **Melissa Sport** as **Melissa Rhodes**.

Melissa died February 22, 1928 and her son **Richard Houston Balentine** is buried near her in the Big Flat Cemetery at Big Flat, Baxter County, Arkansas. **Melissa** died after her husband **Ben** had passed away but she is not buried next to him in the Pordue Cemetery. I do not know why this happened but maybe there are other family members that know the reason. The natural fieldstone that is her grave marker has no dates on it. The inscription is scratched into the fieldstone and is very hard to read. It says "**Balentine - Melissa - Mother.**" The information on **Melissa's** death was in the "Big Flat News" (a community article).

It told how the community was saddened by her death. The Stone County Record of March 2, 1928, states "**Aunt Melissa Balentine** who lived with her son **John Balentine** a few miles east of this place, died on last Wednesday after an illness of only three days. She was 88 years old."

Benjamin and **Melissa** brought lots of love, determination, and family values to their home in Stone County from far away Ten-

nessee, and it now lives strong in their descendants today. I am sure there were lots of good stories and tales to tell about their lives in their time. I only hope that this article will help to renew some of their kindred spirit in family members. If you happen to know of things to add to their story for future generations or are interested in Balentine Family History please feel free to contact me at bunehopp@aol.com.

Remember that the life you live **today** with your family is the **history** of generations to come. Take a moment to start a new tradition in your family or continue one that you remember as a child. Your children and grandchildren will remember it all their lives!

Huxford

(Continued from page 4)

the Navy." Nov. 11, 1920.

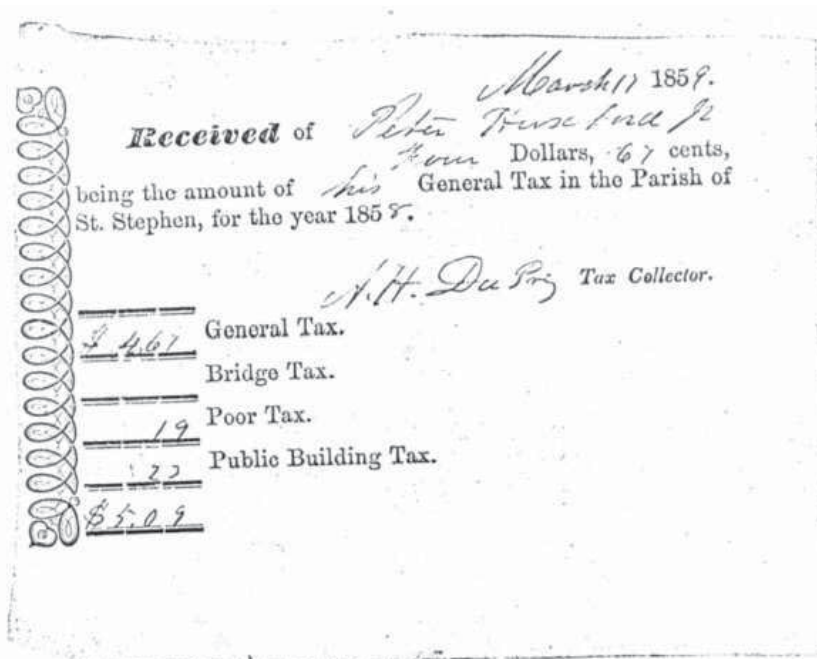
Lieutenant Harry Norman Huxford married **Elizabeth Green McColley**. Their two children are (1) **Mary Elizabeth**, (2) **Harry Norman, Junior**. He wished his family to be with him, so they travelled (*sic*) to the foreign ports and lived in where he was stationed in the U.S. Navy. He was devoted to his family. He was a man of exceptional ability and of great dignity and courteous manner.



People who take no pride in the noble achievements of remote ancestors will never achieve anything worthy to be remembered with pride by remote descendants.

--- Macaulay, on ancestry

If you know of someone who is not receiving our newsletter, please send me their address and I will get them on the mailing list. They will receive the newsletter and be guaranteed of family reunion notification.



Peter Huxford, Jr.'s 1858 Tax Receipt dated March 11, 1859. He paid \$5.09 (\$4.67 General Tax; \$1.19 Poor Tax; and \$1.23 Public Building Tax) to St. Stephen's Parish Tax Collector, A. H. Dupre.

Ballentine Branches

2714 Phyllis Dr.
Copperas Cove, TX 76522-4311

Family Newsletter For Ballentine, Huxford
& Connected Families

George H. Ballentine
Editor

