

SYFRETT FAMILY OF SOUTH CAROLINA NEWSLETTER

Number 2 - 1 October 1978

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My research over the past six months has brought information from J. Wesley Syfrett of Fort Walton Beach, Florida; from Mrs. Ethel Westburg (granddaughter of Andrew Jackson Syfrett and Janie Morrell Syfrett, and she has a family Bible) of Neeses, S.C.; from Mrs. Dudley Smith (great granddaughter of Janie Syfrett and Josh King) of Lone Star, S. C.; and from Mrs. Fonsein Gresham (great granddaughter of Obediah Joseph Syfrett and Mary Frances Scott) of Centerville, Texas. Also helpful in my work has been Mr. Hugo Ackerman of the Orangeburg County Archives and Mrs. Jean Ulmer and Mrs. Mable Brandenburg of the Calhoun County Museum.

In this research I have learned the danger of assumptions and the danger of relying on memory or hearsay. This calls for corrections in my first newsletter - on page one the marriage contract of Rebecca Syfryth should read "Marriage contract with Simon Franks on 15 Nov 1763", on page 3 delete the assumption in parenthesis about Janie SYFRETT (I believe she is the Jane of the GRIMES household of the 1850 census - therefore, born 1845) and about Newton C SYFRETT's wife delete (Martha A SYFRETT), on page 4 last paragraph the date of death of Leticia Rebecca Martha DANTZLER SYFRETT is 26 June 1976 instead of 28 June 1976.

Last week I received the following from J. Wesley SYFRETT in Florida: "Recently we passed through Greenwood, Fla. and found an Historical Marker, with the following information: "ERWIN HOUSE 1822

"The house was built in the 1830's by John A. Syfrett. It is likely the oldest residence in Jackson County. It faces Fort Road, believed to have been routed by Andrew Jackson.

"In 1861 it became the home of Col. John M. F. Erwin and his wife, Georgia A. Bryan, daughter of Col. Elijah Bryan. Col. Erwin served with distinction in the Confederate Army, Florida Senate and the U.S. Militia."

Who were the parents of John A. Syfrett?

The St. Matthews Lutheran Church records lists "John Jacob SYFRID born 1803, christened 9 October 1803."

Material distributed at the SYFRETT REUNION of Florida at its annual meeting the second Sunday in June shows the following:

"JOHN A SYFRETT

Born about 1803 in Orangeburg, South Carolina; died about 1859 in Washington County, Florida. Appears in Florida records in September 28, 1835, when he purchased 80 acres in Jackson County for the sum of \$100.00. He is listed with his family consisting of wife, 5 sons and 2 daughters in 1840 U.S. Census of Jackson County. He and family are also listed in the 1850 Census of Jackson County, p.263. In 1851 he sold land in Jackson County, Florida; Deed Record A, p.675. In 1854, 1856, 1857 and 1858 according to Florida Tax Books, he was residing in Washington County, Florida, where he owned 5 slaves. His name does not appear in the Tax Books of 1859, but in 1960 his widow is listed. He married, first, Margaret Cathon Edwards born about 1805 in South Carolina. She died about 1842 and was buried in Rawls Cemetery, Greenwood, Jackson County, Florida. He married second, Mary Ann Mercer born about 1820 in Georgia. She appears in the Florida Tax Books of Washington County in 1860. She is listed as having real estate valued at \$120.00 and a personal estate valued at \$1,800.

"Issue: By 1st wife, Margaret C. Edwards of South Carolina.

"1. Frederick M. Emanuel Syfrett, born November 12, 1827 in South Carolina. ... He died on March 5, 1904 and is buried at Graveville Cemetery in Jackson County, Florida..."

"2. William A. Syfrett, born in 1828 in South Carolina. Died prior to 1860....

"3. THOMAS ABRAHM SYFRETT, born March 7, 1830 in Henry County, Alabama; died April 28, 1914 in Washington County, Florida.

"4. George W. Syfrett, born April 1, 1837 in Greenwood, Jackson County, Florida.... Died on April 10, 1911 in Graceville, Jackson County, Florida.

"Issue of John A. Syfrett by 2nd wife, Mary Ann Mercer of Georgia.

"5. Francis (Frank) Syfrett, born June 21, 1839 in Florida....

"6. Alfred H. Syfrett, born about 1842 in Florida.... He died at the Post Hospital on March 25, 1865 of pneumonia, Cedar Key, Florida.

"7. Silas Syfrett, born about 1844 in Jackson County, Florida.... Died of mumps and intermittant fever on May 13, 1888 near Maynard, Texas....

"8. Gabriel F. Syfrett, born in 1846 in Jackson County, Florida.... He died on 3/22/09 and is buried at Moss Hill Cemetary in Washington County....

"9. Tabitha Jane Syfrett, born 1847 in Jackson County...

"10. Edwin Syfrett, born 1849 in Jackson County, Florida....

"11. Ellen Syfrett, born 1853 in Jackson County....

"12. Mary Syfrett, born 1854...

"13. Alice Syfrett, born in 1857....

"II. THOMAS ABRAHM SYFRETT

"..."

"Issue: 1. Georgia A.E. born Feb 18, 1859. Married Rufus Gilbert.

"2. Thomas, born between 1860 and 1864. Listed in FA,ily Bible. Family history claim he died in Key West, Fla. about 1865, but he is listed as a minor child in the 1870 Census, he is not listed in the 1880 Census.

"3. Florida, born Oct. 10, 1866. Married Thomas Gilbert.

"4. William A. born Oct. 24, 1868, died Nov. 10, 1912 and buried at White Oak Cemetary, Washington Co. Fla.

"5. Margaret (Minnie) U. born Nov. 30, 1870. Married Randell Gilbert.

"6. Thomas Edward, born Sept. 9, 1873.

"7. Lewis F. born Jan. 27, 1877, married Minnie Morris.

"8. John Austin, born Nov. 22, 1879.

"9. Wesley U. born Jan. 3, 1882, married Roxie Gilbert."

(# 9. Wesley U. SYFRETT was the father of J. WESley SYFRETT who has supplied me with this information.)

Mrs. Ethel FIELDS SHIREY WESTBURY copied the information from The Syfrett Family Bible which confirms much of the material given by Phyllis CALKINS recorded in the April Newsletter on page 3.

"BIRTHS:

Harite or (Harriette)	March 5, 1811
Alexander	March 18, 1810
Janie M.	Dec 7, 1835
Andrew Jackson	July 21, 1840
Cebron W.	March 14, 1842
Rachel Martha	March 28, 1844
Obediah Joseph	Feb 16, 1846
Jasper Alexander	Nov 23, 1849
Mary M.	Oct 5, 1850
Newton C.	April 3, 1853
Harriett Margret	March 12, 1856

"DEATHS:

Alexander	Jan 6, 1857
Harite or (Harriette)	March 31, 1876

BIRTHS:

A. J.	July 21, 1840
E.A.C.	Mar 23, 1845
W.A.	Oct 29, 1865
J.A.D.	June 23, 1867
R.L.	July 31, 1869
M.M.	Jan 18, 1871
E.E.	Jan 16, 1873
N.A.E.	Oct 19, 1874
F.A.E.	June 13, 1883
W.N.	Oct 8, 1876
M.L.	Oct 11, 1900
Dorindie	Oct 10, 1902
Leila Mae	Dec 16, 1905
Marie M	Sept 10, 1908
Georgie L	Dec 11, 1911
Paul L	Oct 22, 1914

DEATHS:

R.L.	Mar 10, 1870
E.E.	Apr 25, 1877
W.W.	Aug 1878
M.M.	Apr 25, 1882
E.A.C.	Oct 18, 1898
M.L.	Aug 11, 1904
W.A.	Aug 22, 1914
A.J.	June 12, 1925

The information from Fousein Gresham states:

"Alexander Syfrett left Bremen, Germany at an early age to come to America. The information is that the Syfrett family in Germany was an Elite family.

"Alexander was the only member of his family to come, and no one was able to explain why, since he did not talk about his family that was left behind.

"He settled in a small community called Bull Swamp, Orangeburg County, South Carolina in the early 1800. There he married a girl by the name of Goodwin and raised a family of eight children; Andrew, Seaborn, Jasper, Newton, Janie, Harriet, one they called Sissie, and my Great Grandfather, Obie Joseph.

"Harriet and Sissie married and stayed in South Carolina. Harriet married a man by the name of Hutto and had a son, Lewis in Charleston. Sissie married Barba Sharp.

"Newton was born in 1853 and died in 1930. He was married to Mattie Goodwin, a first cousin to his mother, who was born in 1858, and died in 1937. There were four children born to this marriage: CHARlie 1881; Julia 1885; Lillian 1890; and Barney (Dock). Lillian married Edgar Howard in 1912, and two sons, John Newton and Jim were born to this marriage. John Newton died and Jim lives in Easterly, Robertson County. Lillian died March 17, 1975. Charlie married Willie Hill and had two children, Barney Spruell and Hugo. All are buried in Franklin, Robertson County, Texas. Charlie died in 1948 at the age of 67. Hugo was killed in a car-wreck near Franklin around 1968, Barney Spruell died in 1970.

"Janie married Josh King. She was born in 1835--died 1892 and is buried in the Winn Cemetery at Marquez, Texas. Several children were born to this marriage and one was Jasper, father of Goree and Cleo King.

"O.J. (known to all as Uncle Obie) married Mollie Scott in 1865 and left S.C. after the Civil War, to come to Texas and settled in Leon County. He told about the time they were fighting in the Civil War and, I do not know if it was a brother or someone else, this person got tired walking and Obe picked him up on his shoulder and carried him. He and Mollie were married about 16 years before they had a child, which was named Luther. They must have wanted a son, but turned out to be a girl. Luther was my Grandmother. O.J. was a man with many acres of land and cattle, also money. The way he dressed you would not have known it, always wearing duck, (a very heavy & stiff material for rough wear), no underwear, or socks. His hat always had a hole in the top where his curly hair would stick out. He had a mustache and always rode a roan mule. He was a shrewd and stern man known to all, over the county. I can remember my mother Obie, telling about the barrels of crackers, brown sugar, flour, and rice, which was one of the main foods for the Syfrett's, which was cooked very fluffy, and kegs of syrup where they would get rock candy when the syrup had crystallized.

"Jasper A. Syfrett and his wife, M.A. (name not given) bought 120 acres of land from W.S. & J.H. Peters for \$180.00, SEpt. 15, 1877. The deed was not recorded until Nov. 25, 1879, in the Leon County records Vol. P page 398.

"O.J. Syfrett bought this same land from Jasper and wife on Jan. 3, 1881, recorded on April 17, 1889 Vol. X, page 131. O. J. bought 100 acres from D.W. Carrington for \$769.00 on April 7, 1891 and was recorded on April 10, 1891 in Vol. Z page 233. The interest on this land was 10%. In 1897 he bought land from R.W. Barkley, Vol. 6, page 491. Part of this land is what Obie Winn Haynie inherited and passed on to children Fousein, Gwenn, and B.A. Jr.

"O. J. Syfrett enlisted in the Confederate Army, April 15, 1862. His enlistment was taken by a 'Captain Glover' in Orangeburg, S.C. O.J. enlisted for a period of 3 years, or for the duration of the war. He served in Capt. James F. Izler's Company, (Edisto Rifles), 25th Reg't South Carolina Vols., as a Private in 1st. Co. G. On May 15, 1864 he was wounded at Drewys Bluff and reported back for duty on Sept. 19, 1864. During the Battle of Fort Fisher, N. C., O.J. was captured Jan. 15, 1865 and held prisoner until June 23, 1865. That same day he took the Oath of Allegiance to the United States at Elmira, N.Y., and was released from service."

The spelling of Harriet (Harite or Harriette) plus the fact that she was listed as illiterate in the 1840 census may indicate that it was she who came from Bremen, Germany, about 1833 because the presence of Syfretts in Orangeburg prior to 1800 may indicate that Alexander was born here. Also, there was an Alexander Syfrid who filed 'Revolutionary War Claim dated 1783 (1791). It may have been he who came from Bremen.

While checking the Carns Cemetary on Highway 178 between Orangeburg and Bowman the following information was copied from markers: "George L. Patrick b Feb 23, 1812 d Jan 3, 1885 Age 72 years 10 months and 20 days", "Jane M Patrick b Feb 13, 1817 d Dec 1, 1899". My interest was drawn to this cemetary because my Mother reported that my oldest brother, Fulton, who lived only four months was buried there. Elizabeth A.C. Patrick who married Andrew Jackson Syfrett was the daughter of Perry W. and Jane M. Patrick. According to the 1870 census A.J. and Elizabeth Syfrett lived six houses from P.W. and Jane M. Patrick. There is a possibility that she is buried in an unmarked grave in this cemetary. Other Epitaphs in the cemetary are "Daniel Dukes 5 Oct 1857 Aged 4 yrs, 10 mons", "Thomas G. Dukes 10 Dec 1854 aged 7 yrs 2 mons 2 days", "Martha R. Dukes 29 June 1859 aged 47 years and i day", "Hair Fannie Gertrude b 1-5-1869 d 5-4-1943 John D b 8-26-1869 d 7-9-1931", "Theodosia Gillam b July 10, 1861 d July 27, 1939", "Joshua Bozard b Beby 15, 1806 d June 10, 1881 75 yrs 3 mons 26 days", "Bozardt Jacob D b Dec 7, 1837 d Nov 22, 1884 age 47, Anne E b July 9, 1840 d Nov 5, 1926 age 86."

Moving back before 1800 the following is taken from the marriage contract of Rebecca Syfreth:

"This indenture made the fifteenth day of November in the year of our Lord 1763 and in the fourth year of His Majesty's Reign Between Simon Franks of Solomon Parish planter of the one part and Rebecca Syfriths of Chas Town province aforesaid widow of the other part whereas there is an intended marriage to be had made & to be concluded (by God's permisşion) between the said Simon Franks & the said Rebecca Syfryth - Non for the mutual love and affection of each of the said Parties, He the said Simon Franks being possed of sundry goods wares etc do mutually consent to join the same with her the said Rebecca Syfryth his intended wife by the Solemnization of the said marriage and further do and will allow her the said Rebecca the full possession of such goods wares and merchandises as her own and Separate Estate, & enjoy the same during her natural life; But on her Death to be the sole property of him the said Simon Franks, her Intended Husband if there should be children got during the said marriage, then only one third of her Estate and in case of Death of the said Simon Franks her intended husband, the said Rebecca shall take and draw her third part out of his estate to her own use & Benefit forever of his child and children. In Witness thereof I have hereby set my Hand and Seal the Day & year first above written/

"SEaled & Delivered in the presence of)
H.A. Bessler Christian Gruber)

Simon Franks (L.S.)
So Carolina Berkeley County Personnaly
appeared before Mark Anthony Bessler

one of the within subscribing witnesses, who being duly sworn on the Holy Evangelists of Almighty God, do say that he was present & did see, the within named Simon Franks, sign and seal the within Instrument of writing and deliver the same as his act & deed, and that Christian Gruber the other subscribing witness signed the same with him.

Sworn before me this)
22nd Day of November 1763)
Geo Johnson, J.P.

While in Walterboro recently I met Billy and Ashton SYFRETT. From them I have the following: "James Andrew SYFRETT and Julia EDGEMON parents of Theodore Ashton SYFRETT b 26 September 1902 (m Julia Florine Gray 29 June ?) Children - James Ashton SYFRETT b 7 May 1936, Bobby McDaniel SYFRETT b 10 October 1943, William Franklin SYFRETT b 18 July 1945"

Ashton is related to Dovie SYFRETT of Rowesville and was born "near Branchville". According to the 1880 census near Branchville there was "Wm Cyphret age 41, Rachel age 44, David age 16, Marietta age 14, and James age 9." There was also there "Wm F Syphret age 31, Ursula age 26, Jas H W age 7, Clara E age 5, and Rosa H age 3."

((WOULD YOU ATTEND A SYFRETT REUNION))
(((IN ORANGEBURG, July 22, 1979?)))