

Perguson Family Record

Jerry Long copied the following family record on a visit to the home of Pearl Rains Perguson (1894-1987), of Hartford, Ohio County, KY, on 18 April 1983. Her son, D. C. Perguson, Jr., gave the original book with this record to Jerry Long (his 4th cousin twice removed), of Owensboro, KY, on 8 July 2002.

The family data was recorded in a book entitled, Report of the Commissioner of Patents For The Year 1860: Agriculture, 36th Congress, 2d Session, House of Representatives, Ex. Doc. No.48, published by the Government Printing Office, Washington, 1861. The book contained two inscriptions. The oldest showed that the book had been given to "Wm. M. Miller from James S. Jackson of Congress, 1861". A later inscription signed by George Ann Perguson indicated, "This book belonged to my grandfather and was gave to me May 20, 1886". The family notes were recorded on blank spaces on the first eight pages of the book. George Ann Thomas Perguson (1872-1945) did most of the entries but her daughter-in-law, Pearl Rains Perguson, made a few later additions. Spelling as entered in the original is used below.

George Ann Thomas was borned August 14, 1872.
W. L. Miller died November 25th, 1887.
Dr. Camp died January 15th, 1888.
Pres. Ashford died March 10th, 1888.
Johnithen Mitchel died March 22, 1887.
Wm. M. Miller died April 5th, 1886.
Mary Miller wife of W. M. Miller died March 22, 1886.
Ellen Stewart died March 2, 1892.

J. W. Thomas was borned March 7th, 1869.
A. C. Thomas was borned Sep. 19th, 1870.
G. A. Thomas was borned Aug. 14, 1872.
Judith E. Thomas and Frank L. Dehart was married Dec. 22, 1886.
Jessee Wade Dehart was borned Feb. 15th, 1888.
James Leslie Dehart was borned January 8, 1890.
Effie May Dehart was borned June 5th, 1892.
Judith E. Dehart died November 9th, 1897.
Earnest Goffry Miller was borned January 8th, 1888.
Olly Leona? Dehart was borned January 12th, 1888.
Cora Ellen Ezell was borned January 21, 1888.

James M. Perguson and George A. Thomas was married January the 19th, 1890.
James M. Perguson was borned August 24, 1870 and died 1 Nov 1953.
George Ann Perguson died April 17, 1945, at 11:35 p.m.
John M. Perguson died March the 9th, 1891.
Sudie Perguson was born Dec. 26th, 1888 and died 29 Feb 1920.
John J. Perguson was borned Feb. the 6th, 1891.

Norbert L. Ferguson was born June the 7th, 1891 and got killed March the 18, 1906.
Dee C. Ferguson was born Jan. the 21, 1893.
James W. Ferguson was born Feb. the 22, 1898 and died Aug. 3, 1898.
James B. Ferguson was born Aug. 15th, 1899 and died Sept. the 28, 1900.
Thomas M. Ferguson was born July the 16th, 1905.
John L. Ferguson was born March the 5th, 1909.
One baby girl died.

Dee C. Ferguson and Pearl Raines married Dec. 31, 1917.
Thomas M. Ferguson and Irene Neal married.
Johnie L. Ferguson and Marine Alford married Dec. 23, 1939.
Fay Wilson and Donnie Morris married Jan. 26, 1927.
Dee C. Ferguson, Jr. born August 28, 1921.

W. M. (Make) Miller deeded land for the right of way of a Railroad through his farm on Horse Branch Creek on Jan. 20, 1868.

Additional notes by Jerry Long:

George Ann Thomas was the daughter of George Thomas (6 Aug 1845- 2 Oct 1872) & Judith Elizabeth Miller (29 Dec 1852- 9 Nov 1897); she and her parents were born in Ohio County, KY. Her mother married second Frank Leslie DeHart (13 Aug 1866 – 16 Feb 1954), son of Morrison DeHart & Mary Ezell. George's grandparents were Nathaniel Thomas (c1793-1850) & Martha Daniel (d. 1844-50) and William Makel Miller (5 Nov 1806- 5 Apr 1886) & Mary Mitchell (23 Jun 1810- 22 Mar 1886), both couples were married in Ohio County in 1833 and 1828, respectively. George Ann's grandfather, "Make" Miller, was the founder of Horse Branch in Ohio County, KY. He built the first house in the town and was appointed its first postmaster in 1871. A picture of him and his wife, "Polly", was published in the 2 Nov 1989 & 19 August 1999 editions of the Ohio County Times-News (Hartford, KY). A biography of William Makel Miller written by his great-great-grandson, D. C. Ferguson, Jr., is found at the Ohio County Library; part of this appeared in Harry D. Tinsley's "Lineage Lines" column in the Ohio-County Times-News (March 10, 17, 24 & 31, 1994). Data on the descendants of the Miller, Mitchell and Daniel families can also be found in the book, Families of Sarah Ann (Mitchell) Neighbors Landrum Peters, by David Arthur Myers (McDowell Publications, Utica, KY, 1982). Judith E. Miller Thomas Dehart, her parents and many of their descendants were buried in the Old Salem Cemetery near Horse Branch (see Ohio County, Kentucky Cemeteries Update, Ohio County Genealogical Society, McDowell Publications, Utica, KY, 2002, pp368-377).

George Ann Thomas married James Meadows Ferguson in Ohio County, where they were buried in the Horse Branch Cemetery. This cemetery is adjacent to the Dan T. Wilson family cemetery a short distance east of Horse Branch on Highway 62. "Jim" Ferguson, a native of Ohio County, was the son of John T. Ferguson & Margaret Ann Wilson. His parents were married in Ohio County on 13 Nov 1855. A record of their marriage in the Ohio County, KY 1852-1861 Vital Statistics shows that she was age 24 and born in Ohio County and he was 21 and born in Adair County, KY. John T.

Perguson is listed in the 1850 census of Adair County (p27, household #381). He possibly was born in Green County, KY, where his parents, Thomas Ferguson & Jane Glaspie were married on 10 Nov 1827. Thomas is listed in the Green County censuses of 1830 (p39) & 1840 (p173) and of Adair County in 1850 (age 52, born VA, p67, household #138) and 1860 (age 67, born VA, p36, household #205). John T. Ferguson is listed in the 1860 Ohio County census (p176, household #917) and died between 1871-1875. His wife, Margaret, is listed as widow in the Ohio County censuses of 1880 (p597, household #188), 1900 (p176, household #347) and 1910 (p192, household #368).

Margaret Ann Wilson Ferguson (born Dec 1830) died in Ohio County during 1923-1926 and is buried in an unmarked grave at the Old Salem Cemetery. A 93rd birthday celebration for her was held at her home at Horton, Ohio County, KY on 26 Dec 1922 (Hartford Republican, Friday, 5 Jan 1923). She was the daughter of Robert Wilson (31 Oct 1806 – 1 Nov 1870) & Nancy Raley (4 Jan 1811 – 17 Aug 1894), who were buried at the Old Salem Cemetery. Margaret's grandparents were Samuel Wilson & Winnie Lee and Jonathan Raley & Nancy Cook. The 1900 & 1910 Ohio County censuses report that Margaret Ferguson was the mother of six children but only one was still living. Three children, Artelia S. (born c1858), Alonzo R. (born 1860) and one other appeared to have all died prior to 1880. Three children were living with Margaret, at the time of the 1880 census – John M. (17), Martha E. (12) & James M. (9).

John McHenry Ferguson (born c1863), son of John T. & Margaret, married Victoria Ashford at Rosine, Ohio County on 13 July 1887. Victoria was the daughter of John Presley Ashford & Martha E. Rice. John M. died on 9 March 1891. He had two children Studie (1888-1920) & John James (1891-1978, he used the spelling of "Purgerson"). Martha Ellen Ferguson (born c1868), daughter of John T. & Margaret, married Cornelius R. Stewart in Ohio County on 3 July 1887. Cornelius/ "Corney" was the son of William Thomas Stewart & Mary E. Hobdy. Martha Ellen died 2 March 1892 and was buried at the Mt. Pleasant Cemetery, Ohio County, KY. One child, Leland P./ "Lee" Stewart (1891-1962), survived her.

James Meadows Ferguson (1870-1953) worked as a farmer, a bridge carpenter for the Illinois Central Railroad and in later years as a barber. He and George Ann Thomas were the parents of seven children – Norbert L. (7 Jun 1891 – 18 Mar 1906, buried Old Salem Cemetery), Dee Carl (21 Jan 1893 – 28 Jul 1976, buried Horse Branch Cemetery), James W. (22 Feb 1898 – 3 Aug 1898, buried Old Salem Cemetery), James B. (15 Aug 1899 – 28 Sep 1900, buried Old Salem Cemetery), Thomas Meadows (16 Jul 1905 – 16 July 1989, buried Hardin County, KY), John Lewis (5 Mar 1909 – 17 Jan 1980, buried Owensboro Memorial Gardens, Daviess County, KY) and Margaret E. (11 Oct 1911 – 6 Dec 1911, buried Old Salem Cemetery). Norbert was killed in a train wreck near Horse Branch; details of the accident appeared in the Hartford Republican of 23 March 1906 (p1). Thomas M. Ferguson married Irene Neal in 1926 and they had one child, Janie; he married second Edna Mae Aubrey, 27 Aug 1951, and they had three children, Patricia Suzann, Linda Denice & Lisa Michelle. John L. Ferguson served overseas in Germany during World War II. He married Ann Marine Alford and they had no children. For several years he operated a wholesale grocery in Owensboro at 319 West 10th Street. Ann Alford Ferguson was a teacher at Horse Branch and Owensboro. She taught in the Owensboro City School system for 33 years and served as principal of the Longfellow and Sutton Elementary Schools.

Dee Carl Ferguson & his wife, Pearl Ruth Rains, were married at Horse Branch and were buried at the Horse Branch Cemetery. He served overseas during World War I. He and his wife operated a general store in Horse Branch from 1923 until 1956, when they retired. Mrs. Pearl Ferguson was a schoolteacher for 20 years, teaching at Narrows, Beaver Dam and Horse Branch. She was a historian, writing and contributing to several articles on the history of Horse Branch for local newspapers (see Ohio County News, 26 Dec 1974, section 3, p3; Ohio County Messenger, 17 June 1977; Owensboro Messenger & Inquirer, 12 July 1982; Ohio County Times-News, 15 July 1982, p4B, 14 March 1985, p6B, 12 Sep 1985, & 7 Jan 1988, p2B). She was a charter member of the three chapters of the Ohio County Historical Society that have been organized through the years, including the first in 1928 and the current chapter organized in 1971. For the Society she served as head of its cemetery project, her work lead to the Society's publication of five cemetery volumes.

D. C. & Pearl Ferguson had one child, Dee Carl, Jr., who graduated from the Horse Branch High School in 1938 and the Western Kentucky Teacher's College at Bowling Green, KY in May 1942. On 8 Feb 1943 he was inducted into the Army at Fort Hayes, Ohio; the Ohio County News of 11 Feb 1944 announced that he had been wounded in action in Italy. He was discharged from the service in January 1946. During 1947-49 attended Indiana University. In Dec 1949 he was awarded the Fullbright Scholarship and was delegated to attend Manchester University in England to study modern British history. After studying there one year he attended Stanford University for another year. He began teaching history and social studies in Seattle, WA in 1960 and has subsequently taught on the high school and community college level both in Seattle and Shoreline, WA. He retired in 1981 and currently is a resident of Seattle, WA.

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