

Black Kentucky Pioneers:

Green Baxter Stewart (1840-1932)

By Jerry Long, Owensboro, Ky., 1986

The following article was published 26 May 1932 in The Record, Greenville, Ky:

OLDEST CITIZEN PASSES

Green B. Stewart, 92, died at his home here at 1:30 last Friday afternoon. He had lived here since early manhood, and had operated a barber shop until some 20 years ago, when he suffered the loss of his sight.

He was a quiet, agreeable, industrious man, and had a host of warm friends among the white population, and his counsel was sought by the members of his own race, who were proud to have such a leader and friend.

One of the outstanding features in Stewart's life was that he once shaved Jesse James. In August, 1881, Jesse James spent two or three days here, representing himself as a timber and lumber buyer. He had a very fine horse, and each morning and afternoon would leave town, ostensible on business. One morning he showed up at the Dovey store, where it was pay day for the miners employed in the mine operated by John Dovey, and two sons, William and George B. Dovey. James went in the store and asked for a can of oysters, and shortly he was joined by three confederates, one of them thought to be his brother, Frank. The pay roll was delayed, and only a few dollars secured from the safe, but a gold watch, the property of John Dovey, Sr., was taken, and the bandits escaped. Jesse James was murdered by one of his band in a hideout near Kansas City, in April, 1882, and the watch was in his pocket. Uncle Noah Mathis, another well known colored man, reshod the James horse, and Stewart secured one of the shoes, which he kept and prized, and is now in the possession of Claude Stewart, his only son.

Funeral services were held at the Baptist church at 5 o'clock Sunday afternoon, and the body was laid to rest in West End Cemetery. One son and three daughters survive.

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1870 Muhlenberg County, Ky. census, town of Greenville, p.446, #23:
Steward, Green 26 Barber (M) Ky.

1880 Muhlenberg County, Ky. census, town of Greenville, p.126, #6-6:
Stewart, Green B. 34 Barber (B) Ky.-Ky.-Ky.
 Bell 25 wife (B) Ky.-Ky.-Ky.
 Virgeline 7 daughter (B) Ky.-Ky.-Ky.
 Beattres 5 daughter (B) Ky.-Ky.-Ky.
 Green C. 2 daughter (B) Ky.-Ky.-Ky.
Givins, William 17 nephew (B). Ky.-Ky.-Ky.

1900 Muhlenberg County, Ky. census, town of Greenville, p.193b, #77-78:

Stuart, Green B.	Head (B)	Oct1843 (56)	married 29 years	Ky.-Ky.-Ky.
	(Barber, can read & write, owns house free of mortgage)			
Belle	wife (B)	Feb1854 (46)	6 children - 4 living	Ky.-Ky.-Ky.
Virgie	daughter (B)	May1874 (26)	single	Ky.-Ky.-Ky.
Claudie L.	son (B)	Feb1884 (16)	single	Ky.-Ky.-Ky.

History of Muhlenberg County, Otto A. Rothert, John P. Morton & Co., Louisville, Ky., 1913: On page 355 in chapter entitled "In Eighteen - Seventy", Green B. Stewart (spelled Steward) was referred to as "the leading barber in Greenville".

Green B. Stewart is also listed in the 1910, 1920 and 1930 censuses of Greenville, Muhlenberg County, Ky. The 1920 census reports that he was retired barber. He died 20 May 1932 in Greenville, Muhlenberg County, Ky. and was buried there in the West End Cemetery. His death certificate records that he was born 16 October 1840 to Scott Stewart & Debby Winstead. A birth record of his daughter in 1874 states he was born in Logan County, KY. His death certificate gives his birth place as Nebo in Hopkins County, KY.

Green Stewart married Belle Wickliff, 1870-1871. She was born 4 February 1853 Muhlenberg County, Ky. and died 20 November 1918 Greenville, Muhlenberg County, Ky.; buried at the West End Cemetery, Greenville, Ky. Her death certificate gives her parents as Burl & Martha Wickliff. Green & Belle's children included – Virgie (Stewart) Reno (born c1873 and died 5 June 1944), Beatrice (Stewart) Johnson (born 18 September 1874 and died 6 March 1950), Carrie Green (Stewart) McClaren (born 29 January 1876 and died 17 March 1967), Green B. Stewart (born 2 January 1878 and died 3 January 1878), Claude Lincoln Stewart (born 24 February 1884 and died 11 November 1945, like his father he worked as a barber in Greenville), and one other who died before 1900.

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770-12384

Form V. R. 1-A-50m-11-1-20 COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY
 State Board of Health
 BUREAU OF VITAL STATISTICS
 CERTIFICATE OF DEATH

1 PLACE OF DEATH
 Muhlenberg
 County

Vol. Pat. West Rogess Registration District No. 1493
 Inc. Town Greenville Primary Registration District No. 2633
 City Greenville (No. 4 St. 1 Ward 1)
 (If death occurred in a hospital or institution, give its NAME instead of street and number)

File No. _____
 Registered No. _____

2 FULL NAME Green Baxter Stewart
 (a) Residence, No. Oak Street St. _____ Ward _____
 (Usual place of abode) (If nonresident, give city or town and State)
 Length of residence in city or town where death occurred yrs. mos. ds. How long in U. S., if of foreign birth? yrs. mos. ds.

PERSONAL AND STATISTICAL PARTICULARS				MEDICAL CERTIFICATE OF DEATH	
3. SEX <u>Male</u>	4. COLOR OR RACE <u>Negro</u>	5. Single, Married, Widowed or Divorced (write the word) <u>Widower</u>		21. DATE OF DEATH (month, day, and year) <u>5/20, 1932</u>	
6a. If married, widowed, or divorced HUSBAND of _____ (or) WIFE of _____				22. I HEREBY CERTIFY That I attended deceased from <u>January 1931 to May 20, 1932</u> , 19____ I last saw him alive on <u>May 20, 1932</u> death in said to have occurred on the date stated above, at <u>1:30 P.m.</u> The principal cause of death and related causes of importance in order of onset were as follows:	
6. DATE OF BIRTH (month, day, and year) <u>Oct. 16, 1846</u>				Chronic Inflammation of Prostate Contributory causes of importance not related to principal cause: Name of operation _____ Date of _____ What test confirmed diagnosis? _____ Was there an autopsy? _____ 23. If death was due to external causes (violence) fill in also the following: Accident, suicide, or homicide? _____ Date of injury _____ 19____ Where did injury occur? _____ (Specify city or town, county, and State) Specify whether injury occurred in industry, in home, or in public place. Manner of injury _____ Nature of injury _____ 24. Was disease or injury in any way related to occupation of deceased? _____ If so, specify _____ (Signed) <u>J. L. Woodruff</u> , M. D. (Address) <u>Greenville, Kentucky</u>	
7. AGE	Years <u>81</u>	Months <u>7</u>	Days <u>6</u>		
8. Trade, profession, or particular kind of work done, as spinner, sawyer, bookkeeper, etc. <u>Barber</u>					
9. Industry or business in which work was done, as silk mill, saw mill, bank, etc.					
10. Date deceased last worked at this occupation (month and year)					
11. Total time (years) spent in this occupation					
12. BIRTHPLACE (city or town) <u>Nash, Ky.</u> (State of country)					
13. NAME <u>Scott Stewart</u>					
14. BIRTHPLACE (city or town) <u>Hopkins County</u> (State of country)					
15. MAIDEN NAME <u>Dobe Winstead</u>					
16. BIRTHPLACE (city or town) <u>Hopkins County</u> (State of country)					
17. INFORMANT <u>Glad Stewart</u> (Address) <u>Greenville, Kentucky</u>					
18. BURIAL, CREMATION, OR REMOVAL Place <u>West End Cemetery</u> Date <u>5/22, 1932</u>					
19. UNDERTAKER <u>Chas. L. Cook</u> (Address) <u>Greenville, Kentucky</u>					
20. FILED <u>525</u> , 1932 _____ Registrar					

MARGIN RESERVED FOR BINDING
 N. B.—WRITE PLAINLY, WITH INK—THIS IS A PERMANENT RECORD. Every item of information should be carefully recorded. It should be stated EXACTLY. PHYSICIANS should state CAUSE OF DEATH in plain terms, so that it may be properly classified. Exact statement of OCCUPATION is very important. See instructions on back of certificate.