

# Henry Stidum (c1819-1891)

By Jerry Long, Owensboro, Ky., 1985

Dennis Sherman  
c/o Arlene Cochran  
R.R.1  
Nauvoo, IL 62354

22 August 1984

Dear Mr. Sherman:

I have located an obituary for Nancy Jane Stidum Gilmore. She died 15 March 1933 near Ensor in Daviess County and was buried at the Thruston Cemetery,

Enclosed is a copy of the obit and a list of all Gilmore markers at the Thruston Cemetery. I abstracted the obits of three of Jane Gilmore's sons for later descendants. Listed, are the vital information and survivors from the obits of Walter Gilmore (1956), Roy Gilmore (1960), and Edward Gilmore (1960),

From the survivors listed in Walter Gilmore's obit I contacted his daughter, Mrs. Ollie L. (Mary) Kirk, 1802 McCulloch Ave , Owensboro. Mrs. Kirk knew that her grandmother's maiden name was Stidum. She said that her grandmother's brother, Joseph Stidun, married her grandfather's sister, Margaret Gilmore, and that they lived in Perry County, Indiana. Mrs. Kirk suggested I give you the names of two of her cousins, who have a written, record of the Gilmore family and who may be of some help to you.

- dau/of William Gilmore - Myrtle Winkler, Highway 144, Owensboro, Ky. 42301
- dau/of Roy Gilmore - Mrs. Melvin (Louise) Glover, Rt. 1, Owensboro, Ky. 42301

For my time in the research of the above information I charge eight dollars, please. If you should be interested in any further research on the Stidum or Gilmore families I do research in the counties of Daviess, Ohio, Hancock in Kentucky and Perry in Indiana at the rate of 3.00/hour, plus any required copying expenses. I am confident I could discovery a great deal more about the history of your family. Thank you.

Yours truly,  
Jerry Long

1701 Alexander Avenue  
Owensboro, KY 42301

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February 3, 1985

Denis Sherman  
R.R.1 Box 274  
Nauvoo, IL 62354

Dear Mr. Sherman:

I am sorry it has taken so long to write you. I have been going through the old newspapers of Ohio County, Ky., working on a book of death records. I was hoping to find something on the Stidum family. In particular I wanted to find when and where your great-great grandfather, Henry Stidum, died. I have not been able to find when he died but I have made several discoveries about his family.

The 1850 Perry County, Ind., 1860 and 1870 Ohio County, Ky. censuses all indicate that Henry Stidum was born circa 1819 in Kentucky. During the years of 1844-1850 Henry and his family lived in Cannelton, Indiana, The following is the listing from the 1850 Perry County, Ind. census for his family:

Troy Township, #408-415			
Steden, Henry	30 m	Labourer	Ky.
Sarah Ann	27 f		East Tenn,
William	7 m		Ind.
Joseph	5 m		Ind.

At the Perry County, Ind. Health Department is a death record of Joseph Stidum, brother of your great-grandfather William Curtis Stidum. The record has that Joseph Stidum "died 20 June 1914 Tell City, age 68, born 25 March 1846 Cannelton Ind., married, wife Sarah, parents Henry Stidum (b.Tenn.) and Sarah A. Marine, buried Cannelton". Sarah Ann Marine born circa 1823 in East Tennessee would be your great-great-grandmother. Sarah and Henry Stidum married about 1842. I checked for their marriage in five local counties (Perry & Crawford Cos., Ind., Hancock, Ohio, & Daviess Cos., Ky.) but could find no record of their marriage.

Henry and Sarah Marine Stidum had three children: William Curtis b. c1843, Joseph b. 25 March 1846, and Nancy b. 10 June 1850, all were born in Indiana. Sometime between 1850 and 1860 Sarah Ann Marine Stidum died. She may have died in Cannelton, Ind. or in the Fordsville area of Ohio County, Ky. During the 1850's Henry Stidum moved o the Fordsville area.

In 1860 Henry Stidum appears in the Ohio County, Ky. census living with the family of John and Zamira Hale Johnson, his children were not living with him. Henry being a widower

and his children minors they were cared for by other families, as was the custom of the day. Your great-grandfather, William Curtis Stidum was living with the family of Caleb and Sally Huff Hale. Caleb Hale was an early resident of Fordsville. William C. Stidum lived a short distance from his father and the John Johnson family, who was the son-in-law of Mr. Hale, they were enumerated within 8 households of each other. I could not find the whereabouts of Henry Stidum's other two children, Joseph and Nancy Jane, in 1860. Probably they were living with another family in the Fordsville area, not far from their father. Frequently in censuses children of a different last name were listed with the same name as the family with whom they were living, possibly explaining why I could not find them. The following is the abstract from the 1860 Ohio County, Ky. census:

Adams Fork, P.O. Fordsville, #129			
Hale, Caleb	70 m	farmer	Va.
Sally	61 f		Ky.
Martha C.	21 f		Ky.
Stidum, William C.	16 m	laborer	Ky.

# Adams Fork, P.O. Fordsville, #137  
 In household of John & Zamira Hale Johnson:  
 Stidum, Henry           41 m   laborer           Ky.

On October 15, 1866 Nancy Jane Stidum married Henry Braxton Gilmore. Their marriage was recorded in Hancock County, Ky. On the marriage register is written "Ladies father consents, married at Henry Stidums." The witnesses of the marriage, William Curtis Midkiff, E.M. Miller, and J. Harden were all residents of the Fordsville area, suggesting that Henry Stidum still lived in the Fordsville vicinity. Fordsville is in the northern part of Ohio County about three miles from the Hancock County line.

Joseph Stidun married Sarah Margaret Gilmore about 1863. Henry B. and Sarah Margaret Gilmore were brother and sister, children of John Smith Gilmore and Sarah Catherine Kesner. Henry and Sarah Gilmore were both born in Crawford County, Indiana and moved with their family to Hancock County, Ky. in 1851. Their parents owned the old Wheatley farm at Dukes, in Hancock County, and John and Sarah Kesner Gilmore are buried in the Wheatley Cemetery. At the Owensboro library is a copy of a book on the Gilmore family, compiled by Walter S. Beanblossom and Dorothy Watkins. I am sending copies of pages from this book which give information on the children of Joseph & Sarah Gilmore Stidum and Henry B. & Nancy Jane Stidum Gilmore. Pertaining to Joseph Stidum I am also sending: 1). A xerox copy of an old photograph of Joseph & Sarah Gilmore Stidum, which appeared in the column. "Climb Your Family Tree", by Dorothy Watkins, published in the Hancock County Clarion newspaper, 25 January 1973. And 2). Copies of obituaries of Joseph Stidum that appeared in the Cannelton, Ind. Enquirer, 27 June 1914 and in the Tell City, Ind. News, 27 June 1914.

Your ancestor, Henry Stidum married second Catharine Huff about 1867. I checked for but could not locate in any of the local counties a record of their marriage. Catherine Huff was born 14 February 1833 in Hancock County, Ky., the daughter of John Huff and Elizabeth Richards. William C. Midkiff who appeared as a witness to the marriage of Henry Stidum's daughter, Nancy Jane, was married to Catharine Huff's sister, Julia Ann Huff., In 1870 Henry and Catharine Stidum. appear in the Hancock County, Ky. census. They were living with his wife's parents, John and Elizabeth Huff, in the southern part of Hancock County near Fordsville. The 1870 Hancock County, Ky. census abstract is as follows:

Lain's precinct, #67			
Huff, John	73	m	Ky.
Elizabeth	70	f	Ky.
Stidman, Henry	50	m	Ky.
Catharine	33	f	Ky.
Henry	2	m	Ky.

Henry Stidurn and Catharine Huff had three children: Eli Murry b. 29 November 1867, John Henry b. 1868, and Melissa b. 23 November 1873, all born in the Fordsville vicinity. Eli Murry Stidums has a daughter, Amby Gentry, age 85, still living at Fordsville. I talked to Mrs. Gentry over the phone (1-502-276-5134) for about a half an hour and obtained the following information: Their family spells their name with an "s" – “Stidums”. When her dad married the "s" was not used but in all records since 1900 their family has used the spelling of "Stidums".

Mrs. Gentry's grandmother, Catharine Huff Stidum, had three children, two boys and a girl. Her dad, Eli Murry Stidums was born 29 November 1867, married Mattie Smith, 24 November 1897 at Hartford. Ohio County, Ky. Eli Murry and Mattie had five children Raymond (1906 - 14 May 1971, died at Owensboro, Ky. and buried Fordsville Cemetery), Russell (1909 - 14 October 1976, died at Owensboro, Ky., and buried Pleasant Grove Cemetery near Fordsville), Myrtie Petty, MaryBlacklock, and Amby Gentry (b. 1899), all were born in Ohio County. Her uncle, John Stidums, left Ohio County at an early age and went to California, where he had a family and died. Her aunt, Melissa Stidums, born 23 November 1873. married Carl B. Soper, 24 December 1896 at Fordsville, Ky. Her husband died in 1904 and was buried at the Fordsville Cemetery, they had no Children. Melissa after the death of her husband lived with a Smith family near Hardinsburg in Breckinridge County, Ky., where she died 17 April 1946. Melissa Stidums Soper was buried in the St. Mary of the Woods Cemetery at McQuady, in Breckinridge County, Ky. Mrs. Gentry's father Eli Murry Stidums died 29 October 1942 in the Narrows community of Ohio County, Ky., he was buried in the Fordsville Cemetery.

Mrs. Gentry knew that her dad had some half brothers and sisters, but did not know their names, believes some of them visited her family when she was real young, she cannot remember anything about them. She did not know when or where her grandfather, Henry Stidum, died or where he was buried at. Her grandmother, Catharine Huff Stidum, died when she (Mrs. Gentry) was about 12 years old, which would be circa 1912. She died at a state hospital in or around

Louisville, Ky., she was not brought back to Ohio County to be buried but was buried there. Mrs. Gentry did not know the name of the hospital or anything more definite about its location.

In the Ohio County estate records I found where Eli M. Stidum committee for Catherine Stidum made a settlement of accounts, 28 January 1913. I checked for an estate record for Henry Stidum in Ohio County records but found none. The last record I have found of Henry Stidum, your great-grea- grandfather, is in 1873 when his daughter Melissa was born, he was then about age 54. I found no Stidums in the 1880 Hancock County or Ohio County censuses. I will continue to search for some record of Henry Stidum's death.

In the Ohio County newspapers. the only mention of the Stidum family I have found so far is the following: "On the 14th, Saint Valentine's Day, the neighbors and friends of Mrs. Catherine Stidum gave her a birthday dinner at her home two miles east of Fordsville, it being her 73rd birthday", from the Hartford Herald. 21 February 1906.

In the records of Ohio County appears the family of an Isaac Stidam, I have found no indication that he is related to the Stidum family, other than the fact he also lived in the Fordsville area, Isaac Stidam was born 4 August 1812 in the state of Alabama, he married Lucinda Smith 20 December 1836 in Ohio County, Ky. Isaac Stidam died 10 December 1895 and was buried in the Providence Cemetery, located three miles south of Fordsville on Highway 69.

I have enclosed pages with all records checked and copied on the Stidum family, from the records of Perry County, Ind., Ohio County and Hancock Counties, Ky. For my time spent in researching I request \$25.00 and for copies and traveling expenses \$5.00, or a total of \$30.00, which I hope you find reasonable. In the future if I run across something on the Stidum family I will gladly drop you a line.

Sincerely yours,  
Jerry Long

1701 Alexander Avenue  
Owensboro, KY 42301

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Cannelton Enquirer, Cannelton, IN, Saturday, 27 June 1914:

Joseph Stidum Dead.  
Was a Soldier of Civil War and  
a Native of Cannelton.

Joseph Stidum died on Saturday last about noon at the home of his daughter, Mrs. Aaron Terry, Rural route 1, to which place he was taken from his home in Cannelton about two weeks before his death. Deceased was 68 years old and had been a sufferer from rheumatism and a complication of troubles for a number of years. The funeral services were conducted from the

English M. E. church on Monday afternoon at 2 o'clock, Rev. C. E. Ketcham, officiating, and the remains were buried in Cliff cemetery.

Mr. Stidum was native of Cannelton, He was a soldier in the civil war and served in Co. D, 26th Ky. Vol. Inf. The funeral was largely attended and members of the local G. A. R. Post acted as pallbearers. For four years past Mr. Stidum lived in an invalid's chair and however great his sufferings and inconveniences were, he was always cheerful and happy, a disposition that endeared him to his friends and acquaintances

His widow with two daughters survive him. The daughters are Mrs. Aaron Terry, of this county, and Mrs. Robert Turner, of Graysville, Tenn.

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Henry Stidum was born c1819 and died 2 April 1891 Perry County, IN; buried Terry-Wheatley Cemetery, Perry County, IN. He married 1<sup>st</sup> Sarah Ann Marine, 13 August 1840 Perry County, IN and 2<sup>nd</sup> Catherine Huff. 8 December 1864 Logan County, IL. Sarah Ann was born c1823 TN and died in August 1854 Perry County, IN. Catherine was born 14 February 1833 Hancock County, KY and died 1 November 1911 Central State Hospital, Lakeland, Jefferson County, KY, where she was buried at the Central State Hospital Cemetery.

William Curtis Stidum, son of Henry & Sarah, was born 17 April 1843 Perry County, IN and died 27 July 1909 Hancock County, IL, buried Durham Cemetery, Hendricks County, IL. He married Sarah Ellen Shinn, 8 November 1877 Hancock County, IL.

Joseph Stidum, son of Henry & Sarah, was born 25 March 1846 Cannelton, Perry County, IN; married Sarah Margaret Gilmore, 24 January 1869 Hancock County, KY; died 20 June 1914 Perry County, IN, buried Cliff Cemetery, Cannelton, IN.

Nancy Jane Stidum, daughter of Henry & Sarah, was born 10 June 1850 Perry County, IN; married Henry Braxton Gilmore, 15 October 1866 Hancock County, KY; died 15 March 1933 Daviess County, KY; buried Yellow Creek Baptist Church Cemetery, Thruston, Daviess County, KY.

John Henry Stidum, son of Henry & Catherine, was born c1868 Ohio County, KY; married Lillie R. Randolph, 9 December 1900 Pope County, IL; died 18 November 1932 Auburn, Placer County, CA; buried Sacramento City Cemetery, Sacramento County, CA.

Eli Murry Stidums, son of Henry & Catherine, was born 29 November 1867 Hancock County, KY; married Mattie Smith, 24 November 1897 Hartford, Ohio County, KY; died 29 October 1942 Ohio County, KY; buried Fordsville Cemetery, Ohio County, KY.

Melissa Stidum, daughter of Henry & Catherine, was born 23 November 1873 Ohio County, KY; married Carl B. Soper, 24 December 1896 Fordsville, Ohio County, KY; died 17 April 1946 Breckinridge County, KY; buried St. Mary of the Woods Cemetery, McQuady, Breckinridge County, KY.