

Book 1

Many questions were answered and hundreds of inquiries were solved when I connected with the work of Edward Eugene Sampson of Tampa, Florida. "Gene" had done a thorough and magnificent research on the ancestry of his great great great grandmother Jane Nance. She married Thomas Johnson in 1808 in North Carolina. In the development of his research, he discovered that she had at least three brothers who were in North Carolina and Indiana in the same time frame. One of these brothers was our great great grandfather Wm. M. Nance.

My visits to the Oklahoma Historical Society, the Family History Libraries(LDS), the Genealogical Societies of the states and counties in which the Nance families were known to have lived and died and visits to county court houses had given me quite a bit of information on James/Margaret Peyton Nance, our great grandparents. But I couldn't get any farther than their family. In one of my visits to the Family History Library in Norman, Oklahoma, I discovered in the records that James Nance/Margaret Peyton, Ella Scott and Pearl Bryant were in the LDS church records. In the process of securing the source of their entry, I found an L.B. Smith of Ogden, Utah who had entered their names. He revealed that he was the grandson of James and Mary Collins., the great grandson of James and Margaret Peyton Nance.

The following information is based on "Gene" Sampson's research. When Webster Nance Sr. died in Putnam County, Indiana 23 March,1852, his will named nieces and nephews William M. Jane, James and Webster indicating the relationships to his siblings. His probate and census records are enclosed. Other research gave detail information from land records, census, and inquiries. Gene is a retired CIA officer and obviously understands how to obtain statistical information. A summary of the siblings are: Wm. M. Nance, born 1770-1780, N.C. d. 1845, Clay Co., Indiana, md. Elizabeth Culiver b. N.C. 1785, d.23 Sept., 1859 Clay Co., Indiana (Elizabeth's will enclosed)

Jane Nance, b.7 Jan, 1789 in N.C. ,d.25 Sept., 1844,Putnam Co., Ind. near Greencastle, Indiana. A Jinny Nance married Thomas Johnson, 6 May 1808 in Granville Co., N.C. They are buried in the Old Greencastle Cemetary, Greencastle, Ind, as is Webster Nance, Sr., and two of their sons Archibald's small children. James Nance 1790-1800 d.Sept.,1842 near Franklin, Johnson Co., Ind. md. Jane Moorel, b.1780-1790 , N.C. d 1862-65 Johnson Co., Ind. She was on the 1860 census in Edinburg, Franklin Twps. (see James probate enclosed)

Webster Nance 4 Aug 1800 in N.C. d 23 March, 1852, Putnam Co., Indiana, buried in Old Greencastle Cemetery, Greencastle, Indiana.

The 1820 Federal census for Iredell Co., N. C. on page 230 that Wm. Nance had 3 males under ten (birth dates 1810-1820),1 male 25-44(1776-1794), 1 female 10-16 (1804-1810), 1 female 26-44 (1776- 1794). In 1830 there is a Wm. Nance in Preble Co. with 2 M under 5, 2 M 10-15, 1 30-40M and 3 F Under 5, 1 F 5-10, 1 F 10-15,1 F 30- 40. In 1840 a Wm. Nance was in Putnam Co., Ind with 2 under 5 Males, 3 5-10 males 1 20-30 M and 1 40-50 M with 2 under 5 F, 2 5-10 F, 2 10-15 1 20-30 F . In 1850 after Wm. Had

died Betsy Nance with Webster (a minor) was in the home of her son-in-law George James. Her daughter Ruth had died in April of that year. Henry Nance was in a relative's home and James was in his cousin Archibald Johnson's home.

Jane Nance Johnson/Thomas Johnson moved to Washington Co., Ind. in 1818 with a Archibald Johnson, probably Thomas's father. There was an Archibald Johnson as ad In 1820 Ruth and Thomas were in Fountain Co., Ind. One of their sons, Anderson was written up in the history of Putnam Co. He stated that his mother prepared meals for the men who built the first buildings of Greencastle, Ind. In 1822 the Johnson's were in Greencastle, Ind. Land records indicate that Daniel Hanes sold land in Putnam Co., Ind. 17 Dec. 1824 to Webster Nance (see enclosed).

Research of census and land records in Iredell, N.C. shows that Wm. bought 73 acres of land in 1821 from Samuel Black. In 1822 he bought 50 acres of land from Jane Culver. In 1824, he sold 130 acres of land to Elisha Journey. In 1831 a son James was born in Ohio. All of the census records that James appears on show his state of birth as Ohio. The records indicate that the four known children born in N.C. from 1817-1824 include Wm. M. , Joseph, Ruth and Lydia . Because of census records and the date of deaths these birth dates are approximate. Wm. M died in 1845. In Elizabeth's will she mentions the estate is to be divide between six of my children. Joseph was the executor and James is mentioned as a debtor. In 1850 Joseph was on the family farm. several of the Nance families seemed to have reached out to other relations when a premature adult death presented widows and children with needs. After his father's death and his mother's death Joseph Nance had some of his brothers and married sister and family in his home at different times in Indiana. When he was in Crawford Co., Ks. his married daughter and family were in the home.

When Wm. Moss Nance (Nantz) died in 1854, his minor child Joseph(1838) was made a ward of Archibald Johnson(1855) Wm.'s wife was a sister of Archibald Johnson's wife. Louisa (1842 was in Uncle Isaac Keller, Sarah, 1843 was ~Imcie Osaac Lei;er's ~ home, Thomas, 1845 was with mother in Washington Twp, Pike Co. ' Caroline 1848 in home of mother's sister Elizabeth K McClure.

On the 1850 census Webster Nance, uncle had America Johnson Thomas, daughter of Ruth and Thomas Johnson, and her family in his home. Of course our great grandfather James was 19 in 1850 and was on the census in the home of Archibald Johnson.

John Wesley Nance, a nephew, was the administrator of Webster's will. When James Nance, uncle died his will indicated that his executor was to be Amos Comptaon, his good friend(and son-in-law).

Usually the early pioneer Nance families were farmers but there appears to be teachers preachers and politicians. For instance included in Gene Sampson's research was some obituaries and write-ups about Archibald Johnson. He held various political offices. "His record in public service was absolutely spotless. The Banner, Greencastle, Tues. 8 Jan 1885. His public service covered a period of 40 years. He died 30 Dec. 1884 at age

74 years 4 mo. and 2 days. In a publication of Portrait and Biographical Record of Montgomery, Parke and Fountain Co., Indiana, Chicago, Chapman Brothers 1893, page 652-655 "In his personal characteristics, he was a powerful man, but only used his power to protect his honor or in defense of the weak. His convictions were strong and he held to them with tenacity, although he was kind, obliging, gentle, firm, independent and uncompromising on what he thought was right. On page 209 in the Biographical Directory for Indiana Gen. Assembly, V. 1 1816-1890 the brief biographical information stated that he was a Baptist, Indiana Militia, 75th Regiment Capt., 1836 worked on the Canal and National Rd. Was a farmer and livestock raiser, Whig, Democrat, Greenback, 1879, Sheriff 1844-48, member State Bd. of Agriculture Grange. When his parents died in 1844 and later 1846, his youngest sister, Mary Jane lived with Archibald/ Sarah Keller Johnson. She later married Solomon Garner. They are the great great grandparents of Edward Eugene Sampson, our cousin researcher.

Background

Our first specific Nance ancestor that Gene Sampson has researched is Wm. M. Nance/Webster Nance/James Nance/ and Ruth Nance Johnston, his great,great grandmother. Since siblings' were born in Va.-N.C. in the late 1700's-early 1800's I am going to include some of the signs of the times in America during those years.

A survey of the material recorded about the life and times of these pioneers is included to facilitate our understanding of the different aspects of their daily living.

First of all, the dwellings that the ordinary family lived in was usually primitive by our standards today. The log cabin in the wooded areas of the sod house on the plains was originally a one room dwelling without a full floor. After the cabin was raised, a plot of corn was usually planted as corn was a staple that was commonly found regardless of where the pioneer lived. Game was abundant in the forests and fish were usually available in the streams and rivers. Flint and tinder was used to start fires since it was 1830-40 before matches were available. Money was scarce. Bartering was the method of dealing for basic needs. Pioneer dress was simple. The blue linsey shirt was made of spun flax, linen and or spun wool. It was perhaps universally worn by men and boys. Deerskins frequently provided shoes~ leggings and sometimes pants and shirts for the men and boys. Women and girl's dresses were simple and substantial and the "poke" bonnet was very much in vogue. Hats were uncommon except the coonskin caps worn by the men for warmth. Shoes were worn more frequently for special occasions.

The food supply, especially in the evenings, was corn meal mush with fresh milk. The evening times were spent in games, story telling and perhaps some whittling. Lights were not very adequate for reading or close sewing.

Pioneer social gatherings usually had work and fun in view. Logs were rolled and raised by relatives and friends. When the crops were gathered

neighbors were invited in to help with the husking. These were samples of hard work but after the work there was food and fun that was shared by all. Hospitality was expected in these pioneer times. The traveler was welcome. There was always room for one more. Newcomers to the area were welcomed and everything was shared until the newcomer could manage on his own. Relatives were given the same type of welcome.

The pioneers were survivors or adaptors in dealing with the illnesses, lack of comforts, wild animals or hostile Indians. Their life span frequently did not exceed middle age. Their sickness, accidents or major burns were usually "doctored" with home remedies and/or care. Coal oil, liniments, baking soda, lard and turpentine were commonly used. Poultices of bread/milk or scraped beets, poke roots and a host of other substances were used for boils to pull out the poison or "head". Internal medicinal concoctions were sulphur/Molasses to purify the blood, Tea bred from available "weeds" added to the discomfort of being "under the weather". Sassafras tea with honey, whiskey with berries or roots soaked in it aided in the treatment of malaria and or pneumonia. Flies and Mosquitoes were prevalent since window and door screens were not common. The water bucket with the common dipper was used by all who wanted a drink of water. Hands were washed and dried in a common basin and hand towel. Frequently the drinking water was contaminated by various means and methods such as hauling in non sterile containers, standing with various availability of insects endangering the water. Contaminated soil from which the water had been drawn "Slow fever" or typhoid fever, a direct result of the contaminated water was treated with calomel or quinine. The diet was limited to soup or soft foods. Professional doctors and/or dentists were few on the frontier. The family cared for each other and sometimes a woman in the community helped with child birthspr serious illnesses. Wells that exceeded 20 or 30 feet were very expensive to drill. In the plains of Western Texas, Ks. Nebraska, Iowa and Ok. drilling involved 200-300 feet more often than not.

Education: Though struggling with the privations and pressures of poverty and "hard times" the early settlers did not neglect to secure among them a school house at the earliest practical time. The crude buildings that sufficed for school houses had rude seats and desks and inadequate materials with which to teach and/or learn. The subjects were basic reading, writing and arithmetic. Geography and Spelling were added when available. The teacher usually was a man or woman who had a little more "learning than the rest of the group". Many times the teacher might be only a few years older than the oldest of the students. Parents who wanted their children taught started with subscription schools which would last two- three months at best. The 1900 school term in Ok was less than five months and a 3 year teacher received \$29.40 a month. In spite of short terms and low salaries, most teachers took their work very seriously and sought to improve their methods. Very few teachers had ever attended college or normal school and initially taught by trial and error. An examination was required and given at the end of the term for the certificate to continue to each teacher. The teacher taught all grades in the basic reading, writing and arithmetic. If spelling was taught, proverbs or moral teachings were included at the end of the graded lists. Spelling Bees were held at the end of the week to spell down the learners and proclaim the best speller. The school house could

serve as a community center for church literary or debate meetings. The availability of materials to read was limited and as one settler said he had little choice as to what he ate or read. We ate (or read) what we could get and not much of that.

Regardless of the church denomination or creed, the pioneers were deeply religious. The Baptist church was in the front ranks because they held to religious freedom and independence. What was significant about that was that the local congregation

was autonomous and the "preacher had no more say than the ordinary member. The cleric frequently were reimbursed for their "speaking" with foods and favors, but seldom with money. The pioneers were poor in purse but rich in faith and strong in their beliefs.

Because of the lack of time, energy or enrichment, there was little time for creative writing of poems, stories, or songs. One person was quoted as saying "I woke up and found that life is a series of duty". Journals or diaries were sometimes kept and later generations made efforts to collect memories, pictures and stories of their parents and grandparents.

Nance-Culiver/ Nance-Peyton/Nance-Hedrick; Peyton-McCray/Headrick-Huff/Huff-Finch

When I attended an Elderhostel in Birmingham, Alabama in 1989, there was a course, among others entitled "How to Climb your Family Tree without Falling Out." This a subject that intrigue me. I asked Mom about our family. She usually kept up with family names and dates. So with her information in hand, in my spare time, I began going to the Oklahoma State Historical Society in Oklahoma, finding copies of blank records, charts, and census records. Being aware of the fact that James Nance, our great grandfather, was in Indiana in his late teens. Also, when I would visit my Grandmother Nance, she told me about Grandpa Nance's family in Missouri. She also told me about her daughter ,Bessie Potter, who died in her teens. Having this base of information, I went to Lamar, Missouri, county seat of Barton County. I visited the Historical Society which was in the basement of the County seat. Mr. Dale Wooten was the director. He was most helpful in directing me to sources that I could look to for information on the Nance family. I looked for marriages licenses, census records, telephone books, newspapers, and people that he knew would have a connection with the early families. I made copies of all records that I could find. All of this led me to Pittsburg Co., Ks. Girard Co. seat, I read and made copies of marriages, birth and death records. I drove to places that I was referred to ,i.e cemeteries, churches, small towns and took pictures and talked to people at the genealogical society in Girard. I purchased maps of the region.

I discovered early that people who work with genealogical records are very willing to help and refer you to others who will help. Someone else who was researching the Huff lineage , contacted me and sent fabulous material on the Huff-Finch connection. That is just one of the referrals that has been generous and efficient. Gene's great great grandmother was Mary Jane Huff Bowman was our connection. Another Gene connection was on the William Nance-Elizabeth Culver line. He was a retired CIA person. He did extensive research on his great great great grandmother, Ruth Nance Johnson. This included her brothers who also came to Indiana in the area of Putnam, Clay, and Parke Counties. I had written to the Genealogical Society of Clay Co. and they sent his name as someone who was researching the Nance line. He sent a lot of his research and I shared with him our families of Charles Nance and his mother-father, and brothers and sisters. When I visited the LDS library in Norman, I discovered a wealth of material and the volunteers were extremely helpful and where to look for that proverbial needle in a haystack. As I was scanning some film strips on the Nance families, I discovered that James-Margaret Nance, their two youngest girls were placed on the rolls of the Mormon church. AS I pursued that lead, I discovered an L.B. Smith in Ogden, Utah had placed their names. Ultimately, he sent scores of material on his Mary Nance -James Collins, my grandpa Nance's sister and her husband. I shared my material with him.

Gene Sampson's research was so thorough and extensive that I even had the Wm.Nance-Elizabeth Culiver's family listed. He sent a copy of Elizabeth's will which identified the surviving children. Census records and land

records showed that Ruth/Thomas Johnson were in Washington Co. Indiana in 1818 with an Archibald Johnson. It can be assumed that he could have been Thomas's father. In 1820 the family was in Fountain Co. Indiana. In 1822 they were in Putnam Co. Indiana. Gene Sampson said that history of the area indicated that Ruth cooked meals for the brick workers who built many of the buildings and streets. James Nance, brother of our Wm. M was in Indiana in 1829. Webster, another brother had land in Putnam Co. in 1829. Wm. and James Nance had land in North Carolina near each other. A researcher, Rosemary Richardson, sent records of census and land records in Wilkes and Iredell Co. on the Nances and Culvers. These 4 siblings indicate that they were born in North Carolina. Wm and Elizabeth's 5 oldest children records indicate that they were born in North Carolina. On all census records James Nance, our great grandfather, show that he was born in Ohio. Wm. M was in Preble Co., Harrison twp in 1826. Wm. M had sold his land in N.C. in 1824. James was born in 1831. His younger siblings were born in Indiana. So, Wm. M-Eliabeth must have followed their brothers and sister into the specific area of Putnam Co. Wm. M died in 1845 in Clay Co. (nearby county. So on the census of 1850, James was in the household of Archibald Johnson, who I discovered was the oldest son of Ruth/Thomas Johnson. The early histories of Putnam/Clay Counties indicate that most of the early settlers came from Virginia, Kentucky and North Carolina. For the most part related families followed their other families into the uncharted frontiers. They were usually families with a farming background. The self-sufficient family unit took care to look after each other and to share with others. Transportation usually was done by wagons, oxen, mules, and horses. Everything had to be carried on the wagons and carts.

The roads were little more than trails. The rivers and creeks with log rafts were used when appropriate. Time was taken to stop, to eat and to sleep so a trip would not been short. The ever present lack of settlements and hostile Indians didn't facilitate an timely and easy journey. If the families could travel as much as ten miles a day, they were fortunate. The log houses were built with the help of neighbors and/or relatives. The housing usually was a room ten x fifteen room with dirt floor. Money was scarce. Bartering was the common way of dealing with basic needs. Matches were not used until 1830-40. You had to keep some coals going in the fireplace or use flint and tinder. In addition to basic shelter and transportation, other aspects of life and survival should be given some attention. Considering the dates in which they lived, our ancestors could be considered pioneers. For instance, pioneer dress was limited to few garments and simple. The blue linsey shirt was made of spun flax linen and/or wool. Deerskins frequently provided shoes, leggings and pants for the boys and men. I suppose that cowhide was used for shoes and worn only for special times. Hats were uncommon except for warmth.

After a dwelling was built, planting the crops, building animal dwellings and containing the animals away from the garden and crop plots were a part of the necessary plans in the beginning. Barbed wire was in use after 1875.

Neighbors and families helped each other in "raising" the house, husking the corn, and butchering the pigs or calves. People worked hard but

shared in the fun and food that followed. Strangers were welcomed. Families accepted relatives until the relatives could establish their own dwellings. A rumor was told to me by some of the relatives in Missouri that some nephews come and stayed with them for several months until the relatives could establish their own home.

After the death of Alice Denny Nance, Fleming Nance lived with his brother Samuel Nance and family. Fleming's children lived with Anna Nance and Aunt Louisa Bartee. In fact Fleming died in Vernon County. His sister Ida Mae Croley and Charles Croley, her husband also lived in Vernon Co. Fleming is buried in Moore cemetery south of Nevada, Missouri.

Adjustments to a vitally different life, altered in nearly every phase of their way of life. Their type of home, social life, recreation, medical practices, the church, school and local government were all different from those to which they had been accustomed. But for the most part people shared what they had and welcomed others. The majority of these pioneers were survivors and adaptors at dealing with the traumas of sickness, deaths, wild fires, wild animals and lack of comfort. Their life span did not exceed middle age very many times. James Nance, our great grandfather died at age 58. His father died in 1845 at a time when 4-5 minor children were still living at home.

Two of the boys lived with an older brother, Joseph's family. James lived with a cousin. The younger girls lived with other relatives. When Wm. M. Nantz one of the older brothers was killed in a saw mill accident, his wife's brother, and two sisters took the children into their homes to raise. James of course was with Archibald Johnson, his cousin.

The weak did not live long. Child birth was frequently fatal to the mother and the baby. Survivors had to be vigorous and healthy, Diets were limited in variety. A survey of our grandpa Chas Nance and his siblings indicate that at least seven of the thirteen died of diabetes. Two of the thirteen had kidney complications.

Medication was usually home remedies. Communicable diseases were common and spread within families. Mom wrote about the first year of Dad and her marriage that Dad took care of the chores at his folks place and did the chores at his own place because the guys at home and the parents came down with whooping cough and couldn't do the chores at their place. Cuts, burns and bruises were frequent. Coal oil, baking soda, liniments, lard and turpentine were commonly used. Poultices were made of bread/warm milk, or scraped beets, poke root and a host of other substances were used to "pull" the pus and core out of a boil. Internal medicines included sulphur and molasses, sassafras tea, whiskey with berries or roots soaked in it aided in the treatment of malaria and/or pneumonia.

Flies and mosquitoes were present since window and door screens were not common. The water bucket with the common dipper was used by all who wanted a drink. Hands were washed in a pan that had water that others used as well as the drying towel. There were times that the drinking water that was available was contaminated and resulted in "slow fever" or typhoid. It was frequently treated with calomel or quinine and limited the diet to soup and soft foods. Professional physicians were few and

far between on the frontier. The family cared for each other and sometimes a woman in the community helped with serious illnesses and childbirth.

Water was "caught" in dug cisterns or dammed creeks or rivers. The cost of drilling for water was prohibitive and it was not unusual to haul water in barrels or tubs. Stored water could breed contaminated water.

Settlers or (pioneers) became restless as the land fertility declined due to erosion or lack of rotation of crops. From 1840 to 1860 migration to the west attracted many families for a bigger and better life. The Homestead Act of 1862 gave 160 acres free of charge except for land office fees to every head of the household 21 years or older. The Civil War disrupted the families in the North and the South. It was especially difficult for the Midwest and border States.

The state of Iowa became the place for living for James and Margaret Nance in the late 1850's and early sixties. They lived in Marion County and Wayne County. They sold their land in Clay county, Dick Thomson twp. to Arnold Cabbage on 1856. The first three boys, Charles, Samuel, and Fleming were born in Indiana, 1852-1856. The next six children were born in Iowa. The last four were born in Kansas and Missouri. Joseph Nance an older brother moved to Kansas after James did. Joseph moved to Linn county later. That is where he and his family lived and died. One of his girls and her family lived with Joseph and Nancy Nance when they first moved to Crawford, Kansas. Charles, our grandpa married in 1872, living near a community named Coalville, KS. Joseph had lived on the home place in the 1860's. Elizabeth's will designated Joseph as the executor of her estate. As I have noted before Henry and Webster lived with Joseph's family in 1860. The other children were out of the home. A sister, Ruth Poe James died in 1850. Uncle Webster died in 1852. Henry and Adam Nance died in the service of Indiana regiment in the Civil War. Henry died of measles in camp Wicklif, Kentucky in 1862.

Iowa, Missouri and Kansas became areas of unrest. Many people in those states were divided in their loyalties. Some sympathized with the slaves and believed in the actions taken by the railroad. The underground railroad helped runaway slaves to reach Canada and freedom. On the other hand families were split by their feelings for both sides of the war.

The social conscience of the pioneers was tried by the pressures of poverty and privation brought on by the conflict. They did not neglect to secure among them a school house at the earliest practical period. The crude buildings that were built for schools had rough seats and desks. The materials used for teaching included a blackboard, chalk, some maps and limited books.

Parents who wanted their children taught started with "subscription" schools which would last 2-3 months at best. The 1900 school term in Oklahoma Territory was less than five months. A three year teacher was paid \$29.40 a month. In spite of short terms and low salaries, most teachers took their work very seriously and sought to improve their methods. Very few teachers had ever attended college or normal school and

initially taught by trial and error. An examination was required and given at the end of the term for a certificate to continue to teach. The teacher taught all grades 1st to 8th. in basic Reading , Writing and Arithmetic. Spelling and Geography were incorporated as possible. Often the teacher was a person who had a little more "learning" than the oldest student. Many teachers were just a few years older than the oldest student. The schoolhouse often served as a community center. The school children provided some entertainment through spelling bees, singing, recitations, and plays and/or "readings". The school house also could serve as a church on weekends. Sunday was a "gathering day" where people met, read, talked, rested and possibly sang. In the field of literature, the pioneer read what was available. He had little choice. "Like food", as one settler said "we ate what we could get and not much of that." So it was with what they read or sang. Musical instruments were scarce but some learned to play the "juice harp" or a harmonica(mouth organ). The occasional local fiddler played for church as well as for square dances or weddings. Pianos were almost entirely unknown since the cost was prohibitive. However people did sing. The songs were sung by memory in the beginning. But as preachers /circuit riders and priests brought with them their teachings and sacred songs. Songs such as "How Firm a Foundation, On Jordan's Stormy Banks I Stand, Jesus Loves Me and Amazing Grace" were sung in most religious gatherings. Regardless of the Church denomination or Creed most of the pioneers were deeply religious. Faith in God seemed to be a constant in their lives. Bertha Franks, a 1/2 sister of Dads wrote in one of her letters to Dad in their later years that James Nance, their common grandfather was an Itinerant Baptist preacher. The Baptist church was in the front rank because they held to religious freedom. In church doctrine they cling to the Bible. What was significant for the independent and surviving pioneers was the Baptist belief that the local congregation was autonomous. Their preacher had no more authority than any other member of the congregation. Soon the Methodist circuit riders who served several communities and the Presbyterian preachers came. These cleric frequently were reimbursed with foods and favors but seldom with money. The pioneers were poor in purse but rich in Faith.

Community meetings of school and church were enriched with literary debates or solicited political meetings. Not much time for personal creative writings or art. One settler is quoted as saying "I woke up and found that life is duty". Journals or diaries were sometimes kept and later generations made efforts to collect memories, pictures and stories of their parents and grandparents. Such as Granddad Kint and Mom.

My Dad, Wlson Earl Nance was born January 5, 1896 near Liberal, Missouri, Barton Co. He was the second son born to Charles H. and Ruth Headrick Potter Nance. Charles was 19 years older than Ruth. Both had been married before. Grandma had a daughter, Bessie Mae Potter. Grandpa had had three children, Catholeen, "Linnie", Bertha and Albert with Martha Wright. Martha died in 1880, probably with childbirth complications. "Linnie" died around 4 years of age and is buried in the Cherokee Cemetary. Bertha married Robert L Freeman, Albert was in the census at Chas and Ruth's home in 1900 with Bessie, and the three boys, Roy, Earl and Clarence.

Charles was the oldest of 13 children born to James and Margaret Peyton Nance. Charles, Samuel, and Fleming were born in Indiana. James and Margaret sold their property in Indiana in 1856 to Arnold D Cabbage. They were later on the census in Iowa, first Marion and later Wayne. Six more children were born in Iowa. William, a son died in infancy. Sarah and Louisa, the twins Mary and Ida May, and Webster. the youngest surviving son. were born in Iowa. Alice, Anna, and Pearl were born in Missouri with Ella being born in Kansas. Pearl was the youngest. Samuel and family lived around Montecello, Mo. His grandson, Earl May's wife was so generous to show me pictures and allowed me to take pictures of pictures. She also drove me around and showed me the areas where Samuel and family had lived. I took pictures. Fleming and Alice Denny Nance had five children, two of whom are buried in Hepler Cemetary, north of Harwood Missouri. After Alice died, the three remaining children lived with his sisters Louisa /James Bartee, Alice/Abraham Crabtree, and one of Alice's brothers. Fleming lived with Samuel some. When he died in Vernon County, Missouri near Nevada, his sister Ida Mae/Charles Croley also lived in that county.

Mary Collins/James remained in Walnut, Ks. and raised a large family. They are both buried in Mulberry, Kansas, Roseburg cemetary. L.B. Smith, Ogden, Utah, a grandson sent lots of charts on that family and descendants. Ida Mae/Charles Croley moved to Montana. I continue to correspond with a great granddaughter, Helen Lorenz, who lives in Oregon. She has sent information and pictures on her ancestral family. She has also sent a lot of computer material on the Peyton's and McCray's.

She is a retired Realtor. Sarah C. Bartee/Jarrett and Louisa Bartee/James married brothers. Sarah married the younger. They were the first white couple, to marry in Cherokee, Kansas. Sarah, the older married the younger brother. Louisa/James, the older brother. Louisa/James had one son named Asa. Louisa died in August of 1900 after her mother had died in the spring of that year. I have not found where James went or any more about Asa. Except Bertha Franks, Dad's older half sister wrote to Dad in the later years that an Asa Bartee was working as a guard in the bank. Sarah/Jarrett Bartee moved to Grundy county, Missouri. They are both buried in a cemetary there. Sarah remarried after he died. Through the generosity of a relative in that area, I received information on that family and other Bartees.

Alice married Abraham Crabtree, a widower with three children. Alice helped raise those three children. Alice/Abraham had one son who died at age four. They are buried in Barton City, Missouri cemetary. Anna/Nathaniel Bassett had a son named James. He later became Sheriff of Barton Co. Dad had his picture taken with Jim Bassett. Nathaniel was a widower with three children.

a John Bassett who lived in Tenn with his wife sent information on the Bassett ancestors. John was a grandson of Nathaniel. Anna died in 1915 the same year her brother Webster died.

Anna/ Nathaniel are buried in Iantha cemetary. Weabster was a rural mail carrier. I have a picture of him with his horse and buggy. It has been said that he drove his mail route the equivalent of around the world

several times. He lived near Greenfield, Dade County, Missouri. He and his wife Mary Patten are buried in Pennsboro cemetery, near Greenfield. They had two children, Olive, who married Frank Means and Joseph Nance. The children lived around Bartlesville, Ok. in their early adult lives. Webster died of diabetes as well as his sisters Mary, Ida, Sarah, Alice and Anna and his brother Samuel. Alice had taken care of Samuel before he died. His wife had preceded him in death. Alice married a brother-in-law of her sister, Mary's husband. James Collins sister died and Alice married Willard Harvey. I haven't followed that particular piece of information. A follow up on Flemings children after they were grown. Nettie married a Franklin and was a school teacher near Lamar Co. Some of her children wrote to me after I discovered their names and wrote to them. Nettie's brothers left the area and supposedly moved to the Kansas City, Mo. area.

The remaining two children of James and Margaret kinda lost contact with the family. Ella married Wm. D. Scott in Dade Co. Mo. with her mother's permission after her father had died in 1888. Pearl married N. Seymour Bryant also in Dade Co. with her mother's permission. In 1915, the obituary of Anna Bassett show that Pearl was in El Centro, California and Ella Scott was in Two Buttes, Colorado. A later correspondence show a Tom Scott in Prosser, Washington. An effort to follow that lead didn't give me any information. Bertha Franks also indicated that a relative in a nursing home in Seattle could have been related to Tom Scott. Maybe Ella? A letter from a daughter of Pearl's, who lived in San Diego, didn't yield any more information.

A researcher gave me a death date of Pearl Bryant as 1930 in San Francisco. I don't know if that is reliable. L.B. Smith, a cousin of Dad's had James/Margaret/Ella and Pearl's names recorded in the LDS books. That is how I discovered his contribution to the history of his grandmother, Mary Collins. Grandpa Nance died in Sept, 1928. He was a fun grandpa. He teased me and joked. I was only 5 when he died but that is my pleasant memory of him. Grandma Nance was "my grandma". Ruthey had

a grandma Ruthey Finch Huff, who married Joseph Huff after coming from Upper Canada to Ohio (Ill). They are on the 1830 census in Knox Co. in Ill.

Grandma Nance had 2 older sisters, an older brother and a younger sister, whovas born and died in 1877. Her mother died January 5, 1880. Stonewall, her brother died in his teens. They are all buried in Round Prairie cemetery, which is in the northeast corner of Barton county, Mo. Grandma was 8 1/2 years old when her mother died. Jane, the oldest sisters mother had died with complications of childbirth. Her mother was Martha Peck before she married Jacob Headrick. Aunt Jane was 2 1/2 when Jacob married Josephine Huff. Josephine was 17. Josephine Luella was the other older sister. Stonewall was the next child born before Grandma Ruth. They lived in Lafayette Co. Mo when Grandma was born in 1871. Jane Headrick married John Davis. They lived around Jericho, Mo.

They had married a couple of weeks after her father Jacob married Nancy Martin. They later moved to Lincoln Co., I.T. with a family of four children. It appears that Luella Headrick, the next sister moved with

them. Luella taught school to the settler's children. She later married Philander Maryott, a Pa. settler in the area. Their wedding was in the home of Jane/John Davis. Jacob Headrick came with Charles Nance, his son-in-law, Roy, Earl, and Clarence in a Wagon. Grandma came on the train with Jake. Grandma's daughter Bessie had died Feb. 26, 1903. Charles and Ruth lived on Indian lease land as share croppers in the same area as her sisters lived. The local newspaper, The Perkins Journal, gave local news with who was visiting whom and who was ill, and where who went to visit other relatives. Jacob Headrick lived with each one of his daughters, even after Luella and Philander Maryott sold their property and moved to the Coyle area. Jacob Headrick died in the home of the Maryotts. They apparently purchased his marker which is in Olivet Cemetary, southwest of Perkins, Oklahoma. He died Sept.11, 1911. They had four children. Three of the four became teachers. Philander Norman and Luella are buried in Coyle cemetary along with their youngest son, Jim. Jim worked for the post office in Oklahoma City. Agnes Davis, daughter of Jake Davis, granddaughter of John/Jane gave me the information on the Davis family. Agnes was a school teacher. She lived in Tulsa. She died in Tulsa in 1997. Jim Maryott's wife gave me the information on the Maryott family. Faye Maryott Goble's daughter Bruce and Dixie Arnold were living in the state of Washington with Faye. Faye was in her 90's in 1992. Dixie sent more information on the Maryott family. So, relatives of both families have been very helpful in my achieving that information. Agnes told that Uncle John and Albert, his brother were raised by an Aunt & Uncle because John and Albert's parents were killed by Indians. They were in a wagon train on the way to Mo. The Tipton family lived near the Headricks and Uncle John and Aunt Jane grew up living close to each other. Delpha Headrick was 2 1/2 years old when Jacob filed for divorce based on abandonment of Nancy. The divorce consent joint custody until the child was 14 years of age. Nincy sold the property that Jacob had bought from Joseph and Ruth Huff, his in-laws. The property was sold for 75.00 dollars at a sheriff sale. Delpha was married on the 1910 census in Lincoln Co., Oklahoma. She and John Coldsmith had two small children. John's parents Conrad and wife Coldsmith were also on the same census. They are all buried in Olivet cemetary. Cleo / Letha Coldsmith are buried in Perkins, Ok. cemetary. They had one child. Evelyn married Marion Mackey. Winnie Mae married Paul Weems and Delpha Mae married Vic Denny. The information on the Coldsmith family is sparse. Jacob Headrick Sept 12, 1841-Sept.11, 1911 plus three of his four daughters were all buried in Olivet cemetary. Jacob was the youngest of eleven children born to Joseph/Sarah Wilds Headrick in Buchanan Co., Missouri. His family had lived in several counties like Howard, Nodaway and Buchanan before they settled in Buchanan. He had two older brothers and 8 older sisters. Several of the older sisters had children older than Jacob. His brother John was his guardian when he married Martha Peck and when his father died, John was his guardian for his share of the estate. Also, John lived nearby Jacob in Lafayette, Mo. The in depth information on the Headrick family was furnished by Bevelry Williams Gardner, whose gggrandfather was Joseph Headrick Jr. She wrote a book, "Hagey and Headrick Connection". Several of the Headricks married Hageys. Not ours. Beverly and her mother Vera Williams took me around Quitman and the cemeteries. Vera was delightful and supportive of Beverly's work.

Josephine Huff, Jacob's second wife and Grandma Ruth's mother, was the youngest of the six children born to Joseph and Ruth Finch Huff. Sarah Huff married Daniel Bowman. Mary Jane married Jacob Bowman, Lydia married Joseph Bowman, America married Joseph Terhune, Josephine married Jacob Headrick all in Nodaway Co. Mo. Virginia remained a spinster until after her mother and father died. In 1900 she was on the census in Chaves Co. N.M. She was a sister in law of Joe Bowman. Her sister America was now A. Bowman. None of these Bowman's appeared to be brothers but more like cousins. After America and Joseph Terhune moved to Kentucky during the Civil War period. He became injured and returned to the Fayetteville, Arkansas area. America's mother and father were living in the Elm Springs, Ark on the 1860-1870 census. America/Joseph had four living children when Joseph died. He is buried in Mt. Comfort cemetery close by a daughter Dorinda Scott grave site. Two of the children moved to West Texas. Joseph Huff traded property in Arkansas with Sarah Frandenbug/husband. Ruth's name was not on either transaction. I have never located her place of burial. Later Joseph shows up in Oregon near his daughter Mary Jane and family. His daughter Virginia was also on the census with him. Joseph was born 12 May, 1810 and died 24 Dec. 1888. He is buried in Oregon. I have a rubbing of his marker done by a researcher. Mary Jane died as a Gee in the state hospital. I have a copy of her death certificate. Granville Hough has written several books of research on the Huff family but no connections were ever established. Gene Deasy, a descendant of Mary Jane/Joseph Bowman also has been very helpful on the research of Huff /Finch line. Joseph Huff's Huff connections have been dead ended except for Thomas Huff and Allen Huff in Nodaway Co., Mo.

Joseph Huff and Ruth Finch Huff were on the 1830 census in Knox Co., Illinois. Her father Humphrey Finch was also in the same county, same year. The two families were in Missouri in 1840. Humphrey Finch's will in 1849 indicated his children. Records from the U.E, Loyalists files indicate that Humphrey's father James was a U.E Loyalist during the American Revolution period. Because of his association with the U.E.L. he petitioned the Majesty for property awarded the Loyalists. He was in Kitley(present day Toledo) in Upper Canada, Ontario country.

He stated that his wife had died and that he had five children, Ruth, Elizabeth and Mary. Also James and Humphrey. He gave their ages and by the date he wrote, we figured their approximate ages. Humphrey received Loyalists lands because he was the son of a Loyalist. He acquired land reserved for the clergy in Gwillbury, Tralfar, closer to the York area. I have copies of the land transfer actions and James Finch Sr. service records. I have never located the place of James's Sr. burial, even though I have copies of all of the cemeteries in Ontario. I spent an Elderhostel in Kingston, and Kitley and other sites primarily involved in the Loyalists settlements. Humphrey's will indicates that all but two of the girls stayed in the Platte, Buchanan and Nodaway Counties in Missouri. Joseph Huff served as a private in James Ferguson's company in the Black Hawk war. from June 18, 1831 at Knox Co., Ill. He applied for bounty in 1865 from Quitman, Mo., Nodaway Co. Thomas A. Finch, a brother in law, age 58 of Oskaoosa, Ks. Jefferson Co. testified that he served with Joseph Huff in that conflict. Researching the Finches in the aboved named counties, it was discovered that Thomas, Nathaniel, James Finch and Joseph Huff and a James Huff explored the Nodaway Co. and became a part

of the development around the Quitman town. There was a recorded history of the Huff village around Quitman. Quitman was around Maryville, Mo. They were or the families were still in the Kansas and Missouri areas as far as 1880, maybe later. Ruth and Joseph sold their land and moved to the Fayetteville, Arkansas area.

Nance-Culver, Nance-Peyton, Peyton-McCray, Nance- Headrick, Headrick-Huff, Huff-Finch connections show the pioneer settler movements. One connection that I have overlooked is the Peyton- McCray. Abner Peyton and Sarah McCray were the parents of Margaret Peyton Nance(James). They came from Kentucky to Ohio to Indiana. Sarah's family came to Indiana before Abner and Sarah did. Sarah was the oldest of that family, Samuel McCraylll and Rebecca Hedges. Anyway, The McCray's lived in Bourbon Co. Ky. along with many relatives of the Peyton's. Sarah had two brothers, named Fleming and a Samuel. That may be why Margaret named two of the older boys their names. I don't know where Charles name came from. Research showed that Charles/Mary Congleton Peyton were Abner's parents. Do you suppose that they used the grandfather (great) for our Charles? A book Ten Mile Center about Washington Co. Pa. shows a Samuel McCray and Phineas McCray as living in that area and serving in the War of the Revolution. There was a Samuel McCray 11, father of the third that might have been the right age. The McCray claimed Scottish ancestry. The original Peytons have several books written about them, claiming connections with the Royalty in England. Nance name is connected to France. Headrick means head of the valley, rick being the valley. Grandma Nance said she was "black dutch" dark hair and eyes rather than the blond blue eyed dutch. Huff reportedly came from the Netherlands There have been several books written about the Nance name, several on Peyton, several on McCray. Even though the prominent race has been indicated, it is obvious that there is a lot of German, and Scotch-Irish among the generation before me. Some common characteristics that I have discovered are the following. They were "hard workers". They had a yearning for new and better things, They had the "guts" to weather the privations. They had the willingness to persist, adjust and adapt to less than good circumstances. They made things happen. They had a willingness to help fight for others rights. They shared their provisions with strangers as well as relatives. The families obviously were independently religious with good character. The ancestors came from Canada, Nova Scotia, Va. Pa. N.C. Ky. Indiana, Ohio, Iowa, Mo. Ks. and Oklahoma. Obviously they didn't stay where they came from, always moving on, making lives on the frontiers of the development of the U.S. westward. In many cases they left their roots and established way of life in order to better life for their families. Most of the groups went westward with some of their families. I have written specific material about most of the named families. I have listed correspondence, documents, census, Marriage records and pictures of the graves and areas in which they lived.