

# Lawrence, Etc.

The official newsletter of "The First Peele Family In America"



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April – June 2004

## ~The Old Family Album ~

The old family album, the pages are worn,  
From turning and browsing they are tattered  
and torn,  
For mem' ries are sweet ones, we like to  
repeat ones,  
We live them again in the old family album.  
Now picture the family, we're all having fun,  
We're in this together--parents, daughters,  
and sons.  
For pictures are share times, those family  
affair times,  
We live them again in the old family album.  
The camera is snapping while gifts we're  
unwrapping.  
Lens is recording our group as we're  
boarding.  
Shutter is clicking while baby is kicking,  
All to record in the old family album.  
So stand all together, remember to smile.  
We'll all be recorded in family group style.  
The camera is ready, now everyone steady,  
And we'll be a page in the old family album.

~Author Unknown~

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"Let every nation know, whether it wishes  
us well or ill, that we shall pay any price,  
bear any burden, meet any hardship, support  
any friend, oppose any foe, to assure the  
survival and success of liberty."

~John Fitzgerald Kennedy  
Inaugural Address  
January 20, 1961



## Helen Jones

July 15, 1907 – March 29, 2004

*Fifth generation descendant of James Peel & Nancy of Virginia  
(Mother of Viola Ogle)*

**Helen Marie Jones** passed away at 3:15 p.m. March 29, 2004, just two hours after the birth of her second great-great granddaughter. As soon as Viola (Helen's daughter) got the call that the baby had been born, she went and told her mom the news.

Helen hadn't responded in several days. A few minutes later, Viola got the call with the specifics about the baby, which she relayed to her mom. Helen's eyes moved several times. Viola said she had given her mom permission to go to be with the Lord and those who had past on before her. She told her how much everyone loved her and would miss her, then told her again about the baby. Helen sighed and was gone. Viola said, "*I want to think that she understood me.*"

The funeral was at 2 p.m. Friday, April 2<sup>nd</sup>, at Paylor Funeral Home in Midwest City and burial was at Arlington Memorial Cemetery, Midwest City.

Helen knew everyone until the last two days, and during that time, she slept continually. Everyone was so blessed to have her with them for so many years. She was 96 years, 9 months and 14 days old.

### A Tribute to those who graduate this summer:

#### As You Graduate

*The highest goal has not yet been achieved,  
The greatest idea has not been conceived.  
The loftiest honor has not been received,  
The laurels are yours for the winning!  
The sweetest melody hasn't been sung,  
The swiftest race has yet to be run.  
The noblest victory hasn't been won  
Make this your bright beginning.*

### Prayer Requests

**Ed Hiepe**, husband of **Carolyn Hiepe** (they live in St. Petersburg, FL), had open-heart surgery on February 17<sup>th</sup>. As of March 20<sup>th</sup> he was still in the Cardiac Intensive Care. Please keep him and Carolyn in your prayers. *Carolyn is the granddaughter of Lillian Nelson Peel, who was born in Chipley, FL.*

I (**Diane Peel Walls**) had to have my left knee replaced April 5<sup>th</sup>. It's been six weeks since surgery and the doctor assures me that I am doing great. He will do surgery on the right knee in about six weeks or so. Thanks to all of you who sent cards and said prayers during this time. I know everything went so smooth because of all of the prayers.

### A MOTHER'S LOVE

There are times when only a Mother's love  
Can understand our tears,  
Can soothe our disappoints  
And calm all of our fears.  
There are times when only a Mother's love  
Can share the joy we feel  
When something we've dreamed about  
Quite suddenly is real.  
There are times when only a Mother's faith  
Can help us on life's way  
And inspire in us the confidence  
We need from day to day.  
For a Mother's heart and a Mother's faith  
And a Mother's steadfast love  
Were fashioned by the Angels  
And sent from God above.  
~Author Unknown~



# *A Salute to Our Senior Citizens*

(These are the ones we know about who are over 90. If you have a relative who is 90 or older please contact me with the information so we can add their name here.



**Maurine Jones**                      **March 29, 1905\*\***                      **age 98**  
*Granddaughter of Elizabeth Peele Pidgeon,*  
*Descended from Reuben Peele (Mother of Alice Plane)*

**Ruby James Peele Duggins**                      **Nov 25**                      **age 94**  
*Daughter of Willis Peele and Annie Brown*

**Margaret Peele Mitchell**                      **May 11, 1910**                      **age 93**  
*Horace's Aunt*

**Ruth Dosh Lorene Gann Stephens**                      **August 10, 1912**                      **91**  
*Daughter of Edward Isom & Bertha Elma Peele Gann – aunt of Charlie Gann*

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## *Mailing Addresses For Our Senior Citizens*

**Maurine Jones**  
5050 Lincoln Avenue, Apt. 24  
Evansville, IN 47715

**Ruby Duggins**  
Elm Towers, Apt 207  
701 South Elm Street  
High Point, NC 27370  
336-889-3739



**Margaret Peele Mitchell**  
2200 Elm Ave, Scotia Village  
Laurinburg, NC 28352

**Lorene Stephens**  
310 ½ S Independence  
Sapulpa, OK 74066

If you know any senior citizen (male or female) who is 90 years or older, please drop me a note, give me a call or send me an email and let me know their name, date of birth and age. I'd love to have their address too. Their name will automatically be added to the newsletter list, at no charge.

If you have an **update** about any of the above, please let me know

I find it sad to say that our subscriptions to *The Lawrence, Etc.*, have continued to drop. I don't know the reason, unless those who don't renew their membership just simply forget to send in their dues. I know this is easy to do.

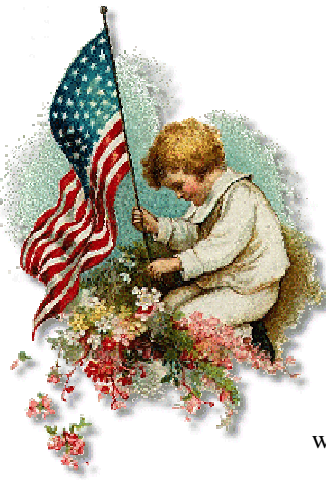
If you haven't let me know that you wish to continue receiving *The Lawrence, Etc.*, please do so now so you won't be dropped off the mailing list.

Remember, though the cost of publishing and mailing our newsletter has gone up in the last two years, our renewal fees remain \$5.00 per year.

You can send the renewal to **Diane Peel Walls, 2381 Williston Rd., Aiken, SC 29803.**

And ... *a great big thank you to those of you who have already sent your renewals in.*

# Memorial Day

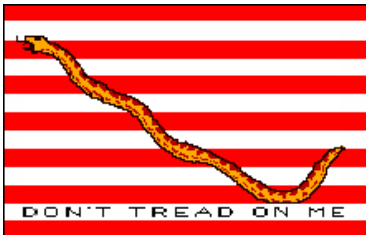


*America has no "second class citizens."*

Whether you are a naturalized citizen, or whether your ancestors arrived on the Mayflower, ALL of America is your heritage. America's forefathers are YOUR forefathers!

"America lives in the heart of every man everywhere who wishes to find a region where he will be free to work out his destiny as he chooses."  
~ Woodrow Wilson

## **Don't Tread On Me!**



"Don't Tread on Me" was one of the first flags flown by our Navy. American ships used this flag, or one of its variations, throughout the Revolutionary War.

This flag was a striking indication of the American colonists' courage and fierce desire for independence.

"I know not what course others may take; but as for me, give me liberty, or give me death."

~Patrick Henry

"Freedom is the deepest and noblest aspiration of the human spirit."

~Ronald Reagan

The Northern states and some Southern states celebrate Memorial Day on the last Monday in May. This date was made a federal holiday in 1971. Some Southern states have Memorial Day celebrations to honor Confederate soldiers who died in the Civil War. Mississippi and Alabama celebrate Confederate Memorial Day on the last Monday in April. In Florida and Georgia, the date is April 26. May 10 is Memorial Day in North and South Carolina, and the holiday is June 3 in Kentucky, Louisiana, and Tennessee. Texas observes Confederate Heroes Day on January 19 (Robert E. Lee's birthday).

"We look forward to a world founded upon four essential human freedoms. The first is freedom of speech and expression. The second is freedom of every person to worship God in his own way. The third is freedom from want. The fourth is freedom from fear."

~Franklin D. Roosevelt

"A house divided against itself cannot stand. I believe this government cannot endure permanently half slave and half free."

-Abraham Lincoln, 1858

"Four score and seven years ago our fathers brought forth on this continent a new nation, conceived in liberty, and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal."

-Abraham Lincoln  
*The Gettysburg Address, 1863*

We take the stars and blue union from heaven, the red from our mother country, separating it by white stripes, thus showing we have separated from her, and the white stripes shall go down to posterity representing liberty.

-George Washington



"A thoughtful mind, when it sees a Nation's flag, sees not the flag only, but the Nation itself; and whatever may be its symbols, its insignia, he reads chiefly in the flag the Government, the principles, the truths, the history which belongs to the Nation which belongs to the Nation that sets it forth."

-Henry Ward Beecher from *The American Flag*

# Queries ... do you know?

From: "Horace B Peele" <horace@peele.info>

Date February 22, 2004

Does anyone have a clue as to these two families? It looks like the older would be a **Joseph Peele** and his wife **Sarah F** and possible their son **Walter L** and his wife **Mary J.** and family.

Horace



## 1920 Federal Census - Bertie Co, North Carolina - District 6-Roxobel Township

Enumerator - Allie V. Hall

Family Name/Name/Relationship/Sex/Race/Age/Marital Status

Page 105A

PEELE, Joe head/M/W/71/M

PEELE, Sarah F. wife/F/w/70/M

PEELE, Walter L. head/M/W/47/M

PEELE, Mary J. wife/F/w/47/M

PEELE, Lillie J. dau/F/W/22/S

PEELE, Julius C. son/M/W/16/S

PEELE, Elizabeth S. dau/F/W/12/S

PEELE, Kenny W. son/M/W/10/S

PEELE, Nicholas W. son/M/W/6/S

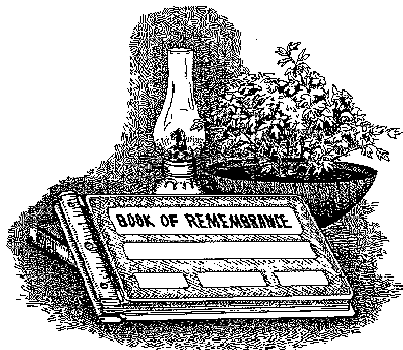
PEELE, Alfred L gson/M/W/ 1 11/12/S

Found this obituary in the *Montgomery Advertiser*, Montgomery Alabama.

### Do you know whom these Peel's are?

February 23, 1881

Life is a dreadful reality. Death is an inevitable certainty.... Such a case presents itself in the loss of **Mary Lee PEEL**. She was the daughter of **George H. and Antoinette PEEL**, of this county. On the last day of October she left the beautiful home of her father, and the trio daughters, the only children of the family, was reduced to two girls. The first day of November her name was enrolled in the long list of names of our school at Strata. She took to her bed, and after a long and painful sickness, on the 30<sup>th</sup> of January, just as the sun bade adieu to our horizon, her spirit took its flight from its tenement of clay ... Wednesday, just at 12 o'clock she was laid away with her **Grandpa DAY** and her grandma, in the family burial ground on Mr. Henry Mead's place. On the 28<sup>th</sup> day of February she would have been 14 years old.



### Do you know who this is?

Obituary for **Van Buren Peele**, died December 29, 2001, Raleigh, North Carolina Date: 13 Jul 2003

[Source: *The News & Observer*, December 31, 2001

RALEIGH -- **Van Buren PEELE**, 91, formerly of Goldsboro, died Saturday in Rex Hospital. Born in Wayne County, he was the son of the late **George & Lillian LANGSTON PEELE** and was married to the late **Carrie Dixie BIZZELL PEELE**. A graduate of Pikeville High School, he attended Oak Ridge Military Academy where he played on the school baseball team and later played semi-professional baseball. He was a retired farmer in the Saulston Community.

Funeral services will be held Wednesday at 1 p.m. at Shumate-Faulk Funeral Home of Goldsboro with Rev. Robert VRADENBURGH officiating. Burial will follow in Wayne Memorial Park.

He is survived by two sons and daughters-in-law, **James HAYWOOD and Martha Anne PEELE** of Raleigh, and **Charles VAN BUREN and Carol Ann PEELE** of Huntington, W.VA; three sisters, **Laura Ellen BAUGH** of Morehead City, **Evelyn Kilton FALLON** of Delaware, and **Mary SHAPELY** of Columbia; four grandchildren; four great-grandchildren.

Family members will greet friends Tuesday evening from 7-9 p.m. at Shumate-Faulk Funeral Home. Flowers are welcome and the family request that memorial gifts be directed to The Salvation Army, 610 N. William Street, Goldsboro, NC 27530.

# Web Sites to Explore



<http://www.rootsweb.com/~tngibson/cemeteries/keathley.htm>

Gibson County, TN  
Gibson Co., Tennessee Cemeteries,  
**KEATHLEY and PEEL Family Cemetery**

Located out of Rutherford, go north on Hwy-45W 7/10 of a mile past the 911 marker, turn right on the gravel lane, go 4/10 of a mile and the cemetery is 250 paces down the edge of the field on the left in the wood-line. You'll be walking towards a radio tower.

This web site lists the graves at the cemetery. There are graves that are unmarked; the author of the web page says the cemetery is very overgrown.

<http://libinfo.uark.edu/specialcollections/libinfonew/peel.html>

## **JOHN WILSON PEEL PAPERS**

Letters and genealogy notes, 1862-1875, n.d.  
Manuscript Collection 927

**John Wilson Peel** (1806-1904) was a pioneer resident of Independence, Carroll, and Benton counties, Arkansas. Born in Livingston County, Kentucky, John moved to Independence County, Arkansas, with his father's family sometime around 1815. He married **Elizabeth West** in 1828 and the couple had three children before Elizabeth's death in the mid 1830s: **Alice, Harriet, and Samuel**. In 1838, Wilson moved to the northwest portion of the state, marrying **Malinda Wilson** of Washington County and establishing a home on Crooked Creek, Carroll County. Here the couple raised eleven children while John engaged in farming, merchandising, and real estate speculation. Among their children were two who enlisted in the Confederate Army during the Civil War: **James Wilson "W.J." Peel and Richard M. "Dick" Peel**. James joined Company K, First Arkansas Mounted Rifles, and Richard joined Company E, Sixteenth Arkansas Infantry. Both died before the end of the war. Another member of the Sixteenth Infantry, Captain James A. Walden of Company K, was apparently a family friend and wrote to the Peel family after the death of James in 1862.

### *The Collection*

Letters and genealogy notes pertaining to the John Wilson Peel family of Benton County, Arkansas, were donated to Special Collections by Mary Coe Marquess, Bentonville, Arkansas, on January 13, 1989. Three additional letters were donated October 7, 1994 and were incorporated (as 2a, 2b, and 3a) into the existing collection.

The John Wilson Peel papers have been arranged in two folders of letters and genealogy notes. The seven letters in folder one are those written to John or members of his family during and after the Civil War from family members and acquaintances. The genealogy notes in folder two include pages from the Peel family Bible, family pedigree charts, and a biographical sketch of the Peel family prepared by the donor, Mary Coe Marquess.

Prepared by Kim Allen Scott, April 1989. Revised by Nan Lawler, November 1994. Special Collections, University of Arkansas Libraries, Fayetteville, Arkansas.

*Next issue, the Berry - Dickinson- - Peel web pages will be featured.*

*It constantly amazes me at the information that continues to be found on the Internet.*

# Researching NC Census Records

## ***North Carolina Census, 1790-1890***

*Peelle in North Carolina*

***Name State County Township Year***

**Passco Peelle** NC Hertford County 1759  
**Jethro Peelle** NC Northampton County Andrews District 1786  
**Jesse Peelle** NC Wayne County 1786  
**Passcow Peelle** NC Wayne County 1786  
**Reubin Peelle** NC Wayne County 1786  
**Jesse Peelle** NC Wayne County Early Tax List 1788  
**Passcow Peelle** NC Wayne County Early Tax List 1788  
**Reuben Peelle** NC Wayne County Early Tax List 1788

## ***1790 US Federal Census Database***

*Peelle listed in NC (None listing as Peelle)*

***Name Home in 1790 (City,County,State) Year***

**James Peele** Not Stated, Martin, NC 1790  
**John Peele** Not Stated, Martin, NC 1790  
**James, Jr Peele** Not Stated, Mecklenburg, NC 1790  
**James, Sr Peele** Not Stated, Mecklenburg, NC 1790  
**Edmund Peele** Not Stated, Northhampton, NC 1790  
**John Peele** Not Stated, Northhampton, NC 1790  
**Thomas Peele** Not Stated, Northhampton, NC 1790  
**Willis Peele** Not Stated, Wayne, NC 1790

## ***1810 United States Federal Census***

*Peelle In North Carolina*

***Name Residence (City,County,State) Year***

**Axum Peelle** Bertie, NC 1810  
**Peelle, Dempsey** Bertie North Carolina Year: 1810  
**Josiah Peelle** Bertie, NC 1810  
**Lawrence Peelle** Bertie North Carolina Year: 1810  
**Mary Peelle** Bertie, NC 1810  
**Wm Peelle** Bertie, NC 1810  
**Mark Peelle** Wilkesborough, Wilkes, NC 1810  
**Reuben Peelle** Wilkesborough, Wilkes, NC 1810

## ***1830 United States Federal Census***

*Peelle In North Carolina*

***Name Home in 1830 (City, County, State) Year***

**Peelle, Edmond** Unknown Townships, Bertie, NC 1830  
**Peelle, Dempsey** Unknown Townships, Bertie, NC 1830  
**Peelle, Warren** Unknown Townships, Bertie, NC 1830  
**Peelle, James** Unknown Townships, Bertie, NC 1830  
**Peelle, Josiah** Unknown Townships, Bertie, NC 1830  
**Peelle, Axum** Unknown Townships, Bertie, NC 1830  
**Peelle, Hezechiah** Unknown Townships, Bertie, NC 1830  
**Peelle, Amos** Unknown Townships, Bertie, NC 1830  
**Peelle, Sally** Unknown Townships, Bertie, NC 1830  
**Peelle, John** Captain Wardins District, Wayne, NC 1830  
**Peelle, Willie J.** Captain Wardins District, Wayne, NC 1830  
**Peelle, Willie, Sr.** Captain Wardins District, Wayne, NC 1830

## ***1850 United States Federal Census***

*Peelle In Bertie County, North Carolina*

*The 1850 census includes free and slave population and mortality, agriculture, and industry data.*

***Name (Last, First, Middle) Home in 1850 (City,County,State)  
Cause of Death Month of Enumeration Year of Enumeration***

**Peelle, James** Greens Fork Twp, Randolph, IN 1850  
**Peelle, G. W.** Washington Twp, Randolph, IN 1850  
**Peelle, William A.** Winchester, Randolph, IN 1850  
**Peelle, Pasco** 22 IN Unknown Townships, Wayne, IN  
*TYPHUS FVR AUG 1850 NA*  
**Peelle, John** New Garden Twp, Wayne, IN 1850  
**Peelle, Pasco** New Garden Twp, Wayne, IN 1850  
**Peelle, Hiram** New Garden Twp, Wayne, IN 1850  
**Peelle, William** New Garden Twp, Wayne, IN 1850  
**Peelle, Mark** New Garden Twp, Wayne, IN 1850  
**Peelle, John** District 1, Marshall, KY 1850  
**Peelle, L.** Milford, Penobscot, ME 1850  
**Peelle, John** Unknown Townships, Bertie, NC 1850  
**Peelle, Jonas** Unknown Townships, Bertie, NC 1850  
**Peelle, Barbra** Unknown Townships, Bertie, NC 1850  
**Peelle, William H.** Unknown Townships, Bertie, NC 1850  
**Peelle, David** Laurill Hill District, Richmond, NC 1850  
**Peelle, David** Laurill Hill Terr., Richmond, NC 1850  
**Peelle, Reuben** Richland Twp, Clinton, OH 1851 N/A  
**Peelle, Reuben** Richland Twp, Clinton, OH 1850

## North Carolina Marriage Bonds, 1741-1868

Groom Bride Marriage Date County Bondsman

Witness

**Jesse Peelle Elizabeth Boykin** 06 Jan 1853 Nash G W Ward  
Bond Date: 05 Jan 1853 Bond #: 000086515 Marriage  
Date: 06 Jan 1853

**Mark Peelle Mary Maudlin** Wilkes Peter Dowel R Martin  
Bond Date: 03 May 1814

**Edward Bazemore Celia Peelle** 22 Apr 1851 Bertie  
Marriage Date: 22 Apr 1851

**William Copeland Charity Peelle** Northampton Henry Spivey  
Matt Calvert Bond Date: 18 Aug 1829 Bond #: 000089918

**Jesse Langford Elizabeth Peelle** Northampton Alexander Futre  
Matt Calvert Bond Date: 23 Jan 1827 Bond #: 000091133

**Huell Lamb Jonia Peelle** 21 Nov 1852 Nash Willie Lamb G W  
Ward Bond Date: 19 Nov 1852 Bond #: 000086233  
Marriage Date: 21 Nov 1852

**William Langford Judith Peelle** Northampton Alexander Futre  
Matt Calvert Bond Date: 01 Mar 1827 Bond #: 000091129

**Ezekial Smith Cox Mary Peelle** Bertie Moore Higgs Solomon  
Cherry Bond Date: 25 Sep 1806 Bond #: 000002734

**Joseph J Simons Mary Peelle** Northampton Albert J Powell;  
Saml Harrell J W Harrison  
Bond Date: 16 Dec 1826 Bond #: 000091942

**Wm D Smith Mary Peelle** Northampton B Randolph  
Bond Date: 10 Jan 1835 Bond #: 000091997

**Isaac Lamb Piety Peelle** Johnston Stephen Peelle Stanly Kirby  
Bond Date: 15 Feb 1849 Bond #: 000068647

**John Lamb Zelpha Peelle** Nash Thos Lamb Jon W Bryant  
Bond Date: 08 Aug 1848 Bond #: 000086241

**David Peelle Martha Snead** Richmond R T Long  
Bond Date: 10 Jun 1854 Bond #: 000116006

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### Database: North Carolina Will Abstracts, 1660-1790

Name: Judith Peelle

Location: Northampton County

Will Date: 22 Jun 1756

Probate Date: - Aug 1756

Will:

*Sons: John, Robert, Joseph, Josiah, Joshua. Daughters: Sarah Duke, Mary Granberry. Executor: William Granberry (son-in-law). Witnesses: William Rutland, Abram Bruce. Clerk of the Court: I. Edwards.*

*Source Information:*

*Grimes, John Bryan. Abstracts of North Carolina Wills. Raleigh, NC: North Carolina Department of State, 1910.*

### <http://www.colonialdames17c.net/northcarolina.html>



Colonial Dames – North Carolina

North Carolina State President: Mrs. James Douglas Elliott, Sr. (Pansy)

The State Society was officially organized June 21, 1950 in Raleigh, NC. It now has nineteen chapters.

March 20, 1998 The CDXVIIC marker was placed on the monument honoring the Peele family in America. **Lawrence Peelle**, the oldest Peele in America arrived in 1621. The State President, Mrs. Raymond C. Hepler, Jr., gave the history on Lawrence as part of the dedication ceremony honoring the Peele family and its service to America. The Deep River Chapter President, Mrs. Charles Lunney, placed the State Wreath during the wreath laying ceremony, which also honored the Revolutionary War **Peelle** (5th generation) who was honored by the SAR State President, Mr.

Charles Page. Mr. Page spoke while the National Vice President, Mr. T. N. Clark, placed the SAR wreath.

*During the last few years, I have joined the **United Daughters of the Confederacy (UDC)** and the **Daughters of the Revolution (DAR)** under my Peele ancestors. My next goal is to join the **Colonial Dames** under Lawrence Peelle, our common ancestor.*



# *Edward Isom Gann And Bertha Elma Peele*

By Charlie Gann  
2003-2004

*Continued from Issue 1, 2004*

*Bertha Elma Peele, daughter of John Hare and Harriet Taylor Peele, was the granddaughter of James and Ruth Hare Peelle of Northampton County, North Carolina. She was a direct descendant of Lawrence Peelle.*

Bertha was born October 4, 1886 in Longlane, Dallas County, Missouri. She was about 18 when she and Ed Gann were courting. Ed probably knew Bertha or she was introduced to him at a church function. According to the article for Ed's and Bertha's 50th wedding anniversary they met at a Baptist Church, quite possibly the Missionary Baptist Church mentioned in Sarah's obituary. They were married October 29, 1905, in Dallas County, Missouri.

The Gann family lived on South Street in Coweta Wagoner County, Oklahoma for at least two or more years.

The place was just across South Street from the Black Cemetery. Harlan Raymond (Rabbit) Gann was born in this house on February 25, 1914, and Orven Hugh (Doggie) Gann was born in the same house November 23, 1916.

The family moved to a barn and then a house near the swinging bridge that crossed Coweta Creek. At the time this was very close to downtown Coweta. Main Street was just one block away although by then Broadway was the real main street. Later Main would be called Old Main. Aunt Lorene remembers an old black man brought them some diapers. The family then moved near the Holiness Church on Division Street. Later they moved to a house on Ben Lumpkin Road about three-quarters north

of the intersection of Oklahoma highway 51 on the east side of the road. The house was not there in 1944. My father pointed out the cellar near where the house sat. At that time our family lived on the west side of the road nearly directly west of the old cellar. I don't know how long the family lived there. Ed was farming and worked either for the City of Coweta or Wagoner County using his mules or horses to pull a grading machine. He worked part time for Ben Lumpkin and must have been a good "skinner." I was told he helped build several ponds on Mr. Lumpkin's ranch using mules hitched to a slip. A slip was a large shovel device used in those days to move dirt.

About 1923 Ed was currying one of his animals and it bolted pushing Ed's right hand into a barb on a barbwire fence. The cut was on one of his fingers and it became infected. Ed was taken to the hospital in Muskogee for treatment. Medical science wasn't as good in those days and Ed nearly died from the infection and lost the use of his fingers. He could roll a very good cigarette even with this handicap and it didn't seem to bother him in his work.

I don't believe Ed ever drove a car. I never saw him driving one and none of the persons I talked to have seen him driving a motor vehicle. He drove wagons and was supposed to be the first



person traversing the Arkansas River on the new bridge built on what is now Oklahoma 72 between Coweta, Oklahoma and Haskell, Oklahoma.

Just on the south side of the river on the west were several Creek Indian allotments that would play a large part in Ed's family. This land was allotted to five Creek brothers with the surname of Morton. Letha married Howard Morton and lived from 1928 until 1954 on one of the allotments. Our family lived on two portions of this land in the 1940's one east of Howard and Letha and another west of them. One was a tiny house built by one of the Morton brothers. The one west was much larger and had an upstairs that was never used. There was no electricity, gas or any of the things we take for granted these days. However we enjoyed the few years we lived there. We had a large garden, chickens and Jersey milk cows. No telephone, no television and just about no money. Batteries were purchased for the radio with Mom's egg money and that was the only entertainment we had, except for our own imaginations, and we had to use the battery carefully, lest we ran it down and didn't have enough eggs to purchase another one.

Ed also worked for a man named

Breshears in Coweta at a grocery store. I know they lived on Broadway and Walnut in Coweta for several years. This may have been where they lived when Jeanette arrived July 15, 1929. My brothers Bill Gann and Tom Gann were born in this house in 1939 and 1941. This house was always full of people mostly relatives. I remember being there after Aunt Florene's husband, Don Smith, died in January 1942. He had died in Okmulgee and the family gathered at Poppa's and Grandma's to console each other.

When my Uncle Rufus Rosser was burned in an accident he was nursed back to health by Aunt Lena, Bertha and the others staying in the house. I remember vividly when the doctor came to change the dressings. Uncle Rufus had the largest blisters on his back I have ever seen.

In the back were a garden and a shed where they kept a Jersey cow or two and chickens. I don't know why but Poppa and dad always said the Jerseys were the best cows since the milk was so rich. I suppose they had to have the garden, chickens and cows to survive. I know we always ate well.

During their stay in Coweta the family attended the Church of God. Billy Horn was the preacher. One of Bertha's best friends during this time was a lady named Maude Stringer. Mrs. Stringer and Bertha Gann were the two ladies Doctor Riddle called when he was unavailable to deliver a baby. I don't know how many babies these ladies delivered but it must have been a substantial number. They always prayed before they begin assisting with the birth and, of course, all the babies were born at home. Coweta didn't have any facilities

except for the doctor's office. Mrs. Stringer had several children and most of them were the same age group as Ed's and Bertha's children. Long time relationships were formed by the children during this time. One of Maude's grandsons gave me the clipping about Ed's and Bertha's Golden Wedding celebration. The clipping actually belonged to his mother-in-law.

The house must have been a very active place. Edith Jarman mentioned in her tape the cousins spent most Saturdays at Ed's and Aunt Elma's and they always got up early on Sunday to attend church. I think Ed and Bertha lived closer to town than any of Ed's siblings and that made the house a headquarters for Saturday afternoons in town and Saturday evening playing with cousins. Downtown Coweta was just three blocks away.

Ed liked to sip a beer or two, usually on Saturday afternoon. He got very angry when he had been drinking if one didn't align with Ed's point of view. As mentioned earlier he was a staunch Republican. In later years as the grandchildren got older, they would call Ed, '*an old democrat*' that phrase would usually bring out a burst of profanity about Democrats.

My father, Rabbit Gann, told one story about his politics and getting angry. In 1948, we acquired an old muzzleloader. All of us boys old enough had a great time with that gun. It was a cap lock and was probably worth some money and had belonged to Ed. Since he lived in town there was no need for him to have it and I imagine black powder was hard to obtain. I asked dad about the gun and he told me this story. It seems Poppa was at the local tavern in Coweta

and got into an argument about politics,( what else). The argument escalated until Poppa said he was going to "*kill that 'sob'.*" He walked home a distance of about two miles got his gun and loaded it. On the way back a rabbit jumped up and Poppa shot the rabbit and returned home. By then he had gotten over his madness and didn't carry out the threat. That little cottontail probably kept my grandfather from getting into a real jam. I guess that Democrat died of old age. I don't recall the name although dad told me the name at the time.

Most of you have heard this story about my brother Bill and Poppa. Ed still lived in Coweta and it was an election year. It was probably in 1942. Ed had taken Bill to town a distance of about three blocks. They stopped in the local barbershop where Harve Woodard cut hair. Harve asked Bill if he was Poppa's little Democrat. Bill replied, "*Heck no I'm Poppa's little Republican.*"

Ed and Betha moved to Broken Arrow in 1943 or 1944. They first lived in a house on 9th street near Houston. Back then 9th was always called Lynn Lane Street. They then moved to a house about a block east of the corner of Detroit and Main. The final move was in the latter part of 1946 when they moved to a house at 502 S. Cedar. This was the last move they would make. I was in the house in May of 1948 when my mother called to tell us her father had died.

The number of persons in the house had changed drastically. The residents were Ed and Bertha, Jeanette and Florene and Florene's daughter Patsy. Patsy said Jeanette was always getting into trouble. Jeanette was in her late teens and teenagers didn't always mind their elders. Patsy remembers Poppa working at the

Cut Rate grocery store. Grandma would give Patsy a grocery list and Patsy walked to the store to get the groceries. It must have been a short list since Patsy was 5 or 6 at the time. Patsy also had to go to the local tavern to retrieve Poppa when dinner was ready. He still had a taste for beer.

The house was small but large enough for Grandma and Poppa. The grandchildren were kept busy mowing the lawn. Poppa always had a garden he tinkered in nearly all of the time. I was one of the grandchildren that got the honor of mowing the lawn. I would try to get it done before Poppa got out to supervise since he could always find something else to get done while I was there. Later, after I had gotten out of the Navy and was working in Wichita, Kansas, I would stop by on Saturday morning the weekends I came home. I would take Poppa up to the local tavern, buy him a draw beer and then take him to a spot in town where there were benches and the older fellows would gather to talk about mostly politics and the weather. It was called the '*spit and whittle club*'. I always limited Poppa to one beer. That way I knew he wouldn't argue too much about politics. In those days Oklahoma was mostly Democratic. This was in 1959 and 1960 so Poppa was 79-80 years of age. He was developing cataracts and wouldn't let anyone do anything about them. Losing his eyesight also cost him his mobility and the time spent in his garden. I like to look at a person's eyes for that special twinkle. The twinkle was fading in Ed's eyes.

Poppa was a St. Louis Cardinal baseball fan. He would listen to the broadcasts on the local radio station and always watched the games on Saturday

afternoon television. After Patsy married Jim Brewer, he would root for the Dodgers along with the Cardinals. Jim was a relief pitcher for the Los Angeles Dodgers. I went by one Saturday afternoon when the Dodgers and Cardinals were on television. He asked me whom I was rooting for and I told him St. Louis. He treated me like a '*Damn Democrat*'. I tried to explain to him I wanted Jim to do well but still rooted for the Cardinals. He told me I should cheer for my family.

The first part of 1967, Poppa began to have serious health problems. He declined to go to the hospital. The doctor still made house calls and came to see him often. About the third week of April he went to his bedroom to lie down. I don't believe he left the bedroom except to go to the toilet after that. I stopped to see him just before I went to work the afternoon of May 10. That was when he made the comment about the Elms. I didn't get off work until 11:30 PM and wouldn't stop coming home. Poppa died the next morning May 11, 1967. Heaven got a Republican. Ed's funeral was held May 13, 1967. Interment in Floral Haven Cemetery, Tulsa County, OK. One of the many celebrations for Ed and Bertha was their Golden Wedding anniversary celebration. When Ed died they had been married over 61 and one-half years.

While researching this story, I found my grandma wasn't the perfect angel. I know my mother and grandma had a few angry words early in the marriage. Mom used to tell me about them. It was usually about how to raise the grandchildren. After all grandma had plenty of experience and Mom had very little. My mother always called Grandma, Mrs. Gann. She usually called

Poppa, Poppa. Grandma was also quick to mete out punishment to some of my younger cousins. Especially the ones that live very close. This included all of Jeanette's children; Mike, Shelly and Bobby Forbes and H., Gary, and Sherry Rosser.

Bertha had several spells with her heart and had a fatal heart attack early in the morning of May 24, 1981. She spent the last few years of her life in a nursing home. Bertha's mind was always sharp. She could remember the names of all of her children, grandchildren, etc. That is better than I could. I would visit her at least once a week and we would talk about the family. Sometimes she would have to explain just who it was she was talking about. Bertha was buried next to Ed in Floral Haven Cemetery.

***This is the second installment of this family of the Gann/Peel family. It will be concluded in the next issue.***

***Also, there will be a letter from Lorene Stephens about her mom, Bertha Peele Gann.***

*Source: Pioneer Trails\* April-June 1997*

***Occupayshun, Cencus Taker***

" I am a cencus takers for the city of Bufflow. Our City has groan very fast in resent yeers & now in 1865, it has become a hard & time consuming job to count all the peephill. There are not many that con do this werk, as it is nessessarie to have a ejucashun, wich a lot of pursons steal do not have. Another atribeart needed for this job is god speling, for meny of the peephill to be counted can hardle speak inglish, let alon spel there names !"

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