

Anthony Franklin, married Mary Jane Gardner

They had three sons: John W. (grandfather to Frank Stephenson)
James Madison
Franklin T. (teacher)

Anthony Franklin, married a second time, the widow Black, she had one daughter,
Tomsie (aunt Tom) who married James Henry McDaniel.

They had two daughters:

Jessie Stephenson, married Frank Hambrick
Had one son: Radford Hambrick

Mittie Married Ready, had one son

1793 Will of John Stephenson, wife Hannah, sons Thomas, William and Joseph
and daughters, Mary and Elizabeth

five half Johannes (Portuguese gold coins of 18 and 19 centuries)

“White Swelling” (Tuberculosis)

3 brothers from England. Virginia, North Carolina and Georgia Coral County

Notes

- □ □ Introduction
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□ Tradition is that our Stephenson ancestors migrated from the Scotch Lowlands to Northern Ireland in the 1600's. In 1767 the immigrant John S. Stephenson moved to America with his family, settling in North Carolina. As land was gradually taken over from Indians by treaty, purchase and other means, the next two generations moved inland and southward into South Carolina and Georgia. The history of this earlier period continues with the immigrants great-grandson, the pioneer Anthony Franklin Stephenson, who represented the latter stage of this inland movement. Those who came after would follow more settled trades of farmers, merchants, etc.

Anthony Franklin (Frank) Stephenson (1820-1893)

- □ "The Pioneer"

□ After their marriage in 1838, Frank and Jane lived first in De Kalb County, Georgia. There was continual movement of settlers to the frontier in those days as land was gradually taken over from the Indians by treaty and purchase. Especially by those like Frank and Jane, who were young and strong enough to wrest civilization from the wilderness. During Governor Troup's Administration (1823 - 1827) a treaty with the Creek Indians had secured all their land in Georgia. This land was then divided into several counties, one being Carroll County, which was vacated by the Indians in 1838.

□ Frank and Jane, with their three little boys, moved to Carroll County in 1847 (Reference 4), to the 10th District land lot 44, while it was still virgin forest and unsettled country. They were real pioneers. They bought one hundred acres of uncleared land paying fifty cents an acre. Their place was in the area now known as Bethesda Church Community, where his cousin Jim Stephenson was already living. They spent the first night with "Cousin Jim". That same evening Jim rode his horse throughout the community inviting the few neighbors to a "house raising" for the new arrivals. These kind people gathered the next day and cut logs and built a one room cabin into which Frank and Jane moved that night. It was well built and of generous proportions, with a roomy fireplace and a good rock chimney, and near a flowing cold water spring.

□ They had brought with them what possessions they could on a one-horse wagon -- bedding, clothes, garden tools, dried vegetables and fruit, the meat from their hog-killing and seed for the Spring planting. They had also brought their cow, which the nine year old son John had helped his father drive all the way from DeKalb County.

□ There was much work in getting ready to make a crop. Land had to be cleared and the fields and pastures had to be fenced in as there was no "stock law" at that time. Everyone's cows, sheep and hogs pastured on the lush grass that grew abundantly everywhere. The fences were made of rails split from logs and cut in lengths. All this kept the Stephensons very busy, but by Spring they had enough ground ready to plant their first crops of corn, syrup cane, potatoes and garden truck.

□ In time they acquired sheep, hogs, chickens and geese. These were a must, for the sheep produced wool for thread to weave cloth and for knitting stockings and socks for the entire family. Sheep also produced meat for the table, as did the hogs, and the chickens provided eggs and meat, too. The geese were plucked ever so often for feathers to make beds and pillows.

□ Jane was kept very busy at the spinning wheel, spinning the thread to make clothes for her family. Also she made soap from waste grease and lye. Ashes from the fireplace were put in an open hopper and rainwater dripped through the ashes into a container below. This liquid would be pure lye. The grease was then heated in an iron pot and the lye stirred in, making a thick jelly-like substance which would be soap. This was used for all cleaning purposes. There were no stores or shops closer than Bowden or Carrolton, so there were few purchases of "store-bought" articles. Most everything was made at home.

□ Soon Frank and Jane built a second and larger log cabin. After some years a third and even larger "Big House" was built of logs. This was weather boarded outside and boarded inside, with four glass windows in the large room and a glass window in each of the side rooms. This was a real comfortable house to live in. The second log cabin then was kept as a kitchen.

□ Virginia Watkins remembered this second cabin: "They had a cook stove, but still used the fireplace, and no food seemed so delicious as that cooked over red coals of fire in that fireplace. At the other end of the cabin was the hand loom where Aunt Tomsie made beautiful counterpanes or

coverlets, as they were called." (Reference 5)

□ Her brother, Mell Stephenson, remembered also: "Memory is rich in reminiscence of dear Aunt Mattie, Aunt Tompsie, Grandma, Grandpa and the old home place with the kitchen located some 100 feet from the main house, Old Alabam (the horse), the geese and the guineas, the many fruit trees, and the aroma (most pleasant) always coming from that old kitchen, a most interesting place. Those are happy memories. They made life interesting for a little hungry boy. I will always love and cherish the memory of those dear souls." (Reference 5)

□ Jessie Hamrick also remembered the homeplace: "I would like to say that this place was dear to my heart in my childhood. It seemed like an Eden on earth with its quaint buildings, the lovely yard with sandy walks edged with beautiful white rocks, the many old-fashioned flowers, especially the roses that gave off such a sweet aroma. The spring and the spring house under the cool shade of many tall trees, I remember so well. There were wildflowers and ferns...how I did enjoy it all...the abundant fruit early and late.

Best of all, I loved the apples, June apples, winesap apples, golden apples and red delicious apples in the Fall. All of that has passed now, but it will ever be fresh in my memory." (Reference 7).

□ A smokehouse was built to keep the meat and other provisions. There was also a corn crib and stables for the stock. A spring house was built, which in that day served as a "refrigerator" to keep the milk, butter and vegetables cool. All the while Frank was getting an orchard planted. There were peaches, apples, pears, figs, grapes and scuppermons. There were a great many flowers in the yard and a rich garden that supplied the family with vegetables.

□ Jane had a beautiful voice and was called the sweetest singer in Carroll County. Before her marriage she was a Presbyterian, but joined the Missionary Baptist Church with Frank.

□ In a country which was so sparsely settled, doctors were scarce. Frank found it necessary to know something about medicine and what to do when there was sickness in his family. He secured doctors books and read about medicine and kept a supply of medicinal herbs and barks and simple remedies which mainly leaned toward botanical practices. Friends and neighbors came to depend on him in sickness. Some called him "Doc", but most spoke of him affectionately as "Uncle Frank".

□ In 1856 Jane died and about a year and a half later Frank married Louisa Black, the widow of Thomas Black. Louisa had one child named Eliza Thomas (Tomsie or Aunt Tomsie) Black, born October 19, 1847, died Sept. 19-- , who never married. Frank joined the Tallapoosa Primitive Baptist Church with Louisa.

□ Frank enlisted in the Confederate Army in the summer of 1863. He served in Company C, which was Captain Estes Company, of the 26th Georgia Regiment (Battalion ?), Stephens Brigade, Walkers Division. He saw guard duty in Atlanta in the autumn of 1863 and fought in the battle of Missionary Ridge. He was released on furlough on March 4, 1864, signed by S. Merideth. His furlough was extended on certificate of poor health by W. W. Pitts (Fitz ?), MD, and he saw no more service. Frank's son John enlisted early in the war, his second son James (Jimmie) was crippled from a childhood illness so was not able to serve and his third son Frank was too young at the beginning but did sign up in the last year of the war.

□ The reconstruction years were trying times in Carroll County, but Frank and Louisa went to work to make their home the way they wanted it. With the will to work and the will to do always the right thing at all times, their family had a happy home. Their marriage was a happy one and one child was born to them.

□ After Louisa's death, the homeplace was purchased by James Madison Stephenson (1841-1925) who owned it until 1925. In 1940 the "Big House" was blown down by a tornado. More recently the property was owned by Kermit and Clarice Cox.