

WOLVERTONS UNLIMITED

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(evenings & weekends)

Descendants of ANDREW WOOLVERTON

With allied families of HANKS, DODSON, NEVILLE, LITTLEFIELD, and HARRIS

Vol. 2, Number 2

March/April 1994

EDITORIAL

I have been enjoying putting together the newsletters and seeing all the interchange of information on the Wolvertons and Hankses which has come about in the last few months. New information is coming to light every day.

Several of the cousins have not sent in any donations for 1994, but for now I will continue sending the newsletters anyway to those who are interested. Recently I also added several libraries to the mailing list to help other researchers around the country who might not be aware of the newsletter or the research that has already been done.

The six libraries now on the mailing list are: Hunterdon County Historical Society, Flemington, New Jersey; The Family History Library, Salt Lake City, Utah; Dallas Public Library in Texas; Ozarks Genealogical Library, Springfield, Missouri; Newberry Library, Chicago, Illinois; and Allen County Public Library, Fort Wayne, Indiana.

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EDITOR SELLS HOME

The last week of September, Marion and I put our house up for sale. We have lived here for 8 years and hoped to find a larger place. Some neighbors down the street had already offered their home to us as they wanted to move into a retirement complex.

Although real estate was slow around the Christmas holidays, interest rates are low and homes have been selling fast in Springfield. We did have a lot of prospective buyers look at our house over the last 3 months. Finally on January 10th we signed a contract to sell our home. The next day we signed a contract to buy our neighbor's home. Closing will be on Friday, March 4th.

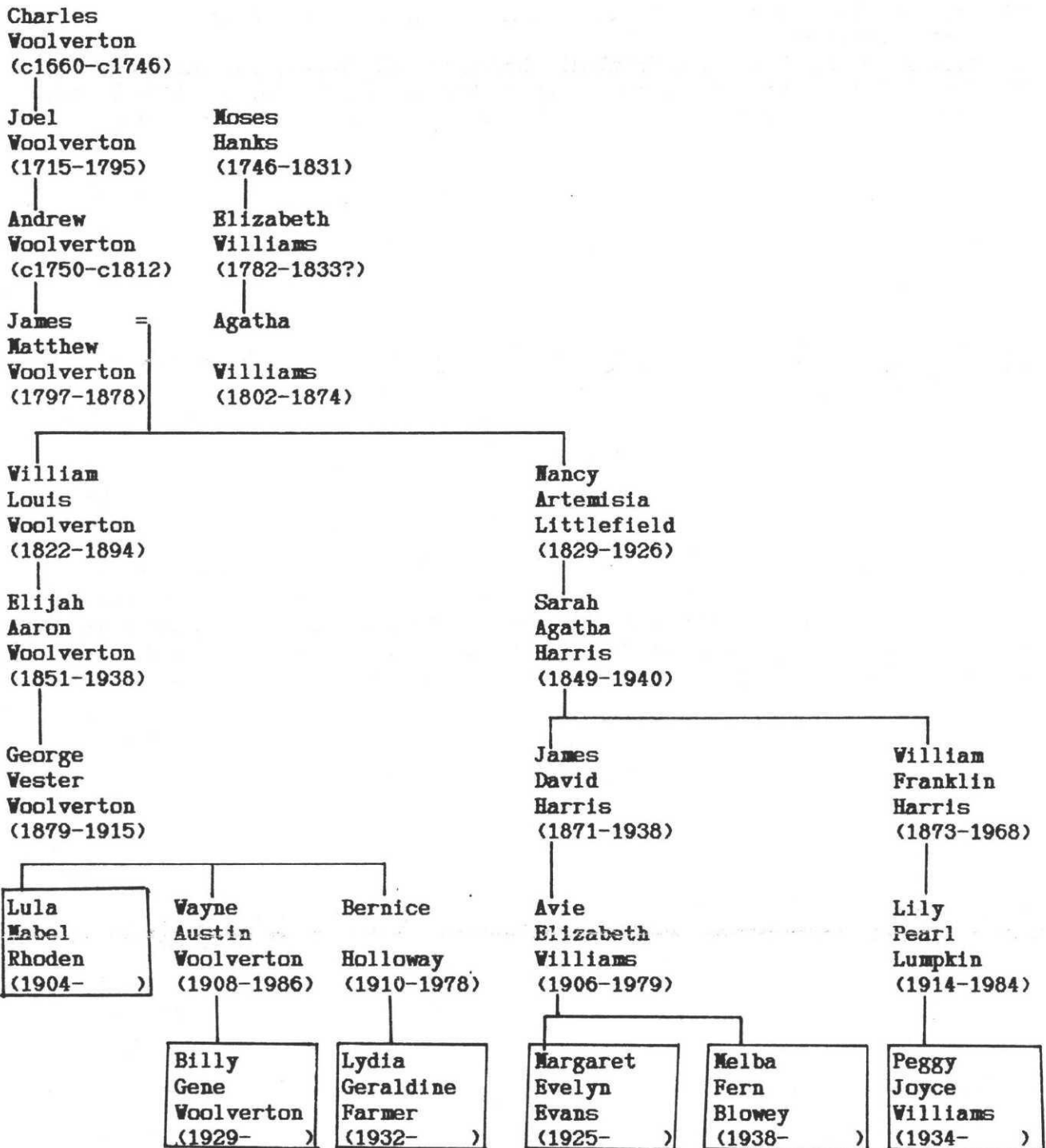
We are excited about moving to a larger home. It has 4 bedrooms, 1½ baths, a large family room, 2 fireplaces, and a garage. Please note the new address as of March 4, 1994 will be:

Glenn Gohr
1040 East McCanse Street
Springfield, MO 65803-3613

FAMILY HISTORY LIBRARY
35 NORTH WEST TEMPLE
SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH 84150

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- 7. Glenn Gohr, 1040 E. McCanse St., Springfield, MD 65803-3613 (NEW ADDRESS)
- 14. Mrs. Mabel Rhoden, Route 1, Box 142, Solgohachia, AR 72156
- 15. Gene Woolverton, HCR 64, Box 77A-5, West Plains, MD 65775-9810,
ph. 417-256-8035

16. Mrs. Geraldine Farmer, 2321 Sherrod Ave., Florence, AL 35630,
ph. 205-766-2701
17. Mrs. Margaret Evans, 706 Campbell, Lockhart, TX 78644, ph. 512-398-5432
18. Mrs. Melba Blowey, 4702 Fleming Downe, Spring, TX 77388, ph. 713-350-0998
19. Mrs. Peggy Williams P.O. Box 101, Verden, OK 73092, ph. 405-453-8063

Mabel Rhoden is our oldest subscriber. She will be 90 years old on August 14th of this year. She is the oldest of 6 children of George Wester and Janette "Nettie" (Oliger) Woolverton, and the only one still living. I have enjoyed corresponding with her over the last couple of years. She is a fine Christian lady and has lots of memories of the early days in her family.

Gene Woolverton retired from the Missouri Department of Conservation in 1991 after 33 years and 2 months as conservation agent in Howell and Oregon counties. He has been collecting many old photographs of the Woolvertons and Oligers from Woolverton Mountain.

Geraldine Farmer is a retired school teacher. Florence, Alabama is only about an hour away from Adamsville, Tennessee where many of the Woolvertons and Littlefields lived. She has a great interest in the family genealogy and has visited the cemetery in Adamsville where some of these relatives are buried.

Margaret Evans is a DAR member and a retired school teacher. She has attended almost all of the James D. Harris family reunions and also several of the Harris reunions at Adamsville, Tennessee. Her father, Uncle Tillman Williams, is still living. He resides at the Golden Age Retirement Home at Lockhart, Texas. He is 92 years old.

Melba Blowey is also very interested in the family history and has been to many of the Harris reunions in Texas and Tennessee. She is married to Elder Joe Blowey who is a minister of the Primitive Baptist Church. He also works as a mechanical engineer in Houston.

Peggy Williams is actively pursuing family genealogy and also has a great interest in antiques. She has been to several Harris reunions in Tennessee and Oklahoma. She has also attended the Littlefield reunion at Elgin, Oklahoma. She is postmistress for the town of Verden, just west of Chickasha, Oklahoma.

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WOOLVERTON MOUNTAIN REUNION

All the cousins are invited to attend the 23rd annual Woolverton Reunion at Woolverton Mountain, Arkansas. As editor of this newsletter, I plan to be there. And this will be the first time for me to go. It would be wonderful if others of the cousins from Arkansas, Oklahoma, Missouri, Tennessee, Louisiana, and Texas [and other states, too!] would make a special effort to be there.

This is the same Woolverton Mountain about which the song was written (see Vol. 1, pp. 12 & 21).

The reunion will be held on Mother's Day, May 8, 1994 at the Community Building (also called Senior Citizens Center) in Formosa, Arkansas.

Formosa is located on Highway 9, and is 6 miles south of Choctaw (where Highway 9 intersects with 65) and 7 miles north of Center Ridge, Arkansas. When you get to Formosa coming south, there is a flea market and Church of Christ on the left. Go on down a hill and the community building is also on the left.

The reunion will be a potluck dinner and visiting, which will begin shortly after 12:00 noon. Mother's Day is also decoration day at Woolverton Mountain Cemetery, so in the late afternoon the cousins will be going up to the cemetery.

You may wish to arrive early to attend church services at the Mountain View Baptist Church (located at the top of Woolverton Mountain, and which was established by William Louis Woolverton) before the dinner and reunion begins.

Woolverton Mountain (where the church and cemetery are located) is just west of Highway 9. It is about 4½ miles southwest of Formosa and is well marked.

For further information on the reunion, contact:

Mabel (Mrs. Dolph) Rhoden
Route 1, Box 142
Solgohachia, AR 72156

or Gene Woolverton
HCR 64, Box 77A-5
West Plains, MO 65775-9810
Ph. (417) 256-8035

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HISTORY OF THE WOOLVERTON MOUNTAIN REUNIONS

Cousin Mabel Rhoden, age 89, sends in a little history of the reunions. She says that the first reunion was held on Mother's Day, May 14, 1972. It is interesting to note that this first reunion was held almost exactly 100 years after William Louis Woolverton first established his home at the top of the mountain in 1872.

At the first reunion and for a few years after that, the family met at a place called the basin spring, about a quarter mile from the Woolverton Mountain church and cemetery. This was a big round rock and spring where people of the mountain went to wash when wells were low. It was real rough around the spring, and the ground could not be leveled.

The spring area was dangerous for elderly people (One year Wayne Woolverton, son of George Wester Woolverton, fell down at the basin spring.). So it was decided to move the reunion to a better location. For two or three years they met at the church house and used the church's kitchen facilities. For about the

last 15 years the reunions have been held at the Community Center at Formosa.

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The reunion is open to any of the Woolverton and Hanks cousins who wish to come. Most of those in attendance are descended from William Louis Woolverton, a son of James Matthew Woolverton, and grandson of Andrew Woolverton.

William Louis Woolverton left Tennessee in about 1872 and settled on a low spur of Lick Mountain, later called "Woolverton Mountain" in his honor. His farm was located near the basin spring, and he and his neighbors established a log church at the top of the mountain, which is now known as Mountain View Baptist Church.

One of the first pastors was Robert Houston Woolverton [ancestor of Royal Woolverton], who was a brother of William Louis Woolverton. After one year as pastor, Robert died on June 20, 1875 of typhoid fever. He was the first person buried in the Woolverton Mountain Cemetery. William Louis Woolverton and several of his descendants are also buried there.

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LITTLEFIELD REUNION AT ELGIN, OKLAHOMA

The annual reunion of descendants of John Monroe Littlefield will be held once again on the Sunday of Memorial weekend. It will be Sunday, May 29, 1994, at the Elgin School Cafeteria, at Elgin, Oklahoma, from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Elgin is just off the H. E. Bailey Turnpike (Hwy 277) north of Lawton, Oklahoma. It is a very small community, so the school is easy to find. There are several buildings that make up the school, so be sure to go to the one where all the cars are parked. Bring a covered dish if possible. Drinks will be furnished.

The reunion usually has about 50 or so in attendance. It is held on Memorial weekend because that is close to the anniversary date when John Monroe and Lean (Carothers) Littlefield were married. They were married May 23, 1883 at Adamsville, Tennessee. John Monroe Littlefield was a son of Nancy Artemisia (Woolverton) Littlefield. In times past there have also been descendants of some of John Monroe's siblings who also moved from Tennessee to Oklahoma at these reunions: Thomas Edward Littlefield, America (Littlefield) Blakely, and Agatha (Littlefield) Harris.

After the reunion, most of the cousins go by the cemetery at Fletcher where many of the relatives are buried to pay their respects.

For further details, contact Helen Wolf at (405) 492-4543.

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34TH ANNUAL JAMES DAVID HARRIS FAMILY REUNION

Cousin Shirley Blundell sends information on the Harris Reunion which will be held June 24-26, 1994 at Lockhart State Park near Lockhart, Texas. Lockhart is located about 30 miles south of Austin.

The reunion is chiefly for descendants of James David "Jimmy" Harris, although any of the extended family who wish to attend are welcome to come. Jimmy Harris was a nephew of John Monroe Littlefield and a grandson of Nancy Artemisia (Woolverton) Littlefield (see lineage chart in this issue). Marion and Jared and I plan to attend. Hopefully we will see some of you there. Cousin Margaret Evans lives at Lockhart and is helping with the reunion. Also Cousin Glenda Wheeler lives at Rosanky close to Lockhart, so it will be nice to see them and their families.

The park is on FM 20 off Hwy 183 south of Lockhart. The reunion will begin with a continental breakfast Friday and continue through breakfast on Sunday. The park has RV accommodations, and 30 rooms at the nearby Plum Creek Inn have been reserved for the reunion at a group rate of \$38.00. The park has a recreation hall, swimming pool, and golf course. We will also be having a talent show at the reunion. The attendance is usually between 100-150 people. Contact:

Margaret & Bob Evans 512-398-5432

Plum Creek Inn 512-398-4911

Lockhart State Park 512-398-3479

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JAMES DAVID HARRIS BOOK AVAILABLE

For the 30th annual reunion of the James David Harris family in 1990, I completed a book about my branch of the Harrises. The name of the book is James David Harris: His Kith and His Kin. It is spiral bound and 181 pages (8 1/2 X 11).

Most of the book deals with James David Harris (my great-grandfather) who married Docia Bell (Pyron) and their 10 children and descendants. It has information on the Harris family back in Tennessee and Virginia. Family charts in the back show the lineage back to Capt. Thomas Harris of Jamestown, Virginia and some of the Harrises back in England. Other related families listed include Pyron, Swain, Littlefield, Ledbetter, Woolverton, Hanks, Dodson, Neville, Rose, Smoot, and Stone.

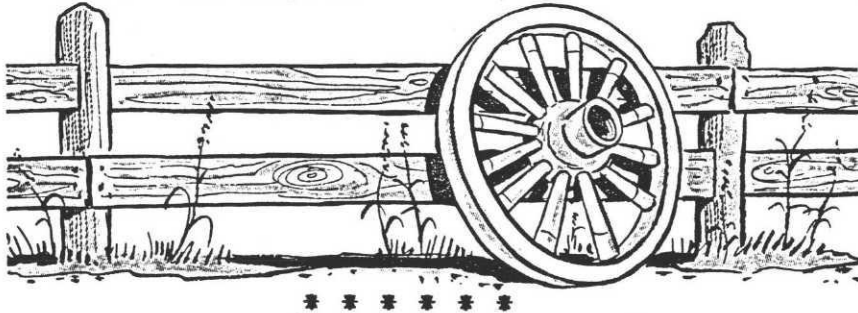
The book is indexed, and there is information on each of the 30 family reunions our family held from 1961-1990 and lots of old family stories and anecdotes. The book also has cemetery records, old family letters and other records, 17 pages of photographs, and

information about the Harris surname, and the Harris family coat of arms of Sir William Harris in England. In addition the book has a large bibliography organized by surname.

Any of the cousins with Harris lineage definitely will be interested in this book. Many of the Littlefield and other relatives might be interested also.

As far as the Woolverton and Hanks families, they are covered in the lineage charts, bibliography, and in some of the cemetery records. If you do not need the entire book, I could photocopy the charts, bibliography, and other references. To order a copy of the book, it is \$12.00 postage paid. Write to:

Glenn Gohr
1040 East McCanse
Springfield, MO 65803-3613



THE CAPTURE OF GREAT-GRANDPA LITTLEFIELD
(A Story About Luther Rice Littlefield)

As Told by Two of His Great-Granddaughters,
Scleeta (Walker) Hudson
And Evelyn (Harris) Rogers

August 11, 1991

[Note: Luther Rice "Luke" Littlefield was the husband of Nancy Artemisia (Woolverton) Littlefield.]

Grandma Agatha (Littlefield) Harris was 11 years old when the Battle of Shiloh was fought. She was standing out in the yard one Sunday morning and heard the gun bolts. These were the very first shots fired at Shiloh in 1861.

She and Great-grandma Littlefield could hear the guns booming. And every little bit they would hear another boom and another as the booms came closer. Grandma Littlefield told her those were the Union Soldiers coming.

When the North came in and the South had to retreat, Great-grandpa Littlefield didn't want to fight on either side. Able-bodied men who did not fight in the War Between the States were

called slackers. Many of the soldiers of the Civil War felt the cause they were fighting for was so important that they would get men who weren't in the war and either force them to take part in the conflict or else kill them.

To stay out of the war, Grandpa Littlefield hid out in the woods. Every so often he would sneak home at night to let Grandma Littlefield and the children know he was still O.K., but he didn't ever tell Grandma Littlefield where he was hiding. Soldiers would come into the house from time to time to try to find him, but they never could catch him.

One time the soldiers came into the house, and they were going to burn everything up. They went to the fireplace and took out some hot coals in a firepan and put them up to the featherbed and said they'd burn the bed and the house if Grandma Littlefield didn't tell them where Grandpa was. She said, "You'll have to go ahead and burn it. I don't know where he is."

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Back in the Civil War days people used to make their own clothes and blankets on weaving looms. The Littlefield family had one of these looms, and each of the 4 Littlefield girls had pretty white homemade coverlets which Great-grandma Littlefield had made for them. [The fifth Littlefield daughter, Aunt America, was not born until the close of the Civil War in 1865.--ed.]

As the war progressed, Grandma Littlefield said to the girls, "If you want to save anything, you better hide it or the soldiers will take it. You better quit using your coverlets on your beds because the soldiers are going into homes and taking whatever they want." So the girls put their coverlets under the floor of the house underneath the fireplace. [In those days it was common to build the chimney from the foundation of the house up. The hearth and fireplace would be inside the house, but underneath the floor the chimney was hollowed out to form a large open box to keep things which you didn't want people to be seeing. This is where the Littlefield girls kept their coverlets.--ed.]

Grandma Agatha Harris and Aunt Mary White were the two oldest of the Littlefield girls. They each had one of these beautiful homemade coverlets. Grandma Harris related that one Sunday morning, Aunt Mary said, "It's such a pretty day. I think I'll take my coverlet out and put it on the bed." It had been awhile since any soldiers had been by and she wanted to use it. Aunt Mary put her coverlet on the bed and, sure enough, that was the day the soldiers came. They saw the coverlet on the bed and took it away. Grandma Harris still had hers safely hidden underneath the house.

The soldiers still didn't find Great-grandpa Littlefield.

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Then finally some soldiers on horseback captured Great-grandpa Littlefield out in the woods. There were seven of them. The men took Grandpa Littlefield on horseback and rode to his home. They told Great-grandma Littlefield and all the children they were carrying him off to kill him. As the men rode away, Great-grandma and all of the children were crying and pleading for Great-grandpa for they knew the men would kill him as they had said they would.

Of course, Great-grandpa Littlefield wanted his life to be spared, so he gave the Masonic sign in hopes that it would save him. As the men were nearing a curve in a wooded area on the winding road, one man and Great-grandpa dropped behind. The man was a fellow Mason.

This man said, "Luke, let's get behind the other men and we'll talk." So he let the other men go on ahead, and then he told Grandpa, "Luke, I'm gonna let you escape. Turn your horse around and go back home. Let your wife and children know you are safe, but then stay hidden out in the woods for a time. And tell your family where you'll be so they can bring you food and water." The man told Grandpa that after he'd had a chance to get away, he would tell the others that the prisoner had escaped.

Great-grandpa Littlefield gladly agreed to this plan and the man let him escape. Luke disappeared into the woods and then he reported to the other soldiers that the prisoner had gotten away.

Grandma Littlefield and the kids were worried sick thinking that they'd never see Grandpa again. They were relieved when he arrived home and told them what had happened.

Great-grandpa Littlefield waited out the rest of the war and the soldiers never caught him anymore.

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SOME FAMILY NEWS

In a letter dated January 24, 1994, Iola Holloway of Clarksville, Arkansas, writes that "Mabel Rhoden suffered a congestive heart attack last week and has been seriously ill, but was taken home this morning from the Morrilton hospital. Her children are with her yet."

"Also Frances, Royal's wife, had a bad heart attack and called me yesterday. I called her today to let her know Mabel got to go home. She's in bad shape with blocked arteries and was advised she must have surgery, but has decided not to yet, anyway, since she is not in pain."

Iola also shares that she herself had major cancer surgery on her colon on November 2, 1992, but all her blood checks and other tests have been negative since then.

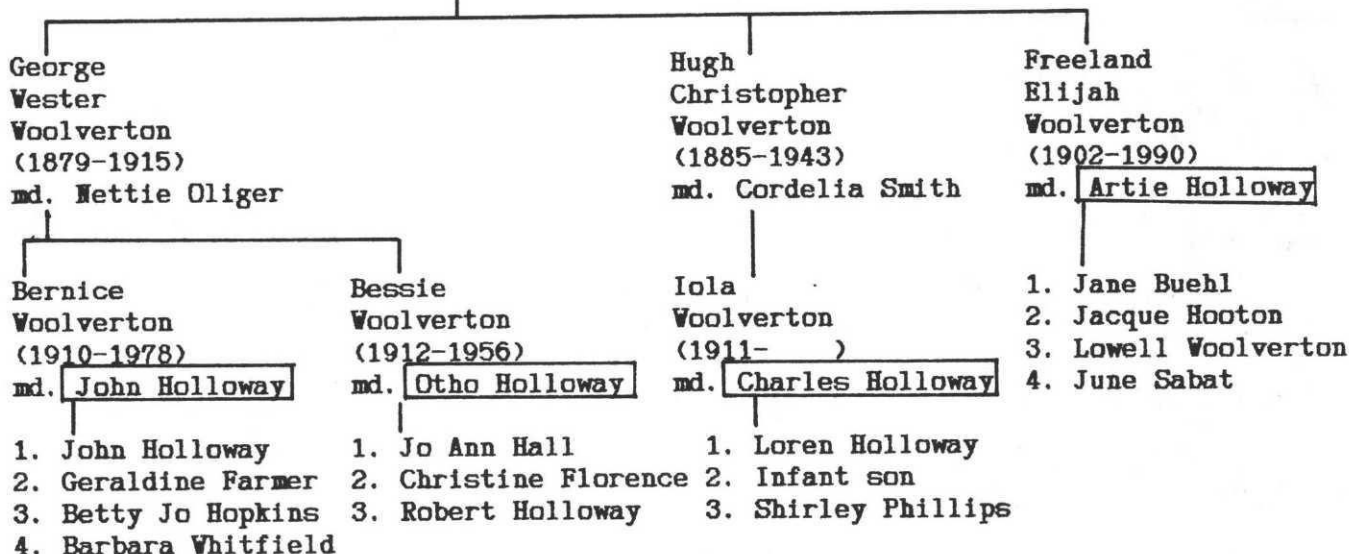
Mabel will be 90 in August, Frances will be 83 in August, and Iola will be 83 in May. These ladies all need our continued prayer and support.

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THE HOLLOWAY KINSHIP

Iola Holloway also has expressed her appreciation of the newsletters and shares about the kinship between the Holloways and Woolvertons. "Robert Holloway is my own cousin's son, also my husband's own cousin's son. Two of the Holloway brothers married two of the Woolverton sisters. I married a cousin of the two Holloway boys. So we are quite a mixed up bunch. Also we 3 Woolverton girls' uncle married my husband's oldest sister. That makes their children my cousins and also my nieces and nephews, but I think I may have double love for them also, through the double kinship."

Elijah Aaron Woolverton
(1851-1938)



NOTE: In addition to the above Woolverton-Holloway kinship, among the Texas relatives, we have: William Robert Woolverton (1803-1872) who married Penzey Holloway (d. 1871). William was the oldest son of John Bird Woolverton (1730-1863) and Anna Jane Hanks (1788-c1863).

Penzey Holloway, born in Pittsylvania County, Virginia, was the daughter of John Holloway and Susannah (Fitzgerald) Holloway. These Holloways lived in Maury County, Tennessee, so undoubtedly there is a close kinship with the Arkansas Holloways. The Fitzgeralds also migrated to Maury County and intermarried with the Dodsons and Hankses. John Bird Woolverton of course is the son of Andrew Woolverton, and Anna Jane Hanks is a daughter of Moses Hanks.

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Glenn