



# WOLVERTONS UNLIMITED

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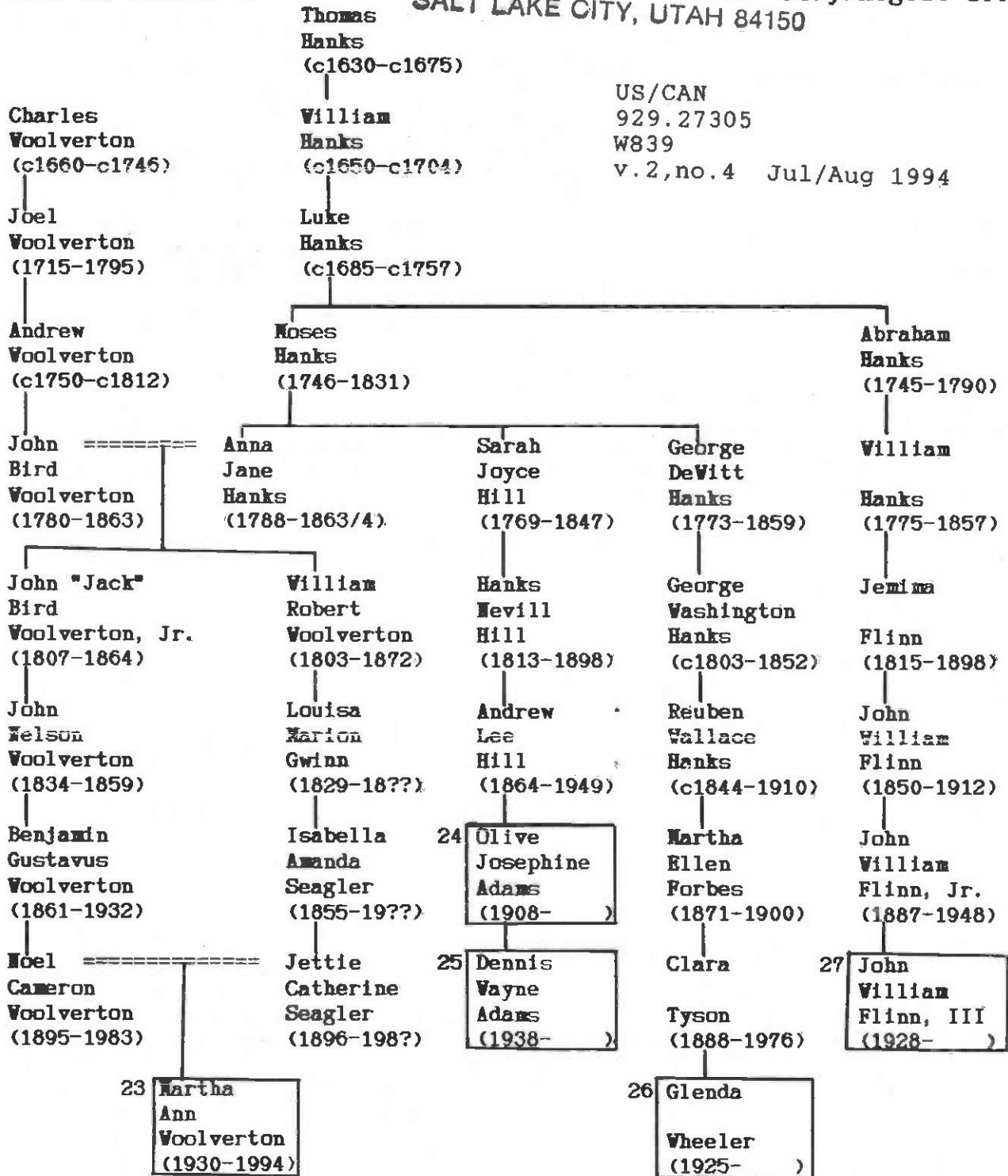
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Descendants of ANDREW WOOLVERTON

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

Vol. 2, Number 4

FAMILY HISTORY LIBRARY  
35 NORTH WEST TEMPLE July/August 1994  
SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH 84150



15. Gene Woolverton, 2349 County Road 4290, West Plains, MO 65775 (new address)  
 23. Miss Martha A. Woolverton, 612 E. Neches St., Palestine, TX 75801-4526  
 (deceased March 1994)  
 24. Mrs. Josephine Adams, 331 Glen Arms Dr., Danville, CA 94526-4113  
 ph. 510-743-1909  
 25. Mr. Dennis W. Adams, 59 Summit Dr. #S62, Santa Cruz, CA 95060-9696  
 ph. 408-427-1371  
 26. Mrs. Glenda Wheeler, Route 1, Box 116, Rosanky, TX 78953  
 ph. 210-540-4854  
 27. John Flinn, 10026 N. 29th St., Phoenix, AZ 85028-4402  
 ph. 602-867-2159

Miss Martha A. Woolverton is another cousin who is a double descendant of the Woolvertons and is also a Hanks descendant. She grew up in Palestine and attended Mary Baldwin College and the University of Texas at Austin, graduating with a B.A. in English in 1951. From 1952-1973 she was employed by Prudential Insurance Company in Houston as an assistant sales consultant. From 1974-1976 she worked with her brother, Cam Woolverton, Jr., for Ryan Mortgage Company in Palestine, Texas. She continued in business with her brother until her death. She was a member of the Harvey Women's Club of Palestine and also a member of the Presbyterian Church. Her father, Cam Woolverton, Sr., was president of the East Texas National Bank of Palestine for many years. Bonnie Woolverton informs me that Martha passed away in March of this year. Our condolences to the family.

Mrs. Josephine Adams is an avid family researcher, especially on the Hanks and Neville families. She is a past DAR Regent and a member of quite a number of hereditary organizations: Daughters of the American Revolution, Daughters of the American Colonists, United States Daughters of 1812, Colonial Dames of the XVIII Century, Daughters of the American Colonists, Descendants of Founders and Patriots, Huguenot Society, New England Women, Women Descendants of the Ancient and Honorable Artillery, Flagon and Trencher, Magna Charta Dames, Hereditary Order of the First Families of Massachusetts, and the Sovereign Colonial Society of Americans of Royal Descent. I first corresponded with her after receiving copies of the Society of John Neville Descendants Newsletter in which her address was given. Bill Randolph had put me in touch with Joe Neville, the editor. The newsletter is no longer being published, but a Neville family book was completed by Joe Neville in 1988. Many of our subscribers descend from Moses Hanks, whose mother-in-law was Mary (Neville) Dodson. That is the Neville connection. Mrs. Jo Adams has been a wonderful correspondent of mine since 1985.

Dennis Adams is retired from IBM where he was advisory assistant for production control at their San Jose plant. He has a great interest in genealogy and has been entering his own family records on computer for a number of years.

Glenda Wheeler is a dear friend of mine. I met her while working at Mesa Verde National Park in Colorado in 1982. She, her husband Erwin, and son Mark were all working at the park for the summer just as I was. Mark assisted me in leading worship services for campers at the park. He has a wonderful tenor singing voice. Glenda's Hanks relatives lived near Hillsboro, Texas, and I knew we must be related. I was delighted when Bill Randolph was able to tie in her

connection to the Moses Hanks family. Since 1989, Glenda and Erwin Wheeler have lived on a ranch at Rosanky, Texas, where they help out with the calves and maintenance as needed. They are semi-retired.

John Flinn is an avid genealogist and is currently working on a book about ancient Celtic history. He is doing research on the following families from Tennessee Colony, Texas: Flinn, Hanks, Palmer, Usleamann, Bradshaw, and Garvin. I first met him in July 1992 at the annual Harris family reunion, held that year at Cortez, Colorado. His wife, Bonnie Jean (Garvin) Flinn, is my mother's first cousin through the Garvin family. (Another double connection!) Also of interest is that Jean (Garvin) Flinn's mother is Katie (Tyson) Garvin. Also my Aunt Hattie (Garvin) married George Tyson who is Katie's brother. These Tysons lived around Maple, in Bailey County of West Texas. Glenda Wheeler's maiden name was also Tyson, and she has a brother Grady Tyson, who lives at El Paso.

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### THORNTON BIRD WOOLVERTON DESCENDANTS

(See Descendants of Andrew Woolverton, p. 6)

Contributed by Mrs. Anna Jane Carpenter, San Diego, California, June 1993

Thornton Bird Woolverton, b. 27 Oct. 1845, McNairy Co., TN; d. 17 Dec. 1917; md. 15 Dec. 1868 in Macadoches Co., TX to Elizabeth Jane Simms

#### CHILDREN:

1. Charles Woolverton, md. Maggie Clapper

#### CHILDREN:

- a. Hobart, b. Major, c. Vernon, d. Anson, e. William "Billy Boy"
- f. Rose, g. \_\_\_\_\_, h. \_\_\_\_\_

2. Alice Woolverton, md. \_\_\_\_\_ Sudduth

#### CHILDREN:

- a. Lottie, b. Jeff, c. \_\_\_\_\_

3. Nellie Woolverton, b. 11 March 1875; md. 24 December 1895 to George W. Wells

#### CHILDREN:

- a. James Wade Wells, b. 4 August 1897
- b. Thornton Bird Wells, b. 4 November 1898
- c. Mary Adaline Wells, b. 25 October 1900
- d. Anna Jane Wells, b. 7 August 1905; md. 12 May 1928 to Elvin L. Carpenter, d. 1970

#### CHILDREN:

- 1) Ralph Lewis Carpenter, b. 12 February 1925 (child by a previous marriage??)

#### CHILDREN:

- a) Elvin Lewis Carpenter, b. 18 March 1959
- b) Heather Carpenter, b. 28 November 1966
- c) Rex Carpenter, b. 26 June 1970

- 2) Gene Gilbert Carpenter, b. 16 May 1930

#### CHILDREN:

- a) Leslie Todd Carpenter, b. 26 October 1966

- e. Julia Lucille Wells, b. 12 September 1910

FROM OUR READERS

I am a Wolverton who moved here from Nebraska. The headline caught my eye in today's paper. My Grandfather was Lemuel Boone Wolverton. His mother was a Boone. He was married to a Callahan or O'Callahan. She died when my dad was quite young. My grandfather died in about 1936.

Marion, my dad was the youngest and Daniel the oldest. Uncle Dan kept in touch with all nieces and nephews. I think his daughter has his records. The family moved from Kansas to Nebraska before my dad was born in 1910.

I will list the ten family members with the nicknames they went by:

Daniel (Dan or D.J.)	Katherine (Kate)
Myra	Raymond (Short)
Edward (Ed)	Viola
Leah	Harold (Shang)
Walter (Stub)	Marion (Jake)

I had about 28 cousins. We have an annual reunion in Nebraska, but I haven't attended one for several years.

I am anxious to receive the newsletter and hope to contribute to it. Maybe we will make a connection between the two families.

Sincerely,

Marian Beckman

HCR 2, Box 1022, Lampe, MO 65681

*(Note: I ran a query in the Springfield newspaper about the Wolvertons Unlimited newsletter and the ongoing research on the Hanks and Wolverton families. Lampe is about 45 miles south of Springfield, right on the Arkansas border. Marian and her husband Vern run a Country Village store there. I am guessing that Marian is descended from Thomas Jefferson Wolverton (1793-1874) who is buried in the Maplewood Cemetery in Barnes, Kansas. He left quite a number of descendants who have held a reunion in Nebraska for many years. Mrs. Beulah Imhoff is from this line and also Gilbert Wolverton mentioned on pages 37-39 of the newsletter. Any help on Mrs. Beckman's connection to the Wolvertons would be appreciated. I only received one other response to my query. That was from Dorrel Hanks, who owns Hanks & Company Realtors in Springfield. He descends from Rev. Thomas Hanks who settled near Ozark, Missouri, near here. Rev. Thomas Hanks was a son of Rev. Elijah and Mary (Woolverton) Hanks.)*

\* \* \* \* \*

It was a pleasant surprise to receive your notice of the Wolvertons Unlimited newsletter you are publishing. The spring and summer have gone by so quickly, that I now realize I hadn't received anything from Royal Wolverton. *(Note: This letter was written September 6, 1993.)* He was certainly dedicated to his research and newsletter. I had gotten information from his letter and also felt I had sent him some.

My line never left this Philadelphia area. My maternal grandmother was a Wolverton. I have had correspondence with many lines throughout the country. It has been very interesting. I have been doing family research for many, many years and have reams of information, since I have worked on all of my lines.

If you feel you need any information from this area, I would see if I can help.

It certainly would be wonderful if there could be a reunion of all these Charles Wolverton descendants, but since there is someone in almost every state, it would certainly be difficult. There are still Wolvertons in this area and New Jersey but the ones whom I have contacted over the years do not seem to be interested in family history. What a shame, since this is the area where it all started.

Mrs. Eleanor H. Bracegirdle  
64 Silverspruce Road, Levittown, PA 19056

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Do you have any copies of the Cousins Unlimited Newsletter (final issue of Nov.-Dec. 1992) that was mailed out to subscribers in April of this year? (Note: Letter written August 16, 1993.)

Who was Royal Allen Wolverton? The name catches my attention because of the fact that my Grandfather was Albert ROYAL Harris and his Grandmother was a Woolverton. I've been trying to figure out where his name was from since so many of the names were repeated from generation to generation and I found no other Royal or Albert.

Mrs. Joyce Brown  
1952 Ainsley Road, San Diego, CA 92123-3810

(I sent Mrs. Brown a copy of the December 1992 issue of Cousins Unlimited, which is a tribute to Royal Wolverton, who passed away December 29, 1992. In glancing through some of Royal Wolverton's newsletters, I noticed a comment he made that of all the cousins, he was the only "Royal." But I note that in the Littlefield descendants there is Luther Royal Littlefield, b. 1893, d. 1909 who was a grandson of Nancy Artemisia Woolverton Littlefield and also a descendant of the Harris family. Also Albert Royal Harris mentioned above. I suggested to Mrs. Brown that "Royal" could have come from the Royal family of Virginia and Tennessee. Polly Arnold, daughter of Patience Harris Arnold, married Joseph A. Royal. I also mentioned that there was a Reverend Albert Plunk living near Adamsville, Tennessee, about the time her grandfather was born, so that could be where the Albert came from in his name.)

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Thanks so much for your introduction and news of newsletter being continued. I'm from Littlefield side--Apache, OK--my grandfather was Thomas Edward Littlefield.

I was born and raised in Oklahoma City. My mother graduated from Central State College, Edmond, Oklahoma, about 1931 or 1932. At present I have her in a nursing home close to me after having had her in our home about 5 years. She has a number of medical problems but worst being from her stroke in 1987 leaving left side useless now. She will be 84 in September [1993].

Iris H. Cook  
5075 Deen Road, Marietta, GA 30066-1056

(Iris's mother, Mona Flo-Ella Littlefield House, born September 15, 1909 at Fletcher, Oklahoma, is the only surviving child of T. Edward and Martha Belle Staggs Littlefield. Iris sent a copy of her mother's birth certificate and also her grandparents' marriage certificate, dated August 1, 1897 in Parker County, Texas. Also a copy of a photo taken in the early 1900s of some Littlefields and other kin in front of a brick house. Nancy Artemisia Woolverton Littlefield is identified, but many of the others are not.)

WOOLVERTON MOUNTAIN REUNION, May 8, 1994

It was a joy to visit with 52-54 cousins at the community building at Formosa, Arkansas. Three different people had attendance lists for people to sign. Some came late, and some left early. It was a pleasure to meet Gene Woolverton, Gladys Woolverton, Verda Mae Woolverton, Iola Holloway, Betty Jo & Ovid Hopkins, Lowell Woolverton, Merle & Ann Smith, Beryl Toomes, Brenda Woolverton, and many others. Gene Woolverton took some pictures of the whole group that assembled there.

Clifton Clowers, now 102, was at the cemetery, as it was also decoration day on the mountain. There were several unmarked graves, but he could not identify them. Ann and Merle Smith, Beryl Toomes, Gene Woolverton, and myself, made a joint effort to copy the inscriptions on the tombstones. There were at least 100 gravesites. Ann Smith covered more than half of the cemetery on her own, and is typing up the final listing of the inscriptions to pass on to other researchers. She had a lap top computer to aid in recording the data. Beryl Toomes and her niece located a bunch of irises which once had been inside the cemetery. They had been tossed outside the fence and had multiplied. They took some "Woolverton Mountain Irises" home as keepsakes. One quote heard at the gathering in the community center came from Ann Smith: "What a wonderful sense of family!"

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FROM OUR READERS

I was pleased to know more about the song "Wolverton Mountain," although I did know some of the story. That was really popular when I was in college, so I naturally got teased about it a lot. I didn't know there really was a Clifton Clowers or that Merle Kilgore was his nephew. Merle Kilgore, one of the co-authors, is Hank Williams Jr.'s manager and long-time good friend. Wish I could have seen the Nashville Network airing of it.

Bonnie Woolverton, P.O. Box 415, Tennessee Colony, TX 75861

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Thanks for the birthday card. Now I can join the three quarter club. They have a baseball team in St. Petersburg, Florida where you have to be 75 or older before you can play on the team. They have men in their 90s who play on the team. (Note: My father turned 75 on October 9, 1993.)

Lawrence Gohr, 301 Bronk St., Monte Vista, CO 81144-1139

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A SCHOOL MAN OF THE OZARKS

The following 4 pages are extracts from A School Man of the Ozarks, an autobiography written by William Erwin Halbrook. Van Buren, AR: The Press-Argus, 1959. 182 p.

Halbrook was a grandson of William Louis Woolverton for whom Woolverton Mountain was named. Only sections concerning the Woolvertons are included here.

## Birth and Boyhood

My career spans American history really from the Civil War to the present, and the progress in Arkansas from the pioneer era to modern times. I saw the ox-cart followed by the horse and buggy; then the gadgets of one Henry Ford and others; the airplane and the jets; and the advent of the nuclear age. In my boyhood I saw droves of wild deer where I was sent to drive home from the free range the cows for milking in the late afternoons. I heard the howl of the wolves and the holla of the hoot owls as Mother tucked the cover over me for the night, and rose the next morning to see Father coming in with a gobbler that he had lured within rifle shot with his caller.

I grew up in the virgin forests of these Ozark hills, tall stately pines in the valleys and rugged oaks on the hill-sides. I have seen them felled and processed, some into lumber, much into log cabins and rails for fencing the clearings. In fact I have helped to do some of this myself. And I have now lived to see many of these farms thrown out and again growing timber for the pulp and lumber mills, and the one and two-horse farmers going and gone.

I have witnessed many changes in my time, more than my **grandfathers** in their life span.

I recall the church house with no glass windows where the neighbors assembled for worship, some arriving in ox-carts and lynch-pin and tarpole wagons, most had mules and harness. In later years my eyes stared at the advent of the motor cars that pushed these vehicles off the highways, saw those highways transformed into ribbons of concrete, watched and gazed with awe the pilots zooming over my head, and I am now wondering and worrying, like all old

timers and seniles as to what this atom and hydrogen bomb will bring the human race to.

Wiley Urijah Halbrook, my father, was born on the head waters of Point Remove Creek in Van Buren County, March 21, 1854. At the age of 21 he was engaged to my mother, and like the pioneer young men of his day, ranged over his hunting area to select a site for a home. He chose one on an oak ridge near a lusty spring. He hewed logs and rived boards from the nearby timber, secured lumber for flooring from a distant sawmill, chinking the cracks between the logs with chips and daubing with mud, built a chimney with native stones, to which home he would fetch his bride.

My father married Sarah Elizabeth Woolverton during Christmas week in 1875, the daughter of William Louis and Letitia Woolverton. She was born May 1, 1858, at Adamsville, McNairy county, Tennessee, moved to Arkansas with her family in 1872, and settled on Lick Mountain, Conway county, known to-day as Woolverton Mountain. Her father was a prosperous farmer, owned slaves prior to the Civil War. Before their migration to Arkansas the family lived for a few years at Cottage Grove near Paris, Tennessee, where my mother received an education much beyond the girls of her day. So to his cabin my father brought her as his wife, and here they started housekeeping with such utensils as they could use in cooking on the fireplace. A son was born that did not live. Here in this cabin, March 14, 1878, was I born.

At that time it was customary for a settler to squat on land, make a clearing, and if it suited him he later took advantage of the homestead law, to file an application, live on it a bona fide five years, make proof that this had been done, and secure a title from the Federal Government for as much as 160 acres. Accordingly, Father went to

county seat some forty miles distant and filed his application to this tract he had chosen for a home. There he learned to his surprise that this tract on which he had settled, made a clearing and built his home, had been granted by Congress to a corporation as a subsidy for building a railroad from Little Rock to Fort Smith.

Being unable to buy the land from the corporation, Father filed a claim to a tract just north of the spring, and proceeded to build another cabin and start all over. Here were born four of my younger brothers, Ollie, Oscar, Orlando, and Clarence; my youngest brother, Columbus was born at Choctaw, where my father worked at a saw-mill for some time. My mother, as you see, had a fancy for names beginning with the letter "O." I was named in honor of both my grandfathers, William for my maternal grandfather and Erwin for paternal one. William was also the name of my paternal great-grandfather.

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In the later part of my teens I lost both of my grandfathers. Not many boys have had the pleasure and profit of association with all four of their grandparents till they were grown. I had that pleasure. My Grandfather Halbrook often used me to turn squirrels for him, for he was slightly nervous in his old age and had to have rest for his rifle. So time after time he took me along to assist his hunting, for he was a hunter, in fact that was the main reason he migrated to Arkansas where he found plenty of game. My Grandfather Woolverton had me to read for him, as his eyes became somewhat dim. I think he did it to show me his appreciation for my reading ability, for he took a pride in my advancement in learning. Both of my grandmothers lived till after I was married. They were each in their 80's when they passed away.

My Grandfather Woolverton who had of late emigrated from a much more progressive section of the South was an ardent believer in free schools, much more than many of his neighbors, and he took the lead in organizing the northeast corner of Conway county into the county's fourth school district. My father's homestead lay within this district. My Grandfather Halbrook had largely by himself built a little boxed house near his home as a community meeting house in which was organized a Methodist church. It was seated with split logs arranged around the walls. This being near the center of the new school district it was used for the district's school sessions. Here I attended my first school and among the first in the new school district with my mother's brother as my first teacher.

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My mother's father was William Louis Woolverton, born 1822, son of James and Agatha Williams Woolverton. The tradition of the Woolverton family was that they were of Welsh descent. Grandfather first married Eliza Jane Curtis to which union were born three sons and two daughters, and after her death his second marriage was to Letitia Goodjoin, and there were two sons and a daughter, all of



whose names will be given later. They lived in McNairy county, Tennessee, till the Civil War, and grandfather, fearing the raids of guerrillas, removed to Henry county where they lived till coming to Arkansas.

We were taught to call our mother's parents grandpa and grandma. Grandpa's first father-in-law endowed him with a few slaves when he was first married which had increased by the Civil War to about ten. Fearing the outcome of the war, for he predicted the freedom of the slaves, he sold his at half price for gold. He had more faith in gold as an asset of permanent value than in slaves.

Grandpa was a prosperous farmer, ever a good manager, always had money, a trait that this grandson did not inherit. He was a man of set convictions that he lived by to a letter. He had his personal political and religious convictions, granted his neighbor the same privilege, but he brooked no arguments on that score. He held that he was satisfied with his convictions, hence arguments were a waste of time. However he tolerated an exchange of opinions. He was a member of the Masonic order and of the Missionary Baptist church, and as long as health permitted never missed a meeting of either. He was the soul of honor, a man of few words, though he enjoyed conversations and was most cordial and hospitable with his neighbors. He died in 1894.

Grandma Woolverton was born Letitia Elizabeth Goodjoin whose mother was an Aydelette, and she was born in 1835. Her father was said to have come from Ireland as a lad, and her mother claimed Irish parentage. So grandma boasted to be full blood Irish. She was known by her neighbors as Aunt Letty, was of a somewhat choleric temperament, and when her temper was aroused she did not hesitate to let you know how she felt. But she was warm hearted

and sympathetic and loved by her neighbors who came to understand her temperamental effusions. She generally said what she thought regardless, spoke it out so that no one could be mistaken about her attitude on any subject, though she had no ill feelings towards others who might differ. She adored and petted us grandchildren, was inclined to spoil us, but we knew to obey her charges.

She could read but did not learn to write, especially liked to read her Bible in which she was well versed, and did most of her reading and knitting lying on a pallet by the fireside. She had joined the Methodist church as a girl, but became an ardent Baptist after her marriage. She never used tobacco in any form, the only one of my grandparents or parents that did not. Most of her married life was in frail health, the main reason, I was told, that the family moved from the flat lands of a progressive community in Tennessee to the pioneer region of the Ozarks. However, she lived for more than twenty years after her husband died, passing away in 1916 just a short while before her 81st anniversary.

Of my mother's family were:

Martha Ann, whom we called Aunt Sis, married Samueal Hastings, to which union was Martha Jane that married Anglin; and William John, Cornelius, Letitia, Lawrence, Reginald, Roy, and Ernest.

Elijah Aaron was first married to Lydia Grayson and the offsprings were Garland, Wester, and Hugh, with one daughter, Mary Ann, who married an Evans. His second wife was Loretta Bowman, and there were two sons, Harry and Freeling.

William Frierson, known as Uncle Bud, married Nancy Flowers, to which union was Oliver, Molinda that married a Thompson, and Myra that married a Bynum. Uncle Bud's second marriage was to Ann Hodges, and to this union were George, Coma that married a Walls, and Lena that married a Kissire.

My Grandfather Woolverton's second wife bore Christopher Houston, who never married, and then my mother. The youngest, Cornelius Ducalion married Alice Cleveland and reared two children, Alice that first married a Powell, and after his death married a Venable. Bryan was his son. Cornelius graduated at the University of Arkansas in 1885, among the university's first graduates, and for some years was one of the leading educators of the state.

Thus I have given as far as I have information the names of my family, beginning with a great-grandfather down to and including my own generation. The Halbrooks and the Woolvertons are just common American stock, no better and no worse than most of the pioneer generations of our country who were transplanted on our continent in an early day. Some have been fairly successful as the world measures success, some have not. No one has attained to a position of high distinction and none were notorious crimi-

nals. For them as for other ordinary citizens they exemplify a stanza from Gray's Elegy:

Far from the madding crowd's ignoble strife  
Their sober wishes never learned to stray;  
Along the cool, sequestered vale of life  
They kept the noiseless tenor of their way.

The rest of the book has all kinds of interesting stories and personal anecdotes relating to the author's early life, marriage, and career as a school teacher in Arkansas. It gives a good picture of life in the Ozarks in the early 1900s.

A School Man of the Ozarks is available through interlibrary loan from:

Springfield-Greene County Library  
397 Central  
Springfield, MO 65802

No doubt other libraries carry this book, and a copy might be available in a used bookstore somewhere.

*Glenn*