**WO]**US/CAN
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v.2,no.5 Sep/Oct 1994**UN**Glenn Gohr, editor
1040 East McCause St.
Springfield, MO
65803-3613Ph. 417-833-2814
(evenings & weekends)Descendants of **ANDREW WOOLVERTON**With allied families of **HANKS, DODSON, NEVILLE, LITTLEFIELD, and HARRIS****LITTLEFIELD INSCRIPTIONS**
From Fletcher, Cemetery, Fletcher, Oklahoma
Copied by Glenn Gohr, May 28, 1989

NOTE: All of these listed are descendants of John Monroe Littlefield (1859-1959) who died at age 99 and was a son of Nancy Artemisia (Woolverton) Littlefield⁵, James Matthew Woolverton⁴, Andrew Woolverton³, Joel Woolverton², Charles Woolverton¹.

My comments in brackets will help the reader to place the individuals into the family. Katherine Littlefield Smith of Tulsa, Oklahoma, sent information on family members who have died since 1989.

ROLL / Artie Littlefield / 1896-1987
Harry Edward / 1895-1968FAMILY HISTORY LIBRARY
35 NORTH WEST TEMPLE
SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH 84150

[Note: Artie is a daughter of John Monroe Littlefield. Her full name is Artimesia Elma (Littlefield) Roll, named for her grandmother who was Nancy Artemisia (Woolverton) Littlefield.--I am uncertain whether grandmother Nancy A. Littlefield's middle name was spelled Artimesia or Artemisia. There is a flower called artemisia, which no doubt derived its name from Artemis, the name of a Greek goddess.--ed.]

LITTLEFIELD / Joy J. Hagle / Jan. 24, 1910
George W. / Sept. 11, 1905 / Aug. 4, 1967

[Note: George Washington Littlefield is a son of John Monroe Littlefield. Joy Juanita (Hagle) Littlefield remarried to a Durham and died in 1987. She is actually buried at El Dorado, Oklahoma, but the death date does not appear on this stone.]

LITTLEFIELD / Zula E. / Born in Clark Co. Miss. / Jan. 28, 1889 /
Sept. 19, 1972
Luther Custer / Born in McNairy Co. Tenn. / Apr. 17, 1884 /
Feb. 26, 1964 /
Awaiting the Resurrection

[Note: Custer is a son of John Monroe Littlefield. He married Zula Buffington, a sister of Charlotte "Lottie" Buffington, who married his brother, Hardeman Littlefield.]

LITTLEFIELD / Luther Ethna / Born in Fletcher / Dec. 4, 1914

[Note: This inscription is on the back of Luther Custer and Zula Littlefield's marker. He is their son. Ethna passed away July 8, 1992 at his home in Fletcher, Oklahoma. His widow, Winona, still lives in Fletcher.]

LITTLEFIELD / Lottie Buffington / Born Clark County, Mississippi /
Nov. 11, 1895 / Died Bentonville, Arkansas / Feb. 24, 1984
Bascomb Hardeman / Born Jones County, Texas / Jan. 3, 1886 /
Died Fletcher, Oklahoma / Dec. 3, 1966

[Note: Hardeman is a son of John Monroe Littlefield. He married Charlotte "Lottie" Buffington, a sister of Zula Buffington, who married his brother Custer Littlefield.]

LANDERS / LITTLEFIELD

Frank Robert / Aug. 2, 1925 /
Billie Dove / Sept. 25, 1929 / Nov. 12, 1987

[Note: This inscription is on the back side of Hardeman and Lottie Littlefield's marker. Billie Dove (Littlefield) Landers is their daughter.]

LITTLEFIELD / Anna Bell Graves / July 20, 1897 / July 31, 1967
James Elmo / May 13, 1891 / Apr. 5, 1984 /
Our love goes with you and our souls wait to join you.
[son of John Monroe Littlefield]

LITTLEFIELD / Lloyd R. / Nov. 25, 1918 / Dec. 11, 1977

[Note: This inscription is on the back side of James Elmo and Anna Bell Littlefield's marker. Lloyd is their son.]

Lloyd R. Littlefield / AVN Cadet US Army / World War II /
Nov. 25, 1918 / Dec. 11, 1977

[Note: This is a flat military marker just in front of the upright marker listed for Lloyd R. Littlefield above.]

Thy Kingdom Come Thy Will Be Done /
LITTLEFIELD / Mabel "Jordan" / Apr. 7, 1907 / Mar. 13, 1987
John Jacob Sr. / Jan. 26, 1894 /
344 MG BN-90th Div-WWI

[Note: John Jacob Littlefield, Sr., was a son of John Monroe Littlefield. He fought in World War I, 90th Division, from Texas and Oklahoma. His home was in Lawton, Oklahoma, where he passed away on August 6, 1990. His wife, Mabel (Voyles) Littlefield also lived and died in Lawton.]

Thy Kingdom Come Thy Will Be Done /
LITTLEFIELD / John Jacob Jr. / Feb. 4, 1927 / Sept. 26, 1980 /
U.S. Navy--U.S.S. Penn--WWII

[Note: This inscription is on the back side of Mabel and John Jacob Littlefield, Sr.'s marker. He was their only son.]

John J. Littlefield Jr. / SI U.S. Navy / World War II / Feb. 4, 1927 /
Sept. 26, 1980

[Note: This is a flat military marker just in front of the upright stone listed above for John J. Littlefield, Jr.]

LITTLEFIELD / Dora E. / Oct. 24, 1910
Edmond V. / July 17, 1892 / Jan. 16, 1965

[Note: Edmond Varner Littlefield, Sr., was a son of John Monroe Littlefield. Dora Emma (Looney) Littlefield, his second wife, passed away at Grady Memorial Hospital in Chickasha, Oklahoma, on June 5, 1989.]

LITTLEFIELD / John Monroe / May 30, 1968 / Nov. 3, 1984
 James Lawrence / May 6, 1969 / Nov. 2, 1984

[This inscription is on the back side of the stone for Edmond & Dora Littlefield above. These are the two oldest children of Edmond V. Littlefield, Jr. and grandsons of Edmond V. Littlefield above. They died from injuries sustained in a motorcycle accident south of Cyril, Oklahoma.]

FOSTER / Mattie A. Littlefield / Nov. 7, 1902 / Mar. 23, 1989
 Herbert H. / Sept. 19, 1901 / May 17, 1978
 [Mattie is daughter of John Monroe Littlefield]

ELLIS / Tom T. / Sept. 7, 1909 / Mar. 2, 1975
 Jessie L. / Aug. 11, 1909 / Apr. 5, 1989 [dau. of L. Custer Littlefield]

LITTLEFIELD / Ada Belle / Born near Adamsville, Tenn. / June 3, 1889 /
 Died at Lawton, Oklahoma / Aug. 21, 1983
 William Monroe / Born near Adamsville, Tenn. / Mar. 10, 1887 /
 Died at Cyril, Oklahoma / Oct. 5, 1955
 In Loving Memory [son of John Monroe Littlefield]

LITTLEFIELD / Lean / 1864-1933
 Jno. M. / 1859-1959

[Note: This is John Monroe Littlefield, son of Nancy Artemisia (Woolverton) Littlefield. He married Lean or Lee Ann Carothers on May 23, 1883 at Adamsville, Tennessee. All 11 of their children were born near Adamsville, McNairy County, Tennessee. Ten survived to adulthood and are buried in the Fletcher Cemetery in Oklahoma. The eleventh child, Lawton, Littlefield, died in infancy and is buried in the Adamsville Cemetery, Adamsville, Tennessee, near a host of other Littlefield relatives.]

Marshall W. Littlefield / US Air Force / Korea / Apr 19, 1932
 / Dec 7, 1982 [son of Fred Littlefield]

FATHER / Fred E. Littlefield / Feb. 22, 1889 / June 21, 1953

MOTHER / Margaret C. Littlefield / Mar. 30, 1889 / June 30, 1979
 / Dau. of Jonathan & Jemima Eppler.

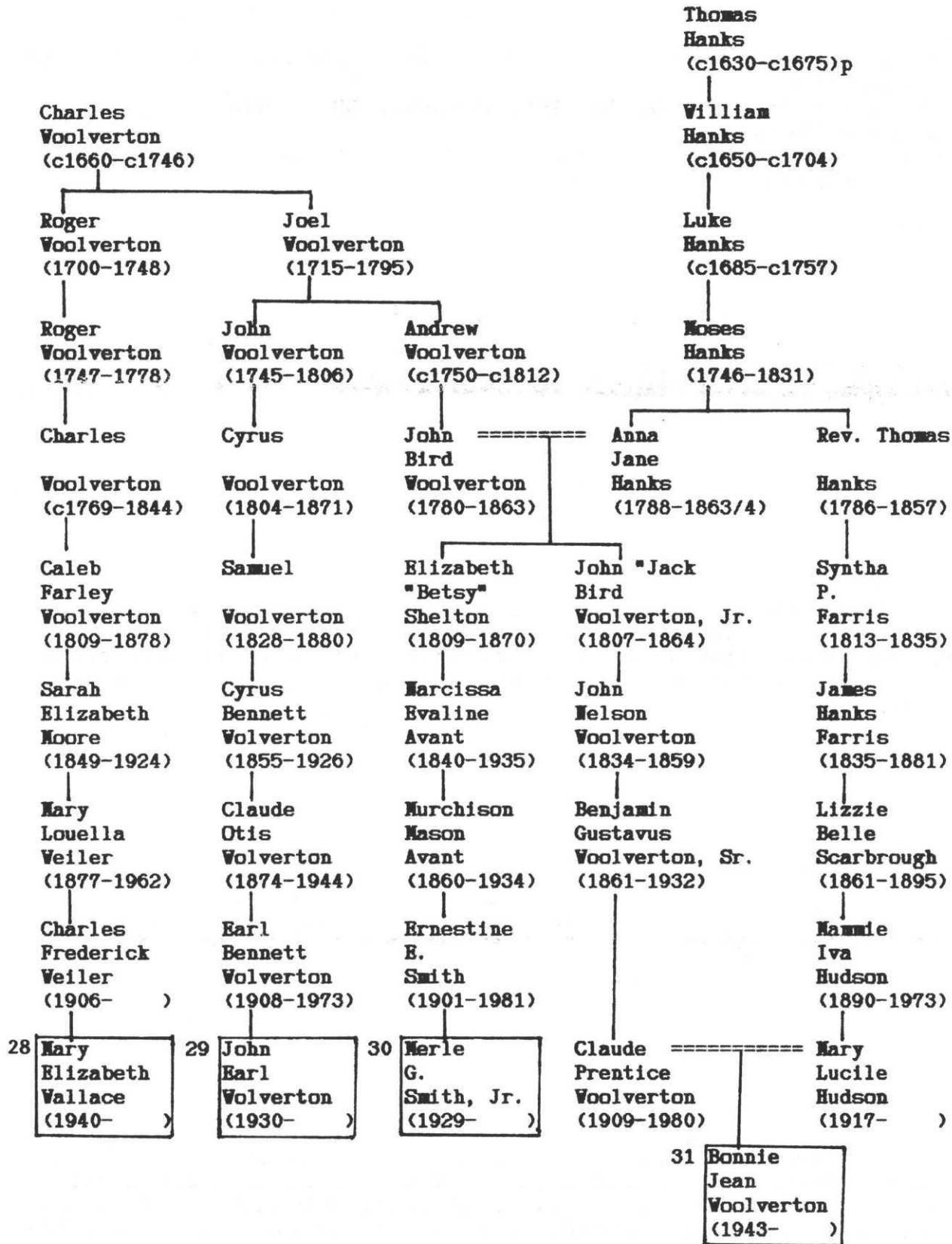
[Note: Frederick Edward "Fred" Littlefield above was a son of John Monroe Littlefield.]

Marx Reed / Son of / Fred and Margaret / Littlefield
 / Sept. 22, 1917 - Mar. 13, 1918

Rose Littlefield / Daughter of / B. H. & Lottie / Dec. 9, 1918
 / Dec. 27, 1918

Infant Daughter / of / Mr. & Mrs. W. M. / Littlefield / Dec. 11, 1922 /
 Orvis L. / Littlefield / Nov. 13, 1917

[This marker is for a daughter and a son, each of whom died at birth; children of Will and Ada Littlefield.]



16. Geraldine Farmer, 670 Whispering Wind Circle, Conway, AR 72032
ph. 501-450-9265 (new address)
28. Mary W. Wallace, 3118 Knoll Lane N.W., Rochester, MN 55901
ph. 507-288-5853
29. John E. Wolverton, 2815 N. Maplewood Ave., Chicago, IL 60618-7911
ph. 312-276-2261
30. Merle & Ann Smith, P.O. Box 399, Guthrie, OK 73044
ph. 405-282-3450
31. Bonnie Woolverton, P.O. Box 415, Tennessee Colony, TX 75861
ph. 903-729-8692

Mary Wallace is a seasoned researcher with mountains of materials on the various Wolverton/Woolverton lines in the U.S. and Canada. I first contacted her 13 years ago after she ran a query in the Genealogical Helper. She has maintained an extensive card file and family group sheets on all Wolverton lines down from Charles' for five or six generations, following the male lines primarily. She located the names of Charles Woolverton's three treatises. Only one of these is still known to exist, Christ the Eternal Word. She found a copy of it on microfilm at the Wisconsin Historical Society, and has noted that other film copies are available through the American Antiquarian Society. She has had little time for genealogy the past few years. After graduating from United Theological Seminary of the Twin Cities in 1991 with an M.A. in religious studies, she has since been employed by the Minnesota AIDS Project as the Regional Coordinator for the 20 counties of southeast Minnesota.

John E. Wolverton is another veteran Wolverton researcher. Mary Wallace has called him the "dean" of the Wolverton researchers. He has corresponded with a large number of people on the Wolverton lineage, and has been most helpful to me in research since I first made contact with him in 1981 after he also had an ad in the Genealogical Helper. Living in Chicago, he has been able to glean a lot of good material from the Newberry Library there.

Merle Smith is a lawyer at Guthrie, Oklahoma. His wife, Ann, is the family genealogist. She has compiled a large number of records on the Andrew Woolverton line, especially pertaining to his son, John Bird Woolverton. These are on a computer disk, and she is willing to send a printout of her information. You would need to check with her for costs. Ann has been doing research for quite a few years, as she received several copies of Royal Wolverton's Oklahoma Corn Pone which would have been about 15 years ago. Ann and Merle were the drive behind tabulating all the graves at the Woolverton Mountain Cemetery near Formosa, Arkansas, last May. This cemetery had never been inventoried before. When all the records are completed, a copy is slated to be published in The Arkansas Family Historian.

Bonnie Woolverton, another veteran researcher, is a long-time historian and genealogical researcher for Tennessee Colony and the surrounding area, and has much information on the Woolvertons, Hankses, and allied families. She descends from the Woolvertons on her father's side and is descended from the Hanks family two different ways. She also is a 6th-generation native of Tennessee Colony on her father's side and a 7th-generation native on her mother's side. Bonnie has lived various places and had a number of jobs, including secretarial work, bookkeeping, general office work, and teaching school. She has written numerous genealogical articles and recently published two books on Tennessee Colony, Texas (see enclosed flyer). Bonnie is a member of Daughters of the Republic of Texas and United Daughters of the Confederacy.

In 1983 Bonnie Woolverton published a book which focuses on her

grandfather and his descendants and close relatives. It is called Ancestors and Descendants of Benjamin G. Woolverton of Tennessee Colony, Texas (Palestine, TX : Palestine Reprographics, 1983), 164 p. The book contains a lot of clippings and anecdotes on Bonnie's immediate family, yet it also has some interesting information on the Woolverton ancestry all the way back to Charles the immigrant. In addition, it has sections on the following: descendants of William Woolverton (son of Andrew) who settled in Anderson County, Texas; unidentified Anderson County Woolvertons; and other branches of the Woolverton family. Bonnie is willing to make photocopies of her book, although her copy has a lot of handwritten additions. Others of the family, including Ann Smith and myself, also have permission from Bonnie and would be willing to make copies of this book.

* * * * *

REPORT OF LITTLEFIELD REUNION, FLETCHER, OKLAHOMA

In a recent telephone conversation, Katherine L. Smith reported that the annual Littlefield Reunion of descendants of John Monroe Littlefield⁶ [son of Nancy Artemisia (Woolverton) Littlefield⁵, James Matthew Woolverton⁴, Andrew Woolverton³, Joel Woolverton², Charles Woolverton¹] again was a happy gathering of first cousins and their families. There was good weather for the reunion held in the cafeteria of the Fletcher High School on May 29th, although attendance was down a little as her half-brother, Edmond Littlefield, Jr., had recently passed away. He died April 28, 1994 in San Diego County, California, following complications from a blood clot, at the age of 44. He was buried in the Fletcher (Oklahoma) Cemetery. Several of the out-of-state relatives who came for his memorial service did not attempt to come again to Oklahoma for the reunion.

A few of those who attended the reunion were: J. Robert Foster, Gladys & Foy Sellers, John Roll, Helen Wolf, Winona Littlefield, Charles & Lurland Raibourn, Betty Yeager, Harley Littlefield, and Monroe Littlefield. Some other Littlefields from West Texas attended the reunion, hoping to find out where they tie in to the Littlefield lineage. After the reunion many of the cousins visited the Fletcher Cemetery where most of the older generation of Littlefields are buried.

Katherine also reported that Dorotha Sexton's husband has had to have his leg amputated below the knee due to diabetes. Our prayers go out to Dorotha and to others of the Hardeman Littlefield family who have had health problems in the last year.

* * * * *

REPORT OF HARRIS REUNION, LOCKHART, TEXAS

The largest crowd ever attended the 34th Annual J. D. Harris family reunion at Lockhart State Park in Texas, June 24-26. 168 people braved the 104 degree temperatures to be present. Traveling the farthest was Beth Campbell of Seattle, Washington, daughter of Docia (Williams) Baldrige. Traveling the least were Bob and Margaret Evans of Lockhart who helped host the reunion. It was announced that during the last year 3 cousins had died: Janna Detrixhe, Shelby Smiley, and Wilburn Pfluger.

As always there was a quilt which was completed during the reunion. Names were drawn for various door prizes. Little Alexandra Blowey quite remarkably drew her own mother's name, Susan Blowey, to receive the quilt. Alexandra received a generous kiss from her mother

as a reward.

Some of our subscribers who attended were: Hazel Gohr, Margaret Evans, Docia Baldrige, Melba Blowey, Eddy Blowey, and Loretta Risica. Glenda and Erwin Wheeler were unable to attend as they were in Castle Rock, Colorado for the summer visiting their oldest son Larry and family. But they did allow Marion, Jared, and me to stay in their farm house at Rosanky, Texas, about 20 miles from the reunion site. It was a nice, quiet place with cows to greet us each morning, and we saved on a motel. But this is the second time we have missed seeing Erwin and Glenda on a planned visit. Four years ago they were working at a Baptist campground at Hesperus, Colorado, and we went through there on vacation. They had to leave suddenly, and just missed seeing us by a couple of days. It has now been 12 years since I have seen the Wheelers in persons, although we keep in touch regularly. While in Texas we did visit their other son, Mark, and wife Susie. They live at Austin, where he is employed with ITT Sheraton.

Several Harris cousins from Tennessee came to the reunion: Demova Brewer, Myrna and Adell Treece, Douglas Treece, and Jelva Brooks. It was a joy to have them. Also Mary Finley of Grand Prairie, Texas, and her brother came to the reunion. They are children of Myrtie McDaniel "Dan" Harris and grandchildren of Uncle Albert Royal Harris. Uncle Albert's family had not been heard from in at least 50 years! Mary brought along some old family photos in hopes to get them identified. Aunt Theola and some others did their best to help her. Mary was thrilled to see a family resemblance in Uncle Leland and in his son Terry to some of her family of Albert Harris descendants.

On Saturday morning of the reunion, some of the family went to the Golden Age Retirement Home at Lockhart to visit Uncle Tillman Williams, age 93. They took some 5-generation photos with: Uncle Tillman, Margaret Evans, Carolyn Detrixhe, Bonnie McWhorter, and Shelby McWhorter. Those pictures will be special to them, as 3 weeks later, on July 18, Uncle Tillman passed away. He was ready to go. He and Aunt Avie (died 1979) were faithful members of the Primitive Baptist Church. The funeral was at Bethel Primitive Baptist Church in McMahan, Texas, with buried at Jeffrey Cemetery which is directly behind the church. Our sympathy goes out to the Avie Williams family as this is the third death in that family in the last year.

* * * * *

WOOLVERTON'S CLEARING

One place of historic interest in Maury County, Tennessee is Woolverton's Clearing. No doubt this is named for Andrew Woolverton³ (Joel², Charles¹) or some of his sons. According to Royal Wolverton, Andrew moved to Maury County, Tennessee around 1810, following his children and neighbors. Previously the family had lived at Somerset, Pulaski County, Kentucky, where Andrew's wife Sarah (Stone) Woolverton is said to have died in 1808. Traditional history places Andrew's death in 1812 of "stomach misery" (probably cancer). He is believed to be buried in Old Knob Creek Cemetery in Maury County. No gravestone exists.

Reference to "Woolverton's Clearing" is found in: Maury County Tennessee Deed Books A-F, 1807-1817, compiled by Virginia Wood Alexander (Easley, SC: Southern Historical Press, 1981), p. vi. Although this work is well-indexed, there is no mention of anyone named Woolverton or Wolverton for the years covered.

Maury County was established by an act of the General Assembly of Tennessee at Knoxville on Nov. 16, 1807, from a part of Williamson

County, and named in honor of Major Abram P. Maury. Columbia was selected as the county seat, and it was incorporated in 1817. Among the early court magistrates were William Frierson and Joshua Williams, who are likely related to Andrew Woolverton and/or the Moses Hanks family. One of the Arkansas descendants was named William Frierson Woolverton. And Robert and Elizabeth (Hanks) Williams both came to Maury County, Tennessee, with others of the family around 1810. Other early settlers who could be related included Robert Hill, who was living on Snow Creek in 1811; and Abraham Scott, who was living on Enon's Fork in February 1809.

* * * * *

THOMAS WOOLVERTON IN AMERICAN REVOLUTION

The Aug./Sept. issue of the DAR Magazine, p. 509 lists Thomas Woolverton as a newly proven Revolutionary War ancestor. The DAR approved his service in April 1994. Thomas was born circa 1759 in New Jersey and died after September 3, 1825 in Ohio. He was a Captain in New Jersey. His wife's name is not given.

This appears to be Thomas Woolverton⁴ (Thomas³, Thomas², Charles¹) who married Jane Bell.

* * * * *

DEATH OF REV. SILAS EMMETT LUCAS, JR.

The Carolina Herald and Newsletter, Fall 1994, p. 102, included the following notice: "We have received notice that Silas Emmett Lucas, owner of Southern Historical Press, died 4 May 1994. The press will continue under his son, Labruce Lucas."

Silas Lucas was born 5 Nov. 1931 at Birmingham, Alabama. He was 62 years old. Not only was Lucas the owner of the largest genealogical book publishing company in the U.S., he was an ordained Episcopalian priest, and one of our Dodson kin. In 1988 he published the 2-volume work: The Dodson (Dotson) Family of North Farnham Parish, Richmond County, Virginia: A History and Genealogy of Their Descendants which was based on earlier works he had done on the Dodson family and contact he had in more recent years with Dodson descendants far and wide. This was a monumental undertaking as the work comes to nearly 2,000 pages. A large number of our Hanks/Dodson/Woolverton relatives are listed. (See notice in newsletter, pp. 59-60)

* * * * *

FROM OUR READERS

Please put my name on the mailing list. I was on Royal's. My great, great grandfather, William Louis Woolverton, is a brother to Nancy Artemisia Woolverton, who is your great, great, great grandmother. We live not too far from Adamsville, Tennessee, where some of the Woolvertons and Littlefields lived, and we have visited the cemetery in Adamsville, Tennessee where some are buried. I am happy you are working on the genealogy. I am 61 years old and a retired school teacher.

(This first note was written on August 9, 1993, shortly after she received the first issue of the newsletter. At the time she was living in Florence, Alabama, just across the Tennessee state line. Since then she has moved to Conway, Arkansas. See note below.)

Just a little note to let you know I am enjoying the newsletter. We did not get to attend the reunion at Formosa this year because we had just sold our house and had only 3 weeks to be in another one.

We are now settled in Conway, Arkansas at the following new address:

Geraldine Farmer
670 Whispering Wind Circle
Conway, AR 72032

We have two daughters here and 3 grandchildren, so we are having fun.

Sincerely,
Geraldine Farmer

* * * * *

Please send me a subscription for one year. I am a descendant of Thomas Edward Littlefield and Belle Staggs Littlefield--a granddaughter. My mother was Mildred Orpha Littlefield who married Daris M. Parker. My father has something in common with you--he's a retired minister. He preached for 72 years in Oklahoma and retired for good last May [1993]. He was 90 years old in October. On May 23, 1993 he preached his last sermon at the New Haven Methodist Church in Tulsa, Oklahoma. He is the oldest Methodist minister in terms of continuous service in the state of Oklahoma. He now lives with me.

I heard of you through my first cousin Iris Cook of Atlanta, Georgia. Her mother and my mother were sisters.

I'm 68 years old, a retired Registered Nurse, due to disability. Also I'm a widow, a mother of 8 children, and a grandmother to 25 (many of them adopted).

P.S. I live about 40 miles from Adamsville, Tennessee (McNairy County).

Mrs. Laurabel Parker Hearne
Route 1, Box 57, Glen, MS 38846

(Mrs. Hearne not only is a faithful subscriber, but she has sent in subscriptions for three of her children: Dr. David O. Hearne, Norwalk, CT; Patti Barksdale, Philpot, KY; and James Lee Hearne, Salisbury, MD.)

* * * * *

I am enclosing the article I wrote for the Lincoln Herald and also a brochure which is my first attempt in a commercial venture. I wonder if this has been the first time in my line to have something printed since the booklet by Charles Woolverton. I suspect my brochure won't survive 350 years though.

Hope you find this article interesting. Royal had much to do with getting me interested in this topic with his newsletter.

Robert Holloway
311 E. Desert Rose, Henderson, NV 89015

(Bob Holloway's article on "Elijah Hanks" was mentioned on pp. 13-14 of the Sept./Oct. 1993 newsletter. The other brochure he sent is called "Fundamentals of Radiochemistry" and advertises a course taught by Nevada Nuclear Associates at Las Vegas, November 8-12, 1993. Bob is also the author of six publications on various chemical and fission studies.)

Thursday, March 3, 1994 page A-1

Tennessee Colony homecoming set

By STEPHEN WHITE
Herald-Press Staff Writer

TENNESSEE COLONY — Residents of Tennessee Colony are making preparations for the community's first homecoming in more than 40 years.

"It's the first thing like this we've done since 1952," said Bonnie Woolverton, who is directing the barbecue/homecoming scheduled for April 30 at the Tennessee Colony Community Center. "We decided we were overdue for having a homecoming."

Ms. Woolverton grew up in the rural community, and though she now makes her home in Palestine, she said, "In my mind, I will always be a resident of Tennessee Colony."

The small town may be best known today for its prison units, but it has a rich history dating back to the middle of the last century.

Tennessee Colony was settled in about 1845 by a large group of related families from Tennessee.

"They established a post office and stores right after Anderson County was formed," Ms. Woolverton said.

The first homecoming celebration was held to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the post office, established in 1852 and still open today.

"The post office was closed briefly on two occasions, once during the Civil War and once just after it," Ms. Woolverton said. "Except for a very few years, it has been open continuously all this time."

The post office is not the town's only historical building, either.

Ms. Woolverton and several other longtime residents of the town spoke Wednesday in the community center, which now is

See COLONY, Page A-8

TC community homecoming set

TENNESSEE COLONY — Tennessee Colony's first community homecoming in over 40 years will be April 30 at the community center. 2-27-94

Lunch will be catered and reservations must be made. To be placed on the mailing list to receive an informational flyer with a reservation form write to Lucile Woolverton, Rt. 1 Box 4, Tennessee Colony, TX 75861. Reservations must be made by April 3.

For more information call 928-2580, 928-2850 or 729-8692.

Colony

March 3, 1994, page A-8

Continued from Page A-1

used for meetings, elections, wedding receptions and family reunions among other events, but built in 1928, it was once the school building, before Tennessee Colony merged with the Cayuga school district.

"We are all descendants of the pioneer families — the original settlers," Ms. Woolverton said, speaking for the people present.

All proceeds from the sale of T-shirts, caps and books plus any donations given at the homecoming will go toward upkeep of the building — "It continually needs maintenance," Ms. Woolverton

said.

Among some other historical highlights of the community:

● The Masonic Lodge, established in 1856, is one of the oldest established lodges in continued operation in the state.

● In 1961, Tennessee Colony was selected the outstanding rural community in Texas based on community efforts to improve the quality of life.

"I remember it well, because I was on the beautification committee of the Tennessee Colony Community Improvement Association," said Ellen Hudson Lewis. This year's homecoming specific-

ally is designed to attract former residents of the community.

"We've sent invitations to numerous other states," Ms. Woolverton said. "We already know of one person who's coming from Hawaii."

The T-shirts will feature an original sketch of the community center by David McMahon, a native of Tennessee Colony.

"He went to first grade in this room where you're sitting," Mrs. Lewis said.

Two books also will be for sale: one a listing identifying each grave in the Tennessee Colony Cemetery, originally published

in 1991; and a new book highlighting important events in Tennessee Colony history.

Ms. Woolverton's mother, Lucile Hudson Woolverton, a resident of Tennessee Colony for 71 years, perhaps best summed up the feelings of the people in the community about why it is so special to them.

"For one thing, it is a community — we have more of a community spirit than just about any other place you can find," the elder Ms. Woolverton said. "Everybody looks out for each other."

May 1, 1994, page A-1

More than 400 attend homecoming for Tennessee Colony

By STEPHEN WHITE
Herald-Press Staff Writer

TENNESSEE COLONY — Overcast skies, strong winds and cold temperatures didn't dampen the spirits of several hundred participants in Saturday's homecoming at the Tennessee Colony Community Center.

"There are easily 350, maybe 400 people here," estimated Bonnie Woolverton, chairperson of the 1994 Tennessee Colony Homecoming Committee. "A lot of people have shown up that didn't have reservations; of course, we didn't turn anybody away."

The bad weather did make for crowded conditions, however, as what was planned to be an outdoor barbecue was hastily moved indoors as the weather remained cold through the morning.

"Obviously, the weather changed our plans completely this morning," Ms. Woolverton said. "Still, it's worth it for everyone to come in and be reminded of old times, see old friends — I think there are some people who haven't been in this building since they were in school."

The community center served as a school for many years and proceeds from the homecoming are going toward maintaining the building.

"Our building needs continual upkeep, repair and maintenance," Ms. Woolverton told the crowd. "It is used a lot. Wedding

See Photo Page A-12

receptions, elections — we even have a family reunion scheduled here for tomorrow."

Lois Weems Christian now lives in Houston but frequently visits Tennessee Colony.

"I grew up here and went to high school. I sat right over there," she said, pointing, "in Mr. Johnson's geometry class."

It was almost as if she could see her former teacher in the room — in fact, she could.

R.H. Johnson, 89, reminisced on his years as principal, teacher and coach in Tennessee Colony from 1930 to 1943.

"I did it all, taught science and math and coached girls basketball, baseball and volleyball," Johnson said. "I would go out and play sports with them; I was just a big kid."

After 13 years, Johnson left his position because "somebody was crazy enough to let me superintendent of Anderson county schools" a position he held for 25 years before retiring.

Johnson and his wife, Sybil, who taught third and fourth grade in Tennessee Colony for four years, have been married 65 years.

"And we went together for four or five years before that," Mrs. Johnson said.

The homecoming was the first
See COLONY, Page A-12

Page 1 Continued



Staff Photo by Stephen White

Tennessee Colony Homecoming

Old friends don't let the bad weather bother them as they catch up at the Tennessee Colony homecoming Saturday. Several hundred people attended, coming from as far away as Hawaii.

Colony

Continued from Page A-1
one held in Tennessee Colony since 1952 and probably the largest gathering of people in the community since they celebrated being selected outstanding rural community in Texas in 1961.

Ms. Woolverton asked the crowd to show by hands who was present at either event, and a large number of hands went up both times.

"Every few minutes, you hear

The preceding 3 pages of news clips on the Tennessee Colony homecoming are from the Palestine Herald-Press and were supplied by Bonnie Woolverton of Tennessee Colony, Texas. Bonnie also supplied me with another page of short news clips (Jan. 8 - March 3, 1994) telling of plans for the homecoming beforehand. If you want the other page, contact Bonnie.

Bonnie's lineage, address, and other