

WH

EWELL AND MARY SIMMONS BELTON

Extensive research has not revealed the parents of Ewell/Uel Belton but records indicate that he was born in NC. According to family records Ewell married Mary Simmons/Symons, date and place of marriage and her parents as yet unknown. Several family documents state that Ewell and Mary were both born in Stokes Co., NC. From the Bible of son Francis M., we learn that Ewell was born in 1797, died 1869; Mary was born Nov 19, 1806.

We can trace the movements of the family through public records.

Ewell and Mary were found on the 1830 census of Stokes Co., NC with 1 male under 5 years of age.

On Feb, 3, 1836 Ewell Belton of Stokes Co., NC purchased 311 acres of land in Patrick Co., VA "on the side of a mountain" for \$600.

In May 1839 the Patrick Co. court ordered that Ewell Belton be permitted to erect a water grist mill on his own land "being satisfied he is the owner of said land on both sides of the water course and also above said site."

On Nov 10, 1843 Ewell and Mary sold the 311 acre tract for \$780, "it being on side of the mountain and crossing Elk Creek."

In Oct of 1844 Ewell and Mary of Patrick Co., sold 100 acres "on the waters of Elk Creek, south side," in Patrick Co. for the sum of \$1000.

On Oct 28, 1844 Ewell Belton of Patrick Co., Va purchased for \$1362, 174 acres in Surry Co., NC "on the middle fork of the Arrarat River" (This is Lovills Creek). This deed mentions the mouth of the Meeting House Branch which could possibly be

Stewarts Creek Primitive Bapt Church, called "Old Hollow Church." One of the witnesses was Anderson Simmons, relationship to Ewell's wife unknown to me. Ewell sold this 174 acres to Joseph Norman in Sept. 1852. There are other land transactions but this is sufficient to trace Ewell's movements.

Ewell appears on the 1850 and 1860 census of Surry Co. The 1870 Mortality Schedule names Ewel Belton, age 72, b. NC, occupation wagoner, cause of death falling out of wagon. The Thurs. Sept. 9, 1869 issue of "The Greensboro Patriot" of Greensboro, NC gives the following: "Sad Death! Mr. E. Belton, residing near Mt. Airy, while hauling last week, fell from his wagon and was instantly killed. Mr. Belton was in his 73rd year and was getting very feeble."

In 1870 Mary is found ~~in~~ on the census age 65, b. VA (?), living in the household of her dau-in-law Eliza Belton, wife of Wm A., and in 1880 in William A.'s household age 74, b. NC (?).

An article dated June 1, 1916 of "The Mount Airy News" states that "Ewell Belton, Jonathan Roberts, Charles Whitlock, and William Rawley were manufacturers of tobacco as far back as 1852 or 1853. The methods were very primitive, wooden screws being used to prize the plugs." So by the records it is known that Ewell Belton was a man of varied interests, land owner and slave holder, grist mill, and tobacco manufacturer.

It is unfortunate that we find no will that names all his children but estate records reveal that he had, in 1868 being old and infirm, gives his property to his son-in-law James W. Jackson to care for him and his wife Mary for their lifetime. These estate papers are in the State Archives in Raleigh, NC.

Ewell and Mary's known children:

(1) John Browder b. July 19, 1828. married Sarah Elizabeth Deatherage (refer to their story this Vol).

(2) William Alexander b. Mar 15, 1831 Stokes Co., married Eliza Jane Deatherage.

(3) Adaline M. b. c1835 married James W. Jackson.

(4) Mary b. c1839 married William F. Scott.

Tal (5) Francis M. b. Jan 2, 1843 married Charity E. Briggs (refer to Heritage of Surry Co., Vol I).

(6) Henry Clay? b. c1843. I have no further information.

(7) Ewell Taylor b. 1850. The Bible of Francis M. Belton has a page with some illegible words. One entry says that Ewell Taylor was born 1850 and died? in the year 1868. I found no further data on him.

Sources: Records of Stokes and Surry Co., NC and Patrick Co., VA; State Archives, Raleigh, NC; Bible records and personal knowledge.

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JOHN BROWDER AND SARAH DEATHERAGE BELTON

John Browder Belton was born July 14, 1828, probably in Stokes County, NC, to Ewell and Mary Simmons/Symons Belton. John married c1861, Sarah "Sallie" Elizabeth Deatherage, daughter of Phillip and Martha Forkner Deatherage. No marriage record has been found for them. John and Sarah were the parents of six children:

(1) Robert "Bob" b Sept 15, 1863 Surry Co., NC, married Nov 7, 1886 Surry Co., NC, Octavia V. Duncan, daughter of James and Mary Ferris Duncan. He was a well-known grocery merchant in Mt. Airy. Robert d July 17, 1937 and he and Octavia are buried in Oakdale Cemetery.

Ital (2) Eliza Catherine b c1864 (age 6 on 1870 census), married Charles Solomon Gates, son of William Benjamin and Zilpha Ingram Gates (refer to Heritage of Surry Co., Vol I). Catherine d 1904 and is buried in the William B. Gates family cemetery in Patrick Co., VA.

(3) Phillip Ewell b Apr 6, 1866, Surry Co., NC, married Frances Ruth Gates, daughter of William Benjamin and Zilpha Ingram Gates (see their story this Vol).

(4) William Alexander "Eleck" b Feb 4, 1872, married Jan. 17, 1915, Patrick Co., VA, Hulda Gardner Portis, daughter of John Abner and Lucinda Webb Gardner, and widow of Jim Portis. Some family members recall "Eleck" as having been born blind in one eye and at age 14 lost the sight of the other in an accident when he fell on a stake, others say he was born blind in both eyes. He

was very self-sufficient and was a well-known retail merchant. He d Sept 26, 1956 and is buried at Oak Grove Meth. Church in Patrick Co.

(5) Mary Etta b Dec 13, 1874, married in Apr 1891 in Patrick Co., Percie Lee Bowman, son of Joe Henry and C.E. Bowman, giving Surry Co., NC as her place of birth. She d Aug. 10, 1955 and is buried at Doe Run Bapt. Church in Patrick Co.

(6) John Mourning b Dec 1879 according to the 1880 census, married first, John Preston Bowman, son of W.D. and M. Bowman, Aug 2, 1892, Patrick Co. She married second, Luther "Luke" Alexander Collins Apr 5, 1904 Patrick Co., son of Charlie and Etta Puckett Collins. She married both times as J.M. Belton, was called "M" and later was known as "Emma." Her father's will names her as "my daughter, John Mourning." Emma d March 24, 1960 in Surry Co. She and Luther are buried in Oakdale Cemetery.

The Beltons lived at various times in Stokes and Surry Co., NC and Patrick Co., VA.

John appears in his father Ewell's household on the Surry Co. census in 1850, age 22. I do not find him on the 1860 census of Surry but in the NC Archives for Surry Co. taxables is the following paper, "Nov term 1859. John Belton is to be permitted to list his poll tax for the year 1858 and be released from paying a double tax on the same it having been made to appear that said Belton did list his poll tax for that year and was omitted being entered by the magistrate by mistake." They are on the census in Surry Co. in 1870 and 1880, and in Patrick Co. in

1900. The 1910 census of Patrick Co., lists John and Sarah, both married for 49 years, and that Sarah was married once and John twice.

There is a marriage record in Surry Co., NC for John B. Belton and Lucinda E. Nichols. They were married by James Needham on May 27, 1856. Is this John's first wife?

John was a farmer. The few people who recall family stories say that he was a hard worker and had a good sense of humor.

John Browder Belton died in Ararat, Patrick Co., VA on Feb 5, 1913. His will was written Feb 23, 1900 and was admitted to record on Dec 29, 1913. He bequeathed his property to his sons, Alexander, and Phillip E., and some personal property to his daughter, John Mourning, who is to live with Phillip E. until she marries. He stated that he has given his other three children their portions prior to the writing of the will.

Sarah was born Sept 1, 1842 in Surry Co., NC and died in The Hollow, Patrick Co., VA Sept 9, 1929. John and Sarah are buried at the Belton family cemetery, Patrick Co., VA (refer to Phillip Belton's story, this Vol.).

Sources: Records of Surry and Stokes Co., NC and Patrick Co., VA; Bible records, family and personal knowledge.

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JOHN BROWDER AND SARAH DEATHERAGE BELTON

Belton
Simmons
Symons
Deatherage
Forkner
Duncan
Ferris
Gates
Ingram
Gardner
Portis
Webb
Bowman
Collins
Puckett
Nichols
Needham

Mooley
Wells

abs
PHILLIP EWELL AND FRANCES RUTH GATES BELTON

Phillip Ewell Belton was b Apr 6, 1866 in Surry Co., NC, the son of John Browder and Sarah "Sallie" (Deatherage) Belton and grandson of Uel/Ewell and Mary (Simmons) Belton.

Phillip Ewell md Oct 15, 1889, Patrick Co, VA, Frances "Fanny" Ruth Gates, b Apr 2, 1872, Patrick Co, dau. of William Benjamin and Zilpha (Ingram) Gates. They were md by her father who was an Elder of the Primitive Baptist church. They had the following eleven children, all b in Patrick Co, VA: (1) Sallie Lou, b Apr 23, 1891, never married. (Refer to her story this Vol.) Lou d Aug 7, 1967 in Surry Co, is buried at Skyline Memory Gardens (2) John Henry, b Aug 12, 1893, md Sep 7, 1924, Surry Co, Lelia Alice Flippin. They had two children: Frances and J.D. John Henry d Sep 12, 1972 in Mt. Airy, is buried at Skyline Memory Gardens. He was a member of Loves Grove Primitive Baptist Church and was retired from Standard Oil Company (3) Thomas Jefferson, (Sep 12, 1895-Apr 11, 1913) is buried in the Belton family graveyard on the old homeplace in Patrick Co., VA. (4) Benjamin "Ben" McKinley, b Oct 17, 1897, md Geneva May Flippin Jan 8, 1922. Ben owned a grocery store and a cafe in Mt. Airy. Ben and Geneva had three children: Clarence, Catherine, and Hassell. Hassell d Feb 13, 1931. Ben d Feb 9, 1931 in Surry Co, is buried at Korner's Grove Prim. Bapt. Church (5) Phillip Lee (Dec 10, 1900-Jun 13, 1903), is buried at the homeplace (6) Elcana "Canie", b May 6, 1903, md Oct 12, 1929, Surry Co, Iva Jewell Shackelford. They had four children: James Eldridge, Billy Allen, "L.C." Phillip and Bobby Gray. Canie owned and operated Belton's Shoe Repair Shop for many years in Mt. Airy. He d May 31, 1971,

is buried at Korner's Grove Prim. Bapt. Church (7) Garland Roosevelt "Rosie", b Jul 19, 1905, md Bertie Elizabeth Beasley Jul 3, 1926 in Surry Co. They had three children: Margaret Syvallon, Johnny Roosevelt, and James Walter. Rosie d Mar 14, 1990, is buried at Korner's Grove Prim. Bapt. Church where he was a member and the church clerk for 33 years (8) Essie Etta, b Dec 1, 1907, md Claude Augustin Moseley Oct 20, 1928 in Surry Co. They had four children: Robert Clayton, Maggie Luvenia, Barbara Jean, and Essie Edna (9) Vella Agnes, b Feb 6, 1910, md Leslie Robert Moseley, in Hillsville, VA Feb 21, 1921. We had three children: Etta Agnes, Leslie Leon, and Iris Rosella. Leslie d Mar 20, 1984, is buried at Skyline Memory Gardens. (Refer to Heritage of Surry Co., Vol I.) (10) Acy Abraham, (Dec 4, 1912-Feb 23, 1913) is buried at the old homeplace in Patrick Co., VA (11) Lecia Belle, (Sep 12, 1918-Jun 18, 1919) is also buried at the old homeplace.

My dad was a slim man, not very tall, but he had a heart as large as "all outdoors". He was a farmer in Ararat, VA and had a blacksmith shop on the homeplace. He also repaired all the children's shoes. At a time when most farmers sold off their best produce for cash, dad said his family came first, so our table was always laden with the best the farm and the livestock could produce. We didn't have a lot of things he called "foolishness" except for special occasions, but he provided all the necessities of life in abundance. We children sometimes picked berries, sold them at a local store for money to buy material, and Lou made many of our clothes.

We always had lots of company at our house, to eat and spend

the night, especially on church days when travelers would stay with us after Sat. night preaching and go to Sun. morning service. Straw ticks were laid on the floors, the men and boys sleeping in one room and the ladies and girls in another.

Dad was a gentle, kind man, very soft spoken. He could not bear to punish the children and left that to my sister Lou. That is, except one time that I can remember. When Dad hitched up the wagon for a long trip to town which was usually Mt. Airy, NC, we eagerly waited for him to return, to see what he had brought us, and he never failed us. This particular time he had some important news to tell Mama so my questions for once fell on deaf ears. When he sat down I stood between his legs, pleading with him to tell me what my surprise was. I had a pin in my hand and in my excitement I rammed it into his leg. He was so stunned, he slapped me! I ran from the room crying. He immediately followed to apologize, and he gave me a quarter to stop crying. I recall I saved it and when Mama died I spent that same quarter on a package of flower seeds and sowed them on her grave.

Mama was very frail in her later years and the family doted on her. We considered it a great privilege to see that she was well cared for. Most of the work fell on Lou, she being the oldest.

I never heard my parents speak a harsh word to one another and I recall that whenever Dad came in from his chores and they were together, they always walked side by side with an arm around each other's waist.

Mama was in the hospital in Mt. Airy and on Nov 19, 1918, dad drove the wagon to bring her home. He was holding her when a

nurse passed the door and quickly came into the room. He didn't realize that Mama had died quietly and unexpectedly in his arms. She is buried at the homeplace.

After Mama's death, Dad md Annie (Bowman) King, a widow with children. Dad's children moved to Mt. Airy so the older ones could work and I helped keep house from about age ten and went to school. We visited Dad and Annie of course, and had some great times with them. Dad and Annie later moved north of Mt. Airy and bought some land with a picturesque log cabin on it and lived out their lives there.

The family and acquaintances have always joked that Beltons are "workaholics" and Dad was no exception. Once the doctor told him he was too sick to cut his hay. Refusing all offers of help he sat in a chair in the field and cut hay as far as he could reach, moving the chair as he worked. He always said he hoped he could be working when he died. When we received word that he was gone we learned that he died while pitching hay from the hayloft, at the age of 86. Dad d May 29, 1952. Annie d Mar 3, 1954. They are buried at Korners Grove Primitive Baptist Church.

Sources: Family Bible, public records of Patrick Co. VA and Surry Co. NC, and personal knowledge.

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