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The Heritage of our Children
CHAPTER 2

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THE STRAIN AND STEPHENS FAMILIES OF SOUTH CAROLINA

MARY STRAIN married JOHN EDWARD CARROLL in Jones Co., Miss., June 8, 1834, and through this marriage, became my gr. grandmother. My great-uncle, THOMAS ROBINSON CARROLL, wrote a letter to my grandfather, dated Nov. 16, 1909, in which he recorded what he knew about their mother's family. My copy of this letter will not reproduce satisfactorily, and therefore I have transcribed the letter exactly as it was written.

Washington, La., Nov. 16, 1909.

"I will now go back to my dear mother's family.

A great many years ago in the boggs of Ireland there was a young man by the name of JOHN RUTLEDGE. He married a young lady I do not know her name, they like my father's family came to Baltimore, Marland and raised a large family. Their oldest daughter was named FAIRABA. They happened to be a young man their by name of JESSE STEPHENS. He made love to Miss FAIRRABA RUTLEDGE and they became man and wife. And they pulled out for themselves went over to South Carolina and they was blessed with a girl baby and they named their little girl FAIRRA, she became my grandmother. Because when she became a young lady a young man by the name of THOMAS STRAIN made love to Miss FAIRRABA STEPHENS and they like all young people turned foolish and they got married. So they concluded to go to Alabama. Their they were the lucky parents of three little girls, one little boy.

VICY the oldest girl, MARY and ELIZABETH twin sisters. WILLIAM the youngest a boy. The War of 1812 commanded by old Hickry Jackson began in 1813. Their was an extra call for soldiers and THOMAS STRAIN shouldered his musket and marched to the seat of war under General Jackson. And died in Mobile Alabama in 1814 with measles. He was German extraction. So you see their is a little Dutch extraction in our vaines, 3/4 Irish, 1/4 Dutch, O what a combination. Well I am proud of it, tickled all over about it.

Well the widow STRAIN moved from Alabama to Miss. with her three little girls and one boy. VICY married a man by the name of PERRY POWELL she lived I think to be about 90 years old. MARY STRAIN married a man by the name of JOHN EDWARD CARROLL these dear loved ones is my father and mother, they raised 10 children to be grown. ELENOR, HARRIETT THOMAS, SUSANNAH, MARTHA, FAIRRABA, ABSALUM, JOHN, HANNAH, ARDELISSIE, the youngest. ELENOR, ARDELISSIE, JOHN, and SUSANNAH have passed over to the far beyond and we trust some bright day to meet them again around our father's throne.

Father died at the age of 62 years, he fell asleep in the arms of Jesus. Our dear mother died in her 89th year and we believe she has gone where weeping and sorrow is unknown.

ELIZABETH married a man by the name of JOHN FEWOX. They raised a large family of children. She died at the age of 85. WILLIAM STRAIN married a Miss MARY ANN WELCH. They boath lived to a great old age nearing the hundred mile post.

To the very best of my recollections you have a sketch of our father and mother's origen or family history."

I have not attempted to trace JOHN RUTLEDGE, as I think that this would be hopeless with the information that I now have, Therefore I will begin my lineage with JESSE STEPHENS of South Carolina.

The 1850 Census of Covington Co., Miss., listed PHARABY DEVERG, in

the household of WILLIAM STRAIN. Her age was given as 63, and her place of birth as South Carolina. Evidently FARABA STRAIN had married a Mr. DEVERS after the death of THOMAS STRAIN. I will later discuss this point in more detail. The census showed that FARABA STRAIN DEVERS was born about 1787, therefore her father, JESSE STEPHENS, should have been living somewhere in South Carolina in 1790. Fortunately, there was only one JESSE STEPHENS listed in the entire state of South Carolina in 1790. This man was listed in the Orangeburg District, and his family consisted of five males aged over 16, two males aged under 16, and three females. I began by assuming that this JESSE STEPHENS in Orangeburg was my ancestor.

Then I received some information, unexpectedly, that greatly strengthened my belief that my assumption was correct. Mr. FRANK JENKINS, of Ballinger, Texas, wrote to ask me whether or not I could identify a LEVICA STRAIN, who was born April 8, 1809. This birth was recorded in the family Bible of his ancestor, JOSEPH BROWN, who had married MARY STEPHENS in the Orangeburg District, about 1791. THOMAS R. CARROLL'S letter, previously quoted, stated that the eldest child of THOMAS and FARABA STRAIN, was a daughter, VICY, who married PERRY POWELL. The 1850 Census of Jones Co., Miss., listed the wife of PERRY POWELL as LEVICA, who was born in South Carolina in 1809. Mr. JENKINS and I agree that for LEVICA'S birth to have been recorded in the BROWN family Bible, along with the BROWN children, the parents had to be closely related. Since both FARABA STRAIN and MARY BROWN were "nee" STEPHENS, it is logical to assume that they were sisters. JESSE STEPHENS of Orangeburg, did have two females in his household, besides his wife, in 1790.

In order to better develop the STEPHENS family chain, I prepared a chart of the STEPHENS families, listed in the Orangeburg Dist., S.C., in all of the censuses from 1790 through 1820. This chart is on page 47. It will be noted that the name is spelled STEPHENS, STEVENS, and STEPHENSON. The 1800 Census gives the family residence as in the "Forks of the Edisto" area of the Orangeburg Dist., which is just across the South Edisto River from the Barnwell District. In the 1800 Census, CHARLES STEPHENS, who I have assumed to have been the brother of FARABA STRAIN and MARY BROWN, was living next door to the BROWNS. The BROWN family consisted of a male and a female, each aged between 26 and 45, with a female aged under 10, and two males aged under 10. Mr. JENKINS wrote that this checked exactly with what he knew of his JOSEPH BROWN family from later records.

From the chart it will be seen that in 1790, JESSE STEPHENS had six males besides himself, and two females in addition to his wife. By 1800, one daughter, MARY, had married JOSEPH BROWN, while the other daughter, FARABA, was still at home. Three of the sons, CHARLES, WILLIAM, and JOHN, had established their own households, while the other three sons remained with their father. By 1810, evidently JESSE STEPHENS, SR., had died, because he is not listed in the census. Two more sons, J. (JESSE, JR.), and N. (NATHAN), STEPHENS, had established their own homes, and one male is not accounted for. FARABA had married THOMAS STRAIN about 1808, and they were listed in the Barnwell Dist., as was JOHN STEPHENS, SR. All of the STEPHENS men, except CHARLES, were listed in the Orangeburg Dist., again in 1820, although this time they were listed as STEPHENSON.

A SYLLAS STEVENS was included in 1800, in the area, "south of the Edisto", which became Barnwell District. A SYLLAS STEVENS, SR., and a

SYLLAS STEVENS, JR., were named in the Barnwell Dist., in 1810. I do not know of any connection between the elder SYLLAS STEVENS and the elder JESSE STEPHENS, but they could have been brothers. I failed to mention that the JOHN STEPHENS, SR., who lived in Barnwell Dist., in 1810, was living next door to the THOMAS STRAIN family.

On page 49, I have prepared a family chart of the JESSE STEPHENS family, as it could have been from the evidence given herein. I do not have any additional information on any of the members of this family except for my gr. gr. grandmother, FARABA STEPHENS STRAIN, who will be discussed later in this chapter.

THE STRAIN FAMILY

I have little information, if any, with which to trace the ancestry of THOMAS STRAIN. He died in the service in the War of 1812, before he was 30 years of age, and there are few records available on him. I do have a certification of his military service from the Mississippi Archives, and I did find him listed in the 1810 Census of Barnwell Dist., S.C., as previously mentioned. Two of his children stated, in the 1880 Census, that he was born in South Carolina. His widow's age in 1850, was 63, therefore THOMAS STRAIN was born about 1785. The 1810 Census gives his age as between 16 and 26, therefore he was born between 1784 and 1794. Almost certainly, THOMAS was married in the Orangeburg Dist., S.C., about 1808. Those are all of the facts that I have with respect to my THOMAS STRAIN. There were no other STRAIN families listed in Barnwell or Orangeburg Districts in any census. It is evident that THOMAS STRAIN came to Orangeburg Dist., from some other area of South Carolina, married and stayed a short time in the Barnwell Dist., and then moved on to the Alabama Territory.

I obtained copies of all of the STRAIN wills and administrations included on the indices of the South Carolina wills, prior to 1820. These include the following:

1. THOMAS STRAIN, Administration and Inventory, 1781, Abbeville Dist.
2. JAMES STRAIN, " " " 1783, " "
3. WILLIAM STRAIN, " " " 1796, " "
4. JOHN STRAIN, Will 1798, " "
5. JAMES STRAIN, " 1812, Laurens Dist.
6. JAMES STRAIN, " 1818, Fairfield Dist.
7. DAVID STRAIN, " 1831, Laurens Dist.

None of these documents mentioned a son named THOMAS, therefore I decided to try to determine the parentage of my THOMAS STRAIN by a process of elimination. The 1790 Census of South Carolina included ten families named STRAIN, nine of which had male children.

JAMES STRAIN in the Beaufort Dist.

SAMUEL STRAIN in the Laurens Dist.

JAMES, JOHN, and DAVID STRAIN in the Lancaster Dist.

DAVID, JOHN, SAMUEL, and WILLIAM STRAIN in the Abbeville Dist.

I believed that my THOMAS STRAIN should have been a member of one of these families. Since my THOMAS STRAIN was born in South Carolina and married in South Carolina about 1808, I felt sure that his parents should have been living in South Carolina in 1800. Therefore I examined the 1800 Census of South Carolina and found fourteen STRAIN families, nine of which had male children, aged between 10 and 16. These were:

DAVID STRAIN, York Dist,

DAVID, SAMUEL, and MARGARET STRAIN, Abbeville Dist.,
Two DAVIDS, JOHN, and JOSEPH STRAIN, Lancaster Dist.,
JAMES STRAIN, Laurens Dist.

I assumed that my THOMAS STRAIN was a member of one of the families listed.

JAMES STRAIN of Laurens District, died testate in 1812, and his will did not name a THOMAS STRAIN. It was dated Oct. 9, 1812, named his wife, JANE, his sons, DAVID, JOHN, JAMES, and WILLIAM, daughters, SUSANNAH and JANE, and daughter and son-in-law, FURGUSON. (1) This will proved that my THOMAS STRAIN did not come from the Laurens Dist. family.

So far as I am aware, there is no information anywhere, regarding the STRAINS of the Lancaster-York area. Therefore my research was limited to those families who lived in the Abbeville District. The available information shows that the STRAINS came to the Abbeville District between 1762 and 1765. SAMUEL STRAIN, in his application for a pension as a Revolutionary soldier, stated that he was born in Augusta Co., Va., in 1762, and that his father died in Abbeville Dist., S.C., in 1765. There were several STRAIN families who lived in Lancaster Co., Penn., before, during, and after the Revolution. Some of these STRAINS moved to Augusta Co., Va., then on to North and South Carolina. I will later show that some of the STRAINS from Abbeville Dist., S.C., and other STRAINS from Lancaster Co., Penn., all moved to Highland Co., Ohio after 1800. This indicates that the STRAINS of South Carolina and those of Pennsylvania, may have been interrelated.

The earliest record of a STRAIN in Abbeville Dist., S.C., is found in a Memorial to JOSEPH MARTIN in 1769, for 100 acres on the Northwest Fork of Long Cane Creek, bounded on the north by JOHN STRAIN, etc.-- This survey was certified by THOMAS STRANE and PAT CALHOUN, D.S. (2) The STRAIN, mentioned in this grant as an adjoining landowner, was the first of that name to come to Abbeville Dist., so far as I have been able to determine. The THOMAS STRANE, who assisted PAT CALHOUN, Deputy Surveyor, was probably a boy, who served as a chain carrier. JOHN STRAIN was probably the father of all six of the STRAINS, who later appear in the Abbeville District records. I will discuss these six, giving the records that I have found for each.

THOMAS STRAIN

THOMAS was not the eldest of the six, but he was the first to die. Some accounts state that he was born in 1756, and apparently he never married. He was listed as a petit juror in the Long Cane Creek area in 1777-1778, according to the book, "Jury Lists of South Carolina, 1777-1778", by Corley and Hendrix. He was also listed as a soldier who was engaged in the Battle of Kettle Creek, in Wilkes Co., Ga., during the Revolution. THOMAS STRAIN died, intestate, in 1781, and no mention was made of a wife or children. JOHN STRAIN, probably a brother, and ROBERT BOND were named as administrators of the estate.

JAMES STRAIN

JAMES STRAIN was the next of the six to die. I have seen statements

(1) Laurens Co., S.C. Will Book D-1, page 104.

(2) South Carolina Memorials, Registry of Land Grants, page 14.

that he was born about 1760, but no reference was given. He evidently was younger than the others, because he was not listed as a juror, and he was not a soldier at Kettle Creek. JAMES died, intestate, in 1783, and SAMUEL STRAIN, as next of kin, was named as administrator of the estate. JOHN and DAVID STRAIN served as security for SAMUEL, and these two, with WILLIAM STRAIN, were the appraisors of the estate. All indicators point to the conclusion that JAMES STRAIN died as a very young man, and that his estate was handled by his brothers.

WILLIAM STRAIN

Capt. WILLIAM STRAIN was born ca 1754. He was listed as a petit juror at Long Cane in the book previously mentioned. He also was a soldier at the Battle of Kettle Creek. He was issued an indented certificate for 131 pounds, 15 shillings, "for militia duty as Lieut. and Capt. before and since the reduction of Charleston". (3) WILLIAM STRAIN married MARGARET MONTGOMERY, and in 1790, his family consisted of one male aged over 16, besides himself, four males aged under 16, and two females including his wife. In 1782, WILLIAM and JAMES STRAIN were purchasers at the sale of the estate of JOHN MONTGOMERY, who was probably the father-in-law of WILLIAM STRAIN.

Capt. WILLIAM STRAIN died, intestate, in 1796. His widow, MARGARET, and his probable brother, DAVID, applied to the Court for Letters of Administration on his estate, and his widow, MARGARET, was named Administratrix. In the sale of his estate, the purchasers included his widow and a JOHN STRAIN, JR., who could have been a son. No children are mentioned in the administration, and the Abbeville County Clerk has no record of any children. The 1800 Census of Abbeville Dist., lists the widow, MARGARET STRAIN, as head of household, with the following family:

male aged between 16 and 26
2 males " " 10 " 16
male " under 10
female " " 10
female " between 10 and 16
female aged between 26 and 45.

The male in the household of WILLIAM STRAIN, aged over 16 in 1790, was probably JAMES Q. STRAIN, who in 1800, was aged between 26 and 45, and was head of his own household. A JOHN STRAIN was listed as a sojourner in the home of JAMES Q. STRAIN, in 1800, and was aged between 16 and 26. This JOHN was probably a brother of JAMES Q. STRAIN, and may have also been included in his mother's household. JAMES Q. STRAIN was living in Lincoln Co., Tenn., in 1820, and by 1830, had moved to Lawrence Co., Alabama.

There is some evidence to show that ROBERT STRAIN, who died, intestate in Abbeville Dist., in 1824, was a son of Capt. WILLIAM STRAIN. ROBERT STRAIN'S estate was administered by ROBERT and MATTHEW WILSON, and SAMUEL HOUSTON. Twenty eight years earlier, when WILLIAM STRAIN died, his estate was inventoried by MATTHEW WILSON; SAMUEL HOUSTON was bondsman for the widow, MARGARET, as administrator, and ROBERT WILSON was the minister who read the citation in the church. ROBERT STRAIN'S wife was nee, MARY WILSON, and her will in 1833, named her brother, HUGH WILSON as executor.

(3) South Carolina Archives Reference AA-7456.

There is also reason to believe that the JOHN STRAIN, JR., who was a purchaser at the sale of WILLIAM STRAIN'S estate, was a son. He was also, very likely, the JOHN STRAIN, sojourner in the home of JAMES Q. STRAIN in 1800. A JOHN STRAIN was listed in the Abbeville Dist., in 1810, who was aged between 26 and 45, with a wife of the same age, two males aged between 10 and 16, a male aged under 10, and two females aged under 10. If this was the same JOHN STRAIN who was listed in the home of JAMES Q. STRAIN ten years earlier, then the two males, aged 10 to 16, in his household, were not his children, but probably his brothers. This would indicate that MARGARET STRAIN had died between 1800 and 1810.

If both ROBERT and JOHN STRAIN, JR., were sons of WILLIAM and MARGARET STRAIN, as assumed, there were two other males in MARGARET'S home in 1800, who have not been identified. One of these could have been my THOMAS STRAIN, who did name his only son, WILLIAM.

JOHN STRAIN

I have read that this JOHN STRAIN was born in 1750, and if so, he was the eldest of the six possible brothers. He was listed as a juror at Long Canes, in the book previously mentioned, and he was a soldier at the battle of Kettle Creek. He married MARGARET WATTS and died, testate in 1798. His will mentioned his wife, who was not named, and his sons, JOHN and JAMES. He also made a bequest to his niece, JENNY STORM. Executors were his, "friend and brethren, DAVID STRAIN and JAMES WATT."

JOHN'S widow, MARGARET STRAIN, was also listed in the 1800 Census of the Abbeville Dist., with two males aged between 16 and 26, probably her sons, JOHN and JAMES, and a female aged under 10, probably her niece, JENNY. It is known that a MARGARET STRAIN and her son, JOHN, went to Highland Co., Ohio, with her husband's brothers, DAVID and SAMUEL. I have not been able to determine whether this was WILLIAM'S widow, or JOHN'S widow, but I believe that it was JOHN'S widow, MARGARET WATTS STRAIN. I know that a JOHN STRAIN moved from Abbeville Dist., to Shelby Co., Ala., before 1826, and I believe that this one was WILLIAM'S son. I do know that Rev. HENRY BRYSON, of Abbeville Dist., was sent by his church, on a missionary journey to Alabama and Tennessee in 1826, and he was instructed to visit JOHN STRAIN in Shelby Co., Ala., which he did. Rev. BRYSON was a gr. gr. gr. uncle of my wife, and I have read his diary of that journey. This journey will also be discussed in the MC MULLEN Chapter of this book.

DAVID STRAIN

DAVID STRAIN was born about 1752, either in Lancaster Co., Penn., or Augusta Co., Virginia. He married, first, NANCY MONTGOMERY, about 1779, and later, SARAH ANN WATTS, about 1794. Since both the MONTGOMERY and WATTS families were prominent in the Abbeville Dist., and since DAVID'S probable brothers had married into both families, I have assumed that both of these marriages occurred in the Abbeville District. DAVID was a Revolutionary soldier, and is included in the D.A.R. Patriot Index. After 1800, he moved to Highland Co., Ohio, where he died in 1824. He had nine children by his first marriage, and three from the second one. Children of the first marriage were:

1. JOHN CALDWELL STRAIN, born 1783, died 1877.

2. ELIZABETH STRAIN, born 1782.
3. JAMES W. STRAIN, born 1787.
4. DAVID, JR., STRAIN, born 1788.
5. THOMAS M. STRAIN, born, 1803, in S.C. died in 1877.
6. NANCY STRAIN, born after 1790 Census.
7. ANDREW STRAIN, " " " "
8. SUSANNAH STRAIN, " " " "
9. ROBERT STRAIN, born " " " , died Sept. 8, 1834.

Children of the second marriage were all born in Ohio, and included the following:

10. LUCINDA STRAIN, baptized Mar. 3, 1811.
11. CINTHE STRAIN, " June 16, 1816.
12. LEVI STRAIN, " June 23, 1827. (after father's death).

SAMUEL STRAIN

According to his statement in his application for a pension as a Revolutionary soldier, SAMUEL STRAIN was born in Augusta Co., Va., Aug. 11, 1762. His parents moved to Abbeville Dist., S.C., where his father died in 1765. In his statement, SAMUEL said that this information came from his father's Bible, which in 1835, was in the custody of his sister in Indiana. SAMUEL was a Revolutionary soldier, and was involved in a battle at "Thickety", near the Warford Iron Works in North Carolina, at which battle, his oldest brother was killed.

SAMUEL STRAIN was married four times, the last time in 1826, after he had moved to Highland Co., Ohio. The first marriage was to HANNAH WATTS, who died sometime between 1789 and 1798, in Abbeville District. SAMUEL then married _____ MILLER, who died in South Carolina before 1805. The third marriage was to MARTHA WILSON, who was born in South Carolina in 1774, and died in Highland Co., Ohio, in 1824. Lastly, SAMUEL married NANCY JOHNSON, in Highland County in 1826. She died in 1846, one year after her husband's death in 1845. SAMUEL had a total of 22 children from his four marriages, as listed:

1. HANNAH, born 1783, Abbeville Dist., S.C.
2. THOMAS MC CARTNEY, bn. 1785, Abbe. Dist., married MARGARET WATTS.
3. ELIZABETH ROGERS, born in S.C.
4. SAMUEL BOSTON, born, 1791, S.C.
5. JOHN HENRY, born 1788, S.C.
6. POLLY
7. MARGARET, born, 1798, S.C.
8. ROBERT WILSON, born, 1798, S.C.
9. ANDREW MILLER, born, 1799, S.C.
10. NANCY
11. HUGH W., born between 1804 and 1810.
12. REBECCA ANN
13. ESTHER D.
14. JAMES GILLIAN, born, 1813.
15. WILLIAM JOSEPH, baptized, 1818.
16. MELINDA HENDERSON, " , 1811.
17. SARAH ROBERSON, " , 1817.
18. MARTHA PIPPY, born 1820.
19. LEWIS LEMUEL, " 1827.
20. CYRUS BYINGTON, " 1830.
21. DAVID JACKSON, baptized, 1832.
22. BENJAMIN FRANKLIN, " , Oct. 2, 1834.

This completes the discussion of the six STRAIN men, who are of record in Abbeville Dist., S.C., and who were possibly all brothers. I have heard that there was a sister, SARAH, who married JOSEPH ROBINSON, and I do know that JOSEPH ROBINSON was a witness to the will of JOHN STRAIN, in the Abbeville Dist., in 1798. SAMUEL mentioned a sister in Indiana, who had the family Bible in 1835, and an older brother, who was killed in battle during the Revolution.

The Abstract of South Carolina Wills, includes the will of SAMUEL THORNTON, dated Aug. 10, 1796, in Abbeville Dist., which was witnessed by JOHN and THOMAS STRAIN. I do not know the identity of this THOMAS STRAIN, since the elder THOMAS died in 1781, and the sons of DAVID and SAMUEL were too young to witness a will in 1796.

It is obvious from the preceding discussion, that if my THOMAS STRAIN came from the Abbeville Dist. families, he had to be the son of WILLIAM STRAIN, and I believe that this was the case. However, he could have been a child of any of the STRAIN families in the Lancaster-York area of South Carolina. I hope that I can learn the true answer regarding his identity.

I have previously mentioned a THOMAS STRAIN, JR., of Lancaster Co., Penn., also a Revolutionary soldier, who also moved to Highland Co., Ohio, after the war. I know of no connection between him and the brothers, DAVID and SAMUEL STRAIN, who moved to Highland County from South Carolina, but there easily could have been some relationship. This THOMAS STRAIN, JR., was born in 1756 and died in 1834. He was the son of THOMAS STRAIN, SR., (1733-1780), of Lancaster Co., Penn., whose wife was named HANNAH.

I have mentioned these STRAINS from Lancaster Co., Penn., because that county was and is the land of the "Pennsylvania Dutch" people. THOMAS R. CARROLL stated in his letter, that his grandfather, THOMAS STRAIN, was of German extraction, and there is a good chance that he was descended from some of the STRAINS in Lancaster Co., Penn.

THOMAS AND FARABA STEPHENS STRAIN

I have previously mentioned that THOMAS STRAIN and FARABA STEPHENS were married about 1808, and that they were listed in the Barnwell Dist., S.C., in 1810. Their eldest daughter, LEVICA, was born April 8, 1809, either in the Orangeburg, or in the Barnwell District. Soon after the 1810 Census, THOMAS and FARABA STRAIN moved to Madison Co., in the Miss. Terr., where their twin daughters, MARY and ELIZABETH, were born Feb. 7, 1811. About two years later, THOMAS STRAIN answered the call to arms during the War of 1812, and enlisted in Col. PERKINS' Regiment, 7th Battalion, of the Miss. Terr. Militia. Col. PETER PERKINS was a resident of Madison County, and served that county in the Alabama Legislature after the war. It should be remembered that Madison County was much larger in 1811, than it is now, and then covered most of present North Alabama.

Col. PERKINS' Regiment was a part of General Jackson's army, which was recruited to fight the Indians in Alabama in 1813 and 1814. It is reasonably certain that THOMAS STRAIN was with Gen. Jackson, when the latter decisively defeated the Creeks at the Battle of Horseshoe Bend in 1814. It is interesting to note that another soldier in that battle was HENRY WELCH of Wayne Co., Miss. Twenty-eight years later, THOMAS STRAIN'S son, WILLIAM, married HENRY WELCH'S daughter, MARY ANN.

THOMAS R. CARROLL'S letter, quoted at the beginning of this chapter, stated that THOMAS STRAIN died in Mobile, while still in the service. I have searched, without success, for the possible burial place of THOMAS STRAIN. There were several forts in or near Mobile, which could have been occupied by Gen. Jackson's army at the time. One of these was Ft. Stoddert, on the Tombigbee River, north of Mobile, near the present town of Mt. Vernon, Ala. The records of the National Cemetery in Mobile show that several years ago, the bodies of soldiers were moved from old Ft. Stoddert to the National Cemetery, but the names of the soldiers are not available. Fort Bowyer was located to the south of Mobile, on a sandy peninsula, where the present bridge leaves the mainland to cross to Dauphin Island. The British had established a fort, Charlotte, within the city of Mobile, and Fort Gaines and Fort Morgan were at the entrance to Mobile Bay. I do not know whether or not the latter two existed in 1814.

FARABA STRAIN and her family were listed in Perry Co., Miss., in the 1820 Census. The obituary of her son, WILLIAM, states that he was born in Green Co., Miss., Oct. 5, 1814. This was correct, since Perry Co. was created in 1820, out of Green County. I have wondered why FARABA was in Green Co., Miss., when WILLIAM was born, since this is about 300 miles from their home in North Alabama. She could have come to Mobile to nurse her husband, in his last illness, and did not or could not return after his death. Green County is very close to Mobile, and I suspect that she had friends who helped her to become established in this new land. Most of the families who settled in Perry Co., Miss., were from South Carolina, and FARABA could have had relatives among them.

I did not find FARABA STRAIN in the 1830 Census or the 1840 Census. However, her oldest daughter, LEVICA, married PERRY POWELL in 1830. He was listed as a neighbor of FARABA STRAIN in the 1820 Census in Perry County. PERRY POWELL was living in Jones Co., Miss., in 1830. In 1834, FARABA'S daughter, MARY, married JOHN EDWARD CARROLL, in Jones County, and about the same time, her daughter, ELIZABETH, married JOHN FEWOX, also in Jones County. Therefore it seems rather certain that FARABA STRAIN was living in Jones County in 1830, and possibly in 1840. The 1850 Census of Covington Co., Miss., lists her as PHARABY DEVERS, in the household of her son, WILLIAM STRAIN. Evidently she had married a Mr. DEVERS before 1830, and was included in his household in the censuses of 1830 and 1840. The only man named DEVERS, who was listed anywhere in that area, at that time, was a JONATHAN DEVERS, in Jones Co., Miss. I feel rather certain that he was the second husband of FARABA STRAIN.

I do not know when FARABA STRAIN DEVERS died. I do know that her son, WILLIAM, with whom she was living, moved to Jackson Parish, La., about 1851. His obituary says that he moved in Nov., 1850. I do not find any evidence that he took his mother with him, therefore I believe that FARABA died in Covington Co., Miss., in the latter part of 1850.

LEVICA STRAIN POWELL

I have given the date and place of LEVICA'S birth, and also of her marriage to PERRY POWELL. He was a widower when he married LEVICA, and was about 30 years older than she was. He drew up a will in 1830, which is in the Jones Co., Miss. Records, making specific gifts

to his wife and to his children by his previous marriage. I have seen this will, but I do not have a copy of it. The 1850 Census of Jones Co. Miss., gives the age of PERRY POWELL as 70, and that of his wife, LAVICA as 41. They were listed with 8 children, MARY, 18, ALMEDA, 17, THOMAS J., 15, MAHALA, 13, JESSE M., 11, ELIJAH W., 9, JOHN P., 5, and ARCADY, 2. This family was listed in Jones Co., Miss., again in 1860. They had one new child, a son, S.R. POWELL, aged 9. I have not checked the 1870 Census, but in 1880, LAVICY POWELL, age 71, was living with her son, S.R. POWELL, in Jones Co., Mississippi.

MARY STRAIN, who married JOHN EDWARD CARROLL, is discussed in the CARROLL Chapter.

ELIZABETH STRAIN FEWOX

MARY'S twin sister, ELIZABETH, married JOHN FEWOX in Jones Co., Miss., about 1833. They were listed in the 1850 Census of Jasper Co., Miss., which adjoins Jones County on the north. JOHN was shown as aged 36, with ELIZABETH, aged 38. Children were, JOHN MC C., 10, WILLIAM LOTT, 12, and PETER JAMES, 8. Next door were HUGH and MARY C. FRANCIS, with a child named THOMAS J. FEWOX. MARY C. FRANCIS was only 16, evidently just married, and was looking after her little brother. This is pretty well proven by the 1860 Census, of Jones Co., Miss., where THOMAS J. FEWOX, 15, is living with JOHN and ELIZABETH FEWOX, and their son, P.C.J. FEWOX, aged 17. I did not check the 1870 and 1880 Censuses, but I feel sure that ELIZABETH FEWOX was still living in either Jones or Jasper Co., Mississippi. THOMAS R. CARROLL'S letter said that she lived to 85, which meant that she died about 1896.

WILLIAM STRAIN

I have already said that WILLIAM STRAIN was born in Green Co., Miss., Oct. 5, 1814. This was probably after his father's death. WILLIAM married MARY ANN WELCH, Jan. 28, 1841, and I have mentioned that she was a daughter of HENRY and SARAH PAGE WELCH. Two of MARY ANN'S brothers married daughters of JOHN EDWARD CARROLL. Apparently the WILLIAM STRAINS, the HENRY WELCHS, and the JOHN E. CARROLLS all lived along the Leaf River, near the boundary between Jones and Covington Counties. WILLIAM STRAIN'S obituary stated that he united with the Leaf River Baptist Church, in Covington Co., Miss., in 1848, being baptized by the Rev. NORVELL ROBERTSON. He then moved to Jackson Parish, La., in Nov., 1850, and joined the Ebenezer Church in 1857. MARY ANN joined the Mt. Zion Church in 1851, being baptized by Rev. JAMES SCARBOROUGH. I give this information from the obituary because of the important part that WILLIAM'S descendants played in the life of the Baptist Church in Jackson Parish and in other parts of Louisiana.

The children of WILLIAM and MARY ANN STRAIN that I have found in the various census lists include: MARY JANE, born 1841, THOMAS, born 1843, SARAH, born 1845, PHARABY, born 1847, ELIZABETH, born 1849, JUDA, born 1851, MARTHA, born 1853, WILLIAM, born 1855, FRANCES L., born 1860, and CYNTHIA A., born 1862. Many descendants of these children still live in Jackson and nearby Parishes in Louisiana.

MARY ANN STRAIN died March 25, 1902, at the age of 77, and WILLIAM STRAIN died in Jackson Par., La., Feb. 15, 1905, when he was over 90.