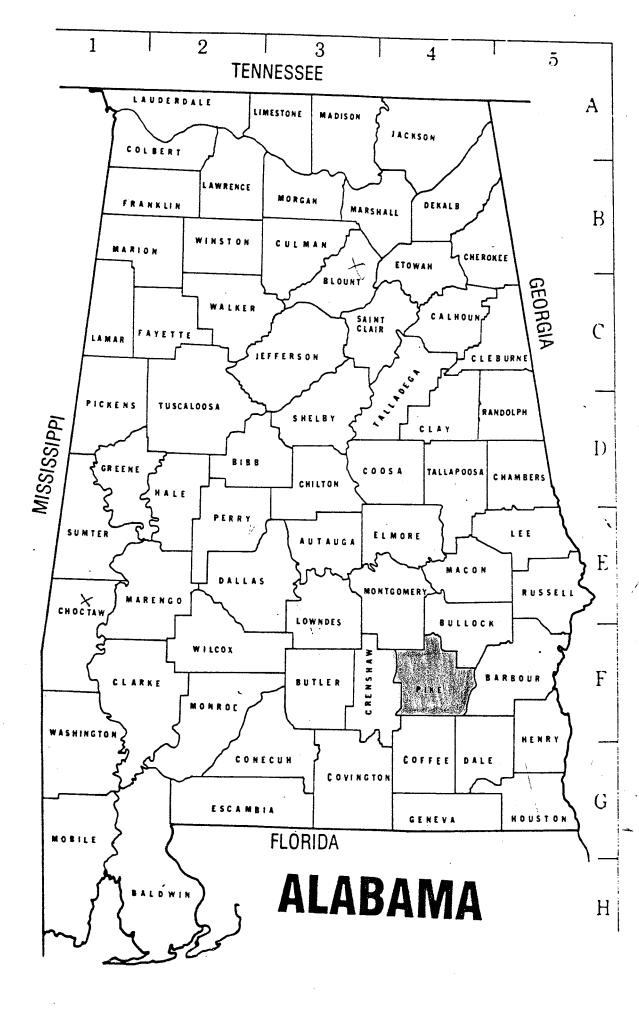
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ALABAMA'S

PIKE

COUNTY

Compiler Mrs. Frank Rass Stewart 976,135HZX

VOLUME ONE

SESSIONS FAMILY

It is gratifying and exciting to think that if "Grandmother Sessions of Spring Hill" had been living on December 22, 1976, she, too, like our beloved United States would have celebrated her 200th Birthday! She was living in Pike County in 1877, and the local paper reported that she was born Dec. 22, 1776, and "is consequently nearly 101 years old". She was Mrs. Sarah Sessions, widow of John Sessions, and born in North Carolina.

The Sessions Family of Pike County traces its ancestry to Offenshire England. One branch of the family settled in Massachusetts and the other in South Carolina.

Very early records are found in the Colony of Massachusetts and the Colony of Connecticut. Amasa Sessions (1715-1799) was born at Pomfret, Connecticut, and married in 1744 Hannah Miller (1724-1804). His sons were: Samuel (1746-1818), and Robert (1752-1836), both of whom were Revolutionary Soldiers.

In 1771, George III granted 600 acres to John Sessions in Craven County, South Carolina. In the 1790 Census of South Carolina, Georgetown District, All Saints Parish, we find:

> John Sessions 1-5-1-no slaves Nancy Sessions 4-6-one slave SolomonsSessions 1-2-3-no slaves Absolum Sessions 1-312four slaves

In Georgetown District, Prince Frederick's Parish, there were: (1790)

John Sessions 3-2-5-no slaves William Sessions (with Frances Martin) 3-1-6-no slaves

The application for pension for John Sessions, N.C. 18 38000 shows that he was born 1758. He applied for a pension in 1820 a which time he was living in Ocmulgee Dist., Jasper County, George THE TROY MESSENGER, Oct. 14, 1877.

See 1850 Census of Pike Co.

One John B. Sessions. Wilcox Co. married Ivdia Ann B

In February, 1830, John Sessions gave a note to Robert Hardy; in 1833, he gave a note to Nathan L. May, and to Jesse O. May at Church Hill P.O.

In Georgetown District, Prince George's Parish, 1790 Census, are:

John Sessions 2-1-3-no slaves Joseph 1-1-2-two slaves George 1-1-21no slaves Frederick 1-4-3-no slaves.

An application of Josias Sessions for pension, filed in 1832, states that he was born 1764, Nov. 14, in Craven Co., Georgetown Dist., near All Saint's Parish, and that in 1777, when he was 13 years of age, he was attending school and was drafted to join Capt. Daniel Murrell's Company, attached to General Francis Marion's brigade, and was engaged in guarding the sea coast, for one month at a time term. He participate in many skimishes, according to his statement. The Tories were commanded by Joshua Sony. He signed the application for himself, and it was attested to by Robert Larrimore.

In 1939 Mrs. John D. David, Mount Vernon, Ill., wrote the National Archives in re the application of John Sessions and Samuel Walding. No application for Samuel Walding was located.

In 1807 Major Joseph Sessions was an officer in the 1st Regiment of Militia of the Mississippi Territory.

Lt. Phillips Sessions was a member of the same Regiment, residing in Washington, M.T., in 1807.

We find Williams Sessions in the 1820 (first) Conecuh County, Ala.

Census, with his household consisting of:

¹ male over 21 2 females over 21 15 slaves
2 males under 21 1 female under 21

L Rube Sessions Library Notes, Wells, Texas

² Photostat from National Archives

Carter, Territorial Papers, Vol.5] at page 568

Carter, <u>Territorial Papers</u>, Vol. 18, at page 213.

⁴AHQ, Vol. VI, 1944.

John Sessions (1770-184?) and William Isaac Sessions (1779-1853), known as "Buck", and William Jack Sessions (1780-1857) were brothers. It is an unfinished task to learn who their parents were. John and Buck were born in North Carolina, and William Jack was born in South Carolina. The descendants of these three Sessions brothers have scattered over the entire world and have become leaders in everywwalk of life. early settlers of Alabama, coming to the Alabama Territory as early as 1816, and locating at China Grove Township 12N, Range 21E, very near the Montgomery County line.

In 1840 Pike County Census we find:

Isaac "Buck" Sessions at China Grove

1 male 5-10

2 males 10-15

l male 60-70

l female 40-50

John Sessions, east of China Grove near Charles Dennis

l male 60-70

2 females 5-10

2 females 10-15

2 females 15-20

1 female 40-50 See note 2 below

William Sessions near Harrell Hobdy in eastern part of County.

2 males under 5

3 males 5 to 10

l male 20-30

1 male 50-60

In the 1850 Census, listed as heads of households are:

Isaac Sessions, 71, born N.C. William Sessions, 70, born S.C. Sarah, 72, born N.C. (widow of John, who has died?)

Dennis Family Cemetery is located s.e. of China Grove, presumably on the Dennis Plantation.

We need a "65 year old female" in this family, and none is prompted If Sarah Sessions, age 72 in 1850, is wife, or widow of John Services, and the "Grandmother Sessions, born 1776,"who is still living 7, (See page 143) she should be enumerated as "over 50", in the 3 Census.

William Isaac "Buck" Sessions was born in 1779 in North Carolina,
and was married in 1816 in Conecuh County, Ala., his first child, Sarah,
being born in 1817 in (Wilcox)(Pike?) Conecuh County. Sarah Sessions

was married in 1838 to Jesse Faulk. The 1830 Census of Pike lists:

Henry Falk, Sr.
Henry Falk, Jr.
James Falk, Sr.
James Falk, Jr.
John Falk

In the 1840 Census there are:
Arnold Falk;
Charlotte Falk;
Joel Falk, who married Hannah Manning;
John;
Philip;
Timothy, who married Susanna Cartwirght.

The children of William Isaac "Buck" Sessions were:

Sarah, who married Jesse Fablk;

Margaret (1825-1899) who married William Farnell. (Her obituary says: "she lived many years in Pike County near China Grove and is buried in the Old Union Cemetery. She was married Nov. 9, 1848, was born in Wilcox Co., Ala. She had ten children and was nearly 74 years old. She was a longtime member of the Church, and a member of China Grove church for 8 years."

William Harry, killed at Vicksburg. Married Mary Weldon. Anna P., born 1832, married in 1852, John Sessions, son of William Jack Sessions. They had: William Henry; John L.; and Melissa.

Susanah, born 1833, married Robert Farnell. They had no children of their own, but reared John, son of Anna P., Mary, and Matilda.

Mary, born 1834, married Cornelius Gray, CSA
Isaac William "Ike", born in North Carolina in 1835, married in 1858, Ella Henrietta Smilie. Isaac William and wife lived on the old homeplace. In 1861 he made a trip to Navarro Co., Texas, but returned home and on March 12, 1862, he enlisted in 37th Alabama, CSA.

Rhoda, no information available.

William Isaac"Buck" Sessions apparently came to Alchama is white.

lived for a time, and then returned to North Carolina. He is compared to Morth Carolina.

Roland R. Faulk, b. Troy, 1900, served in the Legislature.

Great-grandfather of Dr. R.F. Sessions, Atlanta, Ga.

Isaac William Sessions, son of William Isaac Sessions (1779-1853), married in 1858, Ella Henriettta Smilie, daughter of Jacob Smilie. They had thirteen children, the first five of whom were born in Pike County. They were:

William Munroe, born 1859, married Elizabeth Reynolds; Della, born 1860, married J.J. Standifer; Matilda Annie, born 1863, married C.C. Gentry; Rebecca B., born 1865, married Peyton Leroy Lucas; Thomas Franklin, born 1868, married Ella Smilie

Isaac William "Ike" and wife moved to Shelby County, Ala., where he died in 1907 and is buried in the old Seale Cemetery near Moutevalla. He was a Confederate Veteran, was at the siege of Vicksburg, and was wounded there. He signed the parole oath on July 10, 1863, and was g granted a 91-day sick furlough. He was listed on the hospital list of seriously wounded Sept. 18, 1863. Apparently, although crippled to the extent that he limped from a leg wound the rest of his life, he was called back, or exchanged, because he was on duty as a guard at the mil itary prison in Atlanta, Ga., May and June of 1864. Lee surrendered April 9, 1865. Apparently the news did not spread rapidly, because Ike was captured again at Macon, Ga. April 20, 1865. General Johnson surrendered in North Carolina, April 26, 1865, and General Kirby Smith surrendered in Louisiana May 26, 1865. Ike was released some time duri that time span and went back to China Grove. He lived on the old home place until 1870 when he moved to Shelby.

The wife of Ike Sessions was alone with their three children in 1863, when the Yankees passed their home in China Grove, and finding no one there, (She and the children were picking strawberries.), cleaned her completely out of cattle, chickens, horses and everything. To understand the story, it is necessary to realize that Ella Henrietta Smili Sessions had a beastly temper. When Grannie got home and saw what he happened, she was furious, and bundling up the children, she rarched to the place where the Union army was camped. She was dusty, dirty, and the maddest woman ever when she got there, and marched right past the sentry, although he was protesting mightily. Into the General's tent she went, and shaking her finger in his face, she demand that all the stolen articles be returned, especially her horse and make the General promised and sent her home in an army conveyance the riving home she found he had sent her a fine horse and a brand make saddle. (As told to the author by Dr. R.F. Sessions.)

1815, married a Miss Manning, and then returned to South Carolina. His

first child, Solomon, was born 1816, in South Carolina. His children

were: 1. Solomon, born 1816, lived and died in South Carolina; 2. Louisa A., born 1818, S.C. married Solomon Johnston;

Had: Lewis Johnston; James Johnston:

Cornelius Johnston, who married Sarah A. Sessions, daughter of Absalum Sessions;

3. Jane Agness, born 1820 in S.C., married Samuel J. Shields, of China Grove;

4. Absalom, born 1824 in S.C., died 1857 in Pike County; married

(1) Mary Barnett, and

(2) Mary Johnson

By his first wife he had:

Francis Marion, born 1841, married Alice Coleman; Sarah Ann, born 1845, married Cornelius Johnston; James Monroe, born 1848, married Martha Cleveland; John Richard, born 1850, died in Texas s.p. Joseph A., born 1851, married Lorena Briggs Wm. Harry, born 1844, died 1858, s.p.

By his second wife, he had:

Mary Jane

Solomon Absolum

5. John Hanse, born 1824 Ala., died 1861; married

(1) Anna P. Sessions, daughter of Buck Sessions, and

(2) Martha Faulk, born 1845, daughter of Jesse and Sarah (Sessions) Faulk.

By his first wife, he had:

William Henry

Jghn L.

Melissa

By his second wife, he had:

Jesse Askew John Hanse

6. William Harry, killed at Vicksburg

7. Newton, went to Louisiana

8. Jasper, born 1833, died 1888, married

(1) Margaret Johnson (1835-1884)

(2) Ann E. Williams (-1926)

(3) Mary J. Taylor

In 1850 he was living with his father. He enlisted in the CSA and was pensioned for his service. (See File # 20871).

William Harry Sessions (1826-1863) married Mary Weldon in 1848. He bought $S_{\overline{z}}^{1}$ of the $SW_{\overline{z}}^{1}$ of the SE $_{\overline{z}}^{1}$ Sec. 21 Tl2 R2LE, deed witnessed by John Sessions and Pressley Norsworthy. He and his wife had:

Elizabeth, born 1850; Joanna, born 1853; Eveline, born 1855; Amanda, born 1857; Martha, born 1860;

William, born 1862;

l Solomon Johnston was a nephew of Gen. Joseph E. J_ohnston

² No. 6 above.

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148
   5. John Sessions (1824-1861) had five children:
          5a Melissa, born 1853, no further record;
          5b William Henry, born 1856, who married Mary Elizabeth Gilmer
                 5b-1 Hubbard, who married a Faulkner
                              5b-la Eloise, who married a Youngblood
                 5b-2 Anna L., who married a Faulkner
                 5b-3 Gertrude (1895-1918)
          5c John (1858-
                           ) married Emma Graves
         5d Jesse Askew, unmarried
         5e John Hanse, married Julia Johnson, had:
                5e-1 Mattie Faulson
                5e-2 Jesse J.
                5e-3 Nancy Emma
                5e-4 John R.
                5e-5 Joshua Lee
    Jasper (1833-1888), Confederate Veteran, lived at China Grove. He
8.
          built a nice home there, was married three times, and reared
          a large family of his own and nephews and nieces. After he
          was gone, the home was occupied by Mrs. Jesse Townsend. "Not
          more than a quarter mile from this home stood the Sessions
          School. At one time it was filled with only Sessions children,
          who were inspired to learn by their dedicated teachers, among
          whom was Gov. Robert Lee Williams, War-time Governor of Okla-
          homa. By his three wives, Jasper Sessions had:
              a. Rowmandus Randolph "Coon" (1857-1907);
                  married , 1887, Minerva Teat (1864-1936), and had:
                   al Arthur Monroe (1889-1918);
                  a2 Willie Thomas (1891-1966);
                  a3 Rena Jane (1892-
                  a4 Margaret May (1894-1903);
                  a5 Jessie Emma (1896- );
                  a6 Ross Randolph (1896-1944);
                  a7 Julia Myrtle (1900-1916)
                  a8 Baby Hera (1903-1903).
             b. William T. "Bill" (1862-
                                            );
                  bl Mattie Lou, who married J.A. Mead; had:
                        bla Ruth, who married M. Gibson;
                 b2 Jeppie, who married than Worthington, and had:
                       b2a Eloise;
                       b2b Jeppie, Jr.;
                 b3 William Lassie (1890-1950), married Nellie
                       Williford, and had:
                       b3a Loucille, who married Purvis Powell;
                 b4 James, who married _____, and had:
                       b4a Betty June;
                       b4b Viola;
                       b4c Clayton;
                b5 Ethyl, who married Gene Ledbetter, and had
                       b5a Hurston;
                       b5b Anna Buford;
                       b5c L.J.;
                      b5d Dorothy;
                b6 Fred, who married Verda Nance, and had:
                      b6a Keitn
                                        b6e Cecil
                      b6b Leona
                                          b6f Tommie
                      b6c Anna Lou
                      b6d Billie
```

Rube Sessions Wells Texas Library

b7 Grady Oakley (1900-1961); married Myrtle Beasley (1902-), and had: b7a Layton: b7b Merrill: b8 Leon, who married Mozelle Ross, and had: b8a Sarah b8b W.D. b8c Preston

- c. Jane, born 1859, married Benjamin Pearson, moved to Ga.
- d. James Thomas (1864-1932) married Solomlia Williams;

e. Flora (by second wife)

James B. Standley was the son of James and Mary (Bradberry) Standley, of North Carolina. James B. Standley married Sarah Munn, in 1830, in Henry County, Ala. They had:

1. Daniel, born 1833; 2. Mary J., born 1835;

3. James A., born 1837;

4. John, born 1839.

Sarah Munn died, and he married for his second wife, Matilda Corley. They had:

1. Sarah Ann Frances, born 1842;

2. Julius, born 1844;

3. Elizabeth, born 1846.

Matilda Corley Standley died in 1848, and he married, in 1849, for his third wife, Mary Ann Wilcox. They had:

1. Emily, born 1851;

2. Melissa, born 1855;

3. Roxie, born 1857;

4. William Green, born 1859;

5. Hardy, born 1862:

6. Richard, born 1864;

7. Cynthia Alice, born 1867

8. Needham, born 1869;

9. Sarah E., born 1874.

James B. Standley appears in 1830, 1840, and 1850 Censuses of Pike. Before 1860 he moved to Texas. His father, James, died in 1845 in Henry County.

Mrs. Harold Gene Campbell, nee Betty Joyce Pryant, has researched the Stevens-Stephens, Bryant, McDowell, Howell, and Tillery Families. Her mother, Etha Mae McDowell, daughter of Lonnie Webster McDowell, was born at Briar Hill in 1911. She married Julius Malcom Bryant in 1 3. Alfred Tillery, born 1795 in Ga., was a teacher in Pike Co., in 1850.