

## ANCESTRY OF GLENDON JEAN STARR

### GROUP ONE

#### **William Mason Miller and Mary C. (Ball)**

William Lewis Miller was the son of William Mason Miller, who went by "Mason" and Mary C. Ball. Mason was named for his father, "William" and his maternal great-great-grandfather, John Mason. He is yet another of your ancestors who gave land to church trustees, (1872) this time for the building of New Bethel Baptist Church. According to Stephen Barr, who couldn't find his notes as to just where he got the date, they married August 1, 1855. This is exactly nine months before the birth of your William Lewis, thus does have a ring of truth to it. I mention this because the Kansas family is insistent William was born in 1854 instead of 1856. "He always said he was seven years older than Nannie" was everyone's response to my question about his birth year. Kentucky census records, where his parents were reporting, support the later birth year. Also, there is no hint that Mason had a former wife; that's the only other explanation for William's birth more than a year before their marriage.

Although Kentucky was considered a "neutral state" during the War for Southern Independence, it was far from that at the local level. However, after much searching I was unable to locate a definitive record for Mason's service on either side during the war. Armies from both sides were in the area, so he undoubtedly was somehow involved, but whether he gave more willingly of his cattle, food and forage to one side is not known. Quartermasters did not ask one's allegiance when they scoured neighborhoods for food for troops and horses. Except for deeds records, we know little about the day to day life of Mason and his wife, who was the daughter of George Lewis Ball and Mary "Polly" Jolly -- both surnames you will see again when the discussion turns to Nannie's family.

Mason died September 11, 1893 at the home he built, according to Mamie Miller who pointed the house out to the Starrs and Brixxs on their first trip to Kentucky in 1987. People were living in it at the time. Mason died before he wrote a will, which isn't all bad for genealogists. "Intestate" probates, or those without a will, often involve more paper work. We learn he purchased a Hamilton Organ August 10, 1893 in Louisville. Getting it home was more problematic than it would be today. My guess is, it was shipped down the Ohio River to Cloverport, where the Millers took possession. It was then their responsibility to move it across country in their horse-drawn wagon. The answer to the question, "Which family member played the organ?" isn't found within the bills and receipts. Two of William and Nannie's children, Everitt and Myrl, "played by ear" showing a musical gene ran in this line. Another thing of interest is the list of items set aside for use of the widow: "heat for family \$15.75". Jerry believes this is for coal.

The "running tab" for Mason's family at the Cloverport general store shows a 25 cent charge for "Phone call to Dr. Miller" September 5th, 1893. Thus we can conjecture Mason either had an accident or he took a turn for the worse that day. Perhaps it had something to do with transporting the organ or he contracted some illness in Louisville? Whoever went to the store to phone the doctor also picked up a nickel's worth of crackers on the way out the door. Mason is buried near his kinfolk in the Old Miller

Cemetery, visited by the Oklahomans on their second trip to Kentucky. Sometime after his death Mary C. (Ball) Miller moved into the town of Cloverport; but whether she lived with family or by herself is not known. She died March 27, 1922 and is buried in the Cloverport, Kentucky Cemetery.

Mason and Mary had twelve children, the youngest born the same year the oldest two married. Amanda married Gilbert Jordan in the double wedding with her older brother, your William Lewis, who married Gilbert's younger sister, Nancy. Nelson Jolly (named for two -- father and son -- ancestors) was born about 1860. He was followed by Mary E. "Mollie", Thomas Jefferson, Jesse K., Sallie Judson, Susan "Sudie", Malissa, Norvin or Marvin, Alfred and Cornelia born 1877.

### **Marvel N. Jordan and Mary Ann "Polly" (Claycomb)**

William Grayson was the youngest of two children born to Marvel N. Jordan and Mary Ann "Polly" (Claycomb). Census takers had a field day with Marvel's given name, usually corrupting it to "Marble". More than likely his middle initial stands for Nimmo, a surname used as given name in the same line where "Marvel" is found. Born in Bedford County, Virginia December 22, 1810, he was fortunate to know all four of his grand parents in Virginia. What stories they could have told him if he had only asked! At nine years old when his family moved to Breckinridge County, his main job during the move in 1819 was probably helping with the livestock. Keeping them together and moving in the right direction was not an easy task. Mary Ann's family was among the earliest settlers in the region. She was born near Clifton Mills, in Breckinridge County June 7, 1808. Thus she lived in the same area her entire life.

Marvel and Mary Ann were fortunate to have their two children and thus all their grandchildren literally living on either side of them for many years. The 1880 census shows the family of William G. on one side and Adam and Amanda Jolly on the other side. Amanda and Adam were second cousins, once removed. "Once removed" means he was a member of the previous generation. In this case, his grandmother was a sibling of Mary Ann's Claycomb grandfather. A contemporary description of the Jolly home describes the house on a hill overlooking the Sample Methodist Church. Elsewhere the article relates Adam gave the land for the church. He also owned a mill at the falls of Sinking Creek and was a blacksmith.

Marvel sold about half his land holdings just before William's move to Kansas. This was an apparent attempt at dividing his estate between the two children. He kept back two tracts that went to the Jollys upon his death. Having disposed of his land, there was no need for a probate on his estate. Mary Ann "Polly" (Claycomb) died March 16, 1886 and Marvel N. April 10, 1894. The Breckinridge County News reported Marvel's death: "The remains of Mr. Marvel Jordan were interred (sic) in the Walnut-Grove [Baptist Church] cemetery, April 14th. He was an old and respectable citizen and will be sadly missed among his relatives and friends." The Kentucky Death Register gives "old age" as the cause of death.

### **Christopher "Christley" Miller and Sarah Jane "Jenny" (Short)**

The parents of "Billy" Miller were Christopher "Christley" Miller and his wife Sarah Jane "Jenny" (Short). Nothing is specifically known about their lives before they arrived in Kentucky. Most speculation about their early years is based on the Revolutionary War pension application of Barnabas "Barney" Miller. We

suspect Barney is Christley's older brother, mainly because Christley and Jenny named their oldest son Barnett, but called him "Barney". The relationship is tenuous at best, but is all we have.

Mamie Miller estimated Christley's birth as about 1768, and the place as (West) Virginia or Pennsylvania. One researcher specifically gives "near Josephstown, Pennsylvania", the same birthplace given by Barnabas Miller Sr. within his Revolutionary War pension application S-16973. Barney, born 1764, states his family moved from Pennsylvania to Berkeley County, Virginia where he enlisted in the Virginia militia. "After some 17 years in Berkeley County, he [Barney] moved to Breckinridge County, Kentucky."

The researcher goes on to say, "The Miller family originated in the German Palatinate, a section of the German Rhineland. The family name was the German "Muller", changed in America to Miller. We believe that his family left Pennsylvania about the late 1760s and moved to the valley of Virginia since there was a great movement in this direction about this time. ... Since Barney Miller came to Breckinridge County before Christopher, I would say that old articles placing him [Christopher] in Berkeley County, Virginia may be correct and also that Christopher may have lived in Tazewell County, Virginia before coming to Kentucky. Counties were much larger in the early days." Tazewell County is where two other interesting Millers are found -- Matthias and Nicholas. Both appear in Breckinridge County and are considered possible brothers of Barney and Christley. At one time I questioned Christley's German heritage since all his children married into long-time Virginia families. But when her children were clearing out the home of Mamie Miller, whose husband and father-in-law were Miller family historians, they discovered several letters written in German tucked away in a forgotten trunk.

However, a third researcher and author suggests Christopher and Sarah Jane were part of a group of Pennsylvania families (including Jacob Weatherholt and some of your other ancestors) who made their way to Kentucky down the Ohio River without stopping in now West Virginia. All we really know is, Christopher and Sarah Jane and at least five children arrived in Breckinridge County, Kentucky after the 1800 census, but before the February 18, 1802 birth of their son Henry. "Christian" Miller first appears in Breckinridge County records in 1803. Your Christley is not the apocryphal Christopher Miller who lived in nearby LaRue County. The story goes that young Christopher was captured by Indians. During a skirmish years later an older brother recognized him just in time -- another white man was taking aim, with Christopher in his sights. He returned to his white family, but was recruited as a spy toward the end of the Indian wars because of his knowledge of Indian languages.

Your Christley died during the summer of 1815. Shortly after his death his widow, Jenny Miller, appeared before the Justices asking to administer on her husband's estate. Three men signed the security bond for her: Thomas Patton; Barney Miller (presumably their son); and Benjamin Nuffith. The inventory of the estate was submitted to court December 18, 1815 and guardians for the minor children were appointed that day. Apparently the bondsmen and guardians felt her second husband was trustworthy for the next record found for Christopher's estate is dated 1821. More often than not at that time, when widows remarried bondsmen went to court asking the second husband to post a bond, making sure he wouldn't go through the former husband's estate. The 1821 entry reads: "Ordered that William Moorman and William Seaton ... do settle with Jacob Weatherholt and Jane his wife, late Jane Miller, the accounts of their administration of the Estate of Christley Miller dec'd." From this we can assume the older children were ready to get their inheritance. We do know the younger two were settled in the Weatherholt household.

Sarah Jane (Short) Miller had married Jacob Weatherholt in 1816. "Sarah" and "Short" comes from numerous Miller researchers, probably all quoting each other and Mamie Miller. Court records show her name as only "Jane" or "Jenny". Jacob ran the ferry across the Ohio River between Cloverport, Kentucky and Tobinsport, Indiana. My guess is, they lived on the Indiana side of the river for he is buried near his first wife in Tobinsport. Jacob had children when he married Jenny, and he and Jenny had one child, Mildred Jane, born July 31, 1817.

According to Mamie Miller, Christopher was buried in the oldest "Old Miller" Cemetery, which predates the other "Old Miller" Cemetery where most of their children are buried. The limestone rock used to mark his grave is long gone. In fact few today know exactly where the cemetery was located. Sarah Jane, who died about 1864, is believed buried beside him.

Bear with me as I recount Christley and Jenny's children and the families they married into. You will read about many of these people again. Son Barnett "Barney" married Judith G. Hendrick, the great-granddaughter of your Andrew Moorman and Judith (Clark). John W. "Jack" first married Eliza O. Clark, daughter of your Thomas and Milly (Moorman) and later, Judith M. Ball, daughter of your John Ball and Alcy (Withers). Nancy married Calvin Hendrick, a grandson of Andrew Moorman and Judith (Clark). Michael married Nancy Clark, daughter of Thomas and Milly (Moorman), then Matilda Ball, daughter of John and Alcy. Henry, Mary "Polly" and Elizabeth managed to not marry siblings of their in-laws, but William "Billy" married Eliza Jane Clark, granddaughter of Thomas and Milly. Not mentioned above, Thomas M. Clark's wife, Milly (Moorman), was daughter of Andrew and Judith (Clark) Moorman. Also, Mildred Jane (Weatherholt) married William L. Pate, uncle of your Eliza Jane (Clark) Miller.

### **William Ball and Martha (Brumfield)**

William Ball, grandfather of your John Ball who moved from Virginia to Breckinridge County, Kentucky, was born about 1720 in Philadelphia County, Pennsylvania. He married Martha Brumfield before 1742, based on the birth of their oldest child. In September 1743 he paid 200 pounds for 150 acres on the Schuylkill River adjacent to William Penn's Manor line. Witnesses to the deed were George and Squire Boone, grandfather and father of Daniel Boone. Actually William paid only 50 pounds down and as "William Ball yeoman" took out a mortgage for the other 150 pounds at 6% interest. He signed his name to his note and Martha "signed by her (M) mark". The note was finally paid off May 1761. This tract is now located in the western part of Pottstown Township of Montgomery County, Pennsylvania. This is where they reared their family of eight children.

That is all the specific information we've located on William in either Pennsylvania or Virginia and researchers differ in their opinions of what happened to him. Mrs. Kinsey believes he died in Pennsylvania after paying off the mortgage note in 1761 but before Martha's father signed his will in 1774. The will clearly suggests Martha's husband no longer supports her, for the executor is instructed to provide "my said daughter Martha Ball yearly what her necessity should require during her natural life." This sounds like a father fully aware his daughter will be in need of financial assistance the rest of her life. The only conclusions one can draw are: William is deceased, disabled or he deserted her.

Meanwhile other researchers believe he is one of two William Balls who died, one in 1784 and the other in 1785, in Culpeper County, Virginia. One was wealthy, and I believe a descendant of the George Washington Ball line. Of course, he's the one descendants claim. The other William's estate was barely worth probating, making him the likelier candidate for your William in my opinion. Neither left a will making it even more difficult to get a complete family picture. IF one of the two Culpeper County Williams is yours, then based on Brumfield's will, he deserted his wife and daughters. I find that difficult to accept, especially since the sons "would appear" to have gone with him.

Of William and Martha's eight children, all three sons left Pennsylvania for greener pastures in Virginia. For your John it was a really good move. Three daughters and their husbands remained in the area while a fourth daughter moved to New Jersey when she married, but later appears in Virginia near her brother John. A fifth daughter is mentioned in her grandfather Brumfield's will, but isn't found in other records. Mrs. Kinsey thinks this daughter died without issue.

### **George Lewis Ball and Mary "Polly" (Jolly)**

Mason Miller's wife, Mary C., was the daughter of George Lewis Ball and Mary "Polly" (Jolly). George was born March 31, 1809 in Breckinridge County, Kentucky about six weeks after Abraham Lincoln was born in neighboring Hardin County. [LaRue County, where the National Park around the cabin site is located, wasn't created until 1843.] George was the eighth of twelve children and also the third and last son of John Ball and Alcy (Withers).

George was twenty-three years old May 3, 1832 when he married the twenty year old Mary "Polly" Jolly. She apparently lived up to her name, for she is reported to have been known by all in the community as "Aunt Polly". Born August 6, 1812, she was the eldest of thirteen children of Nelson Jolly Jr. and Barbara Claycomb (Barr). Her immediate ancestors were in this region of Kentucky when the threat of Indian attack made it expedient to live within the walls of Hardin's Fort.

I was fortunate early on to learn of three recently published genealogies on your Breckinridge County families. In 1981 Margaret Kinsey published *Ball Cousins: Descendants of John and Sarah Ball and of William and Elizabeth Richards of Colonial Philadelphia Co., Penna.* The foreword begins: "A remarkable estate was distributed between 1827 and 1858. It established the descent of 955 people from [the above] two couples ... [who] were the grandparents of Joseph Ball whose estate it was. ... *Ball Cousins* is designed to organize data from the estate records in order to make it useful for genealogy researchers." In 1857 George Lewis Ball received \$4.66 as his representative 1/1764 share of Joseph's estate. A few researchers question the line of descent shown by Kinsey's work. My stance here is that numerous lawyers who were paid to find errors reviewed the paperwork she drew upon. George made the cut, so who are they to question her work?

Genealogies are short on specific lifestyles of descendants once past the very early ancestors. That, and the fact I moved on to other families before acquiring all the records from the Breckinridge County Archives on this George, means I have very little in the way of specifics to share about this couple. But one more topic needs to be covered. According to Glendon, Fern "always said she was kin to George Washington's mother who was a Ball." A quick search in the encyclopedia verified his mother was Mary Ball. To my question "where did they come up with this?" Mrs. Kinsey explained a rumor circulated in the

1890s that more of Joseph Ball's estate had been found. Even though denied by all who knew the facts, headlines in papers all over the country ran: "G. W.'s Ball kin in line for money". A similar thing happened in the 1980s with your Jordan / Meador line. An east Texas oilman whose surname was Meador died in the 1930s or 1940s without a will or children. One Breckinridge County cousin was irritated with me for not giving money to and completing forms for an attorney who represented the possible heirs. I'm told so many "wannabe heirs" made the trek to the courthouse, that some court official posted a "Meador heirs" sign in the hallway pointing the way to the relevant deed books.

George Lewis Ball died August 8, 1888 and is buried in the "Old Frank Cemetery" near McQuady, Kentucky. Glendon and Jack located and photographed his stone but apparently didn't find one for Mary who died January 20, 1894. Glendon remembered FRANK cousins visiting her parents in the 1930s. She enjoyed learning how they were related and where they are buried in Oklahoma.

Of George and Polly's ten children, three have the greatest interest to us: your Mary C. who married Mason Miller; Sarah E. who married Mason's brother, Thomas A.; and Melissa, who married Mason's first cousin, Benjamin Miller.

### **John Ball and Alcy (Withers)**

Your great-great-great-grandfathers George Lewis and Joseph Brumfield Ball were sons of John Ball and Alcy Withers, both of whom were born in the area that appears as Virginia's "hump" but is otherwise referred to as "the northern neck". They migrated to Breckinridge County, Kentucky in late summer to early fall 1808 for their son George, born in March 1809, gives his birth state as Kentucky. Several researchers give differing years for their migration date, but his birth seems as good as any to use to date the move.

John was born March 4, 1773 in Fauquier County, Virginia, son of the Revolutionary War Captain John Ball and Sarah Ellen (Payne). Alcy (also seen as Ailey, Alese, Alice) was born July 15, 1778 in the same county. Her heritage traces back to almost the beginning of settlement in this area of Virginia while John's ancestors moved every two or three generations. Her parents were William Withers and Elizabeth (Hord). Again, I've done very little actual research on this John and Alcy, having jumped from them to their parents and grandparents. In doing so, I believe I've overlooked some records for him in neighboring Hardin County, thinking at the time it was another man by the same name. Now that I'm reviewing my past work, I see my error.

According to an often repeated account, John was a millwright who built the old stone mill at Grahampton, Kentucky. This mill operated for over 100 years and the old timers (dating to the 1980s) remembered picnics with their teen-aged friends and later romping with their young families on the grounds. Young boys especially enjoyed climbing the ruins. This area was once described as near the highway between Louisville and Henderson, but is now part of Fort Knox and off-limits to everyone except those visiting family cemeteries at designated times.

Of John and Alcy's twelve children, those of interest to us include all three sons. You descend from two, Joseph Brumfield and George Lewis, while John W. married Mary P. Clark, daughter of your William B. Clark and Eleanor (Pate). Eleanor was the daughter of Edward and Mary (Crawford). John and Alcy's daughters, Sarah Elizabeth and Mary H., married respectively John and Jeremiah Pate, sons of Edward

and Mary (Crawford) while their daughters Judith M. and Matilda Ellen were second wives to Jack and Michael Miller, sons of your Christley.

### **John Roades and Elizabeth (? Jessup)**

John Roades, who was part of William Penn's flotilla in 1682, was the son of John Roades "cordwainer", also described as a shoemaker, and his wife Elizabeth, whose surname is possibly Jessup. They lived in County Derby (Derbyshire) which is located in the heart or "midlands" of England. People in this area mid-1600s were receptive to the message of "the Light" as spoken by George Fox and this became a stronghold from the beginning for the Religious Society of Friends. John and Elizabeth joined early on and the Meeting birth records show nine children for "John and Elizabeth Roades of Windgreaves" beginning with Adam in 1660. Windgreaves was near the larger village, Ripley, found in most Atlases. The Book of Sufferings shows John Roades was fined 20 pounds and 6 shillings and had "grain, shoes, leather, corn, hay, household goods, and working goods" taken from him. [page 12 Kinsey] British officials, in an attempt to force Quakers to return to the Anglican Church, exacted exorbitant fines and then jail time when they ran out of money, for Quakers who didn't attend Anglican church services and who withheld the portion of their tax bill that covered payment for the Anglican vicar. It was not easy being a Quaker.

John and Elizabeth's oldest two sons emigrated to Pennsylvania early on. Their reports of prosperity and more importantly religious freedom, encouraged the entire family to emigrate. The father, John, was better off than one might expect for he invested in land in Penn's Woods while still living in Derbyshire. The date of his emigration isn't determined, but is sometime between the 1692 marriage of one daughter and 1696 when he personally purchased a lot in Philadelphia. No record of Elizabeth is found in the New World so we assume she died before the move. Several if not all of their surviving children, eventually joined him in Pennsylvania.

In 1700 John purchased two tracts in Marple Township of Chester (now Delaware County) on which he lived out the rest of his life. According to the Darby Monthly Meeting records, John Roades the elder died 27 8mo 1701. His will, dated only seven days before, suggests he knew death was imminent. His youngest son, Joseph, was to get his Marple Township holdings, plus the bed and furniture John was using "it being intended for him by his mother" and a few other household items. Son Jacob received 20 pounds plus the bed designated for him by Elizabeth. Son John received 10 shillings in addition to the White Marsh land already in his hands. Adam received John's bay mare plus whatever he had already received. John's indentured servant Charles Robinson was to finish out his term under Joseph, who was then to give Charles 20 shillings. After all debts were paid and legacies discharged, anything remaining was to be divided equally between sons Adam, Jacob and Joseph and daughters Mary Maltby and Elizabeth Daws. Adam and Joseph were appointed executors. John signed his will by "his R mark." [page 14]

Mrs. Kinsey adds that Adam added an "h" to the spelling of his surname, which his descendants kept -- Rhoads. "In the Catalouge of Eighty-Seven Public Friends y't have Died in Pennsylvania since ye First Settlement of Friends there Read at ye Yearly Meeting, 1709 under the heading "Public Friends deceased in ye County of Chester in ye Province of Pensilva" is found: "Jno Roads of Ripley in ye County of Darby,

belonged to Breachhouse or Hilltop Meeting ... was buried at Darby ..." Mrs. Kinsey explains the term "Public Friend" referred to those Friends who spoke in Meeting." [page 15]

### **Capt. John Ball and Sarah Ellen (Payne)**

The Revolutionary War Ensign, later referred to as Captain John Ball of Fauquier County, Virginia, was born October 2, 1742 in Philadelphia County, Pennsylvania. The family moved west to the area that became Montgomery County while John was still an infant and this is where John grew to adulthood. Today this entire area is part of the metro Philadelphia complex; back then it was solitary log cabins tucked into dense woods.

The history of the Ball family becomes murky at this point. Some researchers differ from Mrs. Kinsey who thinks John's father, William, died in Pennsylvania. Others say William and the older boys moved together to Virginia where William died. I side with Mrs. Kinsey's view because John's mother and all but one of his sisters remained in Pennsylvania. It seems more probable to me that only the sons sought greener pastures in Virginia. Whatever the reason, the move to Virginia was good for John, but there are many unanswered questions of what lay behind it.

The first question is why John headed for Virginia instead of going farther south into the Carolinas where land was cheaper? The northern neck area John settled in had been open to settlement for several years and there Indians were no longer a real threat. All this made the land far more expensive than land in the Carolinas. Land was even cheaper in the valley of Virginia where new settlers were arriving daily. Something else seems to have drawn him to Virginia's northern neck. The next question is how did he meet his future wife? There is no indication the Paynes were Quakers or that John had continued with the Society of Friends once an adult.

His wife's tenuous connection to a Ball line might be the answer. Sarah Ellen (Payne), who always signed her name as "Sarah" only, was born September 1750 in King George County, Virginia. Her parents were William Payne and his second wife, Mary, surname not known. But researchers are of two minds -- one thinks Mary was a Turner and the other "a Miss Ball". Perhaps the reason John and his brothers headed to Virginia was "to go to relatives" who had offered to help out the Pennsylvania family when William died. Definitely more work is needed for this is pure speculation.

John and Sarah married November 6, 1767 in King George County where she lived, but settled in rapidly growing Fauquier County. On October 23, 1769 they purchased 100 acres on a branch of Licking Run Creek. He owned and operated a mill and millrace on this or another nearby creek. Whether John bought the mill or built it is not known. His son, your John Jr., built a mill shortly after moving to Breckinridge County. This older John had to learn the mechanics from someone. His nearest relatives in Pennsylvania were more involved in iron furnaces. There are a few of those in the northern neck, but he chose a mill. One has to go back to John's great-great-grandfather Barnabas Willcox to find a mill in his immediate family. We can guess he was good with his hands and a quick study, but why did he choose milling as his career?

During the Revolution John served as an Ensign in the Fauquier militia from 1776 to 1779, but within his probate papers he is referred to as "Capt. John Ball." By 1782 the personal property tax list shows him owning 10 slaves. He was referred to as "Sr." in 1795, reflecting his son of the same name had now



"come of age." John died 1806 near Warrenton in Fauquier County, and Sarah before March 1825, when the final accounting of his estate was returned to the court. Mrs. Kinsey quotes a descendant that Sarah died in Breckinridge County, Kentucky, but I suspect Sarah remained in her home in Virginia. Several children stayed behind when others left for Kentucky, and only one, your John, chose Breckinridge County as his new home.

John signed his long and detailed will January 18, 1806; it was submitted to the probate court December 22 that same year. Itemized possessions of the deceased tell us many things. John owned four featherbeds and furnishings valued at \$100. The bag of feathers Sarah was collecting to refill one of the mattresses was valued at \$15. His silver watch, shotgun and sword were worth \$40. He had three stands of bees and 35 sheep. The latter were worth \$70, but the bee stands were combined with other things so their specific value is not given. Ten head of horses came to \$513 while the flock of geese and turkeys came to \$15.50. The total value of his holdings was \$6,047 and this doesn't include land, but does include 18 slaves, although one is marked "an incumbrance." The final division of his estate is dated March 30, 1825. Each distributee received an additional \$53.40 over and above what they had previously received per his will.

Of their eight children, three or four went to Henry County, Kentucky and John went to Breckinridge County. The others remained in Virginia, including the one son who inherited the "home place." Two sons were named George Lewis and Joseph Brumfield, thus we have the namesakes for your third-great grandfathers. I know where Brumfield enters the family, but am still searching for how "George Lewis" enters the tree.

### **Joseph Brumfield Ball and Sarah "Sally" (Jolly)**

Sarah Alice, wife of William Grayson Jordan, was the eldest daughter of Joseph Brumfield Ball and Sarah "Sally" (Jolly). He was the sixth child but first son of John and Alcy (Withers), and the older brother of George Lewis who married Sarah's sister, Mary "Polly". Born July 23, 1805 in Fauquier County, Virginia, he was too young to remember much, if anything, about the family move to Kentucky. But he was old enough to follow the talk around his father's mill by those waiting for their corn to be ground. Kentucky men were heavily recruited for service in the War of 1812 and their discussions must have centered on the mustering soldiers heading off to battle. Joseph was just old enough to enjoy playing soldier with his two younger brothers. As eldest he surely was the self-appointed leader. The mill provided plenty of hiding places to shoot from during the slack times from millwork.

Instead of following his father into millwork, Joseph learned the art of surveying and worked as the County Surveyor for several years. His training involved following the surveyor up and down the hills and dales, carrying chains and other surveying equipment, then pulling the chains taut when measurements were taken. Once he was the boss, he still had to hike, but lugging the gear was the job of "chain carriers". There were usually teenaged boys wanting to learn the trade or to make extra money. However one was often a relative of the person who requested the survey, thus insuring the surveyed land was the correct parcel. With teen-agers doing the heavy-lifting, all Joseph might have toted was the pencil and notebook for his notes and drawings. This surveying job brought in the extra money so welcomed by growing families. It helped them through the lean times when crops were ruined by weather and the financial depressions that were so tough on farming families.

Joseph and Sarah or "Sally" married September 4, 1832 and settled on a farm in the Union Star neighborhood. They had six children before her death, September 16, 1844. All I have for birth of their last child is the year (1844), so my guess is she died in childbirth or from complications a few days later. But I could be wrong -- Joseph's father died two days before Sarah did. Perhaps they contracted one of the many diseases that swept through the country from time to time. The loss of his father and then his wife so soon afterwards must have hit Joseph hard.

What does a widower with young children do? He couldn't work while caring for six children including an infant. Perhaps in Joseph's case his recently widowed mother moved into his house. Or, since he did have the surveying fees, perhaps he hired a housekeeper / nanny? Surely there was a spinster kinswoman available to move into his home to help. Remarriage is always a possibility and Joseph did marry again. We don't have a date for his marriage to the widow Susannah (Tobin) Carlton, but their only child was born September 25, 1852, suggesting they didn't marry until five or six years after Sally's death. Perhaps Joseph married another woman in between these two known marriages, and all traces of that unknown spouse are now lost?

Joseph died January 25, 1853 at the age of 47. There are no doctor bills or other indications in his probate file to suggest he suffered from a long illness. One of Susannah's descendants asked me about a story told about him. It goes that Joseph had co-signed as security on several mortgage notes taken out by friends and / or relatives. As luck would have it, several reneged on their notes within a short period. When creditors turned to Joseph for full payment, he became so depressed over his own pending bankruptcy, he committed suicide. This story was new to me, but I didn't follow up by searching for a newspaper account. Considering the feelings of the day, if the story is true the suicide was probably "hushed up" by those who respected him and his family. This was something not discussed around children, so lack of the story in other descendant lines doesn't make it untrue.

Joseph's funeral expenses came to \$17.4\_, the last number cut off when the paper was copied. Ten dollars of that was for "making and furnishing" the coffin. Sally's brother, Gideon P. Jolly was appointed administrator of the estate and guardian of his sister's minor children. Susannah was guardian of her "sun", Robert Thomas. [The descendant reversed the name of his grandfather to Thomas Robert.] The estate was settled May 16, 1856. Joseph and Sarah "consort of J. B. Ball" are buried in the Union Star Cemetery.

Joseph and Sally's children of interest to us are, of course, their eldest daughter Sarah, who married your William Grayson Jordan. Their son George Lewis Ball, married his double-first cousin, Elizabeth "Bettie Ann" Ball, daughter of Joseph's brother George Lewis and "Aunt Polly" (Jolly).