

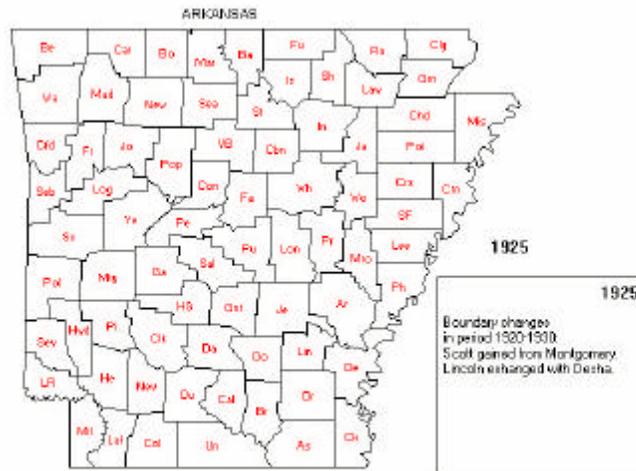
Chapter 2

Hubert Munsey Martin

and

Maud Ulan Cranford Martin

Arkansas



Cleburne County History

In 1883, when the last county in Arkansas was formed, the citizens named it Cleburne. In the foothills of the Ozarks where the meandering Little Red River becomes a beautiful lake, the name of Pat Cleburne lives on....from Time and the River by Evalena Berry

Creation of Cleburne County

Cleburne is Arkansas' youngest county. It was created by act of the General Assembly as the state's 75th county, and the act was signed into law on February 20, 1883. The new county was formed from the eastern part of Van Buren County and smaller portions of land taken from the western edge of Whit County and the southwest corner of Independence County. Most of what is now Cleburne County was in Pulaski County from 1819 until the formation of the counties of Independence (1820), Van Buren (1833), and White (1835).

The bill not only created the county and defined its boundaries, but also provided for orderly transfer of the business of the county from its surrounding parent counties. The act designated the town of Sugar Loaf (to become Heber Springs) as the temporary county and directed the Van Buren County sheriff to conduct an election to select the permanent county seat and elect officers for the new county.

The first county officials were William George Ward of Quitman, county judge; Thomas Jefferson Andrews, Heber, circuit clerk; Stephen Julon Morton, Heber, sheriff; Thomas Jefferson Majors, Shiloh, county treasurer; Calvin Sales, Waco, surveyor; James Arnett, coroner; and Jesse W. Will, Quitman, assessor. Witt died in September of that year and James Calvin Barnes was appointed assessor.

The post office at Heber had been established in 1882, and the town of Sugar Loaf was incorporated later the same year. It was not until 1910 that Heber Post Office was changed to Heber Springs Post Office and the town of Sugar Loaf was officially changed to Heber Springs.

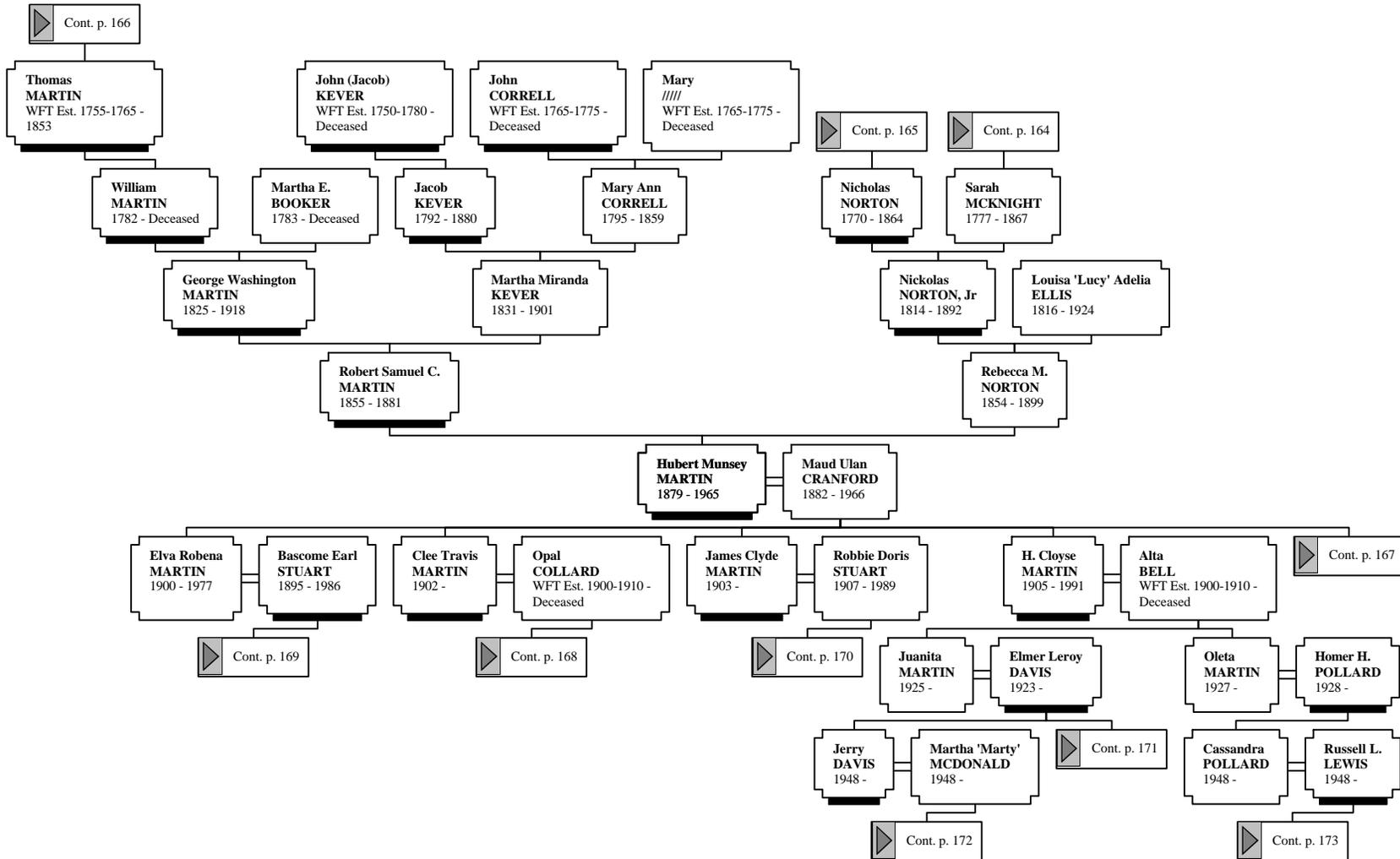
Excerpts from Time and the River, by Evalena Berry

Cleburne County is an interior county with a generally rugged terrain. Elevations range from 270 feet above sea level in the river bottom land of the southeast part of the county to 1400 feet in the northwest section. In the valleys are some alluvial lands of good fertility. In the mountains are traces of lead, coal, and possibly other minerals. Little Red River, Greer's Ferry Lake and countless smaller streams and springs furnish an abundant water supply. The land area is 595 square miles, which

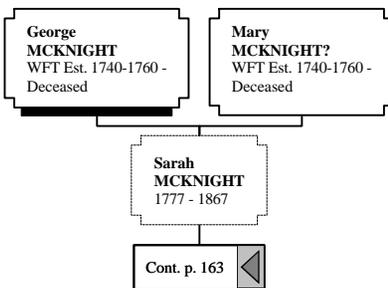
makes it among the smallest counties in the state.

In addition to farming, during the early 1900's timber cutting and logging was the main industry. Cotton was the money crop in the south half of the county and subsistence farming was practiced throughout. Construction of the Greer's Ferry Dam on Little Red River near Tumbling Shoals beginning in 1959 caused expansion in business as well as in population. Land developers opened up the area to new home owners and vacationers. Population grew from 2,265 in 1960 to 5,000 in 1980. Tourism and the recreation industry thrived in the hospitable climate, and the Greer's Ferry Lake area in Cleburne County has become one of the three most popular areas in Arkansas for visitors.

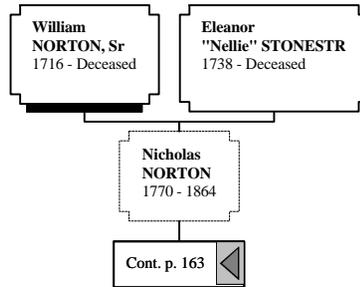
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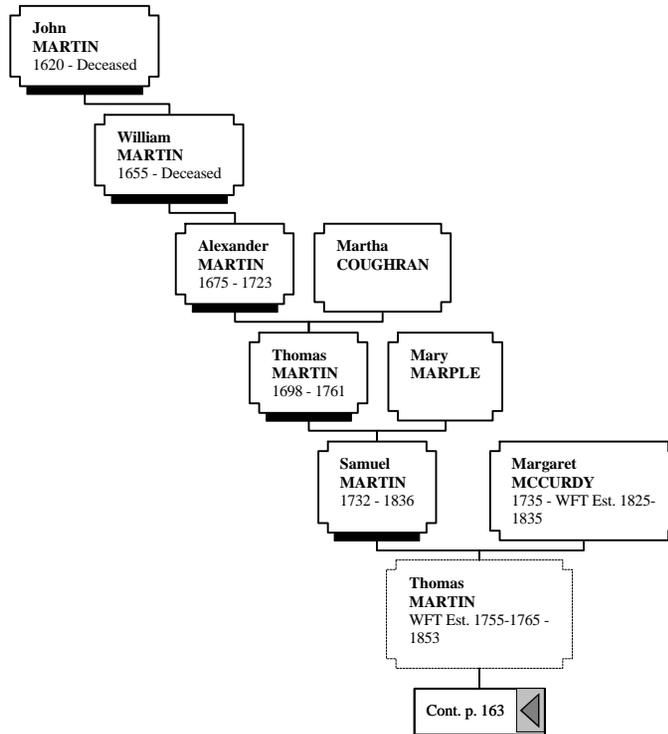
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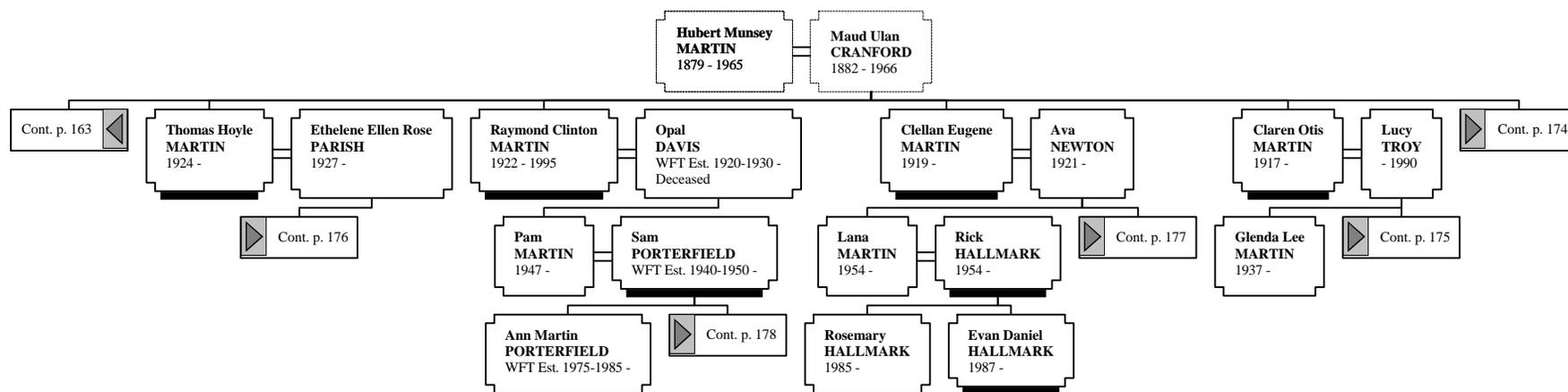
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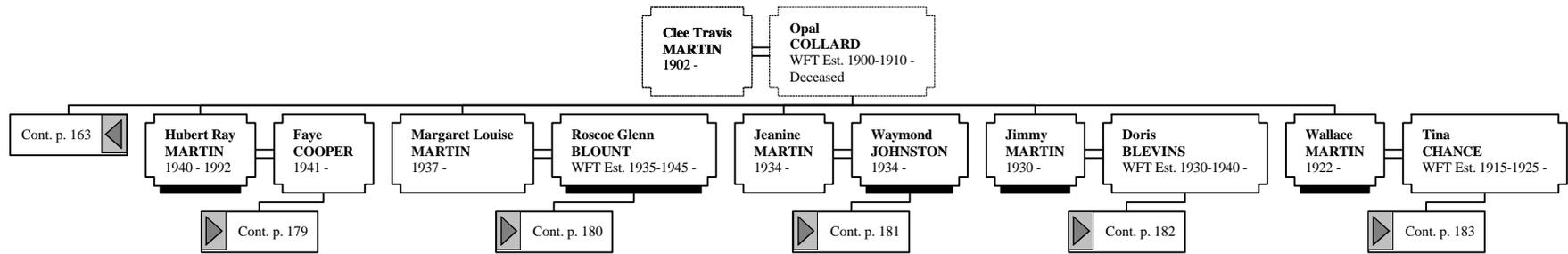
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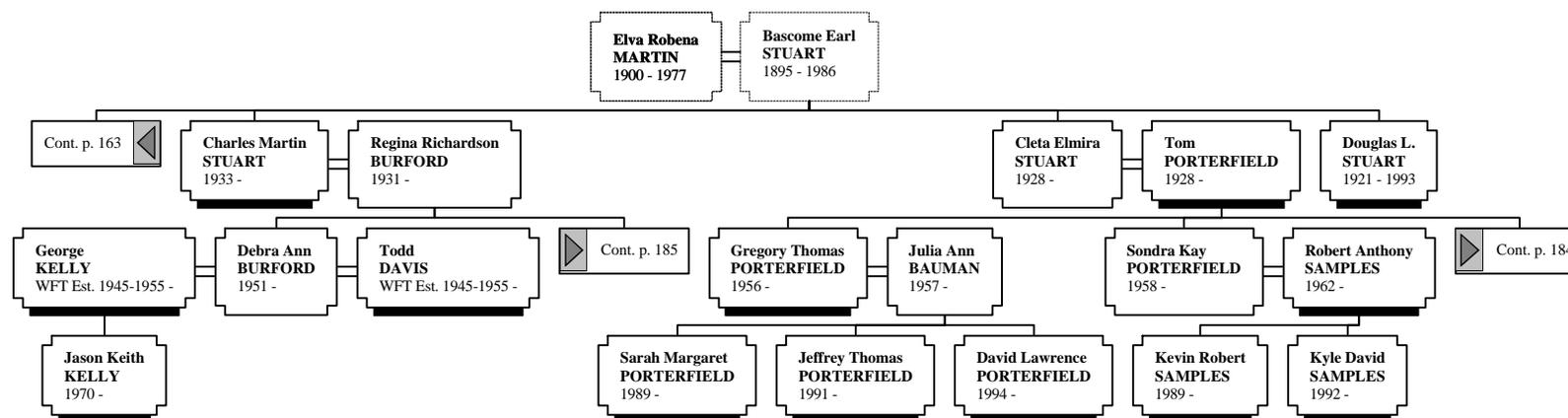
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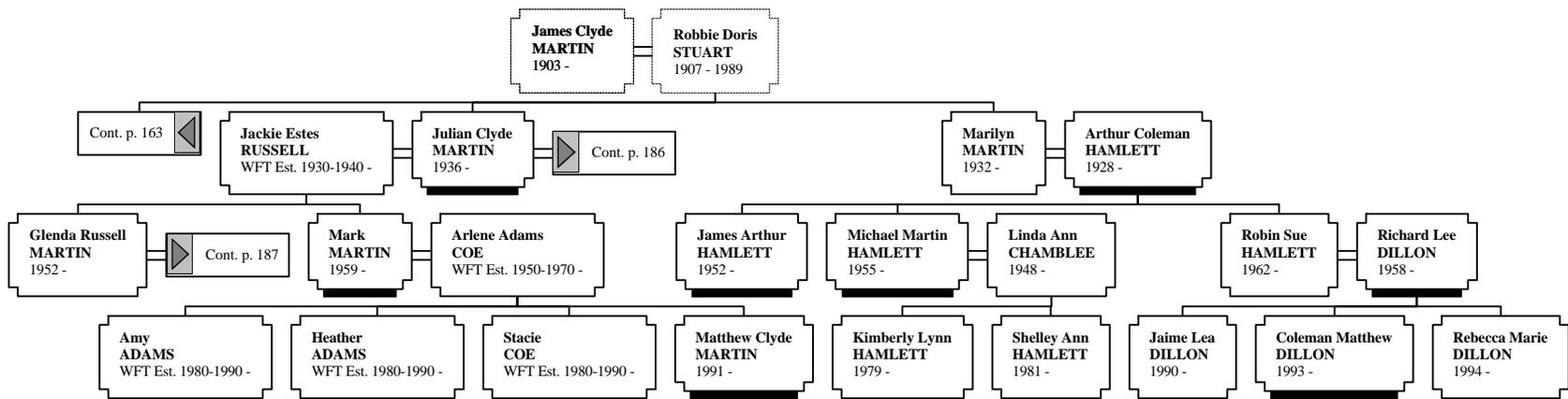
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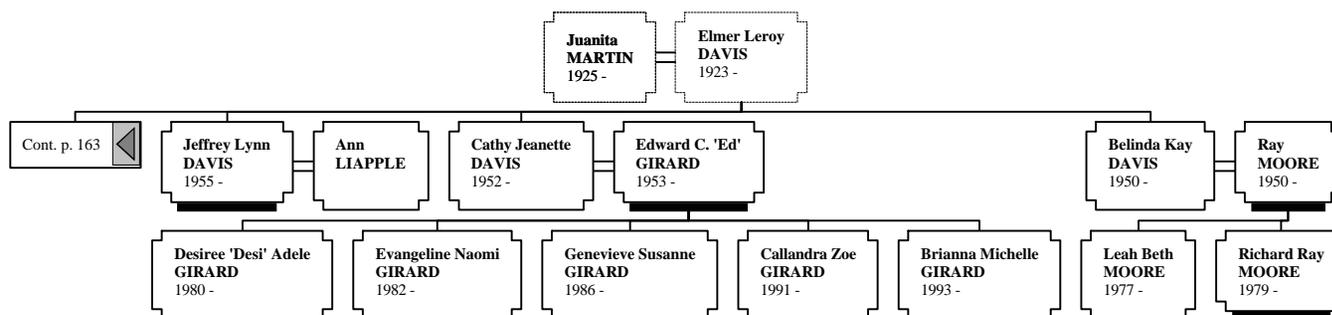
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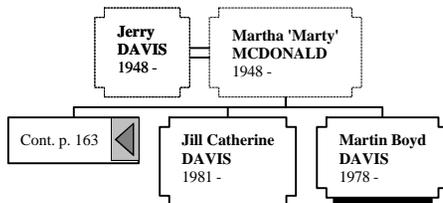
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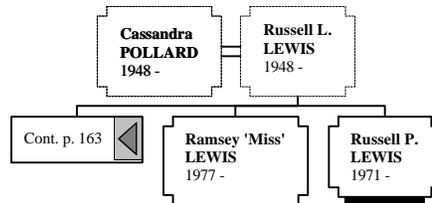
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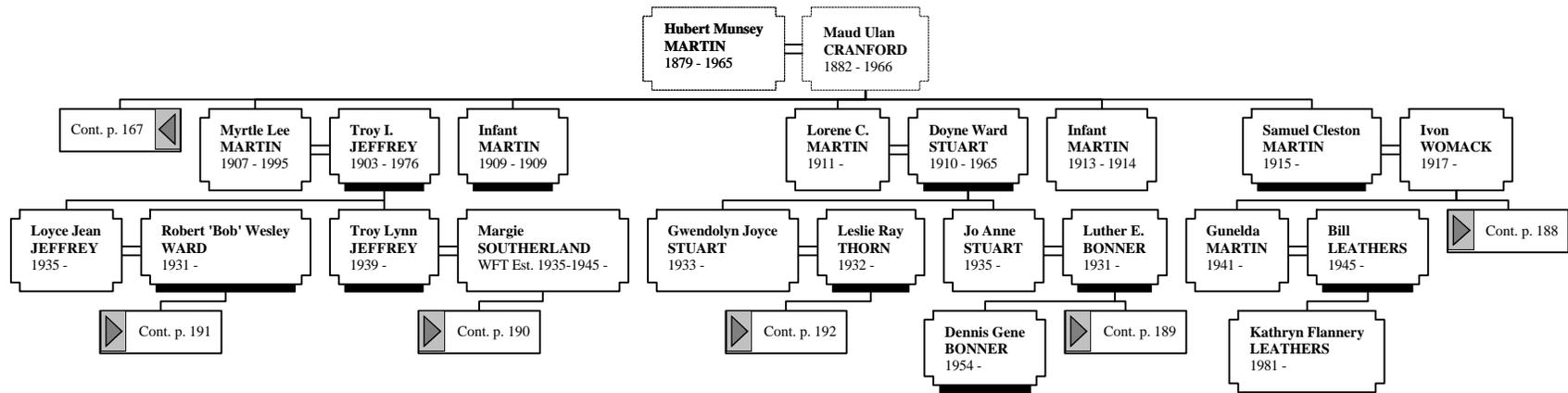
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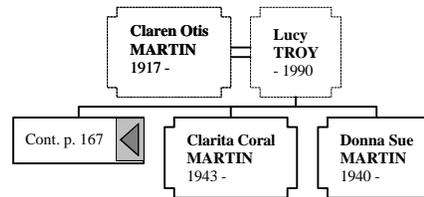
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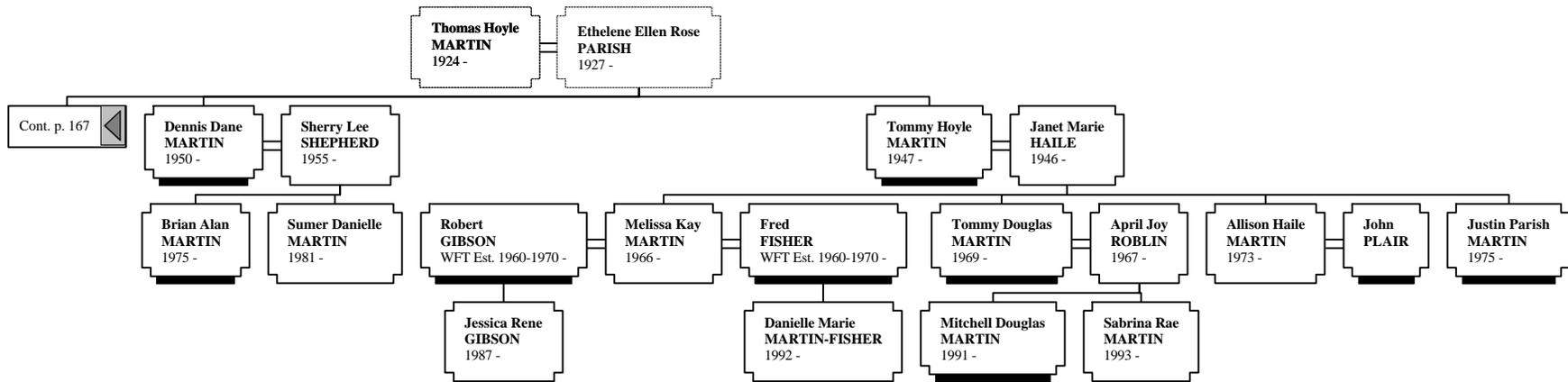
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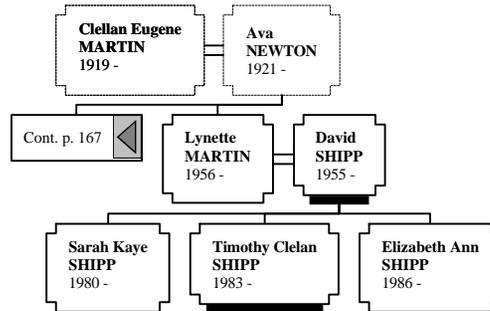
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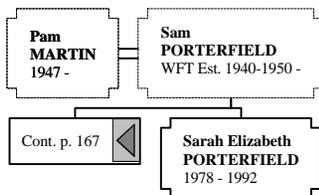
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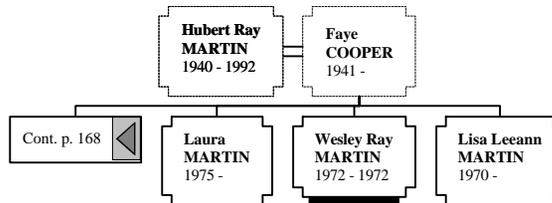
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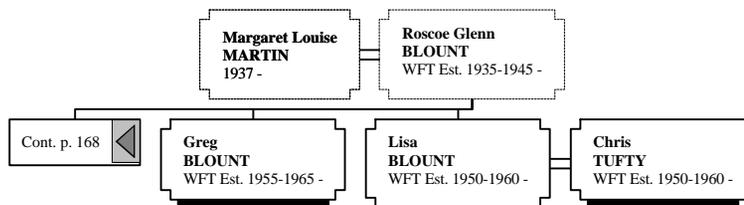
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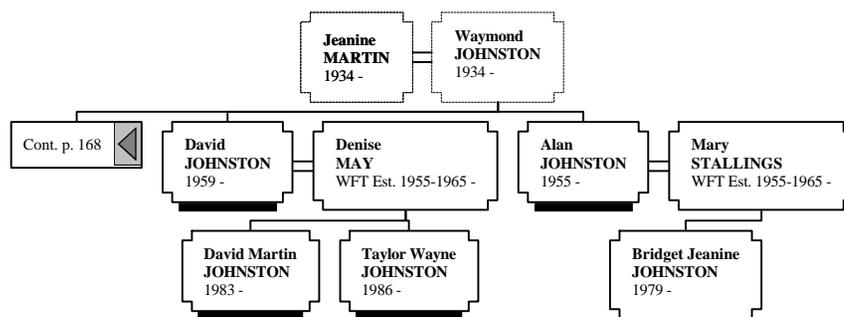
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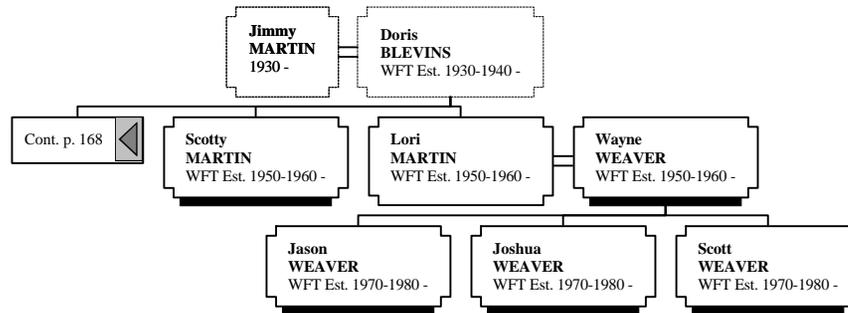
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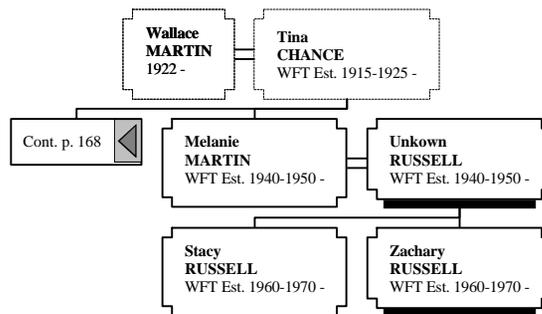
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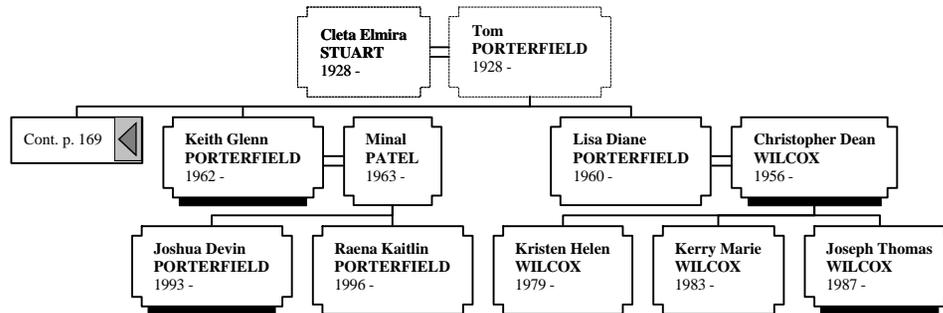
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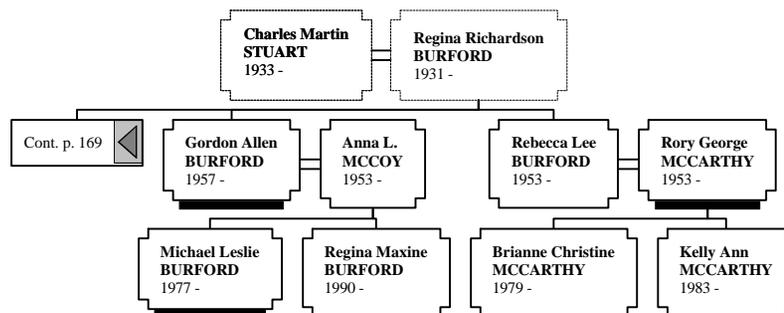
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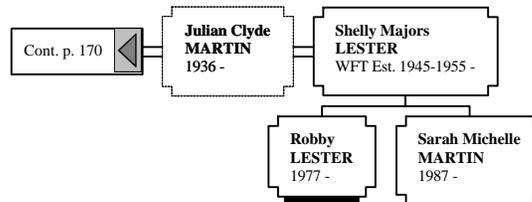
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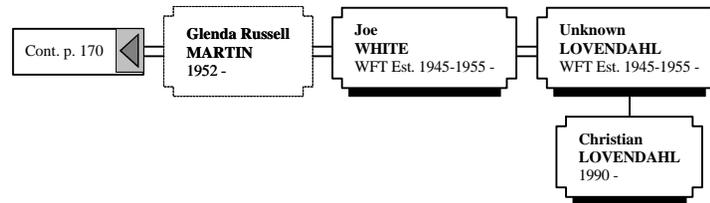
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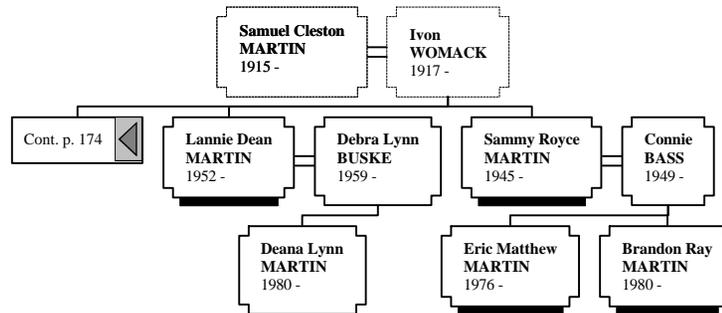
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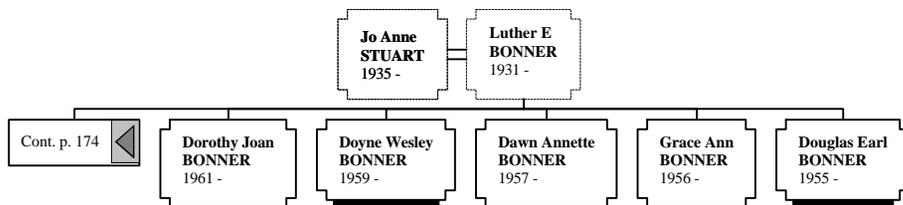
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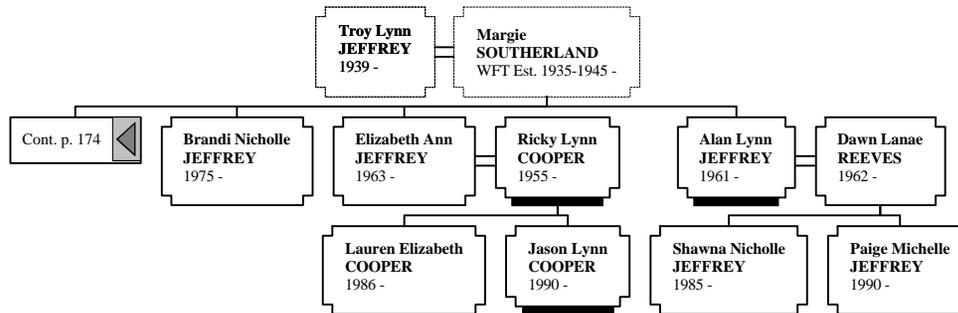
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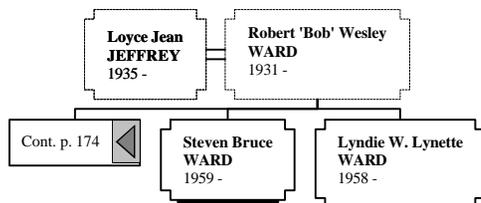
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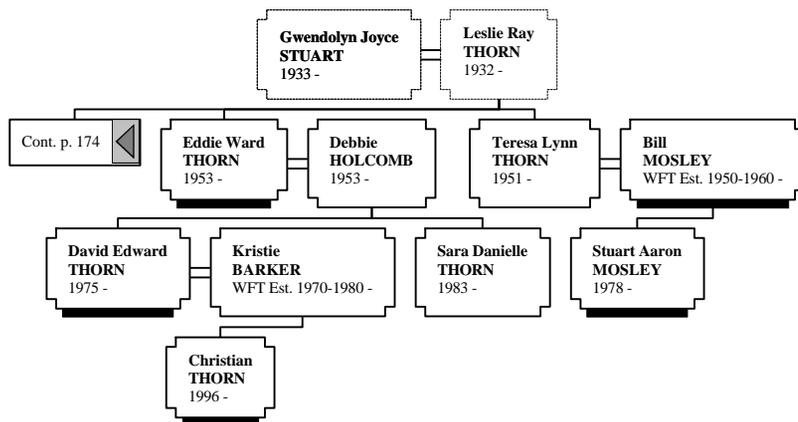
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Hubert Munsey Martin
December 26, 1879 - April 29, 1965

Hubert Martin was born in Alexander County, North Carolina December 26, 1879. His parents were Samuel C. Martin and Rebecca Melvina Florentine Norton. His father died of typhoid fever when he was only about two years old, the same year Gatis, Hubert's brother, was born.

Hubert's mother was married again to "Gas" (William Gaston?) Smith. She and her second husband had three girls and a boy, at least some of whom were born before they moved to Arkansas when Hubert and his brother, Gatis, were about 11 and 9 years old. They came as part of a big group from North Carolina, and lived in the Drasco/Wolf Bayou area.

In Arkansas at some point the Smith family moved back down on the river toward Wilburn. It was hard to get to their place - no roads much. The Martin boys were being treated badly by the stepfather and decided to run away or were chased away. Hubert never talked a great deal about this, but Gatis told his family that he, the stepfather, threw rocks at them to chase them off. We are not sure how old they were when they left, but were not yet adult, maybe 13 or 15 years old, so it must have taken considerable courage to leave their family.



The Smith family stayed there where Hubert's mother died of malaria and "Gas" Smith remarried after a time. Lorene said she and one of Gatis's daughters visited Aunt Ola Outlaw, a Smith half sister of Hubert, long after Hubert was dead. Ola lived in Little Rock and was very friendly with the family. They had in mind trying to get more information about the relationship between Hubert and Gatis and the stepfather, but never managed to steer the conversation in that direction.

We don't know how they made the connection, but Hubert and Gatis ended up at the home of Fayette Ward at Wolf Bayou and Hubert at least, stayed with that family for several years. In the same Wolf Bayou community were their great uncle, Jacob Artimus Kever and three first cousins of their father. Perhaps they helped the boys find a place to live. Of course in the Ward household they were expected to work, but since the Wards

had several children of their own, it would seem that they took them in out of kindness rather than for the work they could do. However, there was plenty of work to do, running a grist mill and a farm.

It is interesting to think about the influences that caused Hubert to be the kind of man he ultimately became. Some of the reasons undoubtedly can be found in his innate temperament and intelligence. In his early life we can see

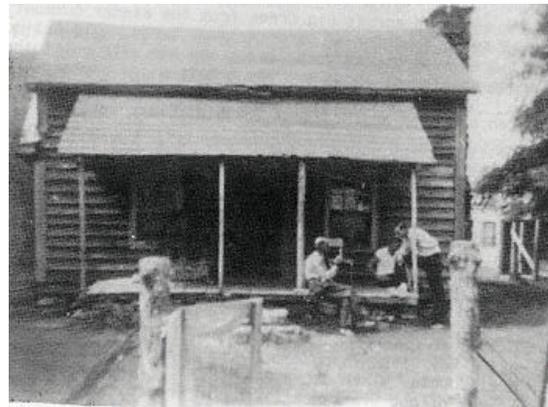
some strong influences on Hubert - the abusiveness of his stepfather gave him a strong motivation to take a bold action. He took charge of his own life while he was still a child. The kindness and generosity of Mr. Ward in taking him in gave him a chance to live in and learn from a stable caring family. Also, during those years Hubert had the chance to go to school for the first time. We're not sure how long he went to school - estimates vary from a few months to two years, but he made the most of it. If he hadn't been given this opportunity, given his drive and intelligence, would he have found another way to become literate?

Among the students at the little one-room school at Wolf Bayou that he attended was his future bride, Maud Cranford, who had been going to school since she was about six years old. In those days a student did not necessarily spend a year at each grade. As soon as they could master the material at one grade they could go on to the next. Maud said that he "passed her up" very quickly. He was two years older than she was so he had an advantage in maturity. Probably he knew he wouldn't be allowed to go to school for many years and looked at school as an opportunity, not an obligation or duty, so he was highly motivated to learn. During his whole life he had an interest in and respect for education. He read newspapers and other publications and kept himself well informed about local and world affairs.

Hubert and Maud Cranford were married on Thursday, January 12, 1899 at the home of L. T. Cranford, the bride's parents, at Wolf Bayou, Arkansas by Rev. R. H. Grissett. We don't know exactly where they lived at first, but the 1900 census lists their household as adjoining that of William and Ella Prichard, Maud's sister's family, and next to them the household of L. T. Cranford, Maud's parents. Hubert continued to work at the Ward mill for several years.

In the first week of December of 1899 another Norton family, Hubert's uncle N.N.S.S. Norton made the move from North Carolina to Arkansas. The timing of this move was connected to the romantic situation of their daughter, Mary Edith. She was "in love" with a young man in North Carolina of whom the parents disapproved, so they made the move just before she would become 21 on December 27. It was said that the trip was like a "funeral train" because she was so upset at leaving her "love." Family members, including Hubert, met their train and it was decided that Mary Edith would stay for a time with him and his very pregnant wife. She continued to stay with them until after the birth of their first child. She undoubtedly told them the news about the relatives who remained in North Carolina, including the fact that a little girl recently born there in the Norton family was named "Elva." Perhaps that's where they got the idea of the name for their baby.

Hubert and Maud's second house was a log house, a portion of which still exists. A history of the house and a picture of it are on pages 50 and 51 of Louie Clark's book, Wolf Bayou, Arkansas and Healing Springs Township. The house was built by Jacob Artimus Kever, great grandfather of Hubert Martin. Louie Clark describes the house as follows, "In a letter to his brother in North Carolina, Jacob A. Kever told how he had his new house almost finished. That he had hired John Barker to help install the floor. The letter is dated 1875. By this time his two oldest children had married."



"The house was one and a half stories made from hewed logs and dovetailed corners. A sleeping loft was in the upper half-story. Considering the tools of trade for that time, the house is constructed well. He also tells in his letter that he has three glass windows."

"This old house had been added to and taken away from so many times that the only original part was the log structure 20'x22' with the original rock fireplace." Louie's daughter, Jeannie Clark McGary, had the log house moved to their home and restored.

This is the house where Elva says she learned to crawl. Clee and Clyde were born in this house. Lorene says she heard stories of how Clee was afraid of the geese they had when they lived there - they chased him!

About 1905 the Clark family in the Banner community left their place where they had a grist mill and some land in

the area still known as the "Clark Bluffs." For years this had been the center of things in this rural community. It was a crossroad for wagons, nestled at the foot of a row of bluffs, beside a stream large enough to power the mill. It had included a little general store in addition to the grist mill where people went to have their corn ground. There was no longer a store there by that time. Hubert acquired this place. Maybe he paid the Clarks informally, but there was no registered owner until he, Hubert, homesteaded it in 1915.

Hubert and his family moved into a log house about a mile or so from the mill site on the Banner/Big Creek road. Lorene says the house consisted of a big room with undressed lumber walls. There was a partition across to divide the kitchen, with a fireplace at one end. The boys slept in the kitchen portion and the girls had a bedroom. Cloyse and Myrtle were born in that house.

Hubert spent all his time at the water wheel powered mill. As soon as the boys were big enough to help at all, they worked there too, as young as seven years old. He converted the mill so that it could be used to saw shingles. He would saw shingles during the week and grind corn on Saturdays. Clee says he used French burrs to grind the corn, and that he often took a toll for pay. With his growing family, I'm sure they made good use of the corn meal tolls.

Clee tells a story that happened in those years. He and some other boys were playing around the mill. In order to operate the mill, Berry branch had been diverted so that it could fall onto the water wheel from above. A board could be inserted or removed to cause the water to either be diverted around the wheel to stop it or to fall on it to start the wheel turning. Of course on Sundays the wheel was not operating, but one of the boys, Fant Dye, decided it would be exciting to place himself inside the wheel and let his "friends" release the water to make the wheel spin - (thereby making his version of a Ferris wheel?) This plan was carried out, but there was a slight problem - they couldn't stop the water from turning the wheel, and so had to run to the house and get Clee's father, Hubert. He went as fast as he could and stopped it. Fant was not physically hurt, but I imagine he might have had a few nightmares as a result of this episode! Hubert was a strict parent and could be a harsh disciplinarian, but Clee does not remember any punishment in this case. Probably he knew they were so scared he didn't have to worry about them repeating this mistake.

Hubert was so busy with the mill that he didn't have the time or interest in doing many other tasks about the place. Elva and Lorene both told about their mother's frustration that he would not keep the garden fence in repair so "range" animals would sometimes get into the garden and destroy it. Maud was given the responsibility of the garden. Perhaps he or a son would plow it now and then, but for the most part she raised the gardens to feed all those hungry mouths. Elva told of one time he went to look at the garden with Maud. The rows of plants were growing OK, but were not planted in a very straight row, so he made the "constructive criticism" of saying, "If you would just put a stake at each end of the row and tie a string between them, you could plant them in a straight row." I'm not sure how she replied, but I can well imagine what she felt like saying!

Since they were seriously outgrowing the log house, and Hubert had no time to build a house, he got his brother, Gatis to build a new house for them in 1911.

I'm not sure how long Gatis had stayed with the Wards, probably not as long as Hubert. He learned to be a carpenter and for years built many of the houses in the area. He got some "on-the-job carpenter training" when he went to Galveston, Texas with some other men from the community to make money helping to rebuild the area after a disaster. In looking at an Almanac, my guess is that it might have been after a hurricane that occurred in August of 1900. The storm was followed by tides that inundated Galveston causing an estimated 6,000 deaths.

The original house Gatis built for his brother had a large fireplace room big enough for a bed or two, a large kitchen with room for a big table for dining; a bed could be fitted in there too, a bedroom downstairs big enough for two beds. From this bedroom there was a stairway up to a finished room upstairs.

This upstairs room was the site of another enterprise of Hubert's, a photography studio! He walled off a corner of the room and used it to develop pictures. He had a camera with accordion folds and a tripod. He had a stamp, "Martin Gallery." I don't know how many customers he had but we have some pictures he made that I think are quite good. My favorite is a picture of my mother, Elva, when she was 17 years old. She is standing in the garden gate and is holding an opened black parasol held behind her so that it frames her face. This shows that he knew something about "composing" the picture and arranging an appropriate background. Elva's future husband, Earl

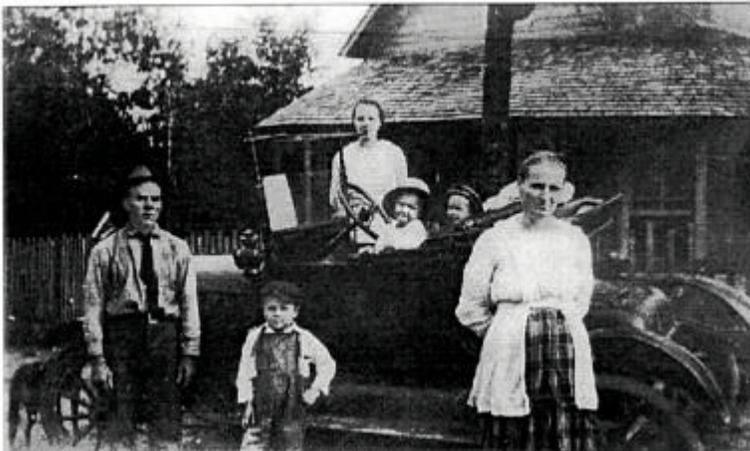
Stuart, carried a copy of this picture in his wallet when he was in France in World War I.

When I asked several people how they remembered Hubert Martin, they invariably said "quiet, steady, hard-working, industrious, dependable, honest, good manager." Clellan mentioned "patriotic;" he wanted politicians to do right for the country. He was enthusiastic about 4th of July picnic celebrations at Banner. Lorene surprised me by saying "sociable", "loved public life." Of course all of those words described some aspect of him. Lorene tells of the time he came in, having caught "the biggest fish I ever saw." Clelan says it was a 60 pound catfish, that they had to hang it from a cedar tree to skin it. When he brought it home he invited in all the neighbors to help eat it.

Clelan remembers that he was often the first one to try something new. Examples are car, radio, electricity using a Delco generator, gasoline powered washing machine, kerosene refrigerator. He says he rode in a plane when people in that area had not even seen many. I'm not sure when that was, but I remember in the late 30's we would go outside and look up when a plane came over - it was that unusual a novelty to see one.

Maud, on the other hand, discouraged new things. Here's one dialogue as Clelan remembers it:
She, "Why did you buy a wall clock? We don't need it. Why did you spend money for it?"
He, "Well, I only paid a dime for it." He also liked sales, bargains!

Hubert bought one of the first cars in the area, but his children agree that he was never a very good driver. I don't suppose this had anything to do with it, but his "driver training class" left something to be desired. He bought his



first car in Batesville. The dealer gave him a demonstration while driving up Brock Mountain. At the top of the mountain, the dealer left and Hubert was on his own. He had not mastered shifting gears. Clee and Cleston were terribly excited about the car and wanted to ride at every opportunity. The car travelled so slowly in low gear that Clee would complain that he could get off and run faster than the car would go. "Can't this car go any faster, Dad?" Hubert indicated the pedals at his feet and expressed a view that it had something to do with them, but he didn't know what.

One day the car broke down on the way to the sawmill and they all left it and walked on to work. During the course of the day a man drove up in his own car. There was a discussion concerning the broken down car and the man said he'd take a look at it. He cleaned the spark plugs and got it started and then, to the joy of the boys, shifted the car into higher gears and achieved greater speed. Pure magic!! Needless to say, the boys did not need to be shown a second time.

People in that time and place had to do for themselves - there were not many "experts" available to help with urgent problems. Sometimes the problems were medical. One day Clelan was playing around the mill or working there when he had a good sized sliver of wood driven through his hand and wrist from the underside of the palm through the two bones and out the top side of his wrist. His dad came around right away. He got out his pocket knife and cut off one end of the sliver and then yanked it back out the other way to remove it from Clelan's hand and wrist. Clelan still has the scar but suffered no handicap from the injury. They did later take him to the doctor, but with no antibiotics it is doubtful that he added anything of much value to the treatment.

Clyde tells of an example that, to me, show how his children respected and cared for him. In the 1920's many of the single young men in the community were leaving to go to St. Louis to get work and bring in considerably more cash income than they could get at home. Some ended up permanently staying there or elsewhere, and some saved up some money and returned to their home area. Clyde was seeing his friends make this move and do well financially, and he was tempted to do likewise, but he felt that he was essential to his Dad's lumbering operation - that he was

the best worker he had. He was the "fireman", feeding the fire under the boiler with pine slabs. He was the only person who could do it efficiently enough to keep the saw running with no down time. They never discussed this, but it was obviously the situation. I don't believe Clyde was paid for this work other than a place to live, clothes, etc., so he certainly did not stay because of a monetary advantage, but he did stay until he was about 21 years old.

Finally, he decided that he must take this opportunity to make some money for himself, so he approached his Dad. Hubert did not try to dissuade him but gave him \$15. I doubt that their conversation was a very long one, but each had a respect and appreciation for the other.

By the way, that \$15 was a pretty good investment. A one-way train ticket from Newport to St. Louis cost \$10.64 and another \$.25 to take the "bull moose" train from Batesville to Newport. That left Clyde with \$4.11, but it was all he needed to start a very successful business career.

Lorene says her dad loved singing. He couldn't sing well, but he tried, and was an active participant in "singings" which he enjoyed, not just for the music but for the social interaction involved in it. One singing tradition that lasted until the 1940's was the 4th Sunday in June singing ("all day singing with dinner on the ground") which started at Mt. Zion Baptist Church but moved to the Concord school when it was built about 1930.

Many times churches would "go dead" in the winter when it was hard for people to get out in the bad weather, then there would be brush arbor revivals in the summer to get them started again. Hubert had been a Methodist and for many years that denomination was not in the community. There had been a Methodist church at Mt. Etna but it did not last too long. For a time there was a Union Church held in the school building (no denomination) and Hubert was secretary of the Sunday School.

Hubert's ancestry was partly German, and sometimes we have a stereotypical view of Germans as holding their feelings inside. For the most part Hubert fit that stereotype. Lorene says he never hugged them, never showed emotion but in spite of that she knew absolutely that he loved her.

His children were pretty much afraid of him. He had a "short fuse" and expected them to behave, and certainly to obey the first time they were told. There are still many mysteries about raising children and we often don't know the "right" way to handle every situation, but one can't argue with the fact that Hubert and Maud raised eleven children under very difficult circumstances and they all turned out to be good, stable adults of whom any parent would be proud. Maybe his discipline was harsh by today's standards, but he also managed to communicate to them that he loved and cared about them.

He was very interested in the school system and served on the Board of Education for many years. Maybe because he had so little chance to go to school it seemed especially precious to him. His formal education was brief, but it served him well. He was the Justice of Peace for the community and had some law books which he consulted as needed. I guess nobody told him that a person with two years of school shouldn't be able to read and understand law books! He could look at a stack of lumber and make a mental calculation of the number of board feet it contained that would be quite close to the actual measurement. (A board foot is the equivalent of a board that is one inch thick, a foot wide, and a foot long.)

Hubert was open to new ideas and eager to make improvements in the community. Probably in the 1930's some government entity decried that there would be a tick eradication program. The ticks had become really thick due to open range for all cattle. Dipping vats were built at various places so that all farmers would have access to them. The farmers were then ordered to dip all their cattle. There was resistance to this order. Clee, Cleston and Cloyce thought it was a feeling of resistance to interference from the government in their daily lives and that they also resisted because it required considerable work and effort to round up your own cattle off the open range and herd them to the dipping vat that may be on someone else's property, and dip them.

There were "enforcers" for compliance with the law. Feelings ran so wild that one "enforcer" was shot and killed, presumably a "bushwhacking" and the killers never found. One night the dipping vat built on Hubert's place was blown up - dynamited! Both Clee and Cleston remember being awakened by the blast. They ran to the vat and they remember the fluid with insecticide dripping from the tree limbs. The vat was destroyed, but later rebuilt. In recent years Clelan and Cleston Martin and Charles Stuart found it, still intact, though covered with plant growth.

The vat was about two to three feet wide and about four feet deep. The cattle were run through the vat and at the exit there was a concrete ramp called the "drip-pan" which the cattle would stand in until the insecticide dripped off and ran back into the vat. The tick eradication program did seem to be very successful according to Clee Martin. There were a lot less ticks following the program.

Later the boys found another use for the dipping vat. They would fill it with clear water from the spring and learn to swim. The narrow sides made it easy to grab on and get a breath if you needed it!

Lorene says that after Hubert died, people looked at his business records which he had kept for himself over the years, and it was quite impressive the way he had kept accurate records of everything. Sometimes his payment had come in the form of goods instead of cash but it was all recorded.

The lumber business prospered. As new technology came along he upgraded the equipment. He would buy the timber from tracks of land and saw it. He got a planer and could sell dressed lumber. In the years just before World War II he got contracts to sell all the lumber he could produce, ran several trucks and employed quite a few people (in addition to all those sons - 8 in all.) Around the beginning of World War II the shortage of machinery parts and available labor forced him to close down the sawmill. The older sons had families of their own and work of their own. Three of his sons were drafted into the military, Clelan, Raymond, and Hoyle. Cleston and Claren who were already married and had children worked in defense plants in Memphis.

In 1941 or 1942 Hubert and Maud built a new house on some land they owned in Concord on Highway 25. It had electricity, indoor plumbing with the running water pumped from a well in the basement with an electric motor. He had a good sized pond built near a spring below the house. I believe he stocked it with fish, and also he and others swam in it.

I don't know how he learned to swim so well, but I remember as a child that the extended Martin family would have picnics on White River and one of the highlights for the grandchildren was to ride on Grandpa's back while he swam with us. It was fun and exciting. It was not until I learned to swim myself much later that I realized how difficult it was to carry another person while you swim - even a child!

He was a doting grandfather. If he ever even scolded me, I don't remember it. We lived within sight of their house for much of my childhood. We, and several other neighbor children, had to wait for the school bus outside their house. If the weather was bad we would troop into their fireplace room and wait for the bus by the fire, probably tracking in mud or snow much of the time. If they criticized us it must not have been done harshly, because I don't remember it.

On Christmas soon after we had opened our presents from Santa, we would go to their house for the get together with all the aunts, uncles and cousins. The first thing all the grandchildren were shown was the footprint Santa had left in the ashes as he came down the chimney. He explained that he had made the fire around it so we could see it - proof positive that there was a Santa! My older brother's statement that there was no Santa, that he was our parents, made absolutely no sense in view of Grandpa's incontrovertible proof that he came down the chimney and left his track in the ashes.

He grew peanuts and saved huge bags and boxes of them especially for the grandchildren. His enjoyment of grandchildren continued all his life.

After he was no longer in the lumber business he got interested in raising a vegetable garden. Finally I guess he could "plant the rows straight" as he had urged Maud to do much earlier. The difference was that he didn't also have to do the cooking, washing, sewing, quilt-making for a large family, so had the time to make fantastic gardens. He devised a system for irrigation when there was not enough rain. He produced far more food than the two of them needed and gave it away freely. Finally, Maud's health started to break and she gradually became unable to do even household tasks. He learned to cook! One of the last times I was at their house he had made a sweet potato cobbler that was delicious. Several times I have remembered that and tried to make one - with a result that was barely edible.

Maud was put in a nursing home in Heber Springs when she could no longer be cared for at home. Hubert could no longer drive safely, so he would ride almost every day with his son, Cloyse, who carried the mail, to Heber Springs to visit Maud. He continued to tend his garden and cook and take care of himself. One day he was found dead at home lying across the bed in the bedroom by the back door. The garden looked freshly worked and his hoe was leaning up by the back door, so it is assumed that he had chest pain while he was doing work that he enjoyed, came in, lay down and died. Most of us would have trouble improving on that method of leaving this world.

When you think of all the skills Hubert acquired in his life, understanding machinery, reading, running a business, community leader, photographer, gardening, cooking, to name some of them, I think that indicates he had a great "zest for life." Right up to the end of his life, his eyes and ears were wide open to learn something new and to participate in everything that went on around him.

From "Martin Family Stories" by Cleta Stuart Porterfield

Sources for the information given, in addition to my memory, include:

Written notes by my mother, Elva Martin Stuart,

Conversations with Hubert and Maud's children,

A newspaper article about their 50th wedding anniversary,

Obituaries,

Anecdotes written by my brother, Charles Stuart, after hearing them from Hubert and Maud's children.

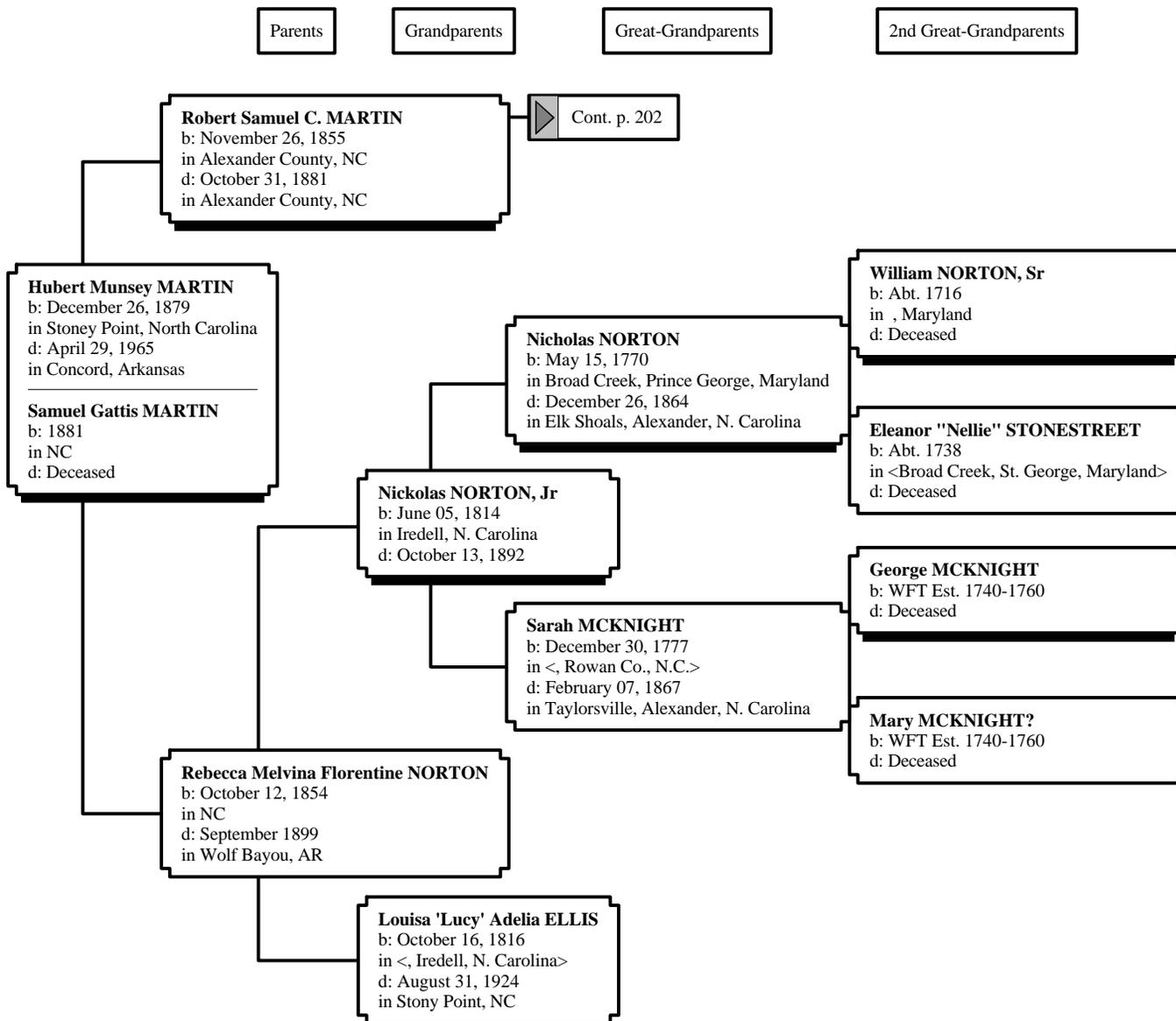
Norton family information from Ava Sutherland Baker



The Hubert Martin Family circa 1960

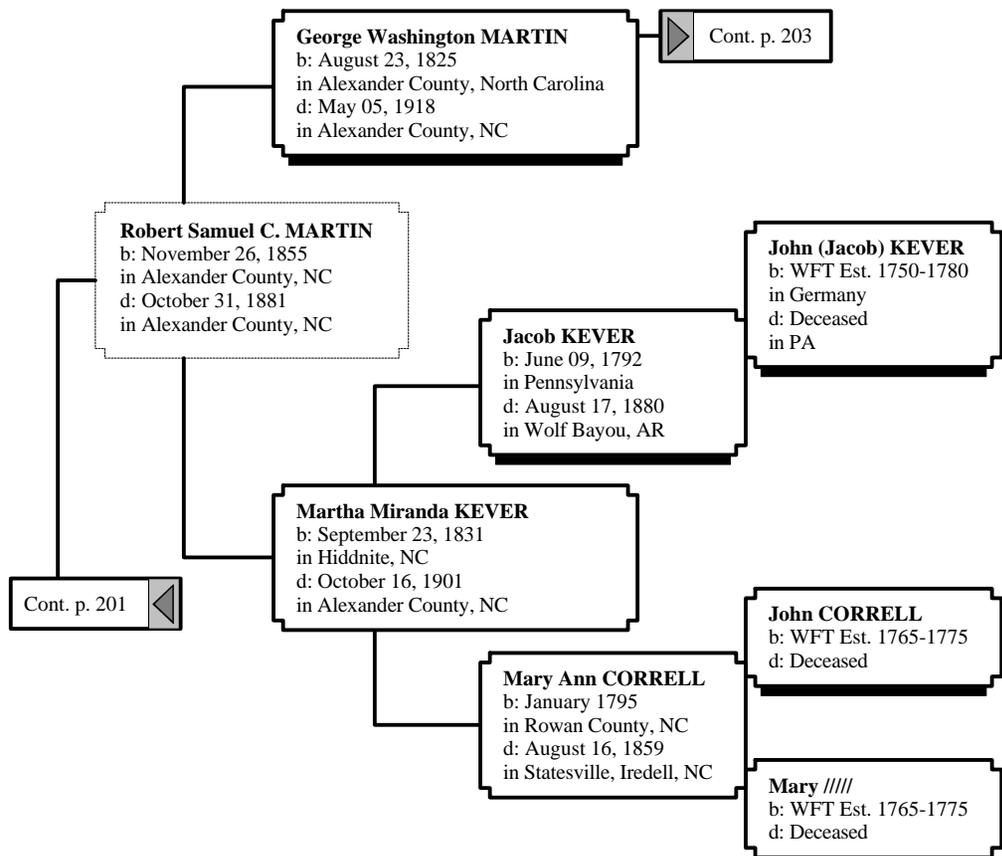
Seated: Hubert and Maud Martin *Left to right:* Cleo, Clyde, Lorene, Cloyse, Cleston, Myrtle, Clarion, Elva, Clellan, Raymond, Hoyle

Ancestors of Hubert Munsey Martin



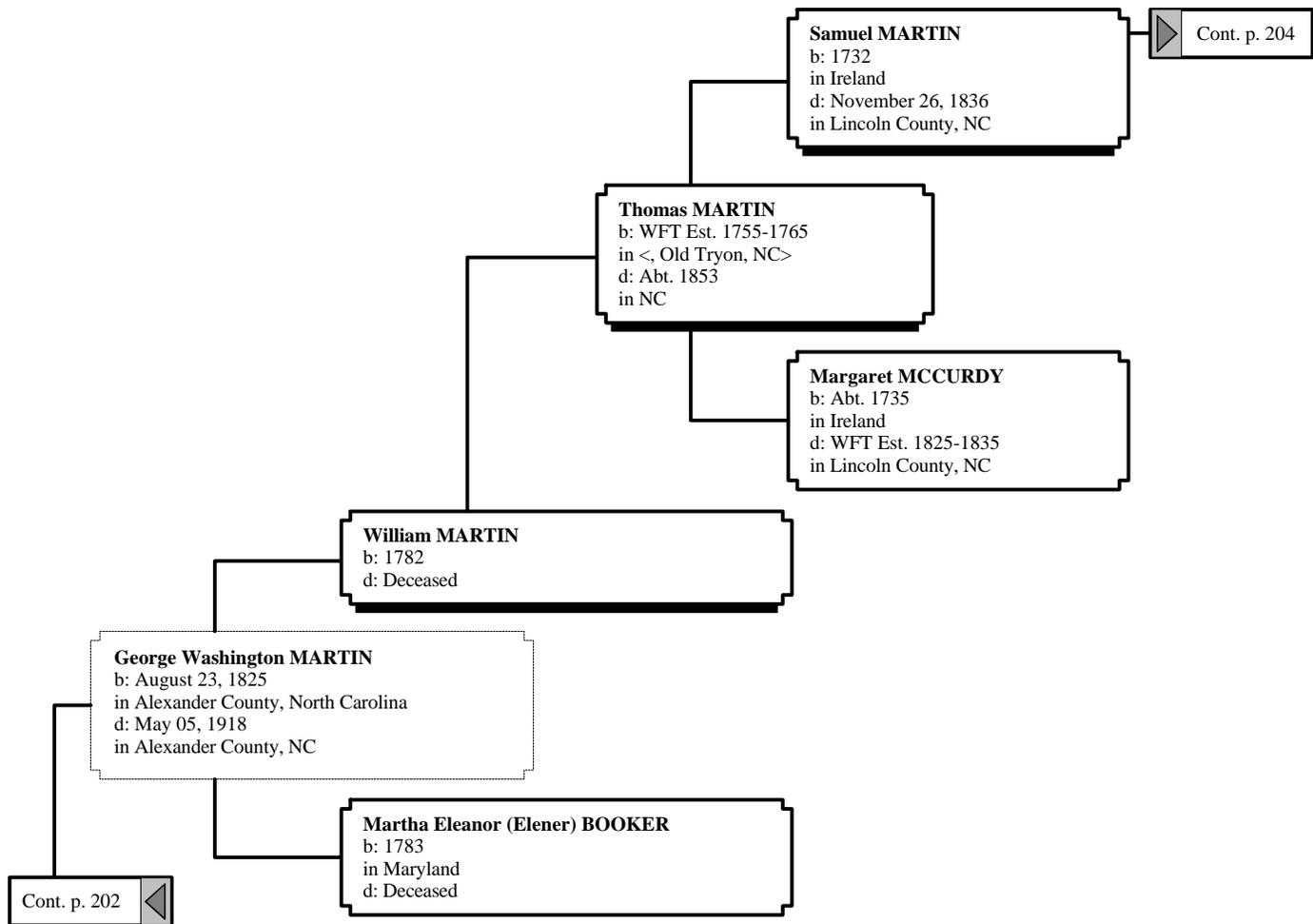
Ancestors of Hubert Munsey Martin

Parents Grandparents Great-Grandparents 2nd Great-Grandparents



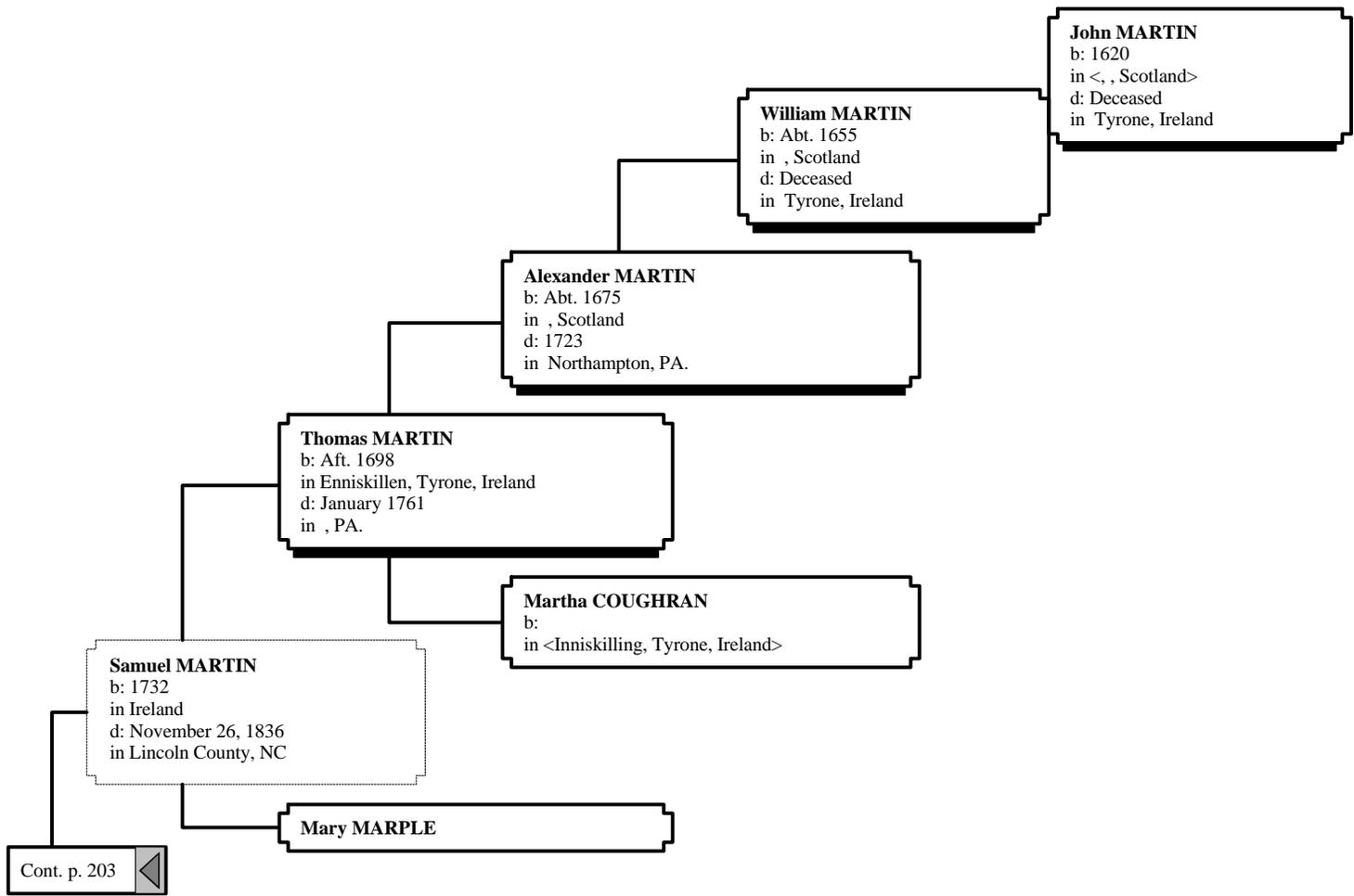
Ancestors of Hubert Munsey Martin

Grandparents Great-Grandparents 2nd Great-Grandparents 3rd Great-Grandparents

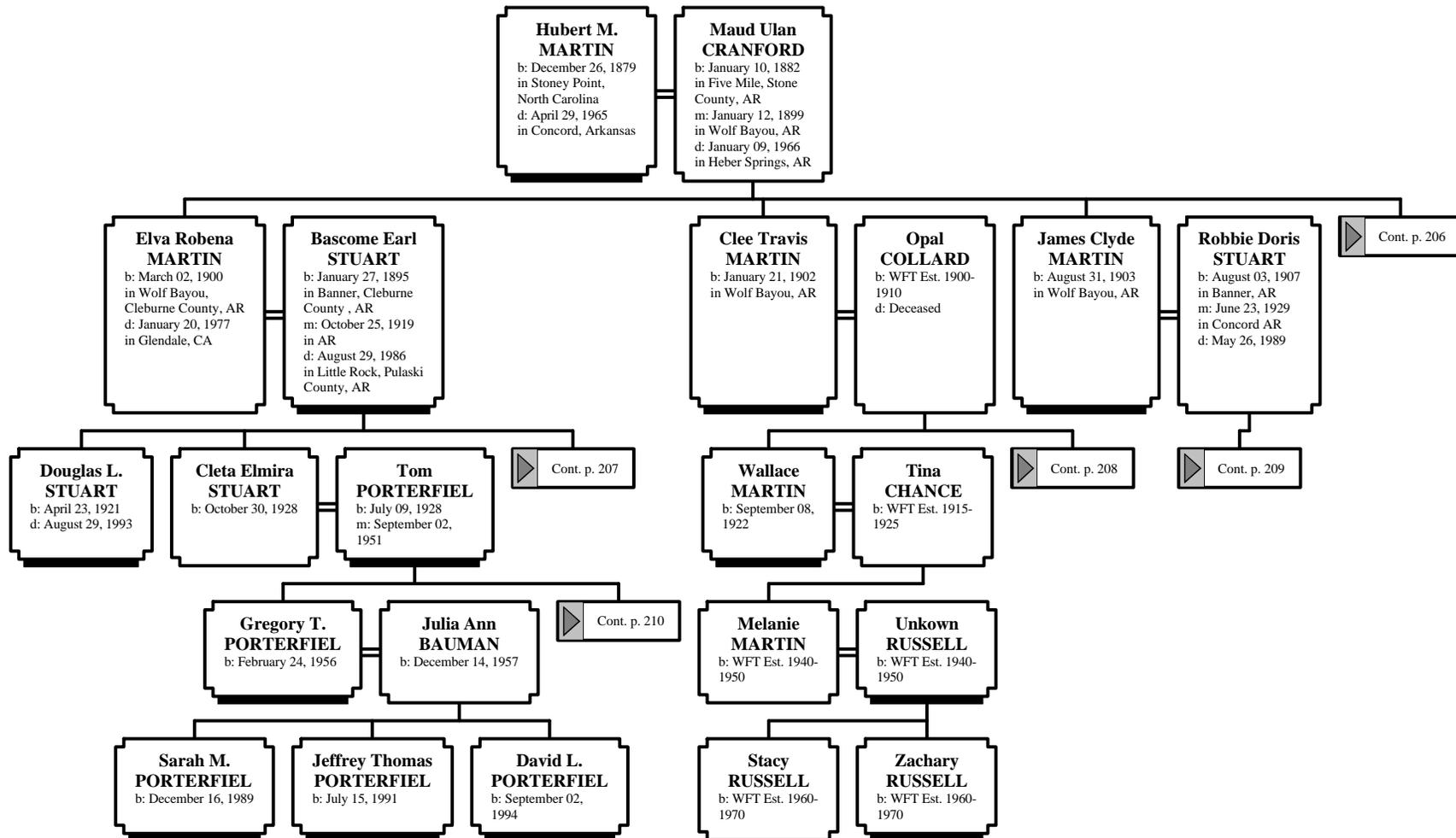


Ancestors of Hubert Munsey Martin

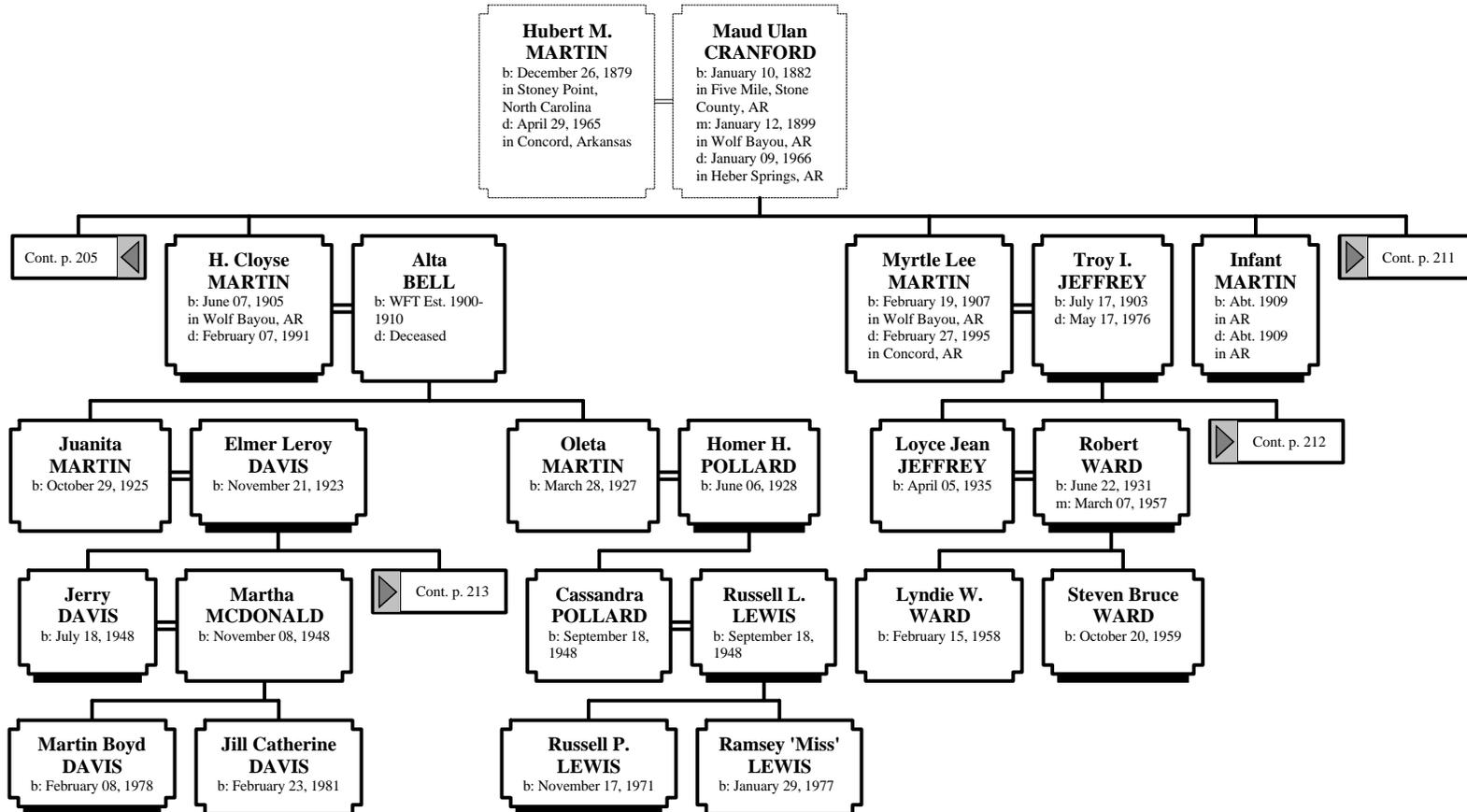
3rd Great-Grandparents 4th Great-Grandparents 5th Great-Grandparents 6th Great-Grandparents 7th Great-Grandparents



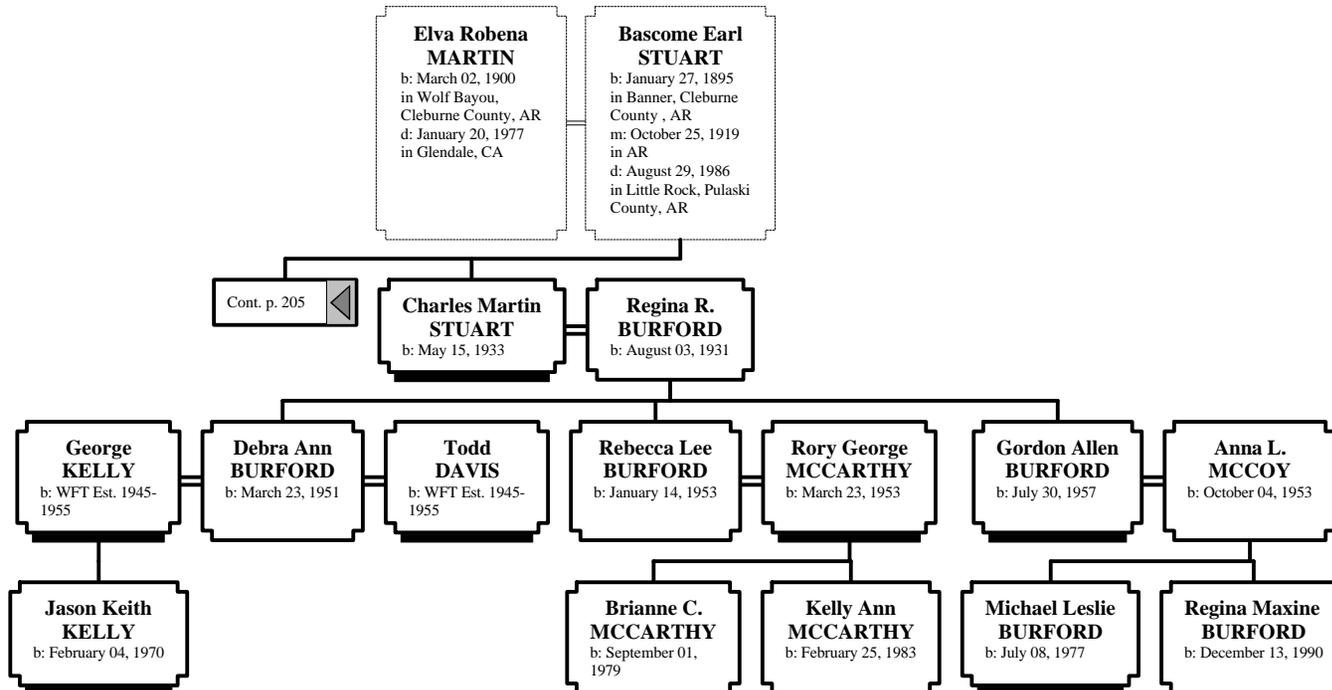
Descendants of Hubert Munsey Martin



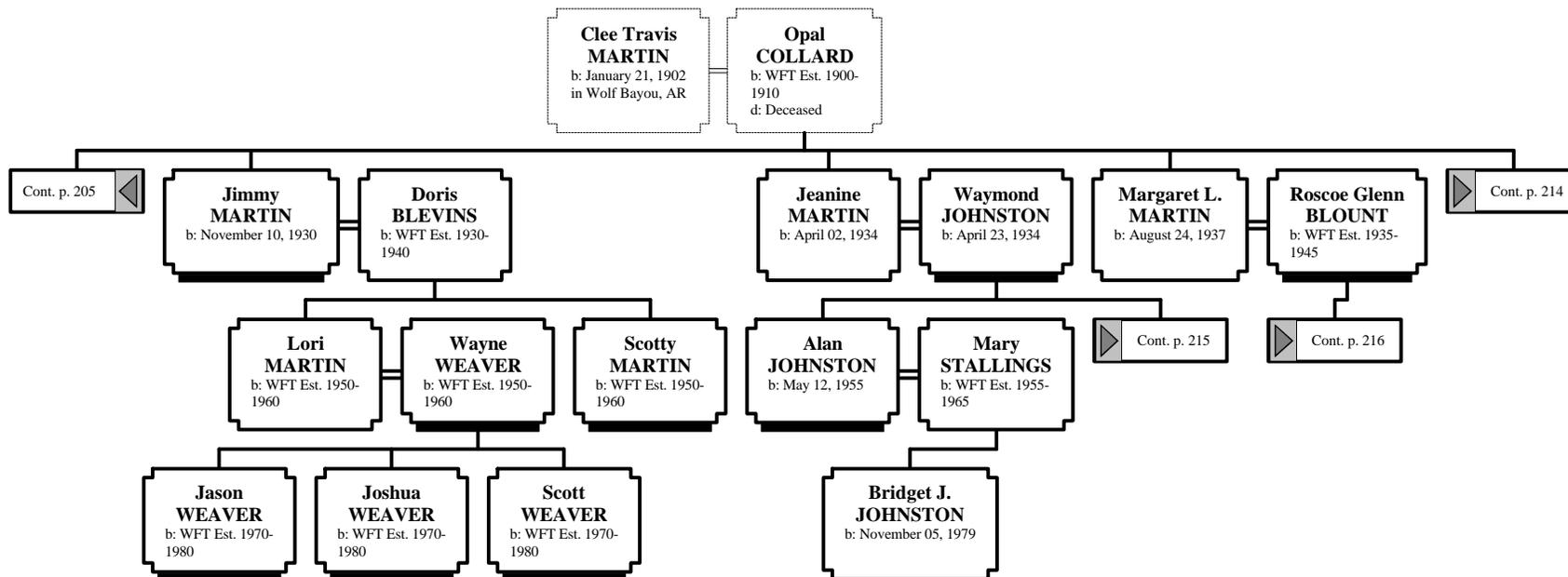
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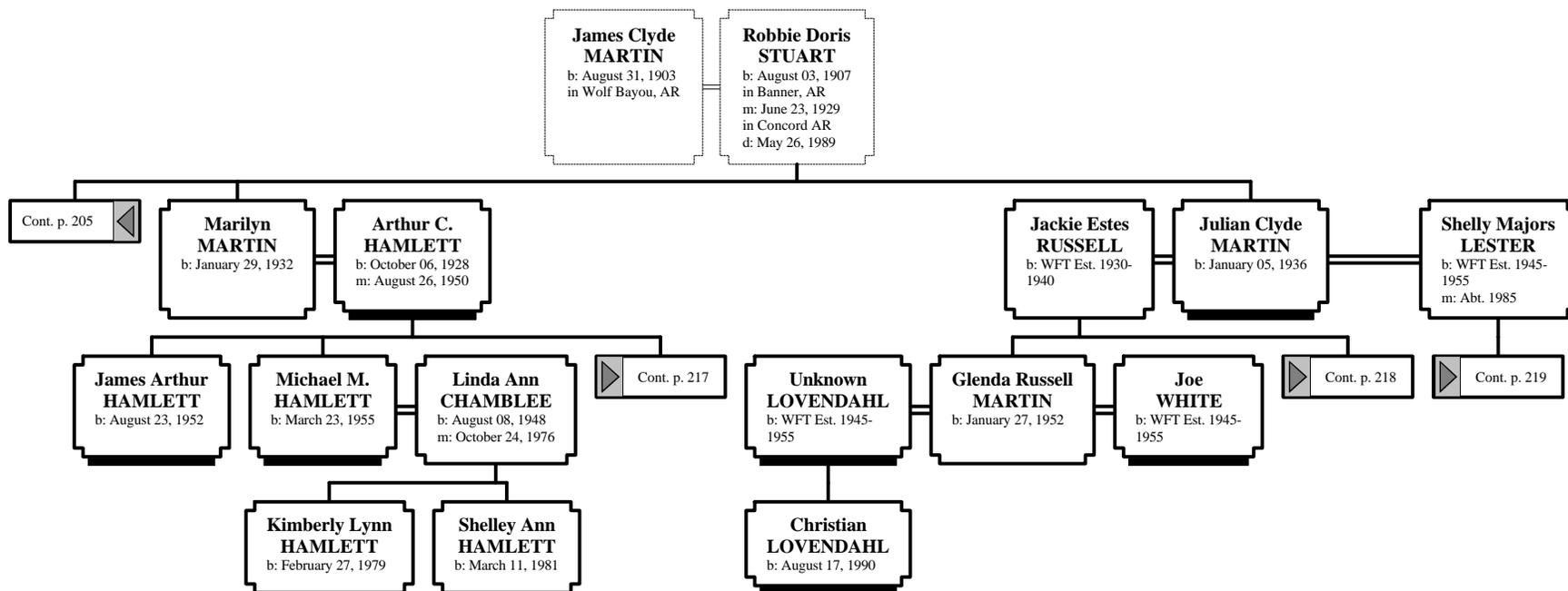
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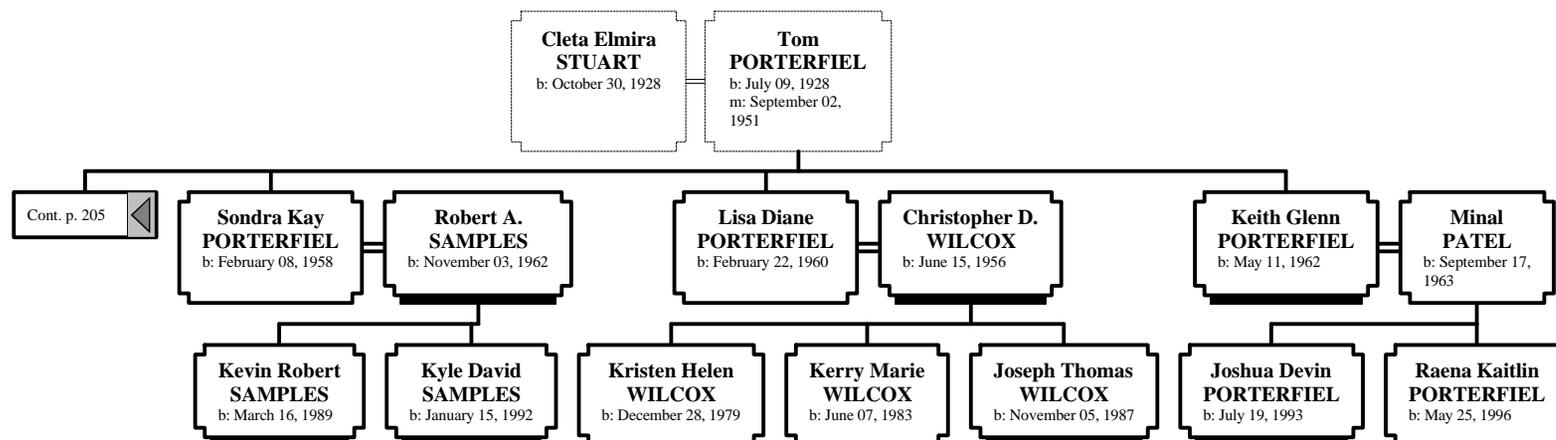
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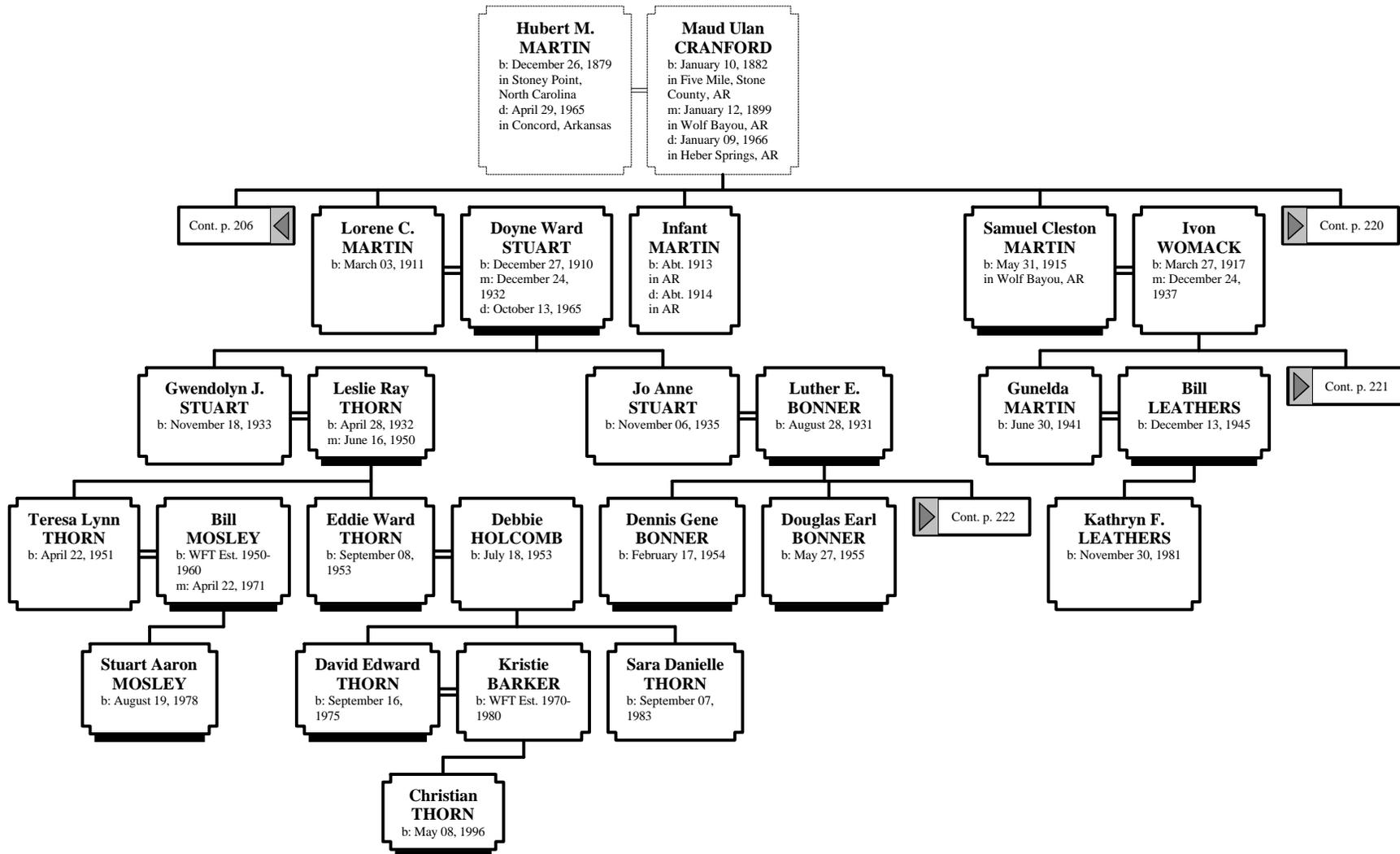
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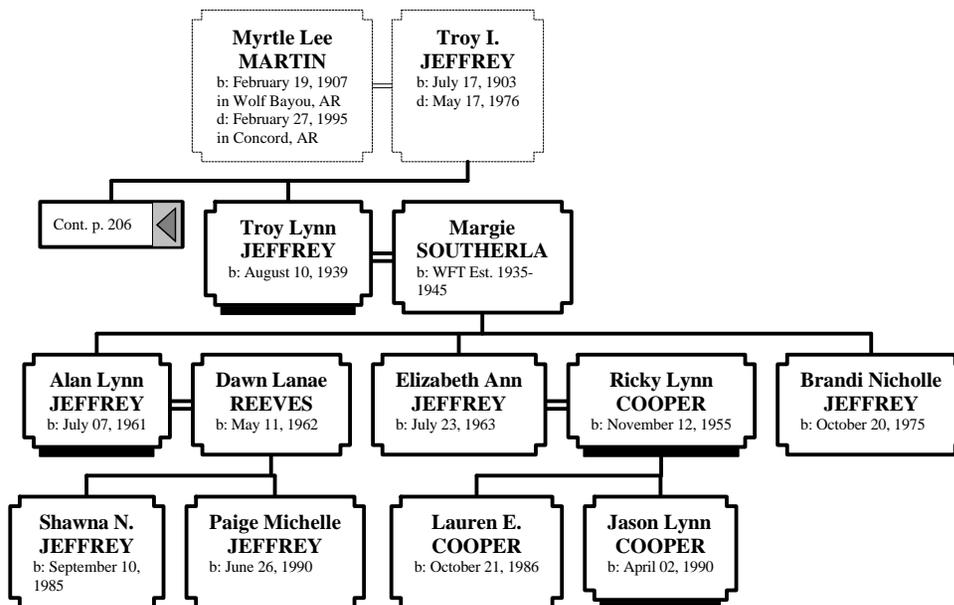
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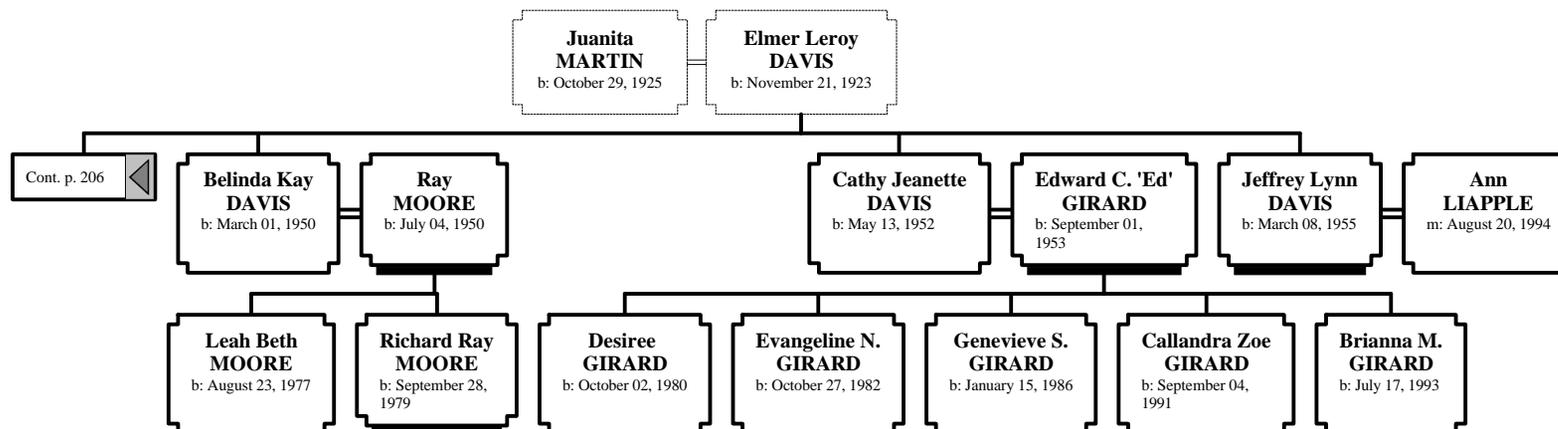
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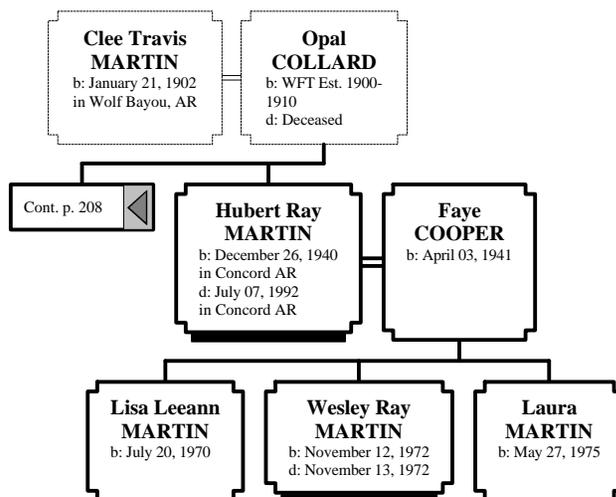
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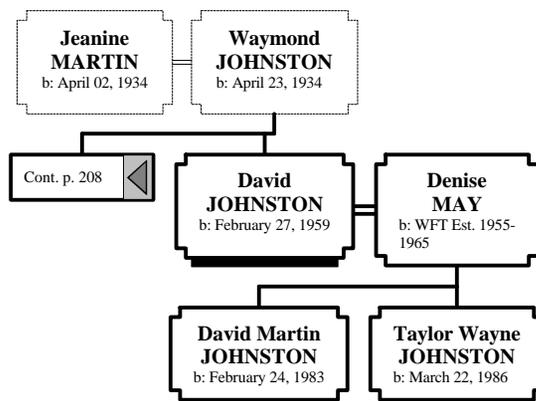
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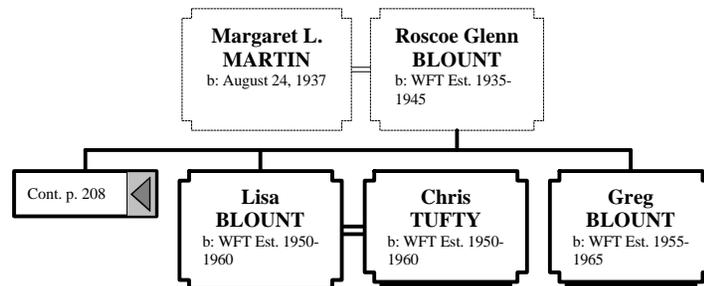
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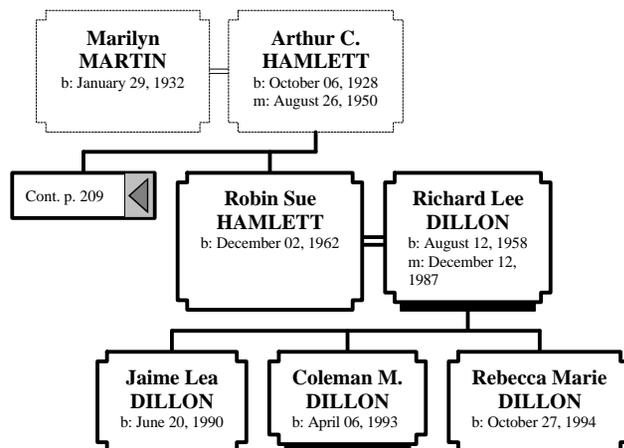
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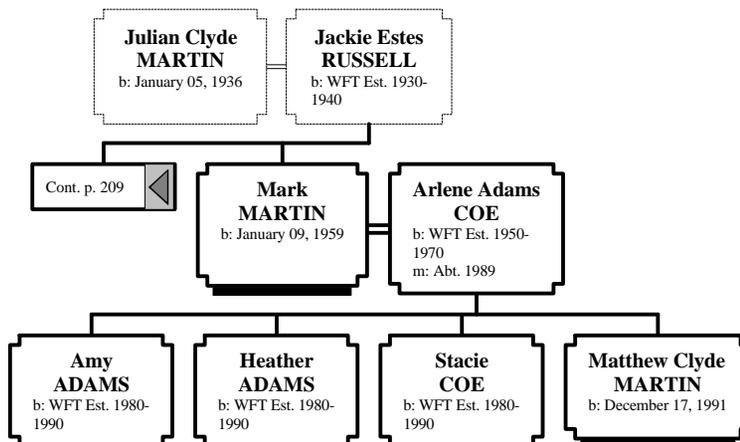
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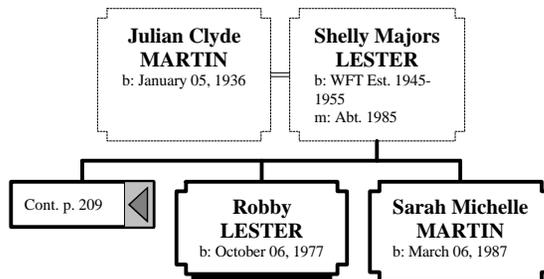
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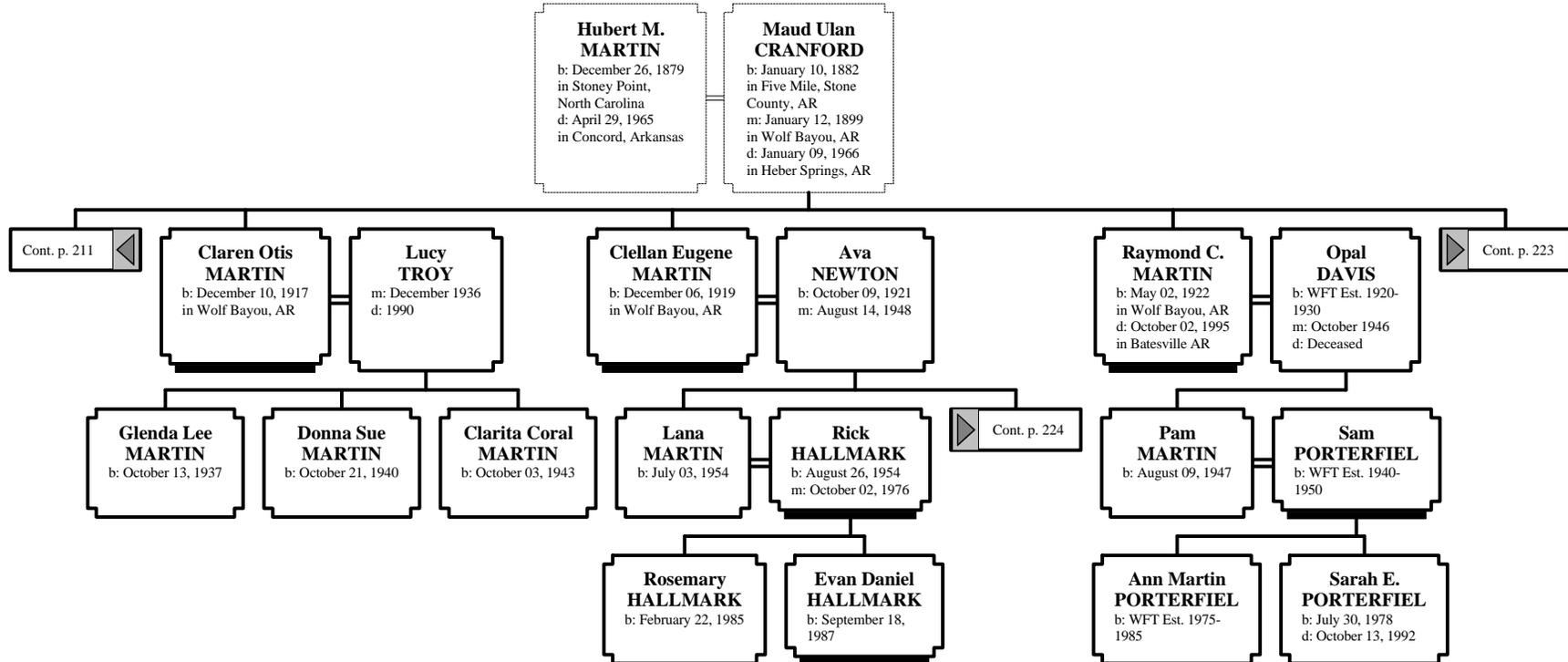
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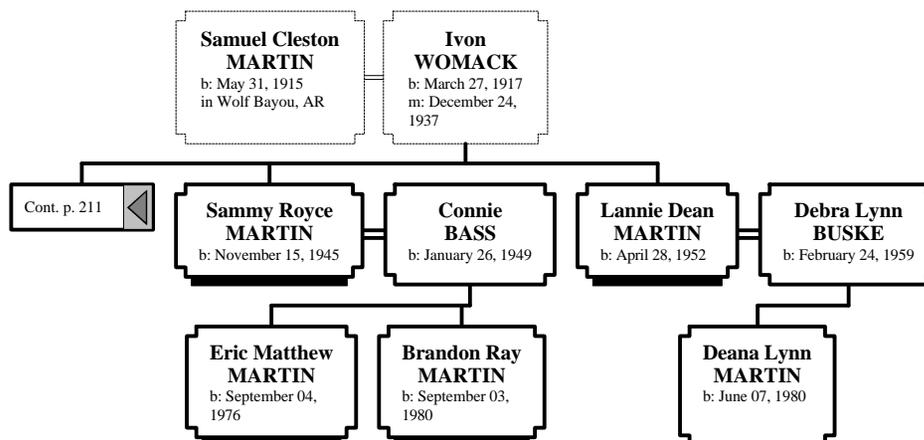
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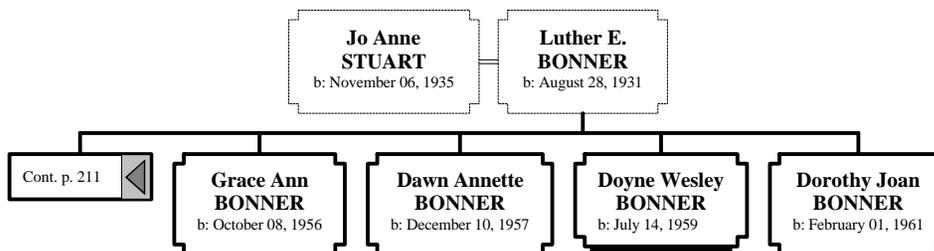
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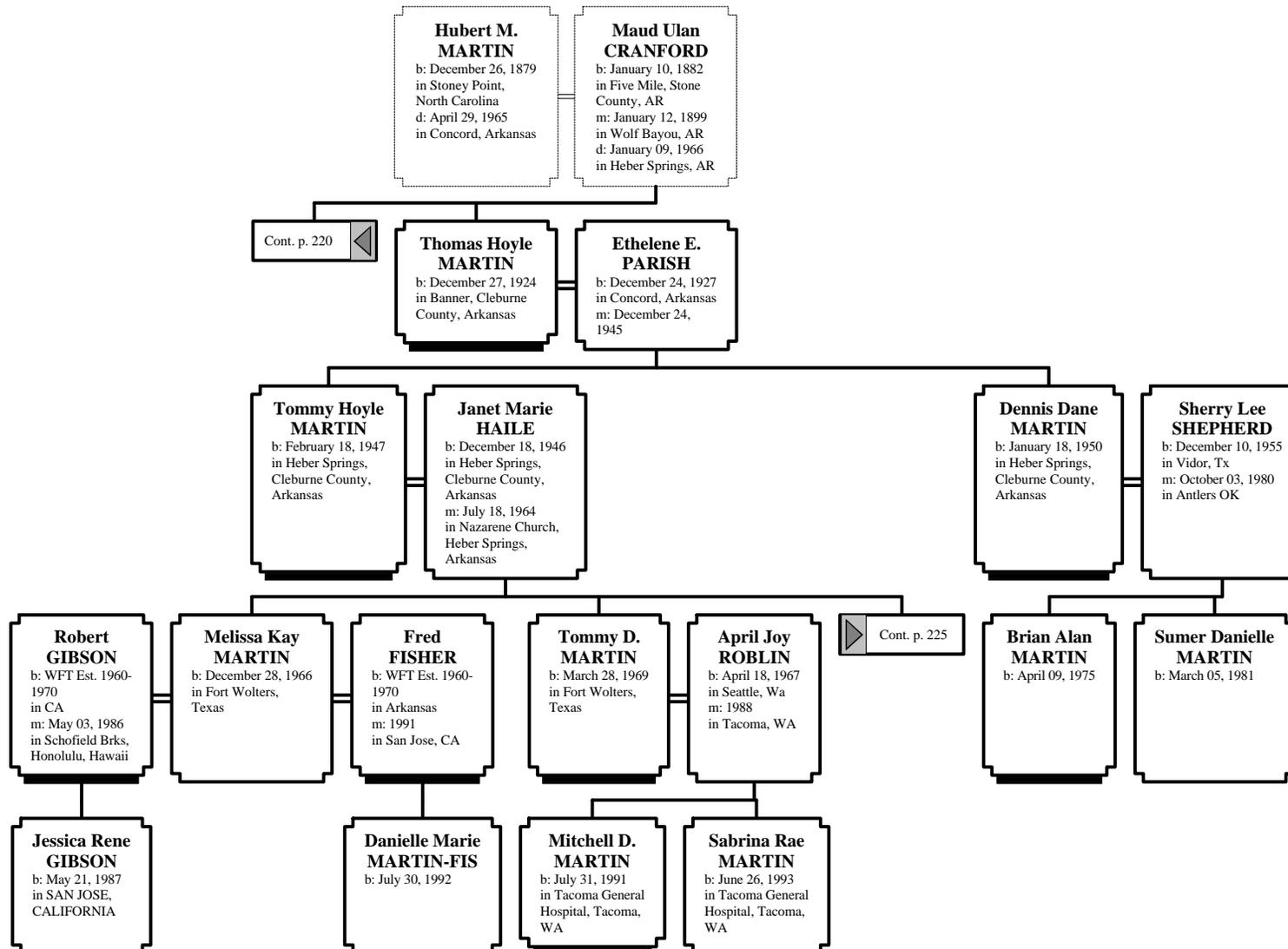
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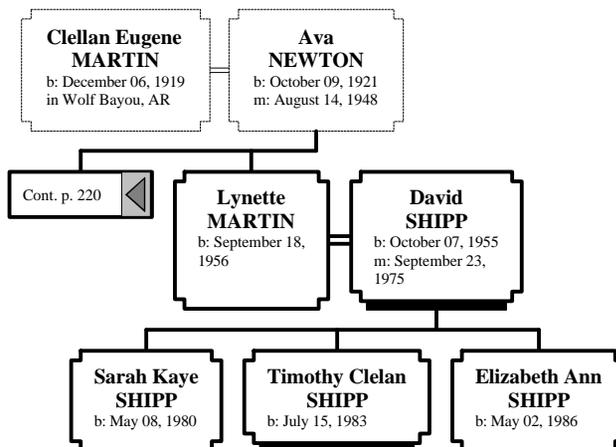
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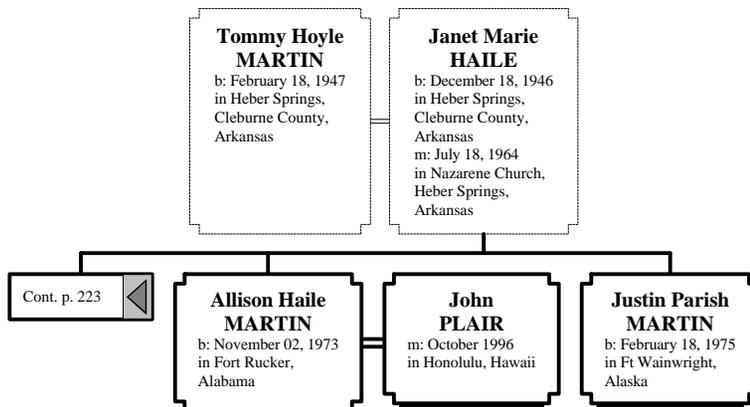
Descendants of Hubert Munsey Martin



Descendants of Hubert Munsey Martin



Descendants of Hubert Munsey Martin



Family Group Sheet

Husband: Hubert Munsey Martin

Born: December 26, 1879 in: Stoney Point, North Carolina
 Married: January 12, 1899 in: Wolf Bayou, AR
 Died: April 29, 1965 in: Concord, Arkansas
 Father: Robert Samuel C. Martin
 Mother: Rebecca Melvina Florentine Norton

**Wife: Maud Ulan Cranford**

Born: January 10, 1882 in: Five Mile, Stone County, AR
 Died: January 09, 1966 in: Heber Springs, AR
 Father: Leonard Travis Cranford
 Mother: Josephine Phillips

**CHILDREN**

1 F	Name: Elva Robena Martin Born: March 02, 1900 Married: October 25, 1919 Died: January 20, 1977 Spouse: Bascome Earl Stuart	in: Wolf Bayou, Cleburne County, AR in: AR in: Glendale, CA
2 M	Name: Clee Travis Martin Born: January 21, 1902 Spouse: Opal Collard	in: Wolf Bayou, AR
3 M	Name: James Clyde Martin Born: August 31, 1903 Married: June 23, 1929 Spouse: Robbie Doris Stuart	in: Wolf Bayou, AR in: Concord AR
4 M	Name: H. Cloyse Martin Born: June 07, 1905 Died: February 07, 1991 Spouse: Alta Bell	in: Wolf Bayou, AR
5 F	Name: Myrtle Lee Martin Born: February 19, 1907 Died: February 27, 1995 Spouse: Troy I. Jeffrey	in: Wolf Bayou, AR in: Concord, AR
6 M	Name: Infant Martin Born: Abt. 1909 Died: Abt. 1909	in: AR in: AR
7 F	Name: Lorene C. Martin Born: March 03, 1911 Married: December 24, 1932 Spouse: Doyne Ward Stuart	
8 F	Name: Infant Martin Born: Abt. 1913 Died: Abt. 1914	in: AR in: AR

Prepared By:
 Tommy H. Martin
 4410 Highline Drive SE
 Olympia, WA 98501

Phone(s): (360) 459-2682

Family Group Sheet

9 M	Name: Samuel Cleston Martin Born: May 31, 1915 Married: December 24, 1937 Spouse: Ivon Womack	in: Wolf Bayou, AR	
10 M	Name: Claren Otis Martin Born: December 10, 1917 Married: December 1936 Spouse: Lucy Troy	in: Wolf Bayou, AR	
11 M	Name: Clellan Eugene Martin Born: December 06, 1919 Married: August 14, 1948 Spouse: Ava Newton	in: Wolf Bayou, AR	
12 M	Name: Raymond Clinton Martin Born: May 02, 1922 Married: October 1946 Died: October 02, 1995 Spouse: Opal Davis	in: Wolf Bayou, AR in: Batesville AR	
13 M	Name: Thomas Hoyle Martin Born: December 27, 1924 Married: December 24, 1945 Spouse: Ethelene Ellen Rose Parish	in: Banner, Cleburne County, Arkansas	

MAUD ULAN CRANFORD MARTIN

JANUARY 10, 1882 - JANUARY 9, 1966

Maud was born January 10, 1882 on a farm near Five Mile in Stone County, Arkansas. She later moved, with her parents, to Wolf Bayou, Arkansas. She was the fifth child of Leonard Travis Cranford and Josephine Phillips Cranford. Their family consisted of Thomas, Ella (Pritchard), Mollie (Beasley), Dora (Sharp), Maud, Leonard, Oscar, Ada and Murrell (Inman).

I don't know any stories about Maud's childhood. Her daughter, Lorene, says she didn't tell stories about when she was young, and we didn't think to ask her.

Like most other children in that time and place she began very young to work. Maud learned to do all the jobs of a farm -- cleaning, cooking, gardening, canning, washing, ironing, sewing, quilting. I assume that she also had some time to play. She had many brothers and sisters who remained close all their lives so I suppose those good relationships began in childhood. Dora was the girl nearest to her in age, and I remember that they continued to communicate and visit each other as long as Dora lived. When Maud began her own family, she and/or Hubert made a corncob doll for their first little girl to play with. Did she do that because her parents had done the same for her? Clelan says he remembers his mother saying that sometimes when she was a child American Indians would come to the door asking to work for food--doesn't that make it seem long ago?

Maud went to school from the time she was 6 or 7 years old in a one-room school. One day at that school when she was around 10 years old a new student came to school.

Maud's uncle and aunt (Fayette and Nanette Ward - Nanette was Maud's mother's sister) and had taken in Hubert Martin to live and work with them and they let him go to school. He was a couple of years older than Maud and had never been to school before. However, she remembered that he was so eager to learn that he soon passed up all the younger children. He must have made quite an impression because they were married two days after her 17th birthday!

Hubert may have had a premonition of things to come, because soon after they were married he sawed off a section of a nice round hickory limb, sawed, shaped and smoothed it with hand tools to make a very durable rolling pin. Did he know how many biscuits would need to be made? The rolling pin (which I have now) was one thing my mother requested to remind her of her mother and the life she led. I believe that Hoyle and Ethelene have the enormous wooden bowl she used to mix those biscuits.

After their marriage Hubert and Maud moved into a house that would today be considered uninhabitable. The only reference she made to me about that house was when she, with her son, Claren and his wife Lucy, stopped to visit Tom and me in Dallas in 1954. We had just moved into our first house which by today's standards would be modest - 1 bathroom, single garage, but nice and new with tiled bath and kitchen, hardwood floors. She looked around and said, "Law me, if you could see our first house!"

When I told my mother what she said, Mother said she thought it had a dirt floor. They lived there while Hubert continued to work for Mr. Ward. Their second house was a log house, a portion of which still exists. A history of the house and a picture of it are on pages 50 and 51 of Louie Clark's book, Wolf Bayou, Arkansas and Healing Springs Township. The house was built by Jacob Artimus Kever, great grandfather of Hubert Martin. Maud and Hubert's first child, Elva, was born there March 2, 1900. At least by the time she was crawling, they lived in the house with a floor, but the floor was made of wood that was so rough and splintery that it was a hazardous place for a crawling baby. Cleo and Clyde were also born in this house, January 21, 1902 and August 31, 1903.

About 1905 Hubert became an entrepreneur. He acquired a grist mill and some land that had previously been owned by "Mat" Clark and his son "Rafe" Clark. They lived in a little log house about a mile or so down the road toward Big Creek. This house may or may not have been an improvement over the house at Wolf Bayou as far as the quality of the housing was concerned, but Hubert now had the opportunity to make something of his business, and that's where he concentrated his efforts.

Maud's role was to take care of the growing family - a new member arriving regularly about every two years. There

were probably very few months when she was not pregnant or nursing a new baby. She made most of their clothes, cooked, cleaned, washed clothes, planted, hoed, harvested the garden, canned or otherwise preserved the food, made the quilts, kept the fire going, to say nothing of disciplining and teaching the children.

Her children say that she was strict, but even-tempered and "kept her cool" as compared to Hubert but she would "switch their legs" as needed to teach them to behave and obey her.

Cloyse was born June 7, 1905 and Myrtle made her appearance on February 19, 1907.

Maud's health started to deteriorate to the degree that they were afraid for her life. In 1909 they were worried about her enough to send her to Pearson to live with her older sister, Molly Beasley, and Molly's husband who was a doctor. She stayed there several months while her sister nursed and cared for her. The two younger children, Cloyse and Myrtle, were sent to stay with Maud's parents for the better part of a year - even for some time after Maud returned home. It must have been very difficult for her to be separated from her family like that. She must have worried about all of them, but they didn't have much of a choice.

While she was gone, nine year old Elva did basic housekeeping for her father, two younger brothers, and even cooked for the mill hands who had their noon meal at the house. She said "Aunt Mary" (wife of Gatis Martin, Hubert's brother) who lived on the adjoining farm, helped her as she could, but she had her own family to care for. Seven year old Clee probably began then to help at the mill. Somehow they made it through this difficult time and Maud's health was finally restored. As far as I know there was no real diagnosis of what was wrong with her, so I assume it was just that she got completely "worn out" from the constant child-bearing and the work load.

With five children, the little old makeshift house was becoming seriously overcrowded. Hubert didn't want to take the time from his business to build another house, so he got his brother and neighbor, Gatis, to build one for them on the Banner - Wolf Bayou road before Lorene was born in 1911. When it was first built it had a large fireplace room big enough for a bed or two, a large kitchen with room for a big table for eating (a bed could be fitted in there too), a bedroom downstairs big enough for two beds. From this bedroom there was a stairway up to a large finished room upstairs.

By the time I came along there was a drilled well by the back door, but I'm not sure when that was put there. However, even with the well there, they carried water from the spring which was maybe 50 yards down a slope on the east side of the house. I don't know if the problem with the well was the quality or quantity of the water. The washing was done down by the spring too, so the clothes had to be carried down there and back. A fire had to be built under the big iron wash pot so the clothes could be boiled as somebody punched them with a wooden stick. They were, of course, cleaned with "lie soap" which Maud had made herself, and rubbed by hand on a rub board before they were rinsed and hung on the line to dry. These were of course not "wash and wear" synthetics, but rough heavy fabrics like denim that had to be ironed with an iron that was heated on a wood-burning cook stove (even in summer.)

The clothes were dirty to a degree that we seldom see these days, from working hard at back-breaking labor with lumber and machinery. Clyde says she washed just once a week, on Thursdays. Lorene pointed out that it wasn't necessary to wash more often, as they typically had only one change of clothes and they were expected to wear it a week between changes!

Baths were often weekly affairs, and this probably made them susceptible to getting "the itch" from other kids at school. Once five of the little boys had this very uncomfortable disease, so Maud gave them a "poke root" bath. She dug up some poke salet plants, boiled the roots and bathed the little boys in it. They never had "the itch" again. I'm not sure whether that special bath cured it for all time or if it stung so bad they started keeping themselves cleaner so they wouldn't have to take that "cure" again!

The spring served a purpose other than providing water - that of a cooler. Hubert poured concrete around the spring to help keep it clean so debris wouldn't accumulate in it. A separate milk cooling area was constructed to provide a nice level place to set milk containers where the overflow from the spring would constantly surround them with cool water. In those days of no refrigeration, that was very nice to have, but it did mean that you had to carry the milk down to the spring after you did the milking and strained it, then go get it and carry it back up to the house

every time you needed milk.

Ingenuity provided other improvements to their living arrangements. Maud spent a lot of time and effort putting up fruit, vegetables and even meat in half gallon glass canning jars. In the winter, it was quite possible to have things freeze in an unheated room, and those glass jars needed to be protected. Uncle Gatis built a pantry for Maud in a corner of her kitchen with a door and sawdust-filled walls for insulation.

Hubert probably plowed up the garden for Maud in the spring, or had it done, and he may have helped her in some other ways as well, but household things were mostly her job. He needed to spend his time on the mill, but he probably enjoyed it more too. In their, probably unspoken, "division of labor" he was supposed to keep the fence up around the garden to prevent "open range" animals from getting into the garden and damaging or destroying it. He often neglected to keep it in good repair.

Time after time the neighbors' pigs would get into the garden and she would have to run out and chase them away. One time she must have been particularly frustrated when the pigs appeared again. This time she determined to teach them a lesson they wouldn't forget. She scooped up a shovel full of hot coals from the fireplace, ran out to the pigs where they were trying to escape her wrath by going to the barn. She threw the hot coals at them! She would probably have felt great about all this except for one problem - it caught the barn on fire and burned it down! She was very fearful of Hubert's anger, but I'm glad to report that nobody remembers much of a reaction on his part.

Maud had two babies that were either born dead or lived only a few hours. There is some question about when they were born, but possibly 1913 and 1914. Their little graves can still be found near where the old house stood, marked with hand made bricks. Lorene and Myrtle went over to the old "Clark houseplace" near where Hubert's gristmill was first located, found the bricks and brought them over. Samuel Cleston Martin was born May 31, 1915 and Claren Otis was born December 10, 1917.

Now there were eight children at home. Hubert's business was going well, so he added a "front room" to the house. It was separated from the original part of the house by a wide covered porch, like a "breezeway", and had a wide porch all around it. It was a large room with a door in each end and two windows on the front, a nice and much needed addition.

As this room was being added, two special events were being planned. Maud was expecting her ninth child, and their first child, Elva, was planning to be married. Elva and Earl Stuart were married in that new front room October 25, 1919. Mildred Ward Reed (Earl's niece, daughter of Rosa Stuart Ward) remembers that Maud was a little sad to be losing her first child to marriage, but said that it was a good thing she was marrying, that Elva hadn't done anything while Earl was in France in World War I but "sit around and cry." Well, she undoubtedly didn't mean it literally. Elva was in some ways like having another mother in the house. Cleston remembers that Elva dressed him for the wedding in a "little white suit." I'm sure that Elva's presence and the work she did to help was missed.

Clelan Eugene was born December 6, 1919. Raymond Clinton was born May 2, 1922 (called Raymond, the first boy not to be called by a "Cl" name.) Their last child, Thomas Hoyle (what, no "Cl" name!?) was born December 27, 1924. Clee married Opal Collard January 24, 1921 and Cloyse married Alta Bell January 1, 1924, so by the end of 1924 there were seven children still at home. Clyde was not married yet, but left to go to St. Louis to work.

Myrtle and Lorene were old enough to be helpful, but there was a tremendous amount of work to make a home for the family, including five little boys from newborn to nine years old. As the boys got older they too did hard physical labor at the mill and on the farm. Can you imagine the food that had to be produced and prepared?

Maud could do everything fast. When I was a child there were still five boys at home, all working with their father at the mill as well as some garden and farm work. They were all big people by then but she still did almost all the cooking, cleaning, laundry for them all. Of course, since she didn't have any daughters at home by then, Hubert might sometimes assign a son to "help your mother" if her need was great.

I remember one day watching her patch overalls. It was amazing to see how fast she made that needle move to sew on that patch. When she died, my mother got for me a thimble of hers which I treasure. It has several holes

punched all the way through by pushing those needles through heavy fabric so many times.

She had a foot pedal operated sewing machine but patching was done by hand. How it looked was not so important, but sewing it to stay on was and getting it finished was important because dinner had to be cooked.

By this time the men's clothes were purchased ready made, because by then they were much more affluent, but in the earlier days she also made a good part of their clothes. My mother said that Maud was not really a good seamstress in that the emphasis was on making it sturdy and getting it finished, not on the decorative aspects.

Probably Maud's cooking followed her general pattern of work, "Don't get fancy, just do the basics very well." As time went by she may have enjoyed branching out more as far as cooking. I remember a strawberry shortcake that was the best! It was several thin layers of cake with strawberries between each layer and rich cream on top. Marilyn Martin Hamlet says her coconut cake was the best she had ever eaten.

Most of the family remember that Maud's cooking was great! My brother, Charles, remembers her biscuits. I remember smelling that pot of beans simmering in an iron pot on the fireplace. As was true in most homes in that area in those days, the food was basically what was raised in their gardens and from farm animals.

When I think of how she started each day, she probably did more work by 9:00 a.m. than most of us do all day. She would get up and make breakfast which would consist of a pan full of biscuits - the pan Hoyle says was about 18" x 24" and the biscuits were about two inches thick. To go along with this would be fried salt pork, eggs, gravy, sorghum molasses and butter, homemade jams and jellies. The men would often be preparing to go far away to the mill site. (The sawmill was somewhat portable, so could be moved to where the timber was.) She would pack food for their noon meal which would include a cake freshly baked every day. Many times this would probably be a molasses cake to cut down on the sugar they had to buy.

When Hubert and the other "mill hands" were working close enough to come home for the noon meal it was called dinner and usually consisted of dried beans cooked with salt pork seasoning, potatoes and another vegetable or two cooked fresh in the summer or home-canned when they were out of season, and of course big pans of cornbread. Clyde says her corn bread had a thick crisp crust that was so good the boys would almost fight over it. Dessert, was usually molasses cake or cookies, or a cobbler made from home-grown fruit. Often the evening meal consisted of leftovers from the noon meal, but it was often a challenge to cook enough at noon so there would be enough left over for supper.

My brother, Douglas, remembered the daily admonition of his grandmother as he and his uncles, Clelan and Raymond, came in after school, "Now stay out of the supper bread!" The bread was stored in the "warming oven" in the upper part of the cook stove. If the boys got into the "supper bread" she would have to build a fire and cook more bread. A lot of time could be saved if she didn't have to cook another meal from scratch.

Since purchased bread was a rarity and yeast bread (light bread) almost as rare since the yeast had to be refrigerated, it was valued even more than homemade biscuits and corn bread. Clelan tells a story on himself to illustrate this. Most lunches sent from home for any of the families were made up of sandwiches of homemade biscuits and eggs or jam. The Brackett family ran the store and the Brackett boys sometimes brought sandwiches made from light bread. Clelan was very envious of this. He dreamed of a day when he too could have light bread sandwiches. Clelan one night was invited to spend the night with the Brackett boys and he went secretly hopeful that they would have light bread. The next morning Mrs. Brackett made biscuits for breakfast but found when she started to make lunches that she was out of light bread. She asked the boys if they would rather run to the store for a loaf of light bread or would they just as soon take biscuits. Each boy voiced his opinion and Clelan said, "I'd rather have light bread, that's what I come for!"

An illustration of the fact that the niceties of food presentation took a back seat to substance can be seen in a lunch box story. Cleston, Claren, Clelan and Raymond were attending school. Their mother would send the lunch to school in a syrup bucket and the older boy was responsible to get it to school. At lunch time all 4 boys would gather around the bucket to see what was for lunch. One day she sent cornbread and milk in the bucket--not separate in four jars, just a bucket of milk with cornbread floating in it. They loved cornbread and milk. There they stood all ready to eat, but they did not have spoons. Soon Cleston said, "I bet there's spoons in the bucket." He

reached into the milk with his grubby little school boy fist and pulled out four spoons. They all happily ate their cornbread and milk.

Maud must have been very well organized or she wouldn't have been able to accomplish so much. The way I remember their house, it was always clean and neat. In the afternoon she would be sitting, on the porch in the summer or the fireplace room in the winter, maybe patching or darning something, but serene and unstressed.

In spite of all the family obligations, Maud found time to help neighbors when they were in need. Clelan remembers that she was especially sympathetic to women who were left widowed with children to raise. "Aunt" Velda was married to my father's (Earl Stuart) brother Lawrence (Lon) Stuart until he died in 1918. Letha Stuart Crow remembers that her mother was teaching the "Martin School" soon after her father died and they would sometimes spend the night with the Martins if the weather was too bad. Once the weather was bad but Aunt Velda needed to go home anyway and she left Letha (maybe four years old) to stay with the Martins. Letha remembers that she really admired Cloyse who was a few years older. When it came time to go to bed she insisted that she wanted to sleep with Cloyse and at first would not be dissuaded. Finally Myrtle and Lorene "bribed" her with chewing gum to sleep with them instead. Everybody was happy - until the next morning when the gum was firmly stuck to Letha's hair!

Another example of Maud's desire to help a woman in need was when she asked Alice Berry to come and stay with her to help out some of the time when Maud was having a baby or in poor health. Alice had given birth to an infant out of wedlock and was somewhat ostracized in the community and treated badly even by her father. Maud's acceptance of her helped her to "come out of her shell" and live a more normal life, eventually marrying and being a good neighbor to Maud.

Some of the stories they tell about their childhood make me wonder why Grandma only had one health breakdown! Maud ordered overall fabric in such quantity that she earned a premium large enough to order a coaster wagon, a red wagon with side boards. The boys would push the smaller boys in the wagon in a circle around the porch that ran around the house. There were wash tubs set on the low side of the house to catch the rain water. They were several feet below the floor of the porch at that point.

The boys pushed Raymond in the wagon as fast as possible around and around until finally the wagon skidded and dumped Raymond and the wagon into the washtubs full of water!

They didn't have any passive children. They were always investigating and learning about how things worked. As they became more affluent, they started to get some conveniences - a kerosene refrigerator and a gasoline powered washing machine. The boys were fascinated. They were watching the agitator and got to wondering how powerful it was. Clelan and Raymond were teenagers with powerful muscles from all the work lifting and working with lumber and they were able to hold the agitator and stall the motor. Hoyle, a few years younger, was frustrated because he couldn't do it, so he got the idea of bracing his arm against the side of the tub -- and broke his arm! He wouldn't cry because he knew he shouldn't have been playing with it, but Myrtle examined it and declared it broken. A washing machine should have been an unmitigated blessing, but even that caused a problem!

Hoyle tells of an experiment he and Raymond did using a fire under a syrup bucket to produce steam to power a wheel's turning. They used a tooth pick stuck in a hole in the bucket as a safety valve. It worked fine at first, but as the wooden toothpick got wet it expanded and failed to pop out. The steam blew the lid off the bucket and the steam covered Raymond's face in an instant. It must have been extremely painful, but Raymond's first thought was not the pain, but whether their Dad would know what they had been doing, so he immediately said, "How do I look?" At that moment the skin just peeled from his face. It is amazing that there was no permanent scarring. It must have taken nerves of steel to survive as the mother with things like that going on all around you.

Clyde married Robbie Stuart June 23, 1929. Myrtle married Troy Jeffery in April 1930. Lorene married Doyne Stuart December 24, 1932. The grandchildren had started to arrive well before Maud had finished having children, Douglas Stuart in 1921, Wallace Martin (Clee's son) in 1922. Before their last child married (Clelan in 1948) they had 22 grandchildren. In all they had 27.

As a hostess to her adult children and their families, she was amazing! At the time, I took it for granted, but for

countless Sundays everybody went to their house and stayed most of the day, eating together and visiting. For the grandchildren it was wonderful to get together with all those cousins (probably at least a dozen at any given time.) In the summer we would play in the "branch", the stream running by the springs, on the sawdust pile, or maybe practice riding Hoyle's bike (which usually didn't have a chain so had to be pushed up the hill so you could coast down it.) Another favorite activity was playing with the newest babies. Sometimes some of the men would take a truck and go to Batesville and buy a 100 pound block of ice and make ice cream! It gives me a tic in the eye to even think of having such a crowd of people coming to overrun the place every week or so!

In the winter it must have been even worse. Probably even then the children spent some of the time outside, but not as much. I remember running all over the place, up and down the porches that ran around the house, playing hide and seek. Once I hid in the attic when Hoyle was "It" and he stopped looking for me! Maybe I'll forgive him some day. Now I wonder if Grandma put him up to it. That would keep us quiet at least for a few minutes!

I have no idea who cooked all the food for those get-togethers. I don't remember my mother taking food for a pot-luck, but maybe it was done that way and I didn't pay attention because I took the good food for granted.

Claren married Lucy Troy in December of 1936 and Cleston married Ivon Womack in December of 1937, leaving just three teen aged boys at home.

When World War II came along all five of the youngest Martin boys were in the age to be eligible for service in the armed forces. However, Cleston and Claren were married and had children. They went to Memphis to do work in some kind of defense work, so were not called into service. However, Clelan, Raymond and finally Hoyle were in the service. This was a very stressful time for this country with much fear, anxiety prevalent everywhere. I recently spoke with Lorene about how it must have felt for a mother or father to allow a son to go into the service in wartime. She said that her mother was devastated by this, that Clelan and Raymond went first, and then when even Hoyle, her youngest child, was called it was almost more than she could bear. They had some fearsome experiences but came home safely after the war.

During the war Hubert could not get the necessary parts to keep his mill operating, so closed it down and retired. In 1942 he built them a new three bedroom house with a living room, dining room, kitchen and bathroom. There was a basement with a well in it that had an electric pump for pumping water to the kitchen and bathroom. The house was a few miles away from their Banner house, on Highway 25 in Concord. For quite a few years they had been doing very well financially. Maud was able to have electricity in the old house even before the REA (Rural Electric) lines came through - powered by a Delco gasoline powered generator. She could buy whatever clothes she needed. They had a new car every few years. The new house was built just the way she wanted it - well, almost.

After the war the last three boys married, Hoyle to Ethelene Parish in December 1945, Raymond to Opal Davis in October 1946 and Clelan to Ava Newton in 1948.

When Tom and I visited Maud in the early 1950's in the winter their pipes were frozen and she was having to carry water up in buckets from the basement. She was frustrated and annoyed remembering that Hubert, when the house was being built, kept saying, "That's enough - that's good enough!" She mimicked his words as she, a 70 year old woman, went bouncing up the steep concrete stairs with a large bucket full of water in each hand. He, according to her, couldn't be bothered to wrap the pipes properly so they wouldn't freeze.

I don't know much about the relationship between Hubert and Maud. It is said that Hubert had a temper and took it out on his children at times, but I haven't heard stories of his taking it out on her. However, she probably was afraid of his anger and maybe used "wiles" sometimes to get what she wanted. In a conversation with me and other women, probably my aunts, she said that if she couldn't get what she wanted from him she would sometimes cry - lie across the bed with her face down and cry. It worked! The way she told the story it was humorous and showed a side of her that I had not known about before. She was great telling a funny story!

Lorene says she remembers her mother telling the children that she could tell when Hubert was mad by the way he walked and would imitate that walk. This, of course, was done out of his sight and was apparently meant to help them know when to be quiet and stay out of his way.

Maud did not take public roles. While Hubert liked to take leadership roles and lead singing, for instance, Maud did not. She did not pray in public or "testify" in church. I heard her once tell about the time when she was so ill, that she prayed and promised that if she lived she would see that her children were Christian and I have no doubt that she herself was devoutly Christian. Clyde says he remembers when he and the other children were still small, that she would sometimes call them in during the afternoon and kneel down with them and pray for them. He never forgot it.

Many times there would not be a functioning church in the Banner community, but they sometimes went to Uncle Leonard Cranford's at Wolf Bayou and attended the Oak Grove Methodist Church. Some of the children were baptized there. Later she was inclined to prefer non-denominational churches. She became disenchanted with the way the local churches were operated with a great deal of arguing and controversy between them. This probably made her susceptible to the Jehovah's Witness representatives in her later years. She listened to them, took them seriously and agreed with them in many things. She would get their literature from the Rudolphs but didn't let Hubert see the literature. Hubert didn't like or agree with the Jehovah's Witness people and made them leave when he saw them there.

In the 1940's the family get-togethers became maybe not quite so frequent, but it was and is a close knit family whose members genuinely like and enjoy each other's company. They still continued to get together frequently. My parents and their family moved to Heber Springs in 1940 but went back to Banner/Concord every week or two. When our first child was born in 1956 we lived in Detroit. We brought him to Arkansas when he was about six months old to "show him off." Forty two people "dropped in" to see him!

Before Maud died January 9, 1966 she became afflicted with a "Parkinson like" disease with shaking of her head and hands. She also had an "Alzheimer like" ailment where she gradually had changes in her ability to function and care for the house and herself and gradually lost most of her speech. Finally about 1964 she was put in a nursing home in Heber Springs where she lived until she died. While she was there she was quite helpless but some aspects of her personality remained. She continued to show by her expression and a few words that she recognized us all when we visited. She continued to show warmth to little children when they visited. Once we were there with our little ones and visited her before we saw Grandpa. He reported that when he saw her the day after we left she remembered that she had seen me with a "bunch of babies."

Claudine and Norman Gray who ran the nursing home in Heber Springs where she spent her last months, wrote the family after her death. "It is not true that a patient in a Nursing Home is living a useless life, for each one that has been here has taught us a lesson in some way. Your mother gave us the gift of a wonderful sense of humor that came shining through all the trials of life, even in these last years when she was so ill."

I once asked her about how hard it must have been to have so many children and she laughed and said that she had been asked that question a number of times, and she agreed, but there was just one problem. She couldn't find even one of her children she would want to "give back."

Maud asked that on her tombstone it should say only that "She has done what she could." All who knew her would agree that is indeed true, and what she did was a great deal!

Sources for the information given, in addition to my memory, include:

Written notes by my mother, Elva Martin Stuart,

Conversations with Maud's children,

A newspaper article about their 50th wedding anniversary,

Obituaries,

Anecdotes written by my brother, Charles Stuart, after hearing them from Hubert and Maud's children.

Ancestors of Maud Ulan Cranford

Parents

Leonard Travis "Trav" CRANFORD
b: February 02, 1840
d: March 14, 1923

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Thomas Lafayette CRANFORD
b: August 16, 1872
d: February 20, 1959

Ella Virginia CRANFORD
b: October 08, 1874
d: July 25, 1959

Mary Susan Mollie CRANFORD
b: May 08, 1877
d: Deceased

Dora Belle CRANFORD
b: July 22, 1879
d: July 16, 1948

Maud Ulan CRANFORD
b: January 10, 1882
d: January 09, 1966

Leonard Leroy CRANFORD
b: August 10, 1884
d: Deceased

James Oscar CRANFORD
b: January 12, 1887
d: April 10, 1956

Ada Fountain CRANFORD
b: April 10, 1891
d: Deceased

Murrel Emogene CRANFORD
b: January 16, 1894
d: February 11, 1972

Josephine PHILLIPS
b: November 17, 1853
d: October 24, 1946

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Ancestors of Maud Ulan Cranford

Parents Grandparents Great-Grandparents

Alexander? CRANFORD
b: WFT Est. 1775-1785
d: Deceased

Leonard CRANFORD
b: Abt. 1803
d: June 1885

Leonard Travis "Trav" CRANFORD
b: February 02, 1840
d: March 14, 1923

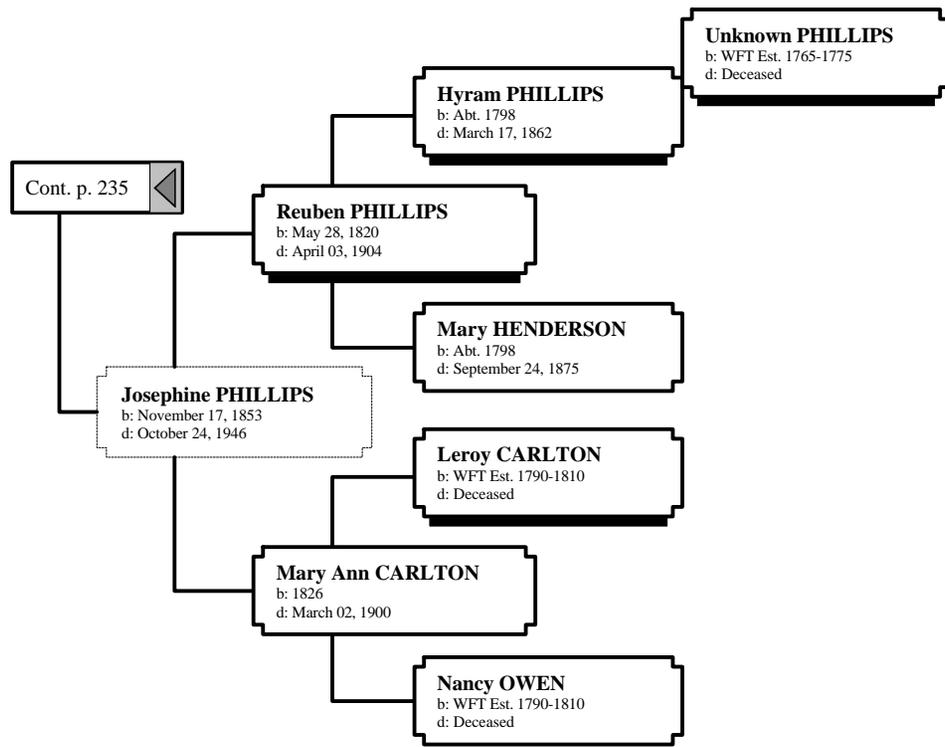
Unkown FINCH
b: WFT Est. 1775-1785
d: Deceased

Mary Ann Fountain FINCH
b: Abt. 1808
d: Deceased

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Ancestors of Maud Ulan Cranford

Parents Grandparents Great-Grandparents 2nd Great-Grandparents



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