

Chapter 8

The Martins and the Stuarts

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The Martins and the Stuarts have close family ties due to the fact that at least three marriages have connected the family. Bascome Earl Stuart married Elva Robena Martin, Doyne Ward Stuart married Lorene C. Martin, and Clyde Martin married Robbie Doris Stuart. Family rumor has it that there was almost a fourth. Raymond was dating a Stuart and contemplating marriage, but Grandma Martin was against it. She thought there were too many Stuart/Martin unions.

My Stuart cousins have been very helpful, if not instrumental in assisting me in gathering information for this book. I probably wouldn't have even started such an adventure if Cleta Stuart-Porterfield hadn't written many for the family stories before me. Charles Martin Stuart has been extremely helpful. He has provided an "on-site" service in Heber Springs, Cleburne County, Arkansas and assisted in any way possible. He has provided an electronic mail contact with family and friends and assisted me in finding some of the old geographic sites mentioned in the family stories.

On a trip home to Arkansas in 1996, Charles escorted me to the old Martin home site at Wolf Bayou, and then guided me down the old wagon road to the mill creek and ditch. The old home place chimney is still standing and a picture is included in the Martin Scrapbook. It is getting pretty old and may not last much longer. We went to the old dipping vat, mentioned in some of the stories. I have a picture, but due to overgrow brush and weeds, it is hard to distinguish any features. The vat is about 3 feet wide, 20 feet long, and 4 feet deep. If you listen to the stories my father and his brothers tell about their youth, you would think it was an Olympic size swimming pool. When I queried my father about this after my visit, he indicated that to a 7 year old learning to swim, it was quite an awesome sight. I guess you had to be there to appreciate it...

After the dipping vat we looked for and found the graves of the two infants. One died a birth, the other a few days after birth. These graves are marked with a couple of bricks. Originally they were unmarked, but Aunt Lorene remembers as a young girl bringing the bricks from an old home place nearby to place there. She later learned they may have been marking the graves of infants at the old home place, but is not sure. Thanks to Charles knowledge of the area, he went right to them with only a little searching.

We continued down the old wagon road to where it crossed the creek, about a quarter of a mile. This is where the women washed the clothes and drew the water. The old wagon road is very visible, if you know what you are looking for. It is a depression in the ground about the width of a wagon and 6 inches lower than the ground around it. The wagons wore down the earth and it has remained that way. You can still see the marks made by the wagon wheel hubs as they struck the trees.

After the creek, the road climbs up past a low bluff area. The bluffs are about 10-15 feet high here. Charles told about Uncle Cleston escorting him on a trip in the area and telling a story of how the Martin boys used to chase goats off the bluff. They would round them up and then scare them off the bluff. The goats would land at the bottom, a little startled, dazed, and winded, but eventually get up and run off. This seemed to be a repetitive occurrence, so I guess the goats didn't get much smarter over time. Anyway, on the walk as Uncle Cleston was telling the story and laughing, remembering the fun he had, they looked up on the bluff and there was a goat standing there watching them.

The road continues on and goes to a crossing on the old Mill creek. This is where Grandpa Martin had his grist mill. At the crossing the creek is relatively wide and slow moving, then it falls gently away as if flows downhill. To run the mill wheel, a dam was built at the crossing to form an eddy, then a ditch was dug along the ridge line, ever so gradually getting a little lower than the eddy, but always higher than the creek. This mill ditch runs for about a quarter of a mile. It is still very visible, but overgrown with brush. At the end of the ditch they dug a small pond to gather the water and then a chute to funnel it over the top of the mill wheel, providing power to turn the grist wheel. The mill pond is about 25 feet above the creek bed at this point. Quite an engineering feat for the early 1900's. Especially considering it provided an income for many years.

After the mill creek, we cut across country to get back to the car. We shared stories we had heard as kids and walked near the old Gattis Martin home site. Evidently, Gattis Martin was the molasses maker for the family and

for other families in the area. I have heard my dad tell stories of going over to his Uncle Gattis place to get molasses. One of his favorites is how one of Uncle Gattis' daughters hid in the woods late one evening as he was returning from a molasses trip and scared him. He dropped molasses bucket and all and ran home as fast as he could. He refused to go back that night and retrieve the bucket, or get more molasses. He waited until sunrise the next day to replenish the molasses supply. Apparently, Uncle Gattis has the molasses press and cooking vat, and Grandpa Martin had the grist mill. They each collected a share of what they processed as payment. My dad remembers Uncle Gattis' children coming over for flour and he went to Uncle Gattis' for molasses, got them from large barrels that were kept there.

As we were walking back cross country, I got a little worried. I started considering our fate. Here we were two 50 plus year olds, hiking across the backwoods of Arkansas. I suffered a heart attack only 3 years earlier, and Charles had spent most of his adult life in California. I started to think that leaving the wagon road wasn't such a good idea after all. But, to Charles credit, he brought us out about 100 yards from the car, and after we brushed off as many of the chiggers and seed ticks as possible, we were on our way to visit Uncle Clyde and Uncle Clee, the two family 90 plus year olds.

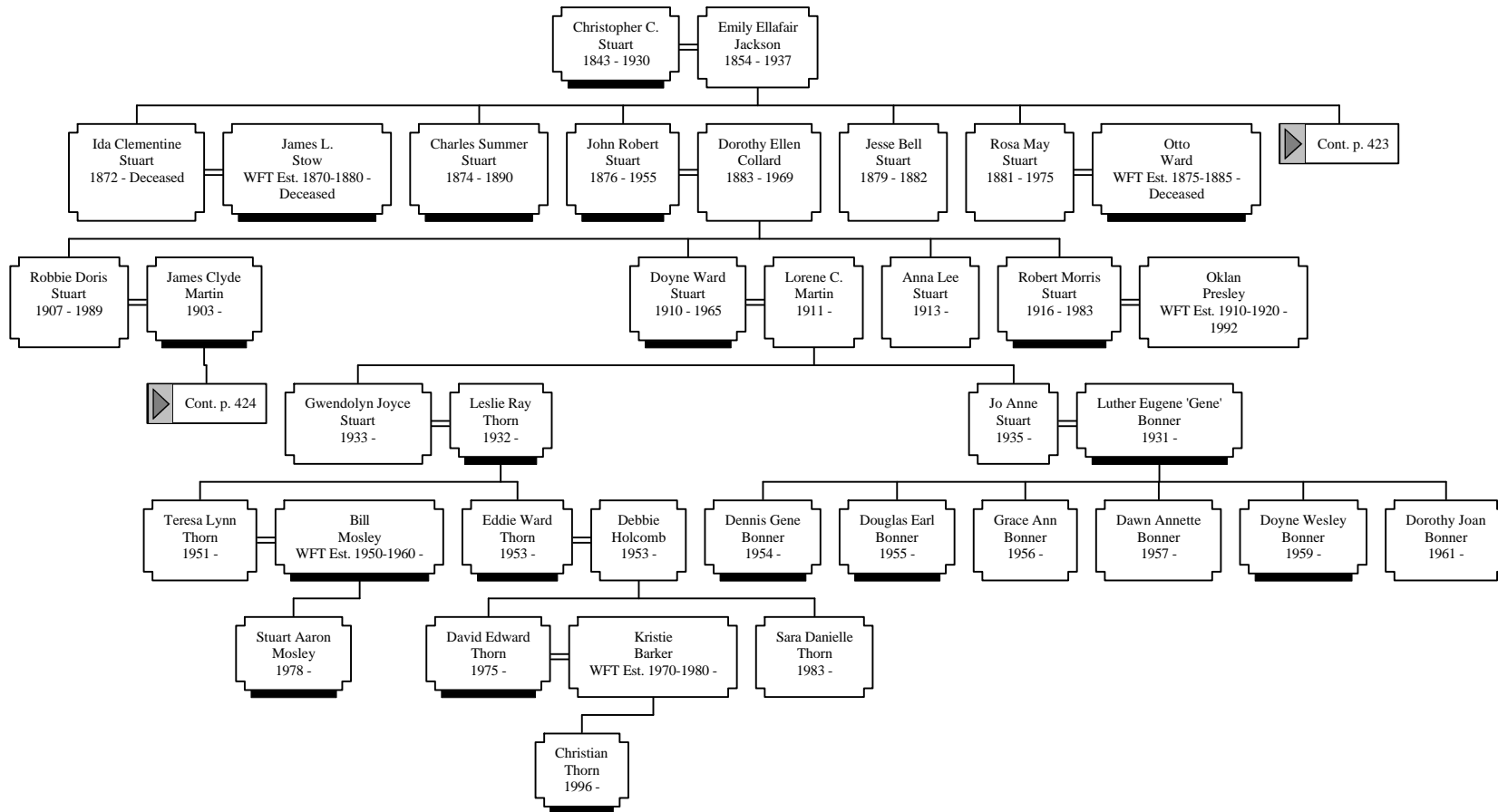
Charles has become the resident family historian in Heber Springs. He truly enjoys learning more and more about our family and hearing the stories. I am very grateful for his assistance.

Descendants of Christopher Columbus 'Tump' Stuart

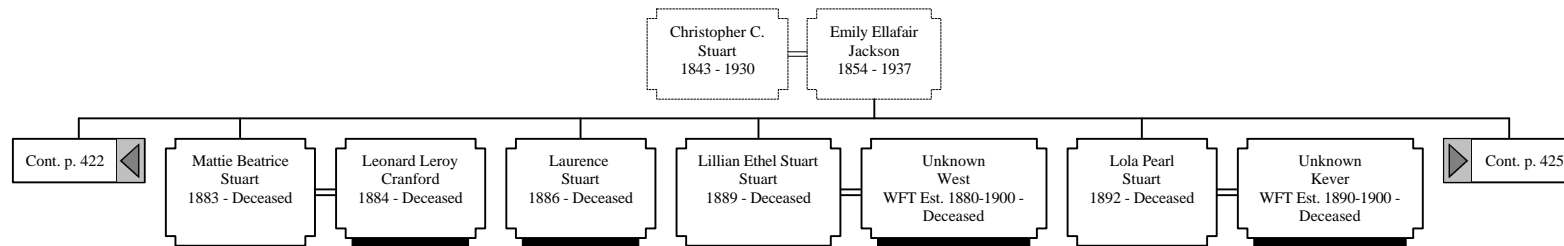
1 Christopher Columbus 'Tump' STUART b: May 08, 1843 in Haywood County, TN d: July 03, 1930 in Banner, AR
 .. +Emily Ellafair JACKSON b: February 28, 1854 in Fayette, GA m: February 28, 1871 in Banner, AR d: August 11, 1937 in Banner, AR
 2 Ida Clementine STUART b: August 20, 1872 in Banner, AR d: Deceased
 +James L. STOW b: WFT Est. 1870-1880 d: Deceased
 2 Charles Summer STUART b: October 15, 1874 in Banner, AR d: August 02, 1890 in Banner, AR
 2 John Robert STUART b: November 27, 1876 in Banner, AR d: October 31, 1955 in Banner, AR
 +Dorothy Ellen COLLARD b: November 27, 1883 m: October 27, 1906 in Banner, AR d: September 26, 1969 in Banner, AR
 3 Robbie Doris STUART b: August 03, 1907 in Banner, AR d: May 26, 1989
 +James Clyde MARTIN b: August 31, 1903 in Wolf Bayou, AR m: June 23, 1929 in Concord AR
 4 Marilyn MARTIN b: January 29, 1932
 +Arthur Coleman HAMLETT b: October 06, 1928 m: August 26, 1950
 5 James Arthur HAMLETT b: August 23, 1952
 5 Michael Martin HAMLETT b: March 23, 1955
 +Linda Ann CHAMBLEE b: August 08, 1948 m: October 24, 1976
 6 Kimberly Lynn HAMLETT b: February 27, 1979
 6 Shelley Ann HAMLETT b: March 11, 1981
 5 Robin Sue HAMLETT b: December 02, 1962
 +Richard Lee DILLON b: August 12, 1958 m: December 12, 1987
 6 Jaime Lea DILLON b: June 20, 1990
 6 Coleman Matthew DILLON b: April 06, 1993
 6 Rebecca Marie DILLON b: October 27, 1994
 4 Julian Clyde MARTIN b: January 05, 1936
 +Jackie Estes RUSSELL b: WFT Est. 1930-1940
 5 Glenda Russell MARTIN b: January 27, 1952
 +Unknown LOVENDAHL b: WFT Est. 1945-1955
 6 Christian LOVENDAHL b: August 17, 1990
 *2nd Husband of Glenda Russell Martin:
 +Joe WHITE b: WFT Est. 1945-1955
 5 Mark MARTIN b: January 09, 1959
 +Arlene Adams COE b: WFT Est. 1950-1970 m: Abt. 1989
 6 Amy ADAMS b: WFT Est. 1980-1990
 6 Heather ADAMS b: WFT Est. 1980-1990
 6 Stacie COE b: WFT Est. 1980-1990
 6 Matthew Clyde MARTIN b: December 17, 1991
 *2nd Wife of Julian Clyde Martin:
 +Shelly Majors LESTER b: WFT Est. 1945-1955 m: Abt. 1985
 5 Robby LESTER b: October 06, 1977
 5 Sarah Michelle MARTIN b: March 06, 1987
 3 Doyne Ward STUART b: December 27, 1910 d: October 13, 1965
 +Lorene C. MARTIN b: March 03, 1911 m: December 24, 1932
 4 Gwendolyn Joyce STUART b: November 18, 1933
 +Leslie Ray THORN b: April 28, 1932 m: June 16, 1950
 5 Teresa Lynn THORN b: April 22, 1951
 +Bill MOSLEY b: WFT Est. 1950-1960 m: April 22, 1971
 6 Stuart Aaron MOSLEY b: August 19, 1978
 5 Eddie Ward THORN b: September 08, 1953
 +Debbie HOLCOMB b: July 18, 1953
 6 David Edward THORN b: September 16, 1975
 +Kristie BARKER b: WFT Est. 1970-1980
 7 Christian THORN b: May 08, 1996
 6 Sara Danielle THORN b: September 07, 1983
 4 Jo Anne STUART b: November 06, 1935
 +Luther Eugene 'Gene' BONNER b: August 28, 1931
 5 Dennis Gene BONNER b: February 17, 1954
 5 Douglas Earl BONNER b: May 27, 1955
 5 Grace Ann BONNER b: October 08, 1956
 5 Dawn Annette BONNER b: December 10, 1957
 5 Doyne Wesley BONNER b: July 14, 1959
 5 Dorothy Joan BONNER b: February 01, 1961
 3 Anna Lee STUART b: February 23, 1913
 3 Robert Morris STUART b: April 03, 1916 in Banner, AR d: November 29, 1983 in Batesville AR
 +Oklan PRESLEY b: WFT Est. 1910-1920 d: July 13, 1992 in Batesville AR
 2 Jesse Bell STUART b: August 02, 1879 in Banner, AR d: September 20, 1882 in Banner, AR
 2 Rosa May STUART b: June 19, 1881 in Banner, AR d: December 1975 in Wolf Bayou AR
 +Otto WARD b: WFT Est. 1875-1885 d: Deceased in Wolf Bayou AR
 2 Mattie Beatrice STUART b: November 09, 1883 in Banner, AR d: Deceased in Wolf Bayou AR
 +Leonard Leroy CRANFORD b: August 10, 1884 in Wolf Bayou, AR m: March 28, 1914 d: Deceased in Wolf Bayou, AR
 2 Laurence 'Lon' Aubrey STUART b: November 20, 1886 d: Deceased
 2 Lillian Ethel Stuart STUART b: September 15, 1889 in Banner, AR d: Deceased
 +Unknown WEST b: WFT Est. 1880-1900 d: Deceased
 2 Lola Pearl STUART b: March 09, 1892 in Banner, AR d: Deceased
 +Unknown KEVER b: WFT Est. 1890-1900 d: Deceased

..... 2 Bascome Earl STUART b: January 27, 1895 in Banner, Cleburne County , AR d: August 29, 1986 in Little Rock, Pulaski County, AR
..... +Elva Robena MARTIN b: March 02, 1900 in Wolf Bayou, Cleburne County, AR m: October 25, 1919 in AR d: January 20, 1977 in Glendale, CA
..... 3 Douglas L. STUART b: April 23, 1921 d: August 29, 1993
..... 3 Cleta Elmira STUART b: October 30, 1928
..... +Tom PORTERFIELD b: July 09, 1928 m: September 02, 1951
..... 4 Gregory Thomas PORTERFIELD b: February 24, 1956
..... +Julia Ann BAUMAN b: December 14, 1957
..... 5 Sarah Margaret PORTERFIELD b: December 16, 1989
..... 5 Jeffrey Thomas PORTERFIELD b: July 15, 1991
..... 5 David Lawrence PORTERFIELD b: September 02, 1994
..... 4 Sondra Kay PORTERFIELD b: February 08, 1958
..... +Robert Anthony SAMPLES b: November 03, 1962
..... 5 Kevin Robert SAMPLES b: March 16, 1989
..... 5 Kyle David SAMPLES b: January 15, 1992
..... 4 Lisa Diane PORTERFIELD b: February 22, 1960
..... +Christopher Dean WILCOX b: June 15, 1956
..... 5 Kristen Helen WILCOX b: December 28, 1979
..... 5 Kerry Marie WILCOX b: June 07, 1983
..... 5 Joseph Thomas WILCOX b: November 05, 1987
..... 4 Keith Glenn PORTERFIELD b: May 11, 1962
..... +Minal PATEL b: September 17, 1963
..... 5 Joshua Devin PORTERFIELD b: July 19, 1993
..... 5 Raena Kaitlin PORTERFIELD b: May 25, 1996
..... 3 Charles Martin STUART b: May 15, 1933
..... +Regina Richardson BURFORD b: August 03, 1931
..... 4 Debra Ann BURFORD b: March 23, 1951
..... +George KELLY b: WFT Est. 1945-1955
..... 5 Jason Keith KELLY b: February 04, 1970
..... *2nd Husband of Debra Ann Burford:
..... +Todd DAVIS b: WFT Est. 1945-1955
..... 4 Rebecca Lee BURFORD b: January 14, 1953
..... +Rory George MCCARTHY b: March 23, 1953
..... 5 Brianne Christine MCCARTHY b: September 01, 1979
..... 5 Kelly Ann MCCARTHY b: February 25, 1983
..... 4 Gordon Allen BURFORD b: July 30, 1957
..... +Anna Louise (Adams) MCCOY b: October 04, 1953
..... 5 Michael Leslie BURFORD b: July 08, 1977
..... 5 Regina Maxine BURFORD b: December 13, 1990

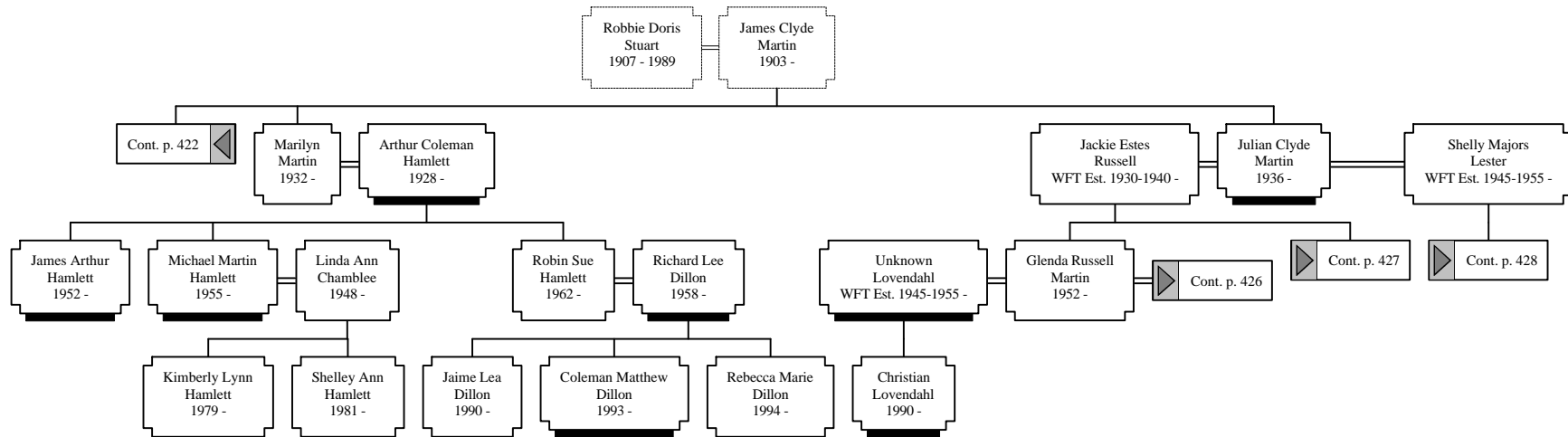
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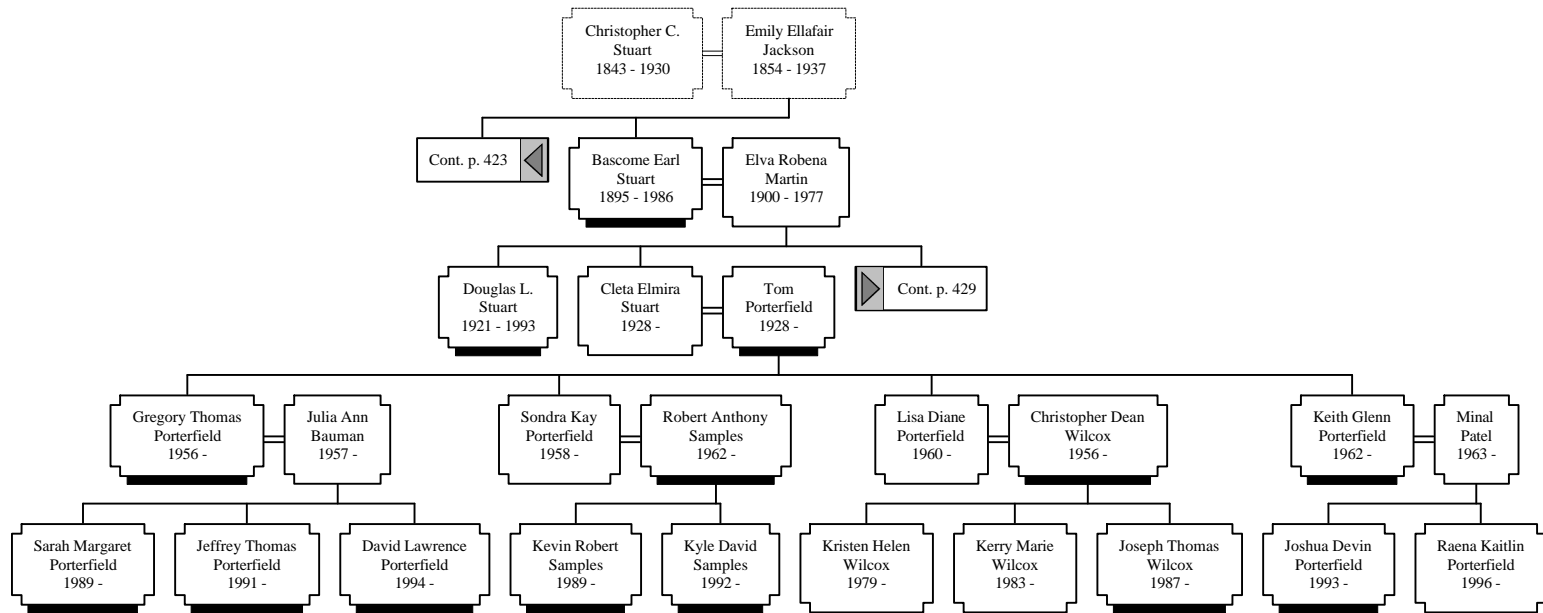
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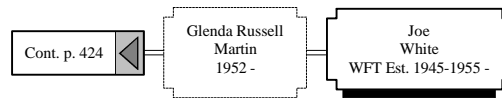
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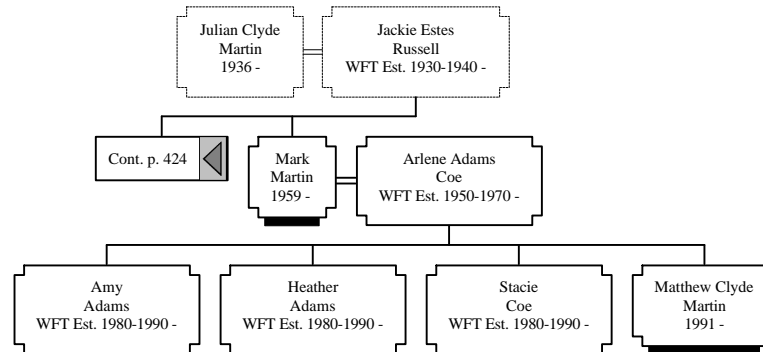
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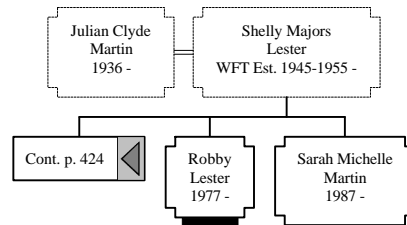
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