

Southern Roots

A Family History

Volume I

The Ancestors and Descendants of

Hubert Munsey Martin

and

Maud Ulan Cranford

by

Tom Martin

Histories from the states of
Arkansas, Alabama, and North Carolina

Southern Roots

A Family History



The Ancestors and Descendants of Hubert Munsey Martin and Maud Ulan Cranford Martin

This book is dedicated to my children

Melissa Kay Martin
Tommy Douglas Martin
Allison Haile Martin Plair
Justin Parish Martin

and my grandchildren

Jessica Rene Gibson
Danielle Marie Martin-Fisher

Mitchell Douglas Martin
Sabrina Rae Martin

I hope they can learn to appreciate the history of their ancestors and the contributions made to helping them become who they are. I was raised in Arkansas, in a close knit family of uncles, aunts, and cousins. There were strong family ties between the Martins and I learned to appreciate that strong sense of belonging. Since graduating from High School, I have moved around the world and my family has followed. This has made us a stronger family, but deprived them of that sense of belonging to a larger extended family. I hope this history will help connect them to the family they only have a little experience of.



The Tommy H. Martin Family

Photo taken at my daughter Allison's wedding reception, October 1996.
Back row L to R: Tommy Martin, Janet Haile Martin, Justin Parish Martin, Tommy Douglas Martin, John Plair (Allison's husband)
Middle row, L to R: Melissa Kay Martin, April Roblyn Martin (Doug's wife), Allison Martin Plair
Front row, L to R: Jessica Renee Gibson (Melissa's daughter), Danielle Marie Fisher (Melissa's daughter), Mitchell Martin (Doug's son), Sabrina Rae Martin (Doug's daughter)

Ours is truly a diverse family. If America is the "melting pot" we are a great example. My father's family is of Scots-Irish ancestry, migrating to America prior to the Revolutionary War. Finally settling in North Carolina. There they married with descendants of Pennsylvania Dutch (Germans from the Palatine Region) and Native Americans (probably Choctaw). My mother's family comes from England and Ireland, emigrating to America (Virginia) prior to the Revolutionary War, and then migrating to Tennessee and eventually Arkansas. My Parish line is rumored to have some Cherokee blood in it. My great grandmother Rebecca Parish was thought to be one quarter Cherokee. My wife's family is from England, even including some links to English royalty. Emigrating to Virginia prior to the Revolutionary War, then on to Tennessee and finally Arkansas, after the Civil War. My children have married persons of African-American, Hispanic, and Vietnamese ancestry. As you can see our family is truly diverse, and I am truly proud of them all.

Foreword

Much of the information contained within this book is the compilation of research shared by various Martin genealogy researchers. I am indebted to many for the work they have done and the information they have provided.

Much of my original information came from an old Martin family bible. The last time I saw this bible was in the early 1980's and Uncle Clee had it. It contained a lot of the North Carolina information and some Cranford information.

The stories in this book originated from a volume entitled "Family Stories" by Clela Stuart-Porterfield. I have attempted to keep them in their original format and add only pictures or corrections to genealogical information. Some additions are from the book "History of Wolf Bayou and Healing Springs Township", by Louie Clark, reprinted by permission.

I am also grateful to Charles Martin Stuart for his assistance in family research and for being my guide during my last trip to Arkansas. Charles is the resident family historian and he loves to share his information. He was able to take me to the old home place and assist in finding the grave sites of the two infant children that died, along with the old dipping vat and mill water ditch.

I wish to thank Jo Anne Stuart-Johnson for additional information and pictures of the Martin family.

Although I have been interested in family genealogy for some time, it is only within the last couple of years that I have been able to devote time to it. It has become a fascinating hobby and has given me a better understanding and appreciation of my history. I have learned a great deal about the North Carolina ancestors and the Alabama ancestors. Much of my study has been directed at the military history of my ancestors and this research has been very fruitful.

A major assistance in this research has been the use of the Internet and the World Wide Web (WWW). I established a Martin Family Genealogy page in 1996 and through that page have made contact with countless other Martin researchers. Many providing additional information about my ancestors and even the discovery of some new cousins. I received electronic mail from Bill and Linda Gaines, descendants of Nelson Martin; she is the granddaughter of Nelson. They provided information on the Nelson Martin descendants and additional information on the Kever ancestors. I have also received electronic mail from Mark Orlor, descendant of Gattis Martin, and he provided information on descendants of Gattis Martin.

One of my earliest contacts was with Daniel LeVan, Alexander County, NC. He is an officer of the Alexander County Genealogical Society and had a Martin Family Bible that had been donated to the Alexander County Genealogical Society. He wanted to compare notes to see if we could link my names to the bible. The problem was that the bible didn't provide any family links, it just recorded births, deaths, and marriages without linking families to each other. After a phone conversation we determined that there was probably not a connection, but Daniel was able to provide some assistance and confirm that William was the father of George Washington Martin. He also sent the death certificate for George W. as well as possible links to Solomon Martin (possible father of William) and Zadock Martin (possible father of Solomon). I then was able to find a possible link to Solomon and Zadock. This link connected to early English settlers of the United States and went back to 995 AD. It included a former King of Scotland. Further research has proven this link not to be valid, but during my research I was able to discover the connection to Samuel Martin.

My efforts have been to document family history. By this I mean the circumstances surrounding my ancestors and the events that impacted them. What drove them to move across a vast ocean, through uncharted wilderness, fight wars, start new lives and families? I have therefore concentrated more on what could have been rather than a detailed documentation of family lineages. Our ancestors lived during these times and events. They followed the migration paths of countless emigrants coming to America and slowly moving westward. Constantly searching for a better life, more opportunity, and individual freedom. They brought with them new wives, in-laws, and family friends.

John Quincy Adams, in his address before the US Supreme Court in defense of the mutiny of the Armisted crew, said of our ancestors, "We are, because they were. We are here to finish what they started". Our ancestors through their struggles, trials, and tribulations, have helped form our culture and ethic. As I have studied the history of my ancestors, I have been able to identify much of the Scots-Irish social culture in Martin aunts and uncles. I am sure each of us can see the German stubbornness, the Scots-Irish independence, strong family bond, strong work ethic, and adventurous spirit. I am proud of who I am and grateful to my ancestors for the contributions they have made to helping me become the person I am. I am also proud

I have used the US Genealogy Web (USGenWeb) extensively, especially the Alabama and North Carolina sites, much of the historical background material is from these sites.

The Martin Genealogy (Southern Roots) page is at <http://www.geocities.com/~tomandjanet/>
From here you will find links to all the other research sites.

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Introduction

During most of my years I was told I was of Scots-Irish or German descent. That's a pretty wide variance, but after much research I can understand the confusion. I am descended of European pioneer stock that came to this country prior to the revolutionary war.

The Martin side of the family originated from Samuel Martin, born in Ireland in 1732 and immigrating to the colonies, first to Pennsylvania, then to North Carolina. I am not sure of the dates of migration, but Samuel was living in Mecklenberg County prior to 1775 and was named as a delegate to the North Carolina Provisional Congressional Assembly from Mecklenberg County that year. Even though approaching advanced years, especially to be a soldier, Samuel served in the Revolutionary War. He acted as Captain of Militia and commanded a company during many famous Revolutionary War battles.

The German comes from the Kever side of my family. John (Jacob) Kever was born in Germany and migrated to Pennsylvania, then to North Carolina. The early history of North Carolina discusses the migration of many Scots-Irish and German families into the southeastern part of North Carolina.

Early North Carolina history also tells of German and Scots-Irish marriages with the Cherokee and Choctaw Indians in the area. This was a common practice of early settlers, especially with the Cherokee, who were considered one of the "civilized" tribes. In looking at old photographs, especially of the Kever's, it is easy to see Indian features. An example is the photograph of "Exie" Kever later in the book. I will seek to verify these Native American links as my research continues.

The Martin's lived in North Carolina for over 5 generations. They moved to Arkansas after the death of Hubert's father and remarriage of his mother in about 1890. There he met and married Maud Cranford, whose family had migrated from Alabama shortly after the Civil War.

During my research I discovered that both my family (Cranford) and my wife's family (Logan) had migrated from Coosa County, Alabama. They probably came on the same wagon trail and settled in the Wolf Bayou and Tumbling Shoals area.

My ancestors have served in most major conflicts of this nation, including the Revolutionary War, War of 1812, Civil War, WWI, WWII, and Vietnam. Volume II of Southern Roots discusses this service in greater detail.

This book will outline the history of my ancestors and provide us a better understanding of the kind of people who have contributed to common history. In doing this research I have come to regret not being able to know and talk to some of the individuals within in person. Two that have had a particular impact on me are Samuel Martin and Leonard Travis Cranford. Samuel Martin served as Captain of Militia during the Revolutionary War at age 50. He was known throughout the area for his bravery and dedication to servicing his country. When asked to prove he could still ride at age 50, he demonstrated this by not just riding one horse, but two, bounding between them as he rode at a gallop. At the Battle of Kings Mountain, he was the only company commander not wounded and lost almost a third of his company. He lived to be 104 years old.

Leonard Travis Cranford served 4 years during the Civil War, wounded twice, and finally captured just days prior to the surrender at Appomattox. He served with General Robert E. Lee's Army of Northern Virginia and fought in most of the famous battles. He was originally discharged for medical disability, but re-enlisted and continued to serve, suffering wounds at Winchester and Petersburg. The stories he must have had, especially about Chancersville, Gettysburg, Winchester, Cedar Creek and the siege of Petersburg.

This book is an attempt to tell their story and provide my descendants with a record of the rich heritage of their ancestors.

INTRODUCTION TO THE MARTIN SURNAME

The Martin Family is among the forty-nine "best families" selected by the American Historical Genealogical Society for whom the Society has published family histories during the past few years. The Martin family has been prominent in the British Empire and in the United States, its members having played important roles in war and in peace. Family pride is a commendable trait and should be cultivated. All Martins have just cause to be proud of their family history and traditions.

In references we find the following regarding the origin and meaning of the name Martin.

The surname Martin, has its origin in the personal name made illustrious by St. Martin and was probably derived from the Latin "martius," warlike, the characteristic quality of Mars, the god of war. Many places in Normandy were dedicated to St. Martin, and from one of these sprang the great family who came to England at the time of the Conquest under the name De Sancto Martino.

The surname is greatly in evidence in Ireland and Scotland, but its origin in Gaelic countries is usually different from that in England and on the continent file Gaelic derivation being from the personal name Giolla Marthain, meaning "the servant or votary of St. Martin." It is said that this Giolla Marthain was the ancestor of the Irish family of Martin, from whom so many of the Martins of America are descended.

The name of Martin is not only of frequent occurrence in the Old World, but it became common in America from an early period, and may be found among the early settlers of Massachusetts, Connecticut, New Hampshire, Virginia, and other colonies. The name is variously spelled, even in the records of the same family, as Martin, Martyn Marten, Marttin Marteen, Martain and Martine.

or

