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## CHAPTER VI

### JAMES LAWRENCE FERGUSON

My great Grandfather, James Lawrence Ferguson was born 23 Dec 1816 in Chester Co., SC, near the town of Richburg. He was the ninth of the 10 children of John and Eleanor Ferguson, and the younger of their two sons.

He first married his second cousin once removed, Elizabeth Priscilla Ferguson, daughter of John Ferguson Esq. and Nancy Stinson Orr, on 2 Feb 1837.

They had the following children:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Birth</u>	<u>Died</u>
John Gaston	9 Dec 1837	30 Oct 1892
Jonathon Green	23 Jun 1839	before 1850
William Pulaski	15 Feb 1841	?
Samuel Pleasant	23 Sep 1842	before 1850
Nancy Eleanor	1 4 Jan 1847	before 1850

Elizabeth Priscilla died in January 1847, probably as a result of complications in the birth of Nancy Eleanor.

James Lawrence remarried 23 Nov 1847 to Mary Ann Edwards, the daughter of John Joseph Edwards and Margaret McCammon.

They had the following children:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Birth</u>	<u>Died</u>
Emily Jane	1848	?
[full name: Margaret Elizabeth Emily Jane]		
Nancy Joanah	26 Nov 1851	before 1860
Mary Arabella	5 Jan 1853	20 Mar 1938
[full name: Mary Arabella Josephine]		
Joseph Edwards	27 Nov 1855	29 Jun 1937
Walter Francis	8 Jun 1859	10 Oct 1935
Ida	1861	10 Oct 1896

The first four were born in SC, and the last two were born in AR.

James Lawrence joined Hopewell Baptist Church on 13 Jul 1839 when he was 22 years of age. At that time he was already married to his first wife, Elizabeth, but I could find no record of her being a member. His name is recorded numerous times in the church minutes, indicating that he was an active member.

James L. was a member of The Sons of Temperance, an anti- alcohol organization. He obtained a "traveling card" (or letter of introduction) on 7 Apr 1852, and carried with him on his later trip to AR.

Walter Brewster related that he was told by his grandmother that James Lawrence not only farmed, but raised race horses -- a strange avocation for a staunch Baptist.

On 3 Aug 1847, James Lawrence subscribed to one share of stock in the Charlotte and South Carolina Rail Road, Western Branch, and paid the first installment of \$5.00. There is no record of the full price of the share,

but he made payments of an additional \$45 through 9 Oct 1852. There is no record of the sale or other disposition of this share, or even if a share was ever issued. In 1995, I wrote the Norfolk and Southern Corp., successor to the original line to seek information, but they advised that the railroad is "not viable" and no information is available.

Only two children of James L.'s first marriage survived past 1850. They were John Gaston and William Pulaski. When James Lawrence moved to AR in 1856, they were 19 and 16 years old, respectively. Both were named in the will of John, Esq. It is believed that William went to AR with his father and was killed during the Civil War fighting on the Confederates side and John Gaston became a well known printer and newspaper publisher in York, SC. He died on 30 Oct 1892.

James Lawrence was the executor of his father's estate, and only 2 days after he completed his duties, he and his family departed for AR.

James Lawrence kept a diary of the trip in a leather bound note book in which he recorded the route they took and the money spent on their trip to AR. The note book is in my possession.

They left Chesterville (now Chester), SC on 12 Nov 1856. His family consisted of his wife Polly Ann (Mary Ann), daughter Margaret Elizabeth Emily Jane (Emily Jane) aged 8, Mary Arabella Josephine (Aunt Mollie) aged 3 years 10 months, and son Joseph Edwards, aged 11 1/2 months, and most probably his son William by his first marriage.

Many years later, Aunt Mollie recounted to Walter Brewster, that they had spent the Christmas holiday with relatives at Sheffield, AL. This is important because James Lawrence's diary does not indicate the last destination on the overland wagon journey before boarding a steamboat.

The wagon journey covered about 375 miles "as the crow flies" point to point on the itinerary below, and took 44 days, or an average days travel of about 8 1/2 miles.

12 Nov 1856	--	left	Chester, SC
		near	Union, SC
			Cross Keys, SC
			Laurens, SC
			Anderson, SC
			Carnesville, GA
			Gainesville, GA
			Canton, GA. Cassville, GA
			Cedar Bluff, AL
			Somerville, AL
			Moulton, AL.
			Russellville, AL
25 Dec 1856			Sheffield, AL.

On 3 Janu 1857, after resting and making repairs, they boarded a steamboat on the Tennessee River at Sheffield. The passage cost \$120, and took them down the Tennessee River into the Ohio River and then into the Mississippi River to the mouth of the Arkansas River. The journey took 6 days. There they spent the night in a tavern for a fee of \$10.00.

On 10 Jan 1857, they boarded another steamer for the trip up the Arkansas River to Pine Bluff. The fare for this leg of the trip was \$25.00, and they arrived at Pine Bluff on 13 Jan 1857.

From Pine Bluff, it took them 3 days to reach their destination in the area of Rye, AR., which is about 12 miles north of Warren, AR., on present day AR State Road 15, and about 1 mile west of that road.

During the entire trip he recorded every item of expense, including food, fodder for the animals, tolls, fares, ferries, repairs, etc. The total amount spent was \$339.89.

Arriving in the Rye, AR area about mid-Jan 1857, he quickly purchased two parcels of land in the area from the US General Land Office, on 26 February.

One parcel was 120 acres in the immediate vicinity of Rye at 50 cents per acre - a total of \$60.00. The other parcel was 80 acres at \$1.25 per acre or \$100.00 total. This second parcel was Northwest of Rye about 1 1/2 miles along what is now AR state Road 35.

On 4 Apr 1857, he purchased another parcel of land from the Land Office, this one being for 40 acres which joined the 80 acre tract previously purchased. This tract was priced at \$1.25 per acre for a total price of \$50.00

It is interesting to note that government owned land in the area was selling at a brisk rate since between his first purchase on 26 February, and his third purchase on 4 April a period of 38 days - 213 purchases were recorded by the land office.

Sometime after his arrival near Rye, AR., he recorded the cost of materials, land, and labor to build a house as follows:

Lumber	\$200.00
Lot	\$200.00
Work	\$194.28
Shingles	\$134.44
Doors	\$ 96.00
Windows	\$72.00
Stairs	12.00
Other	<u>\$26.80</u>
Total	\$945.50

It should be noted that the \$200 "lot" was obviously a farm, in fact the Land Office papers refer to the properties as "Lots". I cannot reconcile his land purchase values with the \$200.00 recorded in his notes. Perhaps the figures in his note book were estimates of his anticipated expenses.

It is unclear where they lived between their arrival and the building of their home, but it is probable that they stayed with his sister Nancy McKinney, who owned land adjoining his first parcel purchased.

It also is probable that he built their home on the 80 acre plot first purchased. He subsequently sold one of the first tracts which he purchased from the land office (120 acres) to his sister Peggy Kelsey and in 1859 he purchased from her a tract of 160 acres near his home.

As the Civil War engulfed AR, James L. volunteered and was made a Sergeant in a cavalry troop led by Captain Parker. The troop was a part of Turner's Cavalry, Confederate States of America.

Few records have survived in the National Archives which would indicate how involved this unit was in the fighting.

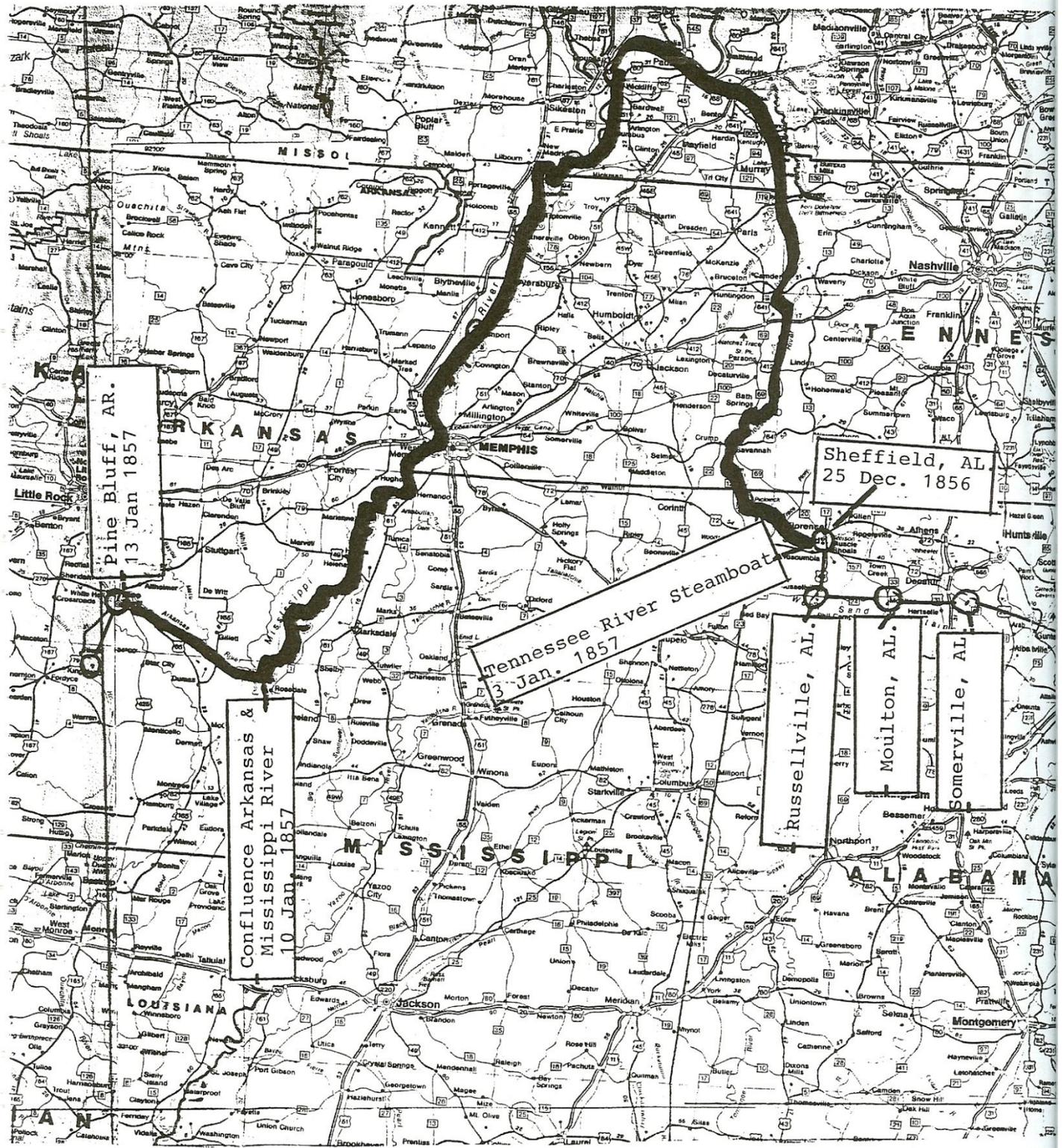
He made a number of entries, in the leather bound note book used for his trip to AR, which relate to his war service. Among them is a roster of the men in his troop which shows their names, age, height, hair color, eye color, residence, and occupation. He listed himself as 5'11" tall, age 47, (therefore this was recorded in late

December 1863 or early 1864) auburn hair, grey eyes, a resident of AR, and a farmer. Other notes show lists of men and their military assignments for various dates.

The story of his capture was told to Walter Brewster by his grandmother (my great aunt "Mollie"). She was 11 years old at the time of his capture and remembered it vividly. My grandfather, Joseph, was 9 years old at the time.

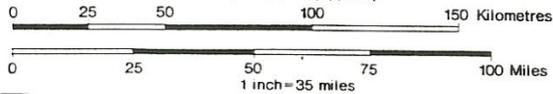
On 6 Apr 1864, James Lawrence was at home on leave.

Route of James L. Ferguson  
South Carolina to Arkansas  
 1856-57



Scale 1: 2 200 000 (Approx.)

1 cm = 22 km (Approx.)





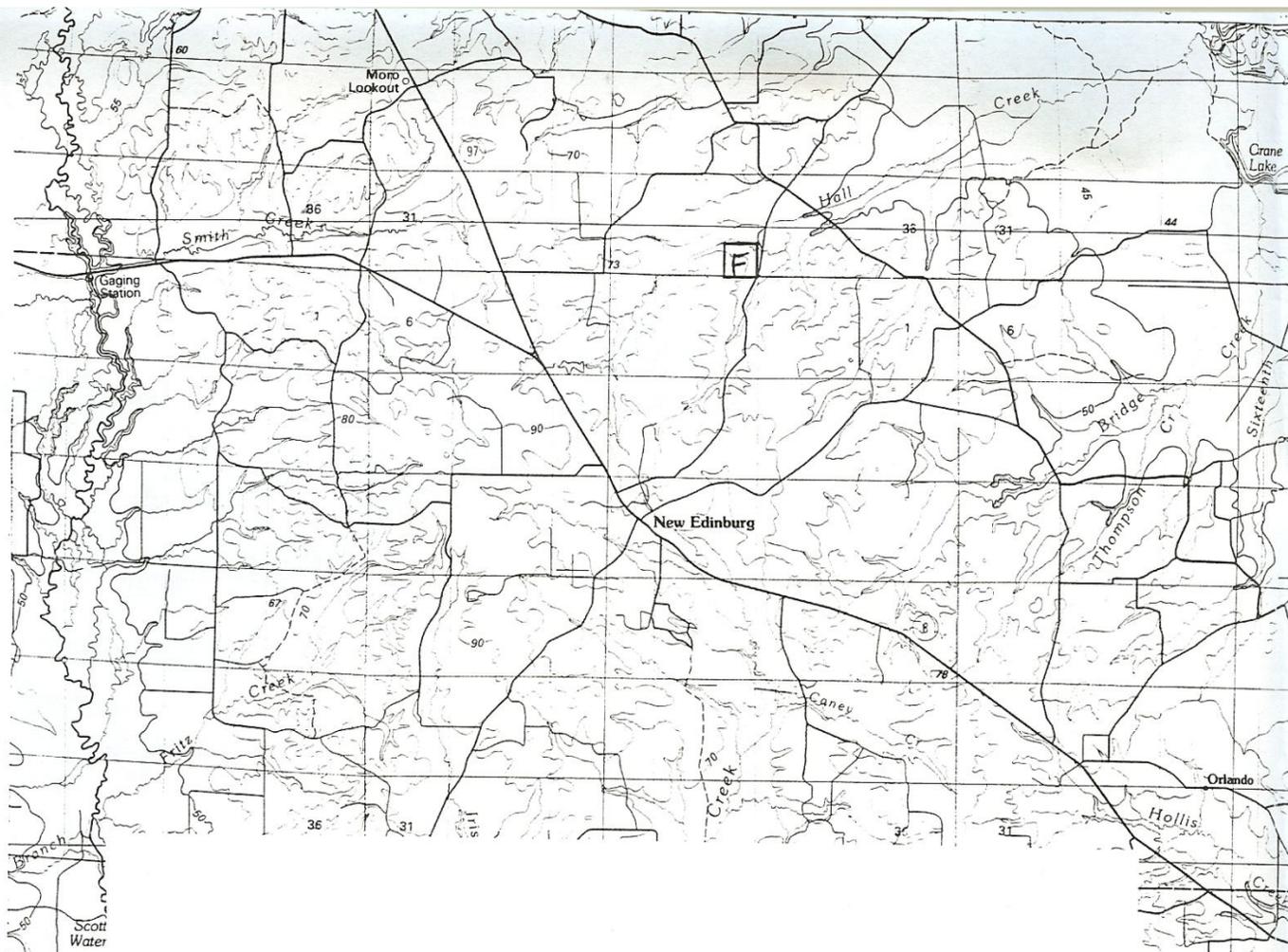
44 Days or  $8\frac{1}{2}$  miles/day average  
 from Chestertville to Sheffield

Approximately 375 miles  
 point to point

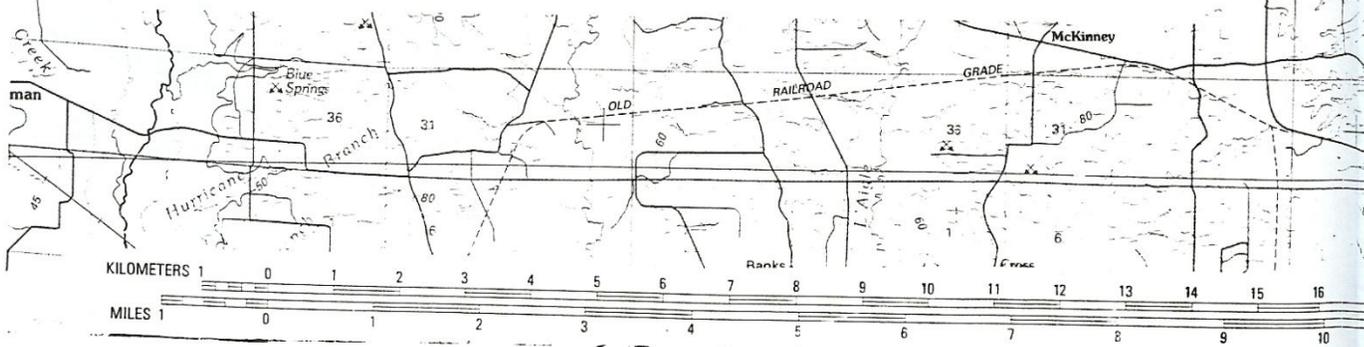


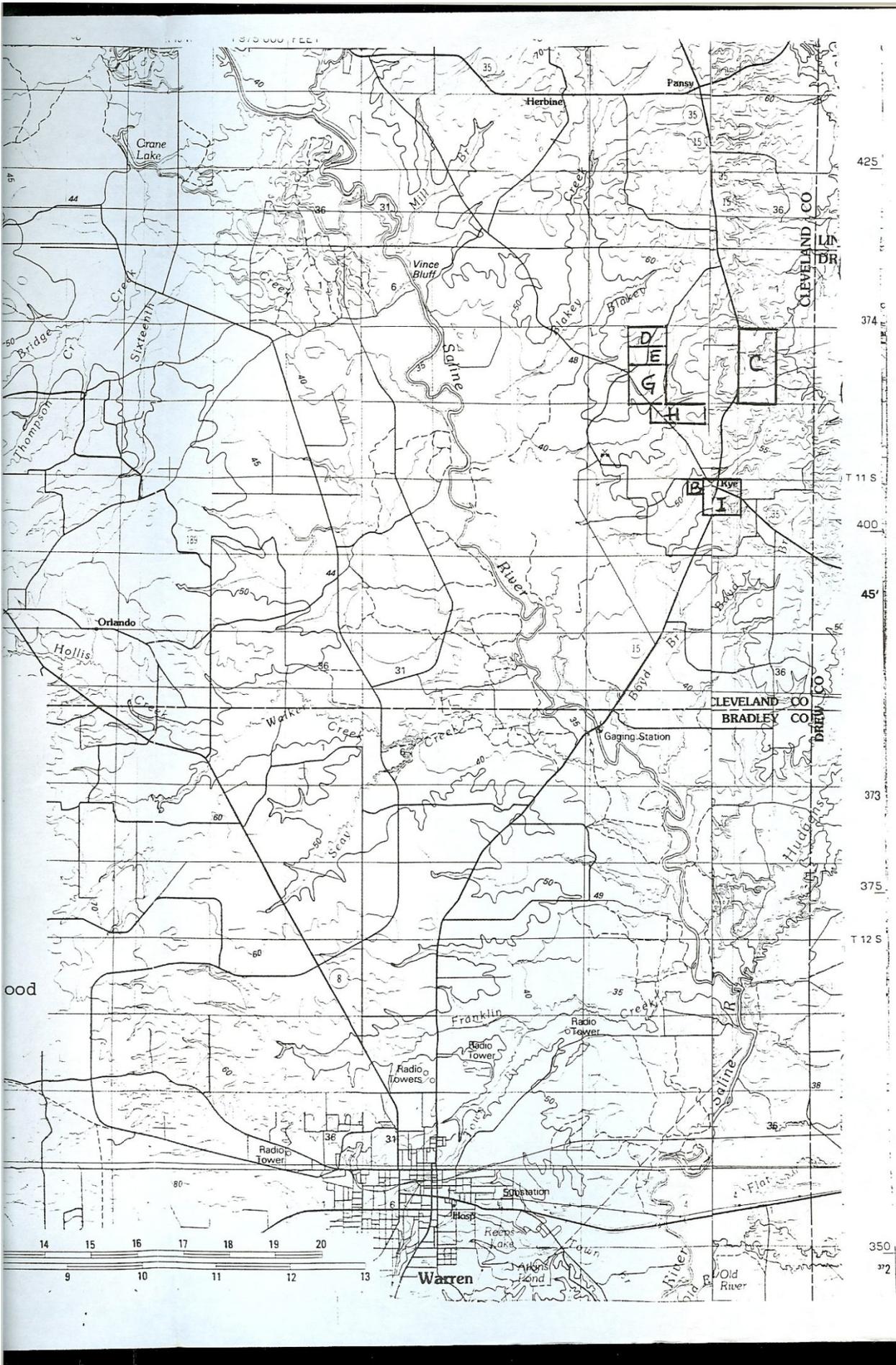
Claire Delane Schuh  
daughter of  
Lynda Faye Ferguson Schuh  
standing at the grave  
of James L. Ferguson  
5 June 1989  
Claire is his g-g-g-grand-  
daughter





- G & H - Properties of - James L. Ferguson at the time of his death on 10 Dec. 1864
- E - Properties of - Joannah Ferguson
- B, C, D, I - Properties of - Margaret Kelsey at the time of her death - 29 July 1867
- F - Properties of - Dorcus Ophelia Gallion Ferguson, wife of Joseph E. Ferguson. Boyhood home of Fay I. Ferguson





One morning he told his wife, Polly Ann, that he was going out to inspect the farm. Since it was known that the Union Army was sending out raiding parties in the county, he told her that if any soldiers came near, she was to go out on the back porch and fire her pistol. If he heard such a signal he would keep going and rejoin his unit. Unfortunately, some soldiers did ride up, and when Polly Ann heard them, she went out to fire her pistol. As luck would have it, the gun misfired. At this point, a Negro slave, who worked in the kitchen, went running to the fields to warn her master. The Yankees followed her and took James a prisoner of war.

He was taken first to Pine Bluff and subsequently to Rock Island, IL Prison on 6 Jul 1864. He died there of "consumption" on 10 Dec 1864, without having had any communication with his family.

My aunt Ophie Ferguson Church related that Joseph E. Ferguson, her father, (my grandfather) told her that Polly Ann nearly had a mental breakdown after his capture and never knew where he had been taken or what had happened to him. He also told her that the Yankees had destroyed a lot of their personal property.

On 5 Jun 1989, my daughter, Lynda Faye Ferguson Schuh, visited the Rock Island Cemetery and took pictures of the marker on James Lawrence's grave. I feel certain that she is the first of his descendants to view his grave.

On 20 Oct 1866, Polly Ann Ferguson became a charter member of Enon Baptist church at Rye, AR. The only other mention of her in the church minutes notes that she contributed \$5.00 to the missionary fund on 17 Oct 1867. We will inspect these minutes again in other chapters as they relate to her son Joseph and daughter, Emily J.

### THE "DEAR SISTER" LETTER

The following is a transcription and description by Walter Brewster, of a letter written in August 1881, by Mary Ann (Edwards) Ferguson, widow of James Lawrence Ferguson, to one of her sisters who lived in Chester Co., SC, the native home of James Lawrence and Mary Ann Ferguson.

The letter gives us a picture of our great-grandmother that we could have in no other way, and adds a special dimension to the life of this remarkable lady.

For the education available to youngsters in the highlands of Carolina during her childhood, Mary Ann writes remarkably well. However, she must not have had patience with punctuation marks. I have changed none of her grammar, nor manner of expression, but have inserted periods, commas, and letters (in parentheses) where it seemed appropriate to make for easier reading. I hope you will enjoy this expression of love, and pride in family, as much as I. I'm sure you will sense the great loneliness she felt-so far from her siblings who had shared the days of their youth with each other.

At the end of the transcription, I have attempted to footnote all persons and events she mentions.

Arks., Dorsey County,<sup>1</sup> August 10th, 18(8)1<sup>2</sup>

Dear sister,<sup>3</sup> After laying my pen aside for some time,<sup>3</sup> I thought I would write to you and Mag<sup>4</sup> once more. I have not felt composed enough since the death of my beloved sisters<sup>5</sup> to write. While I write the tears are streaming from my eyes. Just two more and you are all gone and (I) know I never shall see any of you in the flesh any more. But, I try to live that we may all meet at the throne of God. I live quiet (quite) lonely. Ida<sup>6</sup> is married. She just lives one mile from me. She married a cousin of Torn Straits. His name is McIlhaney.<sup>7</sup> He is all the child,<sup>8</sup> (as) he has neither brother nor sister. They are well-fixed for housekeeping. We buried old Aunt Joanah last Friday was a week ago.<sup>9</sup> She died at Garvin Brewster's (where) she had gone to stay with Mary<sup>10</sup> while Garvin went to visit his sister at Dardanelle.<sup>11</sup> Joanah only lived sixteen hours after she was taken. She died with congestion of the stomach. Tell me how Martha's<sup>13</sup> children are getting along. I would

give anything in the world that I had to see all of my sister(s) children all the half ones too.<sup>14</sup> Wm. appeared not to take it well because I asked so many questions.<sup>15</sup> That is all the way I can find out anything. Aunt Aggy McCammon and Jane, her youngest daughter, are both dead.<sup>16</sup> They both died the same day(?) and the same hour. If old Aunt Jane Thomas<sup>17</sup> is living, give her my love and tell her I often think of her. Well, we are making nothing here this year. It has been so dry. I have rec'd your letter. I will answer it now. I had started one and wrote down to where you see the marks and thought I would let it stay and let you see that we were in the same notion about the same time.<sup>18</sup> I was extremely glad to get a letter from any of you. I said in that piece I started that I never expected to (see) any of you any more in the flesh, but since I got your letter I have some faint hope that maybe you will come. We don't know what God in his providence has laid out for us. I can only say by my pen - do come. There are thousands on top of thousands of broad acres here (that) you can get for settling on it. Sell everything you have, (keeping) only your wearing clothes and your bed cloth(e)s. Get two large trunks and pack them in them and take the cars<sup>19</sup> and come and (I) will help you all I can. You can do much better here. We have, and made eight crops, but that don't matter. There is plenty here, (and) you can get anything in the world you want here. They are building Railroads all through this country. I am sorry you have to rent. I wish I could see the old step-marma and Lucius and Lou.<sup>20</sup> Tell Lou if she was here she would soon marry if she wished. There is no girls here. Old Aunt Mary McCammon<sup>21</sup> is in bad health. I have never seen her but once since I have been in the state. She lives at Malvern, Hot Springs County. Is there any person going to see Magie Hyatt?<sup>22</sup> I will tell you about my children and grandchildren as you requestd. Emily has had four boys - she called the first one Charlie - he is dead. She has three living ones. She calls the oldest that is living, Billie Hardee, and the next one, Joseph E. Johnston. She has not named the babe, (but) I reckon it will be for another general. It is Dan Harper that wanted them named that.<sup>23</sup> She did not care. She enjoys bad health. I told you Mary's children's names on the first page. Ida has none. She has not been married long enough, but there (are no) signs. I do not know anything about Josh Jackson.<sup>24</sup> Tell me who he married. Tell me when you write if it (is) old Martha Jane porter.<sup>25</sup> If so, all I know about them Ben Hyatt<sup>26</sup> told me that they were getting along very well. I lost sight of them. I think they live on the Arks. River, but I don't know. Joseph and Walter are still single.<sup>27</sup> Them and myself constitute my family. Come out and live with us next year. Mary Brewster and Garvin are going to move next year somewhere. He has a splendid place to sell or rent. I hope he will not go far. He wants to merchandize. He sold dry-goods two year, and he farmed last year and he don't like (it). He is going to change business I think. His oldest daughter is in Pine Bluff going to school.<sup>28</sup> I have not seen any of them in three weeks. I heard he was going to take her to go. His brother lives there.<sup>29</sup> Mary married better than any of the girls, as regards property. Garvin don't owe anything and has right smart of money. I want to know when John McFadden ( ?\_ son) married and how many children Cousin Bill Edwards has.<sup>31</sup> Is any of them married and who. All these things interest me. I like to know all about their folks. If you can't come this year mak(e) one more crop and just do like I tell you and I'll warrant you'll never regret it. I think if I were you, I would go and see John.<sup>32</sup> Does he ever go to see his Ma? Who is going to see bro. Wm's daughter Fannie and is the boys going to see anyone?<sup>33</sup> I said there was no girls out here. There (are) some mighty nice ones, but my boys don't look like they care to marry. I want you to tell me what (why?) Clemm(?)<sup>34</sup> left the old place for. Did they not agree? I wish I could come and see you all. The richest girls and women here dress in calic(o). they make it nice and they were sun down hats. The young ladies wear fancy hats, (and) they all wear pumps and striped stockings(?). Get your pictures and send them. Tell Henry to scratch his old pocket Book and rake and scrape enough of money and send on the children's anyhow.<sup>35</sup> I am getting old and if I don't soon get them I never shall. I will close - they are hurrying me, so give my love to all. Do excuse mistakes.

/s/ Mary A Ferguson

#### Footnotes to "Dear Sister" Letter

1) Dorsey County. This county was created on 17 April 1873, from portions Dallas, Bradley, Jefferson, and Lincoln Counties, and renamed Cleveland Co. in 1885.

- 2) Date letter was written. The part of the date we can read is 10 August 18\_1. She lists the children daughter Emily has had as Charlie, Joseph E. Johnston, Billie Hardee, and the baby not yet named. She and Daniel Boone Harper's son Daniel Govan was born 24 Mar 1881. Mary Ferguson Brewster's baby, Lawrence Jewell, was born 24 Apr 1881.
- 3) Dear Sister. Mary Ann tells "sister" to ". . . tell Henry to scratch his old pocket Book . . ." The only one of her sisters married to a man named Henry was the youngest, Margaret J. Edwards who married Henry B. Pardue.
- 4) Mag. This is usually a nickname for someone named Margaret. Since she is writing to the only sister with Margaret as part of her name, I assume that "Mag" must be her sister-in-law, Margaret McFadden Edwards, wife of Mary Ann's brother William Henry.
- 5) Death of her beloved sisters. Her sister, Martha Jane Edwards, who married Isaac McFadden Hyatt, died 10 Mar 1881, at her home in Lancaster Co., SC. Eliz. Clementine Edwards, who married John E. Foard, was still living in 1869 when their father requested letters of dismission for himself and family, ". . . viz, Louisa Edwards, O. C. Edwards, Clementine Ford, Lawson Ford, & Mary Jane Ford." Clementine was a widow, who must have lived with her father and step-mother. In her letter, Mary Ann asks why "Clem" left the old place which leads me to believe Clementine was alive in 1881. The other sister who had died must have been Nancy C., who married James A. Turner on 10 Nov 1847.
- 6) Ida Ferguson was born 1861 and died Oct 10 1896. She married John C. McIlhanney, born 16 May 1859 and died 18 Aug 1906. He was a cousin of Tom Strait, about whom I have no information.
- 7) John and Ida had 2 daughters, May McIlhanney and Nora C. - born 4 Mar 1888, died 8 Jan 1895.
- 8) "He is all the child . . ." Apparently she meant that he was an only child.
- 9) Aunt Joana. Fifth child, fifth daughter of John Ferguson, Lieut., and Eleanor (Johnston) Ferguson, was born 18 Jun 1807, Chester Co., SC., Christened Joana Walker Ferguson, she was a spinster. Joana was buried ". . . last Friday was a week ago . . .", which, according to my calculations would have been 29 Jul 1881.
- 10) Mary Ferguson and Garvin Brewster. Mary Arabella Josephine Ferguson, third child, third daughter of James Lawrence and Mary Ann (Edwards) Ferguson, was born 4 Jan 1853, in Chester Co., SC. On 25 Nov 1869, she married James Garvin Brewster in Drew County AR. He was the son of Thomas Brewster and Mary Roe Brewster, who emigrated to the United States from Worcestershire, England in 1838/9.
- 11.) Garvin's sister at Dardanelle, AR. This was Lucy Brewster, daughter of Thomas and Mary (Roe) Brewster, for 12 May 1831, at Lafermite, France. In his will, her father disinherited her ". . . shall pay my son Robert Thomas Brewster and my daughter Lucy Canterbury wife of or pretended wife of John P. Canterbury the sum of ten dollars each . . ."
- 12.) Mary's children. Alma, born 10 Feb 1873, died 28 Jun, 1914, married Dr. Charles Francis Thomas 25 Nov 1894; Delaware, born 11 Jun 1876, died 8 Dec 1897, married Dr. Hunt Blankenship 18 Dec 1895; Dr. Beaufort, born 16 Mar 1879 died 16 Dec 1946, married Irene Breedlove 26 Jun 1901; and Lawrence Jewell, born 24 Apr 1881, died 24 Jan 1968 (bachelor).
- 13.) Martha. Martha Jane Edwards, fifth child, fourth daughter of John Joseph and Margaret (McCammon) Edwards, born 5 Apr 1835, died 10 Mar 1881, married Isaac McFadden Hyatt, son of David Hyatt and Julia (McFadden) Hyatt. Their children were Julia (Hyatt) Turner, Margaret (Hyatt) Killian, Henry Hyatt, Ed Hyatt, Ina (Hyatt) Ford, Marmaduke Hyatt, and Amaryllis Hyatt.

14.) The half ones. Mary Ann's mother, Margaret (McCammon) Edwards died 26 Jul 1839, and John Joseph Edwards, about 1842 married Delilah Pardue. Their children were: Olivia Carolina, born 1843, died 31 May 1891, married John C. Pittman; John Joseph, Jr., born 8 Janu 1846, died ?, married Margaret Gettys; Louisiana Edwards, who married N. P. Johnson after 1865; Marmaduke, born 1848, died 1924 in AR, married Fannie Reid.

15.) William. William Henry Edwards (Captain Edwards), only son of John Joseph and Margaret (McCammon) Edwards, born 30 Jan 1833, died Chester, SC 8 Aug 1920, married Margaret McFadden 28 Oct 1856.

16.) Aunt Aggy McCammon and Jane, her youngest daughter. I am not able to identify them. One would suppose that Aggy was the wife/widow of a brother of Margaret (McCammon) Edwards. I have been able to find nothing to identify Margaret's family. My grandmother told me, and Capt. Wm. wrote that Capt. William McCammon was the father of Margaret. (see footnote #21)

17.) Aunt Jane Thomas. I have no idea who she might have been. (see footnote #21)

18.) Now, I don't know why I numbered this item. Footnote happy, I guess!

19.) The cars. Passenger cars on the train.

20.) Old step-marma, Lucius, and Lou. Old stepmamma was Delilah Pardue, second wife of John Joseph Edwards. I do not have her date of birth, but it is my opinion that she was much younger than J. J. They married ca. 1842, and I estimate that she was born 1822/25; which would make her about the same age as Mary Ann Ferguson. Lou (Louisanna) see footnote 14. Lucius Gaston Edwards was the youngest child, third son, of John Joseph and Delilah. He was born in 1861, died 1929, married ca. 1887, Sarah Janie Campbell, daughter of William Jasper and Sarah Luticia (Hindmand) Campbell. Their children were: Joseph Ernest, born 12 Jun 1888, died 30 Nov 1946; David Hinton, born 19 Apr 1890, died 22 Jan 1966, married Pearl Eliz. Baker 13 Feb 1923; William Jasper, born 11 May 1892, died 21 Dec 1929, married Effie Collins 7 Jun 1914; Rosa Mae, born 30 Aug 1894, died Nov 1978, married Samuel Hogle Gordan 27 Jul 1927; Ora Estelle, born 20 Dec 1896, married 1) William Cox Franklin, and 2) Hugh Hicklin; Fannie Lucille, born 5 May 1898, married Frazier Collins 31 Oct 1917; Sarah Delilah, born 28 Mar 1901, married Joseph Eugene Gordon 25 Nov 1923; Lucius Gaston, Jr., born 8 Apr 1903, died 21 May 1967, married Hattie Eliz. Young 31 Mar 1934; Mary Viola, born 20 May 1905, married Isaac Neville Killian; Millie Juanita, born 24 May 1907, married George Cecil Estes 13 Nov 1827; Virginia Louise, born 20 Oct 1910, died 9 Dec 1912; Janie Elizabeth, born 31 Oct 1913, married Carl Everett Belk 16 Feb 1935; Helen Ruth, born 20 Nov 1915, married Joseph B. Jordan 13 Feb 1935; and Eugene Gordan, born 30 Nov 1919, married Gladys M. Joyner 31 Dec 1950. (Info re L. G. E. family furnished me by Mrs. R. C. Thomas, Edgemoor, SC, and taken from Lucius G. Edwards family Bible and SC birth certificates-WWB)

21.) Old Aunt Mary McCammon. Martha Stevens Pearson, daughter of Bob Stevens, and gg-granddaughter of Capt. Wm. Henry Edwards, sent me a copy of the will of a JOHN McCAMMON, signed 3 May 1801, and probated 6 Nov 1801, recorded in Book "B", p. 225, Apt. #42, Pkg. #670, Chester Co., SC. Mentioned in this will is wife ELIZABETH; sons, WILLIAM, JOHN, DANIEL, and JAMES, and daughters, MARY, CATHERINE, JANE, AND REBECCA. John's signature was witnessed by SHADRACH LEE and AGNESS MORTONE. It is possible that son WILLIAM is our Capt. Wm McCammon, father of Margaret, and that daughter MARY is old Aunt Mary McCammon who lived, in 1881, in Malvern, AR. AGGY apparently is slang for Agnes - did Agnes Mortone marry one of John's other sons and become Aunt Aggy McCammon with daughter Jane? If some of you have more re these people, I surely would appreciate knowing. Another possibility for Aunt Jane Thomas lies in this will - daughter JANE could have married a THOMAS and become Old Aunt Jane Thomas. Pure speculation!

22.) Magie Hyatt. I don't identify her.

23.) Emily. Margaret Elizabeth Emily Jane (called Grandma Jane by her descendants) was the oldest child of James Lawrence and Mary Ann (Edwards) Ferguson, born 1848, Chester Co., died 1897, Cleveland Co., AR, married Daniel Boone Harper, son of Robert T. Harper and Eliza Sharp, ca. 1860. Their children were: Charlie; William Hardee, born 1875, died 1942 (bachelor); Joseph E. Johnston (died young); Daniel Govan, born 24 Mar 1881, died 3 Aug 1917, married Irene Elizabeth Vinson 22 Jun 1902; Trophy Elizabeth, born May 1888, died 28 Nov 1922, married Idas Vinson; and James Plunkett, born 19 Aug 1891, died 12 Apr 1963, married Margaret Maddox 21 Oct 1913, the parents of Emily Joyce (Harper) Jordan.

24.) Josh Jackson. Cannot identify

25.) Martha Jane Porter. Cannot identify

26.) Ben Hyatt. Son of Elijah Hyatt and his second wife, Hannah (Culp) Hyatt. Ben's sister Nancy, b. 30 May 1908, married Mary Ann's uncle, Marmaduke Edwards (the son to whom Olive (Exum) Edwards left her estate). Nancy's second husband was Wm. Milton Walker, son of Wm. Walker and his wife, Sarah Edwards, who was a daughter of Joseph Edwards, Jr. Joseph Edwards, Jr., was an uncle of John Joseph Edwards, Mary Ann's father. When Wm. Milton Walker died, Nancy (Hyatt) (Edwards) (Walker) married Jonathan Ferguson, Mary Ann (Edwards) Ferguson's brother-in-law, who was the widower of Ben Hyatt's sister, Sarah Hyatt Ferguson. Mary Ann (Edwards) Ferguson's aunt, Elizabeth Edwards (daughter of John and Olive [Exum] Edwards) Abraham Ferguson (first cousin once removed to Mary Ann's husband, James Lawrence Ferguson). Ben Hyatt's sisters Margaret Juliana Hyatt, and Sophronia Hyatt each married sons of Abraham and Elizabeth (Edwards) Ferguson. Ben (Benjamin C.) married Agnes Lovenia Fee on 25 May 1837. They migrated to Monticello, Drew Co., AR, and lived next the James Lawrence Fergusons. The Hyatts lost three sons, and had one wounded, and captured, during the Civil War.

27.) Joseph and Walter. Joseph Edwards Ferguson, fourth child, first son of James L. and Mary Ann Ferguson, was born, 27 Nov 1855, died 29 Jun 1937, at Little Rock, AR, married Dorcas O. Gallion 18 Sep 1895; and Walter Francis Ferguson, fifth child, second son of James L. and Mary Ann, was born 8 Jun 1859, died late 1920's(?), married Hattie Yates ca. 1907/08.

28.) Garvin's oldest daughter. Alma Brewster, who apparently was taken to Pine Bluff, the nearest city, to stay with her uncle Alphonse Brewster, and his wife Alabama (Aunt Bam) (Harper) Brewster. Aunt Bam was a sister to Dan Harper who married Emily Ferguson.

29.) See 28.

30.) Aunt Sallie Culp and Emily. I suspect she refers to Sarah Jordan who married John Culp 17 Mar 1803. He died 22 Jul 1854, and Sarah (Jordan) Culp died 20 Oct 1875. It appears they had a daughter, Emily, who died 13 Oct 1898.

31) Cousin Bill Edwards. She must be referring to William LeRoy Edwards, second son of Marmaduke and Nancy (Hyatt) Edwards, born 1 Mar 1831, Chester Co., SC, died 20 Mar 1895, Lancaster Co., SC, married Jane Elizabeth Clifton.

32.) John. Cannot identify.

33.) Fannie. Frances Clementine Edwards, daughter of Capt. Wm. Henry and Margaret (McFadden) Edwards, born 1 Oct 1861, died 19 Aug 1940, married Marmaduke E. Jordan 10 Nov 1909.

34.) Clem. See foot note #5.

35.) Henry. See footnote #3.

Polly Ann (Mary Ann Edwards) Ferguson died in August 1893. All of her children had married except Joseph, who remained at home until after her death. She died on the same farm James Lawrence had purchased in 1857 from the government land office.

No will or probate for either James L. or Polly Ann can be found. However, when James L.'s property was disposed of after the death of Polly Ann, the only surviving son of his first marriage, John Gaston, was included in the distribution.

Of course we can only speculate on whether or not the move to AR was financially rewarding for James L. Here however are a few facts that make it appear to have been positive.

Sale of SC farm (82 acres)	\$987.
His share of his fathers estate approx.	<u>427.</u>
Total income -----	\$1414.
trip to AR	\$ 340.
cost of house built	745.
land purchased from Lane office	110.
land purchased from Kelsey	<u>260.</u>
Total expense -----	\$1455.

In addition on the plus side he had sold some land acquired from the Land Office to Kelsey for which no deed was found. In any event, he had converted 82 acres into 240 acres and had no apparent debt.

In the following paragraphs I will relate some of the facts known about the brothers and sisters of James Lawrence.

Jonathon was born 27 Oct 1809 and married Sarah Hyatt 4 Aug 1831.

Jonathon and his wife were given letters of dismissal from Hopewell Baptist Church in SC on 25 Oct 1844. However, he did not leave until sometime between February 1845, when his eighth child was born in Chester Co., SC, and April 1847, when his ninth child was born in Drew Co., AR.

Jonathon was the first of John, "Lieut.", children to go to AR. Eventually, all his siblings would join him there. His home in Drew Co. was east of Bradley Co., approximately 15 miles from where his siblings later settled.

Jonathon and his first wife, Sarah Hyatt, had 12 children. Sarah died in 1881, and December of 1883, at the age of 74, he married her sister, Nancy, who had previously been the wife of Marmaduke Edwards and Milton Walker.

Jonathon died in 1892 in Homer, LA, where it appears he had moved to be with his youngest son, Christopher.

Peggy (Margaret), the oldest child of John and Eleanor was born 30 May 1800. She married Thomas Kelsey on 27 Feb 1823 and had two daughters, Elizabeth C., born 11 Jul 1824 and Eleanor Jane, born 24 Jan 1826.

Thomas Kelsey died 13 Nov 1828 and daughter Elizabeth died 6 days later on 19 Nov 1828. There was an influenza epidemic that year which is the probable cause of death. Additionally, Eleanor, who was not yet 3

years old at that time, could not read nor write and was later declared "incompetent". Her problem may very well have been caused by high fever from the flu. After her husband's death, Peggy lived with her parents. She never remarried.

On 5 Nov 1854, Peggy purchased the SC farm of James L. Ferguson. It is speculated that James L. moved into his father's home and Peggy moved to James L.'s prior place.

It is speculated that she moved to AR in the party of James L. since she was a widow with an incompetent child and had a spinster sister, Joannah, living with her, it would have been difficult for them to make such a trip alone.

In any event, she purchased 320 acres of land in AR from Alex McKinney on 16 Jul 1857 for \$1000. This, of course, being shortly after James L. arrived also.

Peggy must have been a good manager. She was involved in a number of land transactions, and at her death, she owned 605 1/2 acres of land. It can be estimated that her holdings were valued at about \$7000.

It appears that there was a special bond between her and James L. based on the various land transactions between them and the fact that she lived her last days with his widow.

Sister Joannah never married and she lived with Peggy in AR until a year prior to Peggy's death on 29 Jul 1867, when they moved in with James L.'s widow, Polly Ann. After Peggy's death, Joannah and Eleanor Kelsey remained with Polly Ann. Peggy's will left most of her estate to Joannah with the stipulation that she care for Eleanor.

Patsy (Martha) was born 25 Jan 1803 and married Joel Ashcraft 25 Dec 1817. Joel died in 1856. About 1866, Patsy moved to AR to live near her children. Her son, William L. Ashcraft had moved to AR in 1853. She died prior to 1870, but the exact date is not known. She is shown on the 1870 census as being blind.

Jane was born 3 Apr 1805 and married Nasa (Ignatius) Riggins 17 Sep 1837, at age 32. Nasa was 9 years younger than she, and I believe had been previously married. It appears that they did not produce any children. They are on the 1860 census in Jefferson Co., AR (now the NE corner of Cleveland Co.) On the 1880 census of Dorsey Co. (now Cleveland Co.) Jane is shown with a boarder living with her, so apparently Nasa died between 1870 and 1880. A review of the cemetery records in the area does not show a burial location for them.

Nancy Hill was born 6 Jul 1812. She married Alex (Alexander) McKinney 9 Dec 1834, and died 9 Aug 1881 in AR. They had moved to AR about 1848. They had 8 children.

Why all of John's children moved to AR is unknown, but it is a fact that between 1783 and 1865, 9 out of every 20 persons in SC moved west. Perhaps the land in SC was "worn out" since it had been in cultivation for at least 80 years, and in those days they did not understand how to cope with erosion and the depletion of nutrients from the soil.