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Dockins Family

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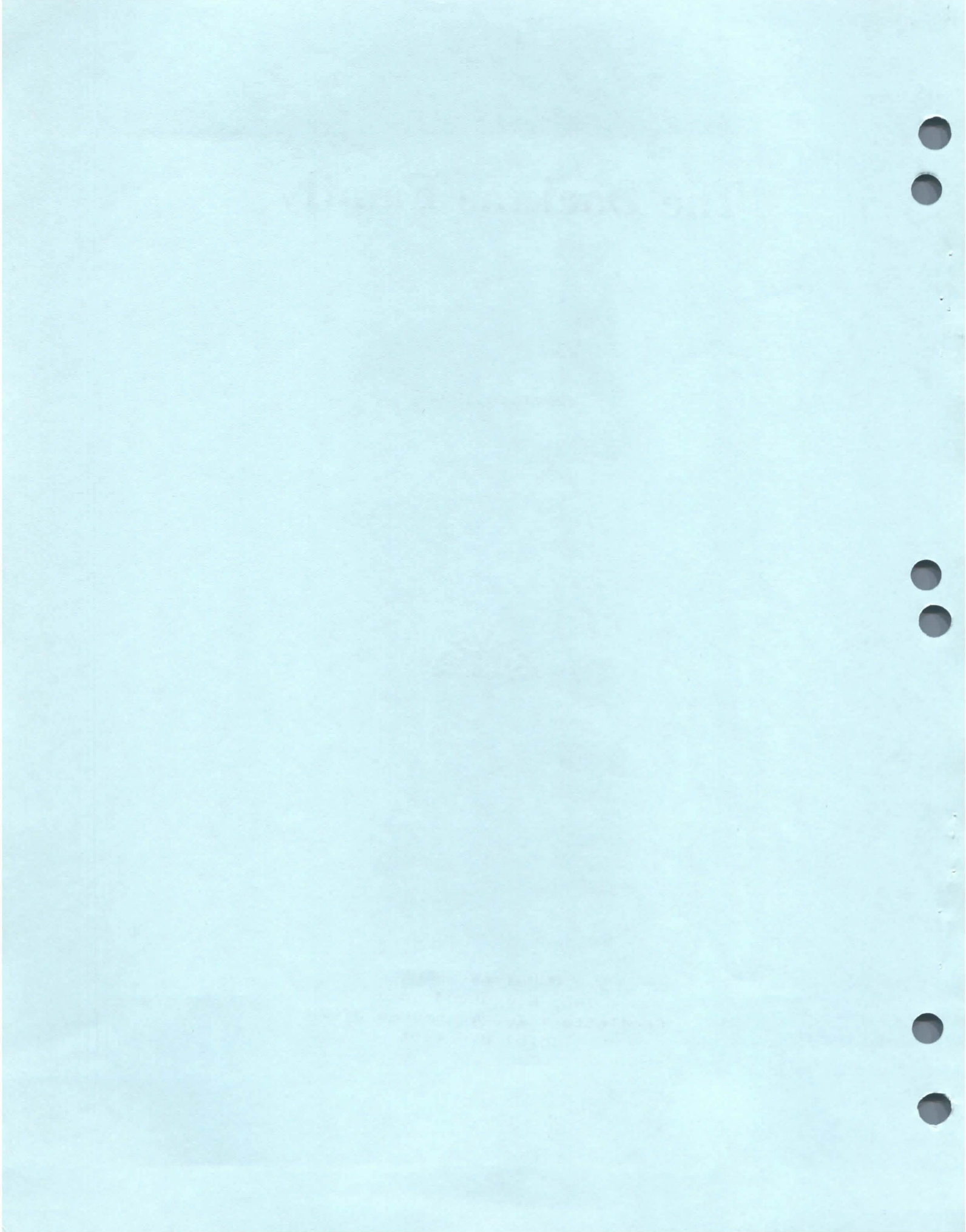
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The Dockins Family

(Revised 1992)



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D O C K I N S

By BOBBY ANDERSON

The first Dockins family to come to western Kentucky from Tennessee was the Allen H. Dockins family, which settled in Butler County in late 1849 or early 1850.

Allen, whose full name was Allen Hardin Dockins, settled in the Forgytown area of the county, with his wife, small child, mother and brother, Parkes G. Dockins. Parkes Dockins was later to be an influential member of the community in Muhlenberg County.

First found in the Kentucky census of Butler County, Allen Dockins' arrival in the county is pinpointed by fact that his first son, Robert, was born in Tennessee in 1849, and the family was censused in Kentucky in the middle portion of 1850.

From Allen Hardin Dockins comes all of the Dockins families of Butler and Logan Counties, and from Parkes G. Dockins, all of the Dockinses of Muhlenberg County can find their roots.

IN TENNESSEE

Family tradition from the Dockins family of Muhlenberg County is that three brothers from Tennessee migrated to Kentucky. Facts have not borne out this tradition, nor have they disputed it. Here is what has been found of the Dockinses in Tennessee prior their coming to Kentucky.

In the 1820 Tennessee census, there were two Dockins families in Wilson County, Tenn. The name of the first, William, was spelled "Docking", while the second, Obey, was spelled "Dockings". In later census records, the "g" had been dropped, but often an "e" was substituted for the "i" in the name.

Though William was known to have migrated to west Tennessee before 1830, it is believed that he may be the forefather of the Dockinses of Kentucky today, simply because of name similarities. Likewise, with Allen Dockins, found in the 1830 census. None this can be explained, as to why the later known ancestors of the Dockins families researched here, were back in Wilson County in later years, and can be tied to the Dockinses of Kentucky. Yet, it will be touched on later.

In 1830, there were four Dockins families in the state of Tennessee. None were left in Wilson County, three were found in Madison County (Jackson) and one in Dyer (Dyersburg). They were:

- William, age about 50, with a wife near the same age, plus a small son and four daughters. He was in Madison County.

- Also in Madison, another William, age about 60, with a wife near the same age, one son and four daughters. Were it not for the difference in the daughters' ages, one would believe this William may have been censused twice, and that may still be the case.

- Ruben Dockins lived also in Madison County. We have learned from Wilson County marriage records that Ruben married Rhoda Hankins in Wilson County on March 11, 1821. It is believed she is of the same Hankins family which also later came to Logan and Muhlenberg counties. We also know that Ruben and Rhoda lived in Gibson County, Tenn. (Trenton) for a while, being censused there in 1850. Yet, they do not fit into the tree of the Dockinses which will be followed in this narrative.

• A fourth Dockins of that census will. He is Allen Dockins, who is possibly the father of Willie Dockins, ancestor of those who migrated to Kentucky. This is speculated only because of similarity of names, and will be touched on later. He lived in Dyer County in 1830.

In 1840, Dockins families were scattered from Campbell County in the eastern part of the state, to Dyer and Obion in the west. These included:

- +Travis in Obion County;
- +Allen in Madison (from Dyer);
- +Frances in Wilson (see later note);
- +John in Dyer;
- +Ruben in Campbell (from Madison);
- +William in Madison.

Then in 1850, when the Dockinses began a migration to Kentucky, only three families remained in Tennessee. John and Elizabeth Dockins were in Madison County, Ruben and Rhoda had returned to Gibson County. John T. and Nancy, though listed in Tennessee, did not note the county they lived in.

By this time, Allen Hardin Dockins, his wife, Sarah, their son, Robert, Allen's brother, Parkes and the Dockinses' mother, Frances (Fanny) had moved to Butler County, Ky. The Frances listed above in Wilson County was probably the same widowed Frances as the one which move to Butler County with her sons, as will also be explained later.

On March 4, 1821, Frances (Fanny) Goodall, daughter of Parks and Franky Goodall, married Willie Dockins in Wilson County, Tenn. Willie's parents have not been established, but tendency is to believe that his father may have been either Allen or William Dockins.

Only two children of Willie and Fanny Dockins have been ascertained, they being the aforementioned Allen Hardin and Parkes G. Dockins, both of whom will become targets of exploration in future paragraphs.

It is not known when Willie Dockins died, as no records were found. He was alive in 1826, when marriage record in Wilson County indicated he was a security on a marriage bond. By 1840, it is believed he was dead, as Frances was listed as head of household for her family in Wilson County. One can only speculate that Willie Dockins died sometime prior to 1840, and that Frances and her children returned to her native Wilson County to be near her family, perhaps brothers and sisters.

In 1826, Parks Goodall died. His will was probated in Wilson County, with Harden Goodall and John T. Goodall as executors and George Waters, William Jenkins and William Sweat at witnesses. Heirs named in the will were his wife, Franky, his children, Sally Telford, Harden Goodall, Parks Goodall, John T. Goodall, Fanny Dockins, William C. Goodall, Susannah Sweat and Charlotte Bell, plus a granddaughter, Polly Bell.

The Waters family and the Sweat family were often associated with the Dockins family and the Goodall family. A Sheila Waters apparently died in 1848, and both Fanny Dockins and Hardin Dockins, her son, perhaps were heirs. James S. Waters, executor of his estate, deeded 46 acres in Wilson County's 12th district to Fanny Dockins, and 100 acres to Hardin Dockins and others in January of 1848. Shortly after this, Frances (Fanny) sold 83 1/2 acres to Richard Johnson in the eighth district on Nov. 27, 1849. Hardin, then listed as being in Butler County, Ky., sold 50 acres

in the eighth district on Oct. 29, 1850 to William B. Sweat. The sale by Frances in 1849, paved the way for her move with her sons to Kentucky, and in 1850, Hardin apparently broke the remaining ties with his sale to Sweat.

Earlier land transactions in Wilson County showed that Allen Docking (Dockins) had sold a tract of land on Round Lick Creek to Robert Webb in 1814, and one to John Mitchell on the same creek in 1816, apparently setting in motion Allen's move to west Tennessee.

IN BUTLER COUNTY

As stated earlier, Dockins tradition reads that three brothers came to Kentucky from Tennessee. One supposedly settled near Auburn in Logan County, one in Todd County, and one in Muhlenberg. Research shows only that Allen Hardin Dockins moved his family to the Forgytown area of Butler County, and later, his brother, Parkes G. Dockins married in Muhlenberg County and moved there. Also, it will be shown that many of Allen Hardin Dockins' family, including Hardin, himself, lived in Logan County.

The 1850 census of Butler County, Ky. shows Allen H. Dockins, age 26 (born 1824?), his wife, Sarah, 27, and their Tennessee-born son, Robert, one, living in the Forgytown (Quality Valley) area of Butler County, perhaps near to the Logan County line. With them, were Allen Hardin Dockins' mother and brother. The mother, of course, Frances (Fanny) wife of Willie, and daughter of Parks Goodall of Wilson County, Tenn. The brother, Parkes G. Dockins, was 23 at the time, and unmarried. In 1856, he married Sarah Elizabeth Taggart in Muhlenberg County and his story will be followed later.

(Note: The maiden name of Allen Hardin Dockins' wife, Sarah, has not been found, nor has their marriage license, which presumably was obtained in Tennessee. It is believed she was of the Sweat family, because Allen H. Dockins and family were near to the Sweat family in Tennessee, and both in Butler and Logan counties in Kentucky. In some instances, members of the family were buried in the Sweat cemetery.)

By 1860 Allen Hardin Dockins had moved to nearby Logan County, but not far from his original settlement in Butler. He was censused in 1860 with the Sweat family at Rabbittville, a small community near the Logan-Butler line. He had acquired a substantial amount of money, was listed as a "stillier" (a maker of whisky), and now had four children in his household. It can be presumed here that both his wife and his mother were deceased in 1860, since neither of them were shown in that census, or any subsequent census. Sarah's death can be placed between 1858 and 1860, as their last child was born in 1858. Children in the home with Allen were Robert, now 12, Joseph, 8 (1852), Wiley, 6 (1854) and John, 2, (1858). All of these dates are borne out by cemetery records also, except for Joseph, who is listed on a tombstone, believed to be at his grave, as being born in 1856.

For some reason, the Dockins family did not appear in the 1870 censuses of either county, yet later records, both from censuses and from marriage licenses are available. The only explanation is that since they lived almost directly on the county line, they may have been skipped by enumerators from both counties.

One strange and unanswerable question arises from the 1880 census. Allen Hardin Dockins is found in the home of Joe D. Sweat

and his wife Susan, listing H. Dockins (Allen Hardin) as a father in law. No record shows Allen Hardin with a daughter, but it is possible the name was skipped over in the census record. Her age was listed as 24, indicating she was born about 1855-6.

In the meantime, other children were marrying and setting up families of their own.

Wiley A. Dockins was married to Rebecca Niell of the Quality area of Butler County on Nov. 2, 1873 in that county. Rebecca died in 1885 and is buried in Concord cemetery at Quality. In 1880, they were living in Logan County and had three children, Sarah L., 5, Elwood A., 3 and Fannie C., born in February, 1880. In 1900, apparently Wiley was remarried, since Lucy was listed as his wife, she being born in Indiana. Several children listed in the home in 1900 apparently were her's and were Wiley's stepchildren, since none fit the ages of Rebecca's children. Wiley's death, occurring after 1900, is not documented, but he is buried in Berea cemetery in Logan County. Rebecca and Wiley's daughter, Fannie, 20, was living with cousins, the Proctor family in Logan County in 1900.

Another son, John B., married Fannie (Margaret Frances?) Sweat in Butler County on Oct. 30, 1878 at Shiloh meeting house. In 1880, John B. and Fannie were living in the London district of Butler County, with their first-born, Clay, who was ten-months-old. In 1900, John B. and Mary Frances were in Logan County. Their children at that time included Clay, born 1879; Jessie, 1881; Ruth, 1883; Frank, 1886 and Geneva, 1890. There was another son, John Burton Dockins, Jr., born in 1902. Another son, Chester, (1888-1890) is buried in Sweat cemetery in Butler County. John B. Dockins Sr. (1858-1928) and Fannie (Margaret Frances) (1859-1951) are buried in Berea cemetery in Logan County.

Joseph Dockins, the second son of Allen Hardin, was born in 1852, and was at one time a grocer in the Rochester district of Butler County. No marriage record has been found, but he and his wife, Sarah, lived for a while in Butler County, then disappeared from census records. A Joseph Dockins is buried in Bucksville cemetery in Logan County, but it was not learned if this is the same Joseph Dockins. Many Dockins descendants still lived today in the Bucksville area which is near Chandlers Chapel.

The first son of Allen Hardin and Sarah Dockins, Robert, was not found in any public documents after he was listed as 12 years of age in the 1860 census.

The Maple Grove, Bucksville and Berea cemeteries have many Dockins graves, and today, there are Dockins descendants of Allen Hardin Dockins in Logan County -- far to numerous to mention here.

PARKES G. DOCKINS

It has never officially been stated, but it is possible that since he was named for his grandfather (Parks Goodall), Parkes Dockins' full name may have been Parkes Goodall Dockins.

He is the progenitor of all of the Dockinses in Muhlenberg, plus many of the DeCourseys and Dukeses in south Muhlenberg County.

The son of Willie and Frances (Fanny) Goodall Dockins, Parkes Dockins was born in Tennessee on April 2, 1827, died in Muhlenberg County on May 30, 1908 and is buried at Hazel Creek.

After coming to Butler County with his brother, Allen Hardin Dockins, and their mother in 1849-50, Parkes Dockins ventured into Muhlenberg County, and there, on June 15, 1856, married Sarah Elizabeth Taggart, the daughter pioneers James and Elizabeth Bell Taggart of near Belton, in Muhlenberg County.

Parkes and Elizabeth Dockins were the parents of seven children. They were;

- (1) Thomas Franklin, born 1858;
- (2) Eliza A, born 1859;
- (3) Mary F., born 1861;
- (4) James H., born 1863;
- (5) Jesse Sherman, born 1864;
- (6) Elvira A., born 1873, and;
- (7) John Henry, born 1875.

Parkes and Elizabeth lived for many years on Dockins farm, south of Beech Creek, and north of Rosewood, on the old Greenville to Russellville Road. It is believed this farm was a part of original James Taggart farm, where for many years the militia muster for that area was held. A picture of the old Taggart home appears in Rothert's "History of Muhlenberg County". The farm later was owned by John Henry Dockins, and currently Melvin Penrod and Lucian Grayson live on the old Dockins homestead.

Individually, here is a brief biography of the children of Parkes and Elizabeth Taggart Dockins.

THOMAS FRANKLIN DOCKINS

Thomas Franklin Dockins was the first child of Parkes and Elizabeth Taggart Dockins, and today, has the only descendant by the Dockins name still living in Muhlenberg County. George E. Dockins of near Greenville is his grandson.

Thomas was born in July, 1857 and on Sept. 17, 1877, married Lucinda Jane Poole, daughter of Henry and Mary Ann Landis Poole, who was born in September, 1861. Their children were William Pickney, Leo Franklin and Estelle (Estill).

William P. Dockins, born in October, 1878, married Georgia Jones in 1908. William died in 1968 and Georgia in 1964. They are buried in Woodlawn cemetery, south of Greenville.

Leo Franklin Dockins was born in August, 1883, and there is no record available of his marriage at this time.

Estelle Dockins was born in February of 1888 and married Florence Jernigan (1892) in 1921. Estelle died in 1962. He and Florence are buried at Woodlawn. Among their children is George E. Dockins, who lives on Highway 181, south of Greenville near the Greenville Country Club. George married Lois McCauley, daughter of William McCauley. They were the parents of four children: William T., who lives in Ohio, Jane (McPherson) who lives in Owensboro, George Ann, who died in 1940 at the age of three, and Karen, who is at home with her parents.

Of his father's name, George recently noted, "It was spelled like a girl's name, so he called himself 'Estill'".

ELIZA A. DOCKINS

Only a small amount of accurate information has been learned about Eliza Dockins. She was born circa 1859, and on Jan. 11, 1878, she married John P. DeCoursey (spelled Coursey) on the

marriage record. He was born circa 1857. There are two known children from this marriage, Samuel J. in 1879 and John P. Jr. in May of 1880. No other records have been found, nor does other members of the Dockins family contacted, know more about them.

MARY F. DOCKINS

Mary F. Dockins, the third child in the family, also married into the DeCoursey family. Mary was born in July of 1861, and at the age of 19 married Joseph M. DeCoursey (also Coursey on marriage record), on Dec. 30, 1880. He was born in November of 1860. Joseph died in 1940 and Mary in 1946. They are buried in the McPherson cemetery, near the entrance to Lake Malone State Park. There were at least two children of this marriage, William E., born in November, 1881 and Isaac Hershell, in December, 1898. Isaac Hershell died in 1967 and he and his wife, Vadie are buried in the same McPherson cemetery.

JAMES H. DOCKINS

James H. Dockins was born in Muhlenberg County in January, 1863 and on Dec. 23, 1896, he married Docia Ellen Bell, (2-1875). There were two known children of this marriage, Azro (1898) and Herman (1899). Herman married Bonnie Rhea Jackson n 1920. They have a daughter, Margie Evelyn, who relatives say married a Dukes and lives Owensboro. No other data on this family has been made available.

JESSE SHERMAN DOCKINS

Jesse Sherman Dockins was born Sept. 25, 1864, and died Oct. 13, 1958. He is buried at Hazel Creek. Sherman was never married.

ELVIRA A. DOCKINS

Elvira A. Dockins, named for a relative, Elvira Taggart Posey, perhaps, was born Feb. 17, 1871, and on Feb. 8, 1893, married James W. Dukes, believed to have been the son of James R. and Emeline Dukes, born Jan. 7, 1869. James lived to be over 90 years of age. He died July 25, 1960 and is buried at Woodlawn. Elvira died Aug. 21, 1936, and is also buried at Woodlawn. Their children include: (1) Leslie, born 1894 (2) Georgia, born 1896, married Sherman Bandy, who died in 1972. They, too, are buried at Woodlawn. (3) Lillie, born 1898, married Russell Royal. (4) Ferman, born 1901, married Gladys McCauley. Ferman died in 1958 and is buried at Woodlawn. (5) Arvil, born 1905, married Laura Bell Ford, died Dec. 20, 1972, and is buried at Woodlawn. (6) Elmer, who married a Ford also, and operated a small coal mine in Muhlenberg County for many years. (7) Dovie, who married Eddie Jenkins.

JOHN HENRY DOCKINS

The youngest child of Parkes and Elizabeth Dockins, John Henry Dockins, was born May 3, 1878 in Muhlenberg County. On Oct. 2, 1901, he married Louisa Francis Kelly, the daughter of John H. and Martha A. Kelly. She was born March 1, 1880 (or 1879).

John Henry and Louisa were the parents of four children. one,

Ammie, was born in 1911 and died the same year. Others were:

Howard, who married Effie Mae Yonts. Their had one daughter, Nancy Lou (Persinger).

Horace, who married Ruby Nell Dukes, daughter of George T. and Amy Strain Dukes on April 13, 1938. Their two sons are Waymon Earl and Raymond Darrell. Waymon has a son and a daughter, Raymond, three son and a daughter. Horace died April 1, 1976 and is buried in Parke Lawn cemetery in Evansville, Ind. Mrs. Dockins still resides in Evansville.

Carlean, who married W. Q. Tipton, son of Grover Tipton. They have one son, J. C. Tipton, and live near Beech Creek.

John Henry Dockins, a noted foxhunter and farmer in Muhlenberg County, died Nov. 5, 1956. He wife preceded him in death on Nov. 29, 1945. They, and their daughter, Ammie, are buried at Hazel Creek.

* * *

Other than public records, information on the Dockins family was obtained through the help of George E. Dockins and Carlean Tipton. Other information or corrections should be directed to the author, 7965 Ridgewood Road, Goodlettsville, Tenn. 37072. Phone 615-876-4404. Computer-generated copies of the Dockins genealogy may be obtained for \$4 postpaid.



RUINS OF THE "JIM TAGGART OLD PLACE"
Standing on the Russellville Road near Hazel Creek Church. Built about 1810, abandoned 1900. Many militia musters were held here

OTTO A. ROTHERT

