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The Gaston Family Lineage

(Revised 1991)

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G A S T O N

By BOBBY ANDERSON

Via legends, we can bring the Gaston family from Ireland to America. Through family history and vital statistics, we can bring the Gaston family from South Carolina to Todd, Logan, Muhlenberg and Butler Counties in Kentucky.

Papers of the late Lee Gaston show that a John Gaston was born about 1700 and was the first to come to America. He was born in Clough Water, Antrim, Ireland, and died in 1782. The Gastons, according to Lee Gaston, were of French Huguenot origin, who fled France. John Gaston (sometime the French spelled it Gascon) led the first flight out of France because of religious persecution, caused by the revocation of the Edict of Nantes, then a guarantee of freedom of religion. The Gastons first moved to Scotland, and then on to Ireland. Indications are the first Gaston came to American 1730-40, settling first in Pennsylvania and then to Chester County, South Carolina.

The first Gaston to come to these areas was also a John Gaston, descendant of the above John, who left South Carolina around 1824. He had purchased 30 acres of land in Todd County, on Spring Creek, just north of the Tennessee state line. (Possibly between Trenton and Guthrie?)

A son, William had been born in South Carolina, circa 1818, so must have been about six years old when his parents moved west. This William would become the progenitor of all other Gastons native to this area.

It was in 1825 that the Gastons moved to Butler county. John sold his Spring Creek property and moved to a farm in Butler, next to Jonathan and Elizabeth Gaston Ferguson. Vernon Gaston of LaJolla, Calif., in attempting to show kinship between John Gaston and Elizabeth Ferguson, wrote, "Elizabeth, I believe was probably the daughter of John Gaston (Chester County, S. C.). Her father was a son of "Justice" John Gaston. This John Gaston's will probated in 1808, leaves \$50 to his daughter, Elizabeth Ferguson. Shortly after this, Elizabeth and her husband, Jonathan Ferguson are believed to have moved to Butler County, along with Jonathan's father, Paul Ferguson.

(Note: Accepting this will probably give the Gaston's direct lineage of at least three successive generations of John Gastons, they being "Justice" John, his son, John, and the third John, who moved to Todd County, later removing to Butler County.

Incidentally, a historical marker in South Carolina has been erected to Justice John Gaston, which reads, "Two miles south, at Cedar Station, on the south side of Fishing Creek, was the home of John Gaston, Esq., Justice of the Peace under both the Royal and State governments. Though advanced in years, he was the leading spirit in arousing resistance to the British in this area. All nine of his sons fought for freedom; four died in service." The area is believed to be north of the state capitol at Columbia, On Catawba River at Fishing Creek. Justice John Gaston (1710-1782) married Esther Waugh (1715-1789). Their children included: Mary 1739, married James McCreary; Martha, 1741, married Joseph Gaston; William, born 1743, married (1)

Jennie and (2) Ann; John Jr., 1745, married Janet Knox, relative of James K. Polk in 1768; (children: William, married Sarah Weir; John married Margaret and William married Elizabeth Hamilton); James, born 1747, married Catherine Creighton; Robert, 1749, was killed in the battle with the British at Hanging Rock; Hugh, born 1751, married Martha McClure; Alexander, 1753, David, 1755 and Ebenezer, 1757, were all killed in the battle of Hanging Rock; Esther, married A. Walker, was born in 1760 and Joseph, 1763, married Jane Brown.

Lee Gaston located the grave of Justice John Gaston and his wife Esther (Vaugh), a marker having been erected by the Patriots of the American Revolution. Justice John's brother was important in the organization of the Presbyterian Church of his area, having written the Concordance which was adopted by the church. He died shortly after coming to America.

According to Lee Gaston's research, the Gaston family of France descended from a line of 14 French kings, and one married the "Good King David" of Scotland. American bloodlines extend to Presidents James A. Arthur and James K. Polk.

Records available do not favor us with the name of the wife of John, who came to Todd County. However, a Gaston descendant, John Sallee Barrow, believes her name to be Margaret. In 1825, the year the family moved to Butler County, a child, Jane was born. In 1835 or 1836, John died in Butler County. Jonathan Ferguson is recorded as beginning in those years to pay taxes on the Gaston farm "for the heirs of John Gaston, namely Martha, William and Jane", the latter then about 10 years old. Vernon Gaston believes the widow to be Martha (rather than Margaret), though he does not detail his reasons. He does, however, show that in 1839, a Jonathan P. Ferguson, the son of Jonathan Ferguson, married a Martha M. Gaston in Butler County. (Note: If this Jonathan P. Ferguson should have been Jonathan Paul, named both for this father and grandfather, and was called Paul because his father was still living, then he may be the same Paul Ferguson censused in 1850 next farm to Jonathan. If so, then his wife is named Catherine, and she would have been 44, setting her birth year at about 1806. Paul was born circa 1799, for he was 51 at the time. There was no Martha or Margaret Ferguson listed in 1850).

The Jonathan who married in 1839, was listed as 39 years old. Martha (or Margaret) if John's widow, would have been about 40.

One year after this, William Gaston also married. He was now 22. He married Elizabeth Jane Hamilton, daughter of Virginians moved to Butler County. William, a farmer and a blacksmith, took his bride to Logan County, where he purchased a farm and began to raise his family there.

* * *

WILLIAM M. GASTON

⁷³⁹³ William M. Gaston married Elizabeth Jane Hamilton, daughter of Benjamin and Lucretia Hamilton on Dec. 28, 1840 in Butler County. Elizabeth was born on May 3, 1818. ⁷³⁹⁴

Her parents were from Virginia. Benjamin had been born in August of 1772 and died June 29, 1829 in Butler County. He is buried in the Reed cemetery near Davis Crossroads. Lucretia (maiden name unknown) was born Aug. 13, 1775 in Virginia and died Sept. 13, 1863 in Butler County. She is also buried in Reed

cemetery.

There were nine known children in the Hamilton family, Charlotte S., Isaac D., James R., Elsapham, Jacob M., John A., Henry, Elizabeth Jane and William Van Darn.

William and Elizabeth were known to be the parents of at least 11 children, namely:

- 7395 (1) John Benjamin, born 1842 in Logan County.
- 7396 (2) William E., 1844.
- 7199 (3) Robert Baxter, 1846.
- 7397 (4) James Henry, 1848.
- 7398 (5) Amelia Georgia, 1850.
- 7476 (6) Margaret Lucretia, 1851.
- 7477 (7) Thomas Gooch, b. 1854, buried in Tennessee.
- 7478 (8) Charlotte Helen, born Aug. 14, 1855, died Aug. 13, 1865, buried in Logan County.
- 7479 (9) Jonathan Bailey, born 1857.
- 7480 (10) Cornelia Elizabeth, born April 10, 1860.
- 7481 (11) Mary Emma, born Feb. 10, 1863.

Of these, at least two sons will be followed closely in succeeding paragraphs, and other information will be shared as available on some of the other children.

In 1850, Jane K. Gaston was censused as living in the Lawrence McCown home in Butler County. On Oct. 5 of that year, she married Leander McCown, perhaps the son of Lawrence.

Meanwhile, William and his family were living in Logan County, but would eventually return to Butler County, perhaps just after 1860.

With Jane's marriage, and she now being of legal age, the Gastons agreed to sell the family farm and settle the estate of their father, John Gaston. Signing such papers were Martha M. Gaston Ferguson and Jonathan; William M. Gaston and Elizabeth Jane Hamilton Gaston; and Jane Gaston McCown and Leander McCown.

The 100 acre farm was purchased by Thomas Shelton Causey. He had earlier married Mary Ferguson, daughter of Jonathan and Elizabeth Gaston Ferguson. In 1850, he was 24, Mary 27, and they had children Jonathan, Jane and William.

Among the children of William and Elizabeth Gaston:

* John Benjamin Gaston married Ann Sopha Fuqua in Logan County and later moved to Butler County. His second marriage was to Celia Jane Westray (Wester) Reneer, widow of William Reneer.

* William E. Gaston married Alice F. (?) and moved to Green County, Missouri.

* James Henry Gaston married Mary Jane Hardy in Logan County, and also later moved to Butler and Muhlenberg Counties.

* Robert Baker Gaston married Susan Cornett and moved to Harrison, Ark.

* Amelia Georgia Gaston married Allen Woodville Gardner of Butler County.

* Margaret Lucretia Gaston married James Asa Harper in Butler County.

* Jonathan Bailey Gaston married Elizabeth Gardner in Butler County.

* Cornelia Elizabeth Gaston. born April 10, 1860, died Jan. 10, 1910. She was married to James Jenkins.

* Mary Emma Gaston married John Calvin Barrow in 1841 and died in childbirth in 1898.

* There is no further word or record on Thomas B. and Charlotte Helen Gaston.

Further paragraphs will deal with the lives of John Benjamin, James Henry, Amelia Georgia, Margaret Lucretia, Jonathan Bailey and Cornelia Elizabeth Gaston.

William M. Gaston, born March 23, 1818, was a farmer, blacksmith, merchant, Mason and Methodist minister. He died June 23, 1891. His wife, Elizabeth was born May 23, 1818 and died Aug. 14, 1894. They are buried in Mt. Zion cemetery in Butler County.

* * *

JOHN BENJAMIN GASTON

John Benjamin Gaston, first child of William and Elizabeth Gaston was born Feb. 26, 1842 in Logan County, Ky., but spent the most of his adult life in neighboring Butler County, in the area of Huntsville and Quality Valley. He had married Ann Sopha Fuqua in Logan county prior to moving to Butler County in about 1865. To John and Ann Sopha were born two children, Robert and Effie.

Robert was born circa 1869, and moved to Texas as a young man. Little else is known of his life.

His older sister, Effie J. Gaston was born Dec. 25, 1865. She married Presley C. Jenkins in Butler County. Presley was born March 15, 1861, son of Richmond V. and Belle Clark Jenkins, and the grandson of Joel Jenkins, Richmond being one of Joel's 24 children. Presley and Effie Jenkins are buried at Mt. Zion cemetery in Butler County. He died March 15, 1836 and she on Sept. 1, 1946 after living much of their lives in Butler County and at Beech Creek in Muhlenberg County. Their children include:

* Avery, who fathered many of the Jenkinses in the Huntsville area today. He married Attice Mae Jenkins, a distant cousin on March 2, 1902. She was the daughter of Andrew Jackson (Andy) and Victoria Akins Jenkins and a sister to Carrie (Mrs. Ervin Harper), Dixie (Mrs. Dave Hunt), Euva (Mrs. Charlie Baker), Biddie (Mrs. Tom Martin), Pernie (Mrs. Dan Hope) and Fred, who was killed in World War I. Avery and Attice had 12 children: Neval married Josie Smith; Carson died young; Thelma Effie married Lucian Rex McCoy; an infant unnamed; Henry Richmond who married Nettie Anderson; Marvin, husband of Stella Arnold; Hayden Andrew, who married Ava Abbott; Vera Fannie, married three time, Carl Grise, Raymond Miller and David Haley; Beulah Erma, who married J. V. Grise; Victor Howard, husband of Martine Wester; Virginia Lee, who married J. B. Givens; and Justice Vinson, who married Billie Mae Vaughn and still resides near Mt. Zion.

* Annie, who married Claude Harper, son of Dr. R. W. and Paulina Askew Harper.

* Annice who was never married, and died young.

* Lemuel, a longtime resident of Ebenezer, who married Alice Grayson, daughter of George and Hannah Grayson. Lem and Alice are buried at Ebenezer. Children are: Edwin (Dovie Dukes); Lloyd (Hazel Eaves); Wilma (Robert Badgett); Nelda (Henry Pechuex); Melba (Leon Newman); Ava Nell (Thomas Martin); Jean (Joe Newman) and Peggy (Dick Wise).

* Ellis, also a longtime resident of Ebenezer, who married Carrie Jenkins, a sister to Alice. They are buried at Ebenezer. Children include Vernon, who married Ruby Hardin; Edna Mae who married Richard McKinney; Claud Ellis, who married Twila Sammons.

* Inice, the wife of Milam Porter, and mother of such area residents as Herman Porter, Alma Blaine, Ernie Porter, the late

Hester Porter, the late Bewley Porter, Murzie Givens, Jewell Hunt, Ara Nell King, Augusta Hunt, Julie Jones and J. P. Porter.

* Robert, born March 15, 1899, died March 20, 1962 and is buried at Ebenezer. He first married Phebie Cartwright, who is buried at Mt. Zion. Their children are Lorene, who married Thomas Newman and Presley, who died young and is buried at Mt. Zion. Robert's second marriage was to Lavelle Fulcher, who he married in 1929. She still resides in Greenville. Children are: Exie Pearl, married Edwin Bandy; Ruby Lee, married David Ashby; Bobbie Dean who married Billy Anderson and Carl Lynda, who married Patty Graham.

* Another son, Warren died young.

Ann Sopha Fuqua Gaston died sometime around 1875. At the age of 33, John B. Gaston re-married. His new wife was the widowed Celia Jane Westray Reneer, 26. She was the daughter of Turner Westray (Wester), the widow of William Reneer and the mother of a small son, John Reneer. John later married Cora Bell Andrews, daughter of William Jasper Andrews.

John and Celia were married in Butler County on July 19, 1876 at the home of her father, Turner Westray. (Note to Wester descendants: The name is spelled variously Westray, Westrey, Westry and Wester in early records, but has evolved into the presently known name, Wester.) Her mother was Elizabeth Williams. Elizabeth and Turner were married in Logan County in 1844.

To John B. and Celia were born eight children:

(1) Alonzo, born Nov. 17, 1878, died Sept. 29, 1960. He married Bunnie Hunt (9-12-1889 to 3-29-1922) daughter of Butler County's Joseph Hunt. Among their children were Veachel, who married Gertie Carroll (parents of L. B. Gaston of Marion and Carol Ann (Mrs. Ray Jones) of Greenville, and who still live at Beechmont; Alvin, who married Florence Fulkerson and Melvin. Alonzo later married Rachel Hunt (1910-1966), daughter Wes and Annie Hunt. She was the mother of Lee Olen Gaston, a native of Belton, who died in Louisville Oct. 24, 1990. He was a furniture store owner. Alonzo and Bunnie are buried at Mt. Zion.

(2) Estill A., born in 1880, died in 1969. He married Ann Hunt (1885-1957), also the daughter of Joseph Hunt. Their children included Grace, who was the second wife of Penrod merchant Ebon Sumner; Lora, who married Gobel Gardner (parents of Warren Lee, never married and Nelda DeRoy); Beulah, wife of Leo Wood and Oreatha, who married Roy Barnes.

(3) Martin Luther, born May 14, 1877, died in January of 1972. He went to Indiana as a young man, working for the railroad there for many years. He married Amelia Whiting in Indiana and became the father of nine children, Ruth, who married Edmond Daubenbeck, Maurice, Mendell, Dale, Wilma, who married Theo Wellock, Nina, who married Otto Wellock, Robert, William E. and Doris, who married William Horning.

(4) French (9-13-1894 to 10-30-1981), married Nancy Blaine (7-18-1896 to 7-31-1956), daughter of Elisha and Frances Grubb Blaine, on Feb. 11, 1920. They lived the most of their married life at Penrod. Children are: Clara (Mrs. Dallas Toomey) of Owensboro; Willodine, who married Roland T. Arnold; Doris (Mrs. Ellis Hardy) and Carson, who married Betty Arndell.

(5) C. Elmer, born Jan. 4, 1884, died Sept. 19, 1910. He married Daisy S. Sumner, daughter of J. D. Sumner of Gus. She was born Oct. 4, 1887 and died July 27, 1954. Their children were: Clarence Millard, who was married to (1) Ruth Beadnell and (2)

Mabel Stratton; and Thurston who married Judy Nash of Nashville. Millard presently lives near Russellville. Children of Millard were, by his first wife: Patty, who is deceased and is buried at Mt. Moriah, and Thomas Elmer, who teaches at Purdue University in Lafayette, Ind. By his second marriage, children were James and Brenda. Thurston's children are Larry and Bill Gaston.

(6) Maude (12-10-1892 to 11-19-1921) married Raymond Grayson on May 6, 1910. Their children include the late Gordon Grayson, Leland, Neal Gaston, Nina Pearl (Mrs. Ruben Shrull) and Luther Grayson. The Grayson lineage was documented in the earlier story of the Grayson family.

(7) Myrtle (1887-1969) married Roy Grayson. They had two children, Marcia Thelma (Mrs. Marvin Wells) of Belton, and John C. Grayson of Nashville. Likewise, this lineage was explored in the earlier Grayson family history.

(8) Dona, born Nov. 11, 1884, died Dec. 12, 1965. She married John Alexander Blaine on Dec. 3, 1905. He was the son of John A. and Jane Elizabeth Nanney Blaine. Their children include: Bessie, who married Ray Ballard; Elsie, wife of Kinley Hunt, and later married to Archie Fulcher; Martin; Ursa Lee, widow of Jewell Lyons, now living in Beech Creek; Margaret, wife of Raymond Allen and now living in Lewisburg; and Marvin, husband of Betty Shemwell, living at Ebenezer. (More information on the lineage may be found in the recent Blaine family history.)

John B. Gaston died Nov. 22, 1914 and Celia Jane on Nov. 6, 1928. They are buried at Mt. Zion in Butler County.

* * *

JAMES HENRY GASTON

James Henry Gaston was the fourth child of William and Elizabeth Gaston. He was born in 1848 and married Mary Jane Hardy in Logan County in 1868. There are no death dates or burial sites recorded for James and Mary. In 1850 and 1860 he was censused in Logan County. They were also living in Logan County when their first child William (Will) was born in 1869, and were censused in Logan County in 1870. Also in their home was a relative of Mary Hardy Gaston, a William Hardy, age 10.

James and his family moved to Muhlenberg County sometime after this and were censused in Muhlenberg County in 1880 on a farm in the southeast sector of the county, somewhere between present-day Old and New Hebron Churches. By this time, the family contained five children, Will, Arthur, Thomas, Alvias and Irvin. Present day family members state there were 12 children altogether in this family, but only 11 have been documented here. They are, in no special order:

(1) Will, born 1869, buried at Old Zion with no tombstone dates.

(2) Thomas, born circa 1871.

(3) Alvias, born circa 1873.

(4) Irvin, born about 1875.

(5) Arthur R., born about 1879.

(6) Ernie.

(7) Omaha, known as Oma, born near 1886, married Jess Sumner, son of J. D. Sumner of Gus. She died at the age of 72 on Sept. 29, 1958 and is buried beside her husband at Old Hebron. Among her children were Carl, Marvin, Carson, Dan and Earl Jackson

Sumner, Loretta (Hunt) and Mary Ruth (Hughes).

(8) Pearl, first married a Brown, and later, Dessie Arnold, daughter of John Alex Arnold, in 1934. He is buried at Mt. Zion.

(9) Lilburn married Dicie Davis, daughter of Alfred Jackson Davis, on Jan. 12, 1908. Their children were Rena Hester who married Colie M. Addison, and presently lives in Lewisburg, and Beulah, who married Leslie Austin of Drakesboro.

(10) Joe.

(11) Henry, born April 6, 1889, died Oct. 26, 1964. He is buried in Rose Hill cemetery at Central City. He married Ruth Sumner, daughter of Arthur Sumner. Among their children was Tom Gaston of Central City, who married Carolyn Burden, daughter of Homer Burden. They have two children, Tommy and Sheila. Sheila married Wayne Crist and Tommy married Judy McConnell. Tommy and Judy operate Spindle's Restaurant near Powderly. Another child of Henry Gaston, Annie, married Alvin Hall of Cleaton, in 1939 (children, Wayne, Mike, Jerry, etc.) and a son, Robert, married Thelma Noffsinger in 1940.

The name of the 12th child has not been learned.

* * *

AMELIA GEORGIA GASTON

Amelia Georgia Gaston was born Dec. 5, 1849 and died in 1920. She married Allison Woodville Gardner (1851-1929) Feb. 25, 1879. They are buried at Huntsville. Among the children of Amelia and Woodville were: Binnie Albertie Gardner (1879-1919); Annie Ethel Gardner (b. 1885); Eldon Elbridge Gardner (b. 1887)). Woodville Gardner was the son of James Edward and Elizabeth Miller Gardner of Butler County. Information on this family came from B. B. Allen of Maine, who derived it from the James E. Gardner Bible, once held by the late Eldon Gardner.

* * *

MARGARET LUCRETIA GASTON

Margaret Lucretia Gaston was the sixth child of William and Elizabeth Gaston. She was born May 6, 1852 and married James Asa Harper (4-15-1852 to 8-22-1930) on Oct. 23, 1877 in Butler County. He was the son of William Carroll and Susan Jane Matthews Harper, and a brother to Dr. R. W. Harper, the family coming to Butler County from Robertson County, Tenn. in the early 1850s. Margaret Lucretia died March 27, 1922 and she and James Asa are buried in Mt. Zion cemetery.

Their children included: Irving Elmer, who married Carrie Jenkins. Herbert (Hub), a prominent Butler County farmer, who married Edith Hunt in 1900. They were the parents of 10 children, including the late Lofton Harper who married Ola Jane Gardner. She still lives near the old Harper estate at Rock Springs. Lofton was killed in a farm tractor accident. Other children include Clarice (Harrison), Onice, Ivan, Osborn (deceased), Hassie, Doris (Piercy), Morris and Herbert, Jr. The third child, Minta, married Anthony Grise. Their son, James, who married Jean Richardson, still lives at Graveltown. Other Grise children were Eleanor Marie, Orris Junell, Mary Marguerite and Claud Eldon, who died in a farm tractor accident. The fourth child of Margaret Lucretia

and James Asa was Otis was never married.

* * *

CORNELIA ELIZABETH GASTON

Cornelia was the 11th and last child of William and Elizabeth Gaston. She was born April 10, 1860. She married James (Jimmy) Jenkins, March 20, 1877 in Butler County. James was born in August, 1855 in Huntsville, and died Jan. 20, 1934. Cornelia died Jan. 10, 1910. They are buried at Mt. Zion.

Their children:

(1) Parley S. Jenkins, (1878-1947), married Lucy Davis and is buried in Wyatt's Chapel cemetery at Beech Creek. They had at least one child, Gertie.

(2) Leila Arella Jenkins (1880-1939), married William Blaine. Buried at Mt. Zion. Children were Edgar, Clebourne, Preston, Glennis, Ina, Margie, Josie, Ada Earl and Edmond. (More on this family may be found in recent Blaine history).

(3) Eva L. Jenkins (1883-1900), married Wiley Allen. (Children Eva and/or Maud, one married Fred Elschide). Buried at Mt. Zion.

(4) Arlus Jenkins (1885-1966), married Mary G. Hardison on May 21, 1923. He was employed many years by Beech Creek Coal Co., as a truck driver. Children included Glenn, Arlus Jr., Novice, Barbara Nell (Steele) and Emma Doris (Stacy).

(5) William T. Jenkins (1888-1966), married Elizabeth Jo (Lizzie) Hunt. Children include Howard, Ava Nell (Mrs. Kenneth Blaine), Margie (Greathouse) (deceased), Billy Joe, Dorothy, Sallie, the latter dying as an infant and James T. (Jimmy) (11-19-1918 to 6-11-1990) who died near Dunmor. William is buried in the Blaine cemetery near Huntsville.

(6) Burnie G. Jenkins (1891-1954) was with the 126th Infantry Division in World War I. He married Iva Ferguson April 14, 1920. They are buried in Miller cemetery at Cleaton. Children include Virginia and Mary Lois.

Robert F. (Bob) Jenkins (1883-1954) married Ora Mae Hunt of Gus Jan. 29, 1915. Children include Vert of Penrod, Magdalene (Woodlee), Glorine and Frances (Hunt). They are buried at Mt. Moriah.

(8) Carry Emma (1895-?), married Eddie Collier in 1914 in Muhlenberg County. Children were Melburn, Dorothy Mae and Elizabeth.

(9) Viola Jenkins (12-27-1900 to 10-10-1985. She married Robert Austin McGuyer of Cleaton (10-19-1896 to 5-30-1980 on March 6, 1919. They are buried in Miller cemetery in Cleaton. Children include Bobby Gene, Glennis Earl McGuyer and James Paul McGuyer all of Huntsville; Orville Ray McGuyer, deceased, Willie Mae Tate of Cleaton, Lodell Maddox of Owensboro, Linda Joyce Taylor of Beaver Dam, H. L., deceased and Arthella, deceased.

(10) Christian (1906-1927) is buried in Miller's cemetery.

* * *

(Information for the Gaston history was provided by many of the family, too numerous to mention. Each one is extended a "thank you" for their contributions. Correspondence may be addressed to The writer, 7965 Ridgewood Road, Goodlettsville, Tn. 37072).