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Shepherd

(Revised 1991)

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THE "SHEPHERD OLD PLACE"

By BOBBY ANDERSON

As a child I often heard references to the "Shepherd Old Place". It was not as if it was a landmark, but rather the term was used as a reference point. As in "the field of corn down by the Shepherd Old Place.

It was always just a place. There were never people or names.

Later years gave reason that there must have been a Shepherd family which once lived there, in order for the old farm to be called by that name.

Research yielded that family.

The William R. Shepherd family came out of Logan County, Ky. to Muhlenberg County sometime after 1870, but prior to 1880 and acquired property between the Enos Hall (later Hackett Anderson) property and Mud River Mine, northwest of the community of Gus. The road from the Hunt Settlement (later called Gus) to Mud River Mine passed in front of the Shepherd home. Until a relatively few years ago, remnants of the Shepherd home were still visible.

Today, it is almost as difficult to find the relatives of that Shepherd family as it is to find the old house, which is overgrown with brush, briars and trees.

Among the descendants of William R. Shepherd are the children of the late Ray Williams of Gus. Some still live near to Gus and the "Shepherd Old Place", a point which will be dealt with later in these pages.

But first things first. Much of the credit for information on that family goes to Darrell Ray Williams, a grandson of Ray Williams, and a great-great-grandson of William R. Shepherd, who owns and has preserved the Shepherd family Bible and the family information it contains, and to his mother, Audrey Mitchell Williams of near Gus, who passed on this information.

Another Shepherd descendant is Debra Kaye (Debbie) Free Hinton of Livermore, who has done extensive research on the Shepherd family. Much of what you read here is the fruits of her efforts.

* * *

WILLIAM R. SHEPHERD

William R. Shepherd was born on Feb. 17, 1824 in South Carolina. He was the son of James and Elizabeth Shepherd. James was also the son of James Shepherd who died in May, 1820. William's father, James, does not have a birth year recorded, but we know that his mother, Elizabeth was born somewhere near to 1800, using census records as a measure. In addition to William R., James and Elizabeth had children named John A., who was born in South Carolina in 1820; James O., born about 1827-29 in South Carolina, and who married Leddy J. Page; Robert, who was born about 1830 in South Carolina and the only daughter, Mary Jane, who was born in 1833 in Kentucky. This sets a time frame of when the Shepherd's came to Kentucky. Mary Jane married Willis H. Grayson.

James Shepherd, father of William, possibly had a sister, Katherine, who was born about 1808 and married William McPherson

on Sept. 3, 1840 in Robertson County, Tenn.

To which part of Kentucky the Shepherds first came is not pinpointed, though there were families of that name documented in Todd and Logan counties in the 1830s and 1840s.

The probability that this is the same family is underlined by the fact that William R. married, and lived in Robertson County, Tenn. for a while, that county being just across the state line from Todd and Logan. He married Eliza Jane Obidiah Grayson in Robertson County, Tenn. on Sept. 25, 1851. She was born Oct. 5, 1830, the daughter of John and Susan Grayson, and a sister to the Willis Grayson who married Mary Jane Shepherd. The Grayson family also migrated from Robertson to Muhlenberg and Butler counties during the same period which brought the Shepherds here. The fact is, the Graysons may have been in Kentucky prior to the Shepherds, as Eliza Jane Grayson Shepherd lists her birth place as Logan County, Ky. It was from the Shepherd family Bible, originally kept by Eliza Jane, that we learned the extension of her name, Obidiah, following Eliza Jane.

The known children of William R. and Eliza Jane Grayson Shepherd were (according to Debbie Hinton's family records, census records and the family Bible):

+ Robert James, born July 30, 1852, Logan County, Ky. Married Lyla Jenkins. Died Jan. 18, 1913.

+ Isabella, (middle name illegible) known as Belle, born May 8, 1858. Married (1), John W. Williams; (2), Thomas J. Hunt. Died March 20, 1934.

+ V. Susan, also listed as Susan V., (the V-name illegible in the Bible) born May 1, 1861. Susan, in 1896, married W. F. (Frank) Rives, a widower, who previously was married to Cassie Christmas in Butler County in 1883 and who was the father of Herman, Almetta, Della (Mrs. Pearlle Fleming) and Mary J. Rives. To Frank and Susan, a son, Robert Ray Rives was born in 1898. He married Harriet Corum, and among their children is Barbara Rives Porter, postmaster at Dunmor. Susan died Aug. 4, 1919 and is buried in the Wood cemetery.

+ Mary Frances, born Jan. 20, 1864. Married Abner Wood on Oct. 16, 1879, and died Feb. 17, 1881.

+ Georgia Elizabeth was born Feb. 18, 1867, in Logan County. Married Elisha Bruce Free Dec. 2, 1886 in Muhlenberg County and died in McLean County on March 20, 1951.

+ John Jefferson, born, Feb. 10, 1870 in Logan County. Married Ella Jenkins on Aug. 16, 1891. John died Oct. 11, 1950.

Of those, we will later trace the family of Belle, who was the mother of Ray Williams, and of Georgia Elizabeth, who was the great-grandmother of Debbie Hinton. As much information as is available will be given on the other children of the Shepherd family.

* * *

IN MUHLENBERG COUNTY

Census records and the birth of John Shepherd in Logan County in 1870 place the William R. Shepherd family in that county in that year. In Logan County in 1870, William and Eliza Jane had children Robert, Isabella, Susan V., Georgia F. and John J. living in their home. For some reason, Mary Frances was not listed in the household in 1870. She would have been six years

old at the time. Shortly after this census, the family moved to Muhlenberg County.

Following this move, William R. Shepherd died. The Shepherd family Bible lists his death as occurring on May 20, 1874. In that four year period between 1870 and 1874, he moved his family to Mud River Mine area. In 1880, the widow Jane (Eliza Jane) was censused in Muhlenberg County, near to the home of Owen Hunt, who lived on Mud River Mining Company property. Jane was 48 in this census, and her children at home with her were James, 27; Belle, 21, Elizabeth 13, and John, 10. Another child, Susan, was listed in the home of Owen Hunt as 18, as a hired servant and Mary Frances was married.

Eliza Jane Grayson Shepherd died on July 17, 1895, according to the Bible. The burial place for William and Jane is not stated, but they may have been buried at Mud River, or perhaps, the Wood cemetery, where Belle and Susan were later buried. But the Shepherd family continued to live in the area.

In 1900, the census shows this:

James, 47, listed as Robert J. in the census records, had established his own home. He had married Lyla Jenkins on Dec. 21, 1893 in Muhlenberg County. Their children in 1900 were Hadie, born in 1894 and Beatrice, born in 1898. Lyla (or Lillie) was born in July, 1874.

Only three houses away, John lived. Now 30, he had married Ella Jenkins in Muhlenberg County on Aug. 16, 1891. She was born in January, 1875. Their children were Clarence, born in 1892; Bertha, born in 1895 and Claud, in 1898.

Meanwhile, Georgia Elizabeth married Elisha B. Free, son of Georgia transplant William Free. William C. Free's second wife was Aretta, who is not the mother of these children. William and Aretta were married in Todd County on Dec. 11, 1865. Elisha was born July 13, 1861 and Georgia in 1867. They were married in Muhlenberg County on Dec. 2, 1886. Five children were born to them including those who lived into adulthood: Ernest Lee (Nov. 5, 1889), Erma Lois (July 11 or 31, 1893) and Flossy Jane (or June) (Jan. 27, 1897). They also lived at Gus when the 1900 census was taken. The other two children apparently died prior to the 1900 census.

Isabelle (Belle) married John W. Williams on Aug. 3, 1887 in Muhlenberg County. They had one son, Arthur Ray, born Aug. 10, 1888. Shortly after Ray's birth, John Williams was killed in a mining accident at Mud River Mine. He is buried at Mud River, though the grave is unmarked. The widow, Belle later married Thomas J. Hunt, and the family continued to live at Gus, about halfway between what is now the old Gus store and Mud River, not far from Old Hebron Church. Thomas, a widower, and Belle were married sometime around 1897-98. He had two children, Mary E., born in 1890 and Hettie, born in 1892. Thomas Hunt was very active in the Hunt School program, serving as a trustee for many years, and was one of the instigators of the building of the new school in 1896.

Another daughter, V. Susan was born in 1861, and in 1880 she was listed as a servant in the Owen Hunt household at Mud River. In 1896 she married W. F. (Frank) Rives, a widower, though no marriage license for the two has been found in Muhlenberg or Butler counties. In this marriage, Susan became the stepmother of Della Rives Fleming, who was to become the mother of Ray, Raymond, Stella (Mallory), Susie (DeArmond) and the other

children born to Pearlie and Della Fleming of near Penrod. Also, the stepmother of Herman Rives of Beech Creek, father of Mildred Rives Fulcher, of Drakesboro. Susan also was the mother of Robert Ray Rives, late of Drakesboro, who was born March 21, 1898, (died Nov. 28, 1939) and the grandmother of Barbara Rives Porter, postmaster at Dunmor.

The other Shepherd girl, Mary Frances, was the first wife of Abner J. Wood, married to him in Muhlenberg County on Oct. 16, 1879. In 1880 he was 19, she 16, and they were living in the home of his grandfather, Abner Wood, Sr. Mary Frances died soon after this, in February, 1881, and Abner was subsequently married two additional times. Though this is William's and Jane's daughter, she does not appear on his family census record, but is listed in the family Bible record.

Known children of John Shepherd include Clarence Raymond, Bertha (Phillips), Claude, these in the 1900 census, Johnnie Edward, Katie (Burke), Maynard Lee, James Gurden and Cecil Marion. Clarence was born Jan. 4, 1875, married Myrtle Bandy and died at Drakesboro on June 26, 1972. He had two sons, Norman and Royce. Bertha was born Feb. 16, 1895 and married a Phillips. Claude was born July 1, 1898 and died Nov. 18, 1913. Johnnie Edward was born Feb. 1906 and Katie, who married a Burke, on June 28, 1906. Maynard Lee was born Oct. 18, 1909, James Gurden on Nov. 19, 1912 and Cecil Marion, who was born Oct. 29, 1919, died Dec. 26, 1920. John died Oct. 11, 1950, and Ella, who was born Jan. 4, 1875, died Feb. 24, 1938.

Only three of Robert's children were listed in the Bible records, Hadie on Nov. 23, 1894; Beatrice on Aug. 24, 1898 and Robert Osborne on July 3, 1901.

The children of Robert James Shepherd and John Shepherd were known to have attended Hunt School near the turn of the century.

Trustee book records show Robert James Shepherd's daughter, Hadie and John's son Clarence were enrolled at Hunt School directly after 1900 for a few years. Debbie Hinton also recalls visits from Clarence Shepherd to her family when she was young, but knows little of him now, other than that some of his family possibly lives in Michigan. An obituary of Clarence Shepherd from 1972, reveals he had worked for an automobile manufacturer in a northern city prior to his retirement. He was born near Gus.

Marriage records in Muhlenberg County aided in finding others of Robert and Lyla's (Bob and Lillie) children. Hadie, the little girl at Hunt School, married Thomas C. Orange of Butler County on Oct. 30, 1912. He was 21, and the son of Thomas N. and Mary Jane Thompson Orange. Hadie was 18, lived at Gus, and the wedding took place at Bob Shepherd's home at Gus, indicating his residency there at that time.

The next marriage was on Nov. 25, 1917, when Beatrice Shepherd married a brother to Thomas C. Orange. He was Auda Dewey Orange. Beatrice was 18 at the time, and the Shepherds by that time had moved to Browder.

Hubert, another son of Bob Shepherd, married Annie Vaughn of Browder when he was 22 and she 24. She was the daughter of Ed and Cinda Knight Vaughn. This wedding was on Aug. 10, 1926.

Still another of Bob's boys, Herbert, 23, living in Browder, married Demmer Whitney, 18, daughter of James and Martha Lesley Whitney of Browder in 1931.

Robert, another son, married Lucille Edmondson in Muhlenberg County on June 29, 1940.

Just when the Bob Shepherd family moved away from Gus is not known, They were at Gus when Hadie married in 1912, but they were not there in 1916, when Lillie re-married, or in 1917 when Beatrice married. Bob died in 1913, but his place of death is not known, so it may have been at Gus, or if he had moved prior to death, at Drakesboro, Browder or Ennis, where the family was known to have lived in the mid-teens.

On Nov. 21, 1916, Lillie Shepherd, 40, married James R. McCoy, a widower, 51. McCoy, a native of Butler County, lived at Drakesboro. He had previously been married to Martha Perry of Butler County who died in 1915. He was the father of several children in his union with Martha Perry McCoy, including the late Richard McCoy of Beech Creek, Belton and Drakesboro, and Hallie (Mrs. Elbert) Fulkerson of Belton. Mr. McCoy is buried at Forest Grove. The burial place of Bob and Lillie Shepherd is not presently known.

One other marriage of interest is that of Clarence Shepherd, son of John, on Jan. 22, 1916 to Myrtle R. Bandy, 17, of Greenville. She was the daughter of Laura E. Bandy. Clarence, 23, listed his residence as at Graham, where many had gone to work the coal fields. This may have included his father, John, and an uncle, Elisha Free, was lived at Graham in the 1910-1920 era.

* * *

GEORGIA'S FAMILY

The family of Elisha Bruce Free and Georgia Elizabeth Shepherd Free is easy to document, thanks in part to the efforts of Debbie Hinton, his great-granddaughter. He spent his last years in McLean County, though school records of Corley's Chapel school, near Graham, shows that he lived there briefly. In 1918-19, Flossie, the daughter of Elisha, was enrolled at Corley's, as was Nadine Shepherd, probably a relative of Georgia's, since she was listed as a ward of Elisha Free. Nadine was six, indicating she was born in 1912-13. The identity of her parents is unknown at this time.

Elisha Free died in McLean County on Oct. 3, 1943, and is buried in the Methodist Church cemetery at Island. His obituary at the time of his death listed his age as 84, which would have indicated he was born in 1859. However, some family records show his birth as being on July 13, 1861. His cemetery stone reads 1860, and the 1900 census records his birth as in May, 1858. Georgia died March 20, 1951, and is buried with Elisha.

Their children:

Erma Lois, born July 11 (or 31), 1893 married Fred T. Tucker. She died in McLean County Jan. 11, 1989.

Flossy Jane (or June) born Jan. 27, 1897, married Walter Webb.

Ernest Lee, born Nov. 5, 1889, the eldest, and the grandfather of Debbie Hinton, married Eunice Nannie Taylor in McLean County on April 20, 1927. They became the parents of seven children:

(1) Ernest Gene, who lives in Buttonsberry, was born May 21, 1928. He married Violet Greathouse Dec. 22, 1947.

(2) James Ray, born Aug. 20, 1930. He married Nelda Faye Holder April 17, 1954. They live in Livermore.

(3) Benny Bruce, born July 20, 1932. He married Violet Bolton Aug. 24, 1956. They live in Buck Creek.

(4) Eben Shelton, born Aug. 24, 1934, lives in Buttonberry. He

married Linda Miles June 30, 1956.

(5) Alton Taylor, born June 5, 1937, lives in Livermore. He married Melanie Frizzell June 20, 1958.

(6) Ora Elizabeth, born June 29, 1939, lives in Owensboro. Her first marriage was to Kyle Wayne Capps, from whom she is divorced. Recently she married Jim Caudle.

(7) Eddie Clark, born Jan. 2, 1946. Wife is named Adina. They live in Colorado.

One other child of Ernest and Eunice Free died as an infant. The name, if one was given, is not known.

Ernest Free died on Feb. 22, 1968 and his wife on Feb. 13, 1978, both in Daviess County. They are buried in the Island Methodist Church cemetery.

Ernest Free had been married previous to his marriage to Eunice Taylor. On Nov. 23, 1923, he was married to Florence Huckleberry in McLean County. They had one daughter, Mildred, who died when she was about three-months-old. Florence died shortly after Mildred's birth. They are also buried in the Island Methodist Church cemetery.

Following the line, we find that the second child of Ernest Free, James Ray Free, married Nelda Faye Holder in Livermore on April 17, 1954.

James Ray was born Aug. 20, 1930 in McLean County. Nelda Holder was born Aug. 8, 1931 in Livermore, McLean County. She was the daughter of James Buchanan Holder and Grace Ilene Brown Holder.

To this union, three children were born. The eldest is Debra Kaye Free Hinton, who was born Oct. 17, 1954. Her brothers are Tony Ray, born Dec. 1, 1956 and Michael Lee, born Jan. 7, 1968. Michael Lee died the same day in Calhoun.

Tony Ray married Teresa Helen Clark on Oct. 8, 1976. They live in Livermore. Children are Jonathan Mark (Dec. 30, 1978); David Wayne (Oct. 13, 1980) and Amanda Christine Grace (March 13, 1989).

Debra married Kenneth Elliott Hinton, son of James A. and Betty A. Elliott Hinton on July 7, 1978 in Livermore. He was born Sept. 17, 1958 in Owensboro. Debbie and Kenneth have one son, Michael Joseph, born Aug. 2, 1984. They live at 502 East 7th St., in Livermore.

* * *

BELLE'S FAMILY

Belle Shepherd, the daughter of William R. and Eliza Jane Grayson Shepherd was born May 8, 1858. She married John W. Williams in Muhlenberg County on Aug. 3, 1887. Their only child, Arthur Ray Williams was born Aug. 10, 1888. Shortly afterwards, John W. Williams was killed in the mining accident at Mud River in 1888, leaving the widow and a small child. In 1897 or 1898, she remarried, this time to Thomas J. Hunt, son of Enos Hunt, and a member of the pioneer Hunt family.

Too little is known of John W. Williams. It is believed that he was the son of George Williams and Nancy Blaine Williams of Mud River. George Williams apparently died prior to the 1850 census, as Nancy was listed with her children in the home of Martin Blaine. Nancy was the daughter of Martin and Mary Ann Rife Blaine. In 1850, John Williams was in the home of Martin Blaine, with his mother, Nancy, and two sisters, Almira 4, and Georgiana,

four months. There is some question as to whether Almira is a Williams or a Blaine, but since she is listed in the census following Nancy, and with John and Georgiana, it indicates she may also have been Nancy's daughter.

In 1860, John W. Williams was 12 and still with his mother, Nancy in the Blaine household. Likewise, in 1870, he was in the Blaine household at Mud River, and listed as 21 years old. In 1880, John W. Williams, now 31, was shown in the Blaine household, with his wife, Narcissus and children, George L. 4 and Floetta, 3. Likewise, his sister, Georgiana, was still living there. No marriage license has been found for John and Narcissus, and her maiden name is not presently known. They were probably married in 1875-76.

It is evidential that soon thereafter Narcissus died, and John W. Williams, in 1887, married Belle Shepherd, who lived nearby. Narcissus' death is only speculation, since there are no records to confirm it. Likewise, there is no record as to what happened to little George and Floetta, though one family member says George later located in Arkansas, and Floetta was known to have lived with a family in Dunmor after her father's death.

Belle Shepherd (Williams) (Hunt) died March 20, 1934, and is buried at the Wood cemetery, between Gus and Penrod. Beside her is the grave of her sister, V. Susan, wife of W. F. Rives. Susan was born May 1, 1861, and died Aug. 4, 1919,

The only child of the union of John and Belle Shepherd Williams, Arthur Ray Williams married Lora Cox Dec. 24, 1912. Two daughters, Etta Belle and Gladys were born to this union before Lora's death on Jan. 21, 1918. Later, in 1924 or 1925, Ray Williams married Flossie Eula Gibson. Children of this marriage included James (now deceased), Dorothy Jean, Glendon (also deceased), Kent, Goldie, Clifford and Dereta.

Ray Williams' first wife, Lora, was the daughter of J. W. Cox, who moved into the Gus community, possibly from Logan County, about 1906. Lora was born July 4, 1893. Other children were Edgar, born July 8, 1895; Robbie (or Bobbie) July 2, 1897 and Eulah, Nov. 12, 1899.

According to Clark family legend, Lora was first engaged to marry Eli Walker Clark, son of Samuel Clark of Gus. Eli Walker died young, thus the marriage never took place. She later married Ray Williams.

Children of Ray Williams' first marriage were:

+ Etta Belle, born Oct. 6, 1914. She married Pat Yann, who is deceased. Etta Belle lives in Louisville. She has one daughter, Alice, named for her grandmother. Her married name is Eichenberger. Alice has no children.

+ Gladys, born April 14, 1916, lives in Hopkinsville. She was married to Thomas Premm, who is deceased. They had one daughter, Joyce, who is married to Al Johnson, and is the mother of two children.

Ray Williams' second marriage was to Eula Gibson, who still lives in Muhlenberg County. She was the sister of Roscoe Gibson of Gus, whose widow, Lydia McPherson Gibson, also still resides at Gus.

Their children are:

+ James Ray Williams, born Aug. 16, 1925, died June 15, 1984. He was married to Audrey Mitchell, who still lives near Gus. Their one son, Darrell Ray, lives nearby. He married Brenda Southerland of Rochester. They have two children, LaBrisha and

Jonathan Ray, who is the fourth "Ray" Williams in four generations, following his great-grandfather, Arthur Ray, grandfather, James Ray and father, Darrell Ray.

+ Dorothy Jean Williams was born April 13, 1929, and married Victor (Red) Anderson. They have three children, Terry Lynn, Vicki Jean and Toni, and live in Lake Station, Ind.

+ Ernest Glendon Williams, born Feb. 22, 1933, died March 31, 1975. He was married to Jean Whitaker, daughter of Marvin and Hallie Whitaker of near Gus. They had four children, Donald Glenn, who was accidentally electrocuted in 1973, Barbara Jean, Cheryl Ann and Gary Dean.

+ Robert Kent Williams, born March 27, 1936, married Shirley Wood, daughter of Ellis and the late Elsie Beadnell Wood. They have two sons, Michael and Mark. They live at Gus.

+ Goldie Williams, born Oct. 10, 1938, lives near Indianapolis. She married Paul Roberson and has one daughter, Deborah Mae.

+ John Clifford Williams was born Nov. 14, 1943. He and his first wife, Edna, had one son, Jeffrey, and with his second wife, Susie, has a son, Jesse. Clifford lives on Dunmor, Route 1.

+ Dereta Ann Williams married Maurice Rogers, and lives at Penrod. They have three daughters, Marsha Ann, Kimberly and Christi. Dereta was born Dec. 6, 1945.

Another child, Freddie Carl, was born and died April 4, 1953. He is buried at Mt. Moriah.

Ray Williams died in June 5, 1969 and is buried at Mt. Moriah.

* * *

THE JESSE JAMES CONNECTION?

Debbie Hinton, a direct Shepherd descendant said in a recent letter that she had often heard the romantic story of how one or more of the Shepherd boys rode with the outlaw, Jesse James.

"I remember as a child hearing this from my grandfather, but do not recall any details. When I asked by dad and his siblings about it, they just laughed and acted like it was a family joke or something. (They all said they had heard that story but none knew any details.)", Debbie recalled. "Well, in my search at Logan County, where my Shepherds were before going to Muhlenberg County, I found some unusual coincidences that leads me to believe that this 'story' is indeed based on fact. I saw a write up on Jesse James and there was a George and Oliver Shepherd who rode with the James gang. William R. Shepherd (Debbie's ancestor) had a brother named James O. (Oliver?)"

Debbie continues, "I did not find a marriage license for Robert, but did find a G. R. Shepherd married in Robertson County, Tenn., which is the right time period for this to have been Robert (name possibly George Robert). This G. R. Shepherd married Mary E. Crunk. The Crunk family was from Simpson County, Ky., and two Crunk brothers were supposedly involved in a murder, then escaped to Missouri. This might explain how the Shepherds got involved with Jesse James.

"Also, the Shepherds lived in the same area of Logan County as the Hite family. The mother of that family was a sister to Jesse and Frank James' father. Two of the Hite boys rode with Jesse James, and when he came to Logan County, he always stayed with the Hite family. This is another way the Shepherds could have known the Jameses. They were 'neighbors'."

Debbie included a picture she believes is of "the mysterious Shepherd outlaw who rode with Jesse James".

She concludes, "If William R.'s brothers were indeed George and Oliver, then it looks like that not only one member of my Shepherd family, but two, rode with James. I find the possibility fascinating and wish I knew how to check into it further."

History doesn't favor us with a wealth of information on the members of the James gang, but Otto A. Rothert, in his "History of Muhlenberg County" does document that members of a Shepherd family rode with the notorious outlaw, Lonz Pennington in north Christian, Todd and Muhlenberg counties in the first half of the 19th century.

Quoting Rothert in his chapter on "Lonz Powers", a fictitious name given to Lonz Pennington in the novel "Lonz Powers and the Regulators", "The outlaws or 'Roughs' whose misdeeds form a part of Muhlenberg's tradition, were the Andersons, the Shepherds and the Penningtons."

He cited Tom Anderson as being a horse and slave thief, who was hanged near Lead Hill Church in 1837, and Jack Shepherd, a horse thief, who lived near New Harmony Church in Todd County. Shepherd was killed by William Welborn as Welborn and others attempted to arrest Shepherd, two of his brothers and Isom Sheffield.

Also, the history of Logan County, in reciting the story of the Jesse James gang robbing the Nimrod Long bank in Russellville, lists George and Oliver Shepherd as members of the James outlaw group. It states that George had lived near Russellville for two to three years previously. The fate of the two men is documented in the historical account. George Shepherd was arrested in Tennessee two weeks after the robbery, brought back to Russellville and tried, receiving a three years term in prison. His brother (the history lists it that way), Oliver, was killed by a posse in Jackson County, Mo. The account of the robbery and other facts were documented by Dr. David Morton, who was president of Logan College in Russellville at the time of the robbery.

Also, Time-Life Books' "The Old West Series: The Gunfighters" gives a similar account, including how George Shepherd calmly called out to bystanders following the robbery, "You needn't be particular about seeing my face so well you'd remember it again". This account of the story indicates Shepherd may have been recognized, for a raid followed on his home. He didn't give up easily, however, and was arrested only after a gunfight.

Yet there are others in the area, including the noted local genealogist-historian A. B. Wilhite, who contend the robbery was not an act of the James gang, but of a disgruntled relative of the Nimrod Long family, who was seeking family honor, revenge and cash at the same time. But that doesn't necessary change the story as far as the Shepherds were concerned. They were, history says, part of the robbery gang, regardless of who its leader was.

SHEPHERD FAMILY BIBLE

(Owned by Darrell Ray Williams of Dunmor, Ky. Route 1. Given to him by his grandfather, Arthur Ray Williams, who himself was the grandson of the original owner Eliza Jane Grayson Shepherd.

(As related by Mrs. James Williams, Darrell's mother)

Family record of E. B. Free and Georgia:

Ernest L. Nov. 5, 1889

Ermie L. July 11 (or 31), 1893

Flossy Jane (or June) Jan. 27, 1897

Family record of John and Ella Shepherd

Ella Shepherd born Jan. 4, 1875, died Feb. 24, 1938

Clarence Raymond born Dec. 30, 1892, died June 26, 1972

Bertha (Phillips) Feb. 16, 1895

Claude, born July 1, 1898, died Nov. 18, 1913

Johnnie Edward Feb. 6, 1903

Katie (Burke) June 28, 1906

Maynard Lee Oct. 18, 1909

James Gurden Nov. 9, 1912

Cecil Marion born Oct. 29, 1919, died Dec. 26, 1920.

MARRIAGES;

William R. Shepherd, born Feb. 17, 1824 married Eliza Jane

Obidiah Shepherd, born Oct. 5, 1830 on Sept. 25, 1851.*

*Note by BA: This is Eliza Jane Grayson, with apparently the third name Obidiah, who married William R. Shepherd on Sept. 25, 1851 in Robertson County, Tenn.

John W. Williams married Belle (Shepherd) Dec. 21, 1886

BIRTHS:

Robert James Shepherd July 30, 1852

Isabella Shepherd (middle name unclear) May 8, 1858

V. Susan Shepherd (first name unclear) May 1, 1861

Mary F. Shepherd Jan. 20, 1864

Georgia Elizabeth Shepherd Feb. 18, 1867

John Jefferson Shepherd Feb. 10, 1870

Written below:

Arthur Ray Williams born Aug. 10, 1888, died June 5, 1969

Family Record of Rober and Lillie Shepherd:

Hadie Nov. 23, 1894

Beatrice Aug. 24, 1898

Robert Osborne July 3, 1901

DEATHS:

William R. Shepherd May 20, 1874

Mary Frances Feb. 17, 1881**

**Note by BA: Was married to Abner Wood

John W. Williams departed this life Dec. 13, 1888***

***Note by BA: was killed in coal mine at Mud River

Eliza Jane died July 17, 1895

Robert James died Jan. 18, 1913

Bell Hunt died March 20, 1934

Note by BA: This is Isabella Shepherd Williams Hunt

Thomas J. Hunt died Sept. 14, 1934

J. J. Shepherd died Oct. 11, 1950

Lora Alice died Jan. 21, 1918****

****Note by BA: Lora Alice was Lora Alice Cox, first wife of Ray Williams.

Arthur Ray Williams married Lora Alice Cox Dec. 24, 1912.

