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## Steele / Steel Family

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# S T E E L E

By Bobby Anderson

Two Steele families who came into the upper Mud River area of Muhlenberg County midway of the last century, helped mould the society of the area. But today, as the ancestors of one of the families flourish, the other leaves little evidence of its existence in this area.

Tennessee-born John Edward Steele first settled in Butler County after 1845, but by 1860, he was a resident of the Mud River Mine area of Muhlenberg County. The second Steele, James, came into the county sometime before 1860. He too, was born in Tennessee, and it is believed the two men are related -- but the relationship is not proven. It is believed that because each had children named Nathaniel, Mary and Sarah, they are related. Yet the age difference in the men is 18 years, so it could have been that James was a cousin or a nephew of John. No one knows for sure. Also, it has not been definitely ascertained from which area of Tennessee the men came, nor the maiden name of John's first wife, Nancy. However, it is believed the Steeles came from the Upper Cumberland area of Tennessee, namely White and DeKalb Counties, as will be shown later.

Today, the descendants of John Steele are numerous in Muhlenberg and adjoining counties, while there are but two known descendants of James, none by the Steele name.

The following paragraphs will examine the lives and families of each, as far as research has uncovered their past -- and present.

\* \* \*

## EARLY STEELES

A diligent search of Tennessee records has been made in an effort to tie the early Kentucky families to definite families in Tennessee. The search has been only partially successful.

On the belief that Nathaniel Steele was an early ancestor of the Kentucky Steeles, because of children in both families being named Nathaniel, that is where the search began.

Nathaniel G. Steele was then found in White County, Tenn. (Sparta) in 1830, as a man between 20 and 30 years of age. It is believed, by simple deduction of census records and areas, that he was the son of Alexander Steele, who lived in White County in 1820. It is not known where Alexander came from, nor who his wife was, as early White County marriage records, though complete and intact, do not contain these Steele marriages. This indicates that most of them were married prior to going to White County, or perhaps in an adjoining county. Alexander, in 1820 was between 26 and 45 years of age (the only data given in the census). His wife was of the same age category, and they had three children 10 years of age, or under. One of these is believed to be Nathaniel. By 1830, Nathaniel was married. Though his license has not been found, we do know his wife was Elizabeth. They had one child, then under five. In 1840, they lived in DeKalb, an adjoining county. They could have moved to DeKalb, but more than likely, they lived in the area of White County that was incorporated into the formation of DeKalb County in 1838, and thus became DeKalb Countians by annexation. At any rate, in 1840, Nathaniel and

Elizabeth had seven children, six boys and a girl. One of these, the writer believes, is James, who was born in 1835, and who came to Butler County before 1860 and married Mary Harper.

Before 1850, Nathaniel and Elizabeth had left DeKalb County and were found in Sumner County, Tenn., near Gallatin. In Sumner County it is known there were nine children: Levi 20 (in 1850); James 17 (this being the one who moved to Butler County); Andrew 14 (he died in 1850); Nathaniel 12; Malinda 10; John and Nancy, each 6; Ellen 3; and Thomas. Thomas was in James' home in Butler County in 1860, and Ellen, by 1860, 13, was in the home of a Clark family in Butler County. The grave of Andrew (A. J. C.) Steele, "son of N. G and Elizabeth" has been located in Jernigan cemetery in north Sumner County. His dates were listed "July 27, 1837 to Oct. 26, 1850".

Also in White County in 1820 was an Andrew Steele and an Andrew H. Steele, apparently of the same family. Andrew carried through the census in 1830, when he was 30-to-40 years of age, as was his wife. However, he was not located after 1830. In 1820, he may have had an older person, father or father-in-law, with the family, as there was a male, over 45 years of age, who did not show up in the 1830 census.

Andrew H. Steele was between 18 and 26 and his wife between 16 and 18 in 1820, yet they had two children, under 10. In 1830, Andrew H. apparently was deceased, as only a widow was censused. It is believed the widow Darkis Steele, was the wife of Andrew H. Steele. In 1830, as a widow, she had six children under her roof in White County. In both 1840 and 1850, Darkis was in DeKalb County, indicating her "annexation" into the county also.

It will be well to remember as you read into the family of John Steele of Muhlenberg County, that he had named one of his children Darkis (or more likely "Dorcas", perhaps named for this Darkis, a relative of degree.) Also, the name Darcus, Dorcas and Darkis appear in other Steele data. On Nov. 19, 1792, Joseph (maybe Andrew Joseph) Steele married Darcus Wilson. Sumner County then embraced a great portion of Tennessee, perhaps the portion where these Steeles lived. In White County, Dorcas Steele (perhaps the widow Dorcas) married William Morris on June 28, 1850.

That then, will bring us to John Steele, who married in Tennessee, then settled first in Butler County, and later moved to Muhlenberg County, Ky. He is the ancestor of most Steeles in this area. In White County, Tenn. in 1820, there was a John Steele, who was censused in the age group 26-45, with a wife, 18-26. They had three sons when the 1820 census was taken. Then recall that the John Steele of Muhlenberg County was born in 1819. Extending to 1830, John and wife had eight children, with perhaps one of the older boys being John. Of the eight, six were boys and two, girls. Since the Steeles all lived in the same area of White County (along Caney Fork River), and later DeKalb, it is likely the most of the men were brothers, and their children, including James and John, cousins. In 1840, the elder John was also in DeKalb. Shortly after this, the younger John would be married to Nancy ?, though no marriage license for them was found in White, DeKalb or Sumner counties. The elder John Steele, at 64, was living in DeKalb County when the 1850 census was taken.

Though this does not prove that James and John Steele of Kentucky originated in White County, Tennessee, the evidence is overwhelming. And the search for other evidence, including James'

marriage record continues. It should also be noted that the Steele family name continues also in the Upper Cumberland area of Tennessee to the present generation.

\* \* \*

#### JAMES STEELE

James Steele was born in Tennessee on May 11, 1837. He was known to be an associate in some form of the Rev. James E. Gardner, prominent minister and farmer. Either the Steele family lived on the Gardner farm, which is the last farm in Muhlenberg County, going past New Hebron Church, before crossing Forgy Mill Bridge, or their home was adjacent to the Gardner farm. The Steele home was for years known as the "Aunt Sallie Carroll" place, and was later owned by the late Ernest Hunt, and is now owned by his son, James D. Hunt.

James Steele, his wife Mary, their children, Sarah (Sallie), Mary Susan and Nathaniel, were censused on that farm in 1860. But before that, James Steele was a witness to the will of Henry Brittan Gardner on April 9, 1858, indicating he had lived in the area long enough to be trusted and welcomed by the elder Gardner, who was the father of the Rev. J. E. Gardner. The will also mentions Andrew J. Steel, as the "son" of his step-daughter, E. C. Anderson. However, no evidence has been uncovered to show Elizabeth Catherine Anderson was ever married to a Steele, or was the mother of a child by that name. However, it is possible, since the first record of her marriage was in 1860 to Thomas Cottrell. Knowledge of her life to that time is limited to one census report in 1850, when she was 14, shortly after her mother married H. B. Gardner. Remember also that the name Andrew Steele (initials A. J. C.) was in the area with the Steele family, and died in Sumner County in 1850 at the age of 13. In 1858, when the will was written, this Andrew Steele would have been 11 and could have been an "adopted" or foster son of Elizabeth Catherine.

James' wife, Mary Harper, was born in Kentucky March 14, 1834, the daughter of Scott and Mary Harper. Their children:

(1) Sarah J. (Sallie), born April 6, 1855, who married Will T. Carroll and lived for many years on the old Steele homeplace.

(2) Mary Susan, born Feb. 8, 1857, died March 7, 1861 and is buried at Old Hebron. She was never married.

(3) Nathaniel N., born March 10, 1859, died Oct. 30, 1877. He was never married. Nat is buried at Old Hebron.

James died Dec. 12, 1860, leaving a widow and the three children. He too, is buried at Old Hebron. Mary lived with her daughter, Sallie (and Will) Carroll for many years. She died Dec. 24, 1916 and is buried at Old Hebron.

Sallie Steele married Will T. Carroll, a timberman from Butler County, in 1884. He was the son of Harvey and Martha Carroll of near Morgantown. He too, was born in Tennessee.

Will and Sallie had but one child, Jim Carroll, who married Ercie Harper, daughter of John and Delia (Aunt Deel) Davis Harper. Jim and Ercie were the parents of two children, Hayden and Hazel Carroll, before he too, died young.

Will Carroll was killed by a boiler explosion at a sawmill in the Wolf Lick bottoms (in Logan County) near Dunmor on Oct. 14, 1910, leaving his widow, Sallie, their young son, Jim and Sallie's mother, Mary Steele.

Jim married Ercie in the 1920s, and also died young, leaving his widow, her widowed mother and two young children.

The son, Hayden Carroll served with distinction in World War II

and was last reported to be living in Ohio. The daughter, Hazel married L. A. Peay. These are the last two living descendants of James Steele.

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#### JOHN EDWARD STEELE

John Edward Steele was born in Tennessee sometime around 1819, according to census records. He was twice married, having large families by each wife, and leaving many descendants, even unto today in the general area.

He and his wife, Nancy, born March 29, 1822, also in Tennessee, were first censused in Kentucky in Butler County in 1850. The first three of their children, Paulina (1842), Julina (1843) and Dorcas Isabela (1845) were born in Tennessee. The other four, John, Martha, Nathaniel and Sarah C. were born in Kentucky. John, the first born in Kentucky, entered the world in 1847, indicating the Steeles came to Kentucky between the birth of Dorcas in 1845 and John in 1847.

When the 1860 census was taken, the Steeles were living in the general vicinity of Mud River Mine in Muhlenberg County. The family lived there many years, and a son, Dolph and wife Em, were among the last residents of the old Mud River area.

Church records show that John Steele, in 1862, was a messenger to the Gasper River Association from Rock Springs Church in Butler County, indicating he continued to worship there even after moving to Muhlenberg County.

The children of John and Nancy Steele:

(1) Paulina (or Pauline), born in Tennessee in 1842, married Augustus Baker on March 27, 1859.

(2) Julina, born 1843 in Tennessee, married Archibald Pollock, a Scotch immigrant and prominent in coal operations, on Nov. 5, 1868. There are, today, ancestors of the Pollock family of Scotland living in Greenville.

(3) Dorcas Isabela, born in 1845 in Tennessee, was thrice married. Her first marriage was in Butler County to James Johnson. Later she was married to James M. Bowling and her final marriage was to Mud River coal czar Capt. James Buckner Ryan.

(4) John was born in 1847 in Kentucky.

(5) Martha E. was born in 1848 in Kentucky, and on April 12, 1868, married Benjamin Harrison in Muhlenberg County.

(6) Nathaniel A., born 1856 in Kentucky.

(7) Sarah C., born 1858, apparently was the last child, and it is believed that Nancy died giving birth to this child, or shortly after. Nancy's death was recorded as occurring on April 23, 1858. She is buried at Rock Springs in Butler County.

On Oct. 31, 1858, John Steele remarried. His young wife, Rebecca Julian, 20, born circa 1838 in Tennessee, was believed to be of the family of Eliza Julian, who was living in the Mud River Mine area in 1860 and before. Eliza was 50 and born in Virginia. In the household also was Benjamin Julian, who was listed as 36 and born in Tennessee. It was not noted in the census if Eliza was his wife or mother -- either being possible. Also in the home were Cleo P. Kennedy, a 13-year-old male, and Maria (either Julian or Kennedy), age 9. The census did not reveal their relationship to the Julian family.

This marriage presented seven known children to the community, starting with Joseph. The list included:

(1) Joseph, born March, 1860, married Mary T. Martin Sept. 22, 1878. He died after 1882.

(2) Mary F., born in 1863, married Jay F. Durham April 23, 1882.

(3) James W., born in 1864, had two marriages, to be shown later.

(4) Adolphus Augustus, known affectionally as Uncle Dolph for many years, was born in 1866, and married Sarah Emeline McPherson, to be known as Aunt Em, on Jan. 20, 1884.

(5) Monroe, who was born in 1868, but did not show in in subsequent censuses after 1870.

(6) Thomas, born March, 1870, apparently died prior to 1880.

(7) Sidney Samuel, born 1876, married Ruthie L. McPherson on Feb. 27, 1893.

There is indication that John and Rebecca did not always live in the Mud River area. One family researcher has uncovered some evidence of them living briefly in the Owensboro-Daviess County area, and the 1870 census shows them to be living in Butler County, in the Rochester precinct, where John listed his occupation as a "jobber", another term used to describe a salesman or merchant of some kind. In 1880, the family was back in Muhlenberg, near Mud River, where he was a farmer.

The times of death of James and Rebecca Steele are not known, but it is believed that they are buried in Mud River cemetery. It is known that in 1890, John E. Steele was paying school tax in the Hunt School district, according to the Trustee's Book. His children in school then were listed on the teacher's roll as S. S., 14 and R. M. S., 10. The first would have been Sidney Samuel, but there is no record to show who R. M. Steele was. John E. Steele did not pay taxes in that district after that, either due to death, moving away, or his children were in another school.

Individually, here are the biographies, as available, of the 13 children of John Steele.

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#### PAULINA (Mrs. Augustus) BAKER

Little is known of the family of Paulina Steele Baker, except what has been gleaned from census and marriage records. Paulina, also spelled Pauline and Perlina, was born to John Edward and Nancy Steele before they left Tennessee for their new home in Kentucky. She was born circa 1842 and on March 27, 1859, was married to Augustus Baker. He was born circa 1838, but his parents were not listed in Kentucky prior to his marriage. He was a farmer and a coal miner, and he and his family spent the most of their lives in the Mud River area, Paradise and Skilesville areas. It is not known when either died, nor where they are buried.

It was also difficult from sketchy census records to reconstruct the Baker family, although at least seven children, perhaps more, can be found.

Census records show these: Sophia A., born circa 1861; Edward, 1864; George W. (or S.), 1866; Robert, 1868; a child as yet unnamed born in January of the census year 1870; Liny B., 1874 and Mattie, 1876. Also another unnamed child appeared in the 1880 census. There may also have been a child named Lakey, recorded as being born in October, 1869, but it would be virtually impossible for a child to have been born in October, then another in the

following January, as the census reported. Two other children lived in the family also, a William J. Baker, born in circa 1856 and a Mary S. Baker, born circa 1860, were shown in the 1870 census, but were apparently not Augustus' and Paulina's children. They did not show in the 1880 census.

At the time of this writing, no further descendants of the Bakers were found in the county, and none were listed in the census of 1900 indicating that death and migration had taken a toll on the family.

The fact that no marriage licenses were found for any male members of the family, indicates the men may have moved away from Muhlenberg County prior to marriage. A marriage license was found for the eldest daughter, Sophia, who married William Baugh in 1880. Later licenses were found for a Mary S. Baker to Charles M. Tucker in 1896 and for Mattie Baker in 1893, but these may not be the children of Augustus and Paulina.

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#### JULINA (Mrs. Arch) POLLOCK

Julina, (sometime spelled Gelina) often called Lina, was born in Tennessee circa 1843, and married Archibald Pollock (Polack) in Muhlenberg County on Nov. 15, 1868. He was born in Scotland around 1835, and the Pollocks came to America prior to 1860. They were in the area of Lewisburg (Kincheloe Bluff) prior to 1860, where they were censused that year. Also Archie Pollock was among those who worked for Sir Robert A. S. C. Alexander at Airdrie, and was described by Otto Rothert as "one of the jolliest Scotlanders" and the "champion fist-fighter" at the settlement.

Among the Pollock families censused in 1860 were Mary, 37, with her sons Archibald and Robert, and next door, John, 37, with Charlotta 22, Mary 20 and Ann, 2. In 1870 John, Charlotta, Annie and Archie, were at Mud River, where John was engaged in coal mining. In 1870, Arch Pollock, his bride, Julina and young Archie were also at Mud River. With them were her sister, Isabela Bowling, a John W. Pollock, and a boarder, William Williamson of Scotland. It must be noted that in the two early Pollock families, there were two Archies, and sometime because of census errors in ages, it is difficult to determine which is which. However, with no proof the contrary, it is believed that the Archie who married Julina Steele, was the son of Mary in the 1860 census, even though an age discrepancy exists.

It is also difficult to trace the Pollock family properly, because they moved so frequently in the early years. For instance, in 1880, Archie and Julina were in Mining City in Butler County, where he was the coal operator at the then prospering mine. Julina operated a boarding house, where many of the miners lived. He then was 41, she 36, and children included Archibald 12, Mary 9, John 7, Jennette 5, Nannie 3 and Marian 1. Near them, was John and Charlotta, then 56 and 45. Their children at home at the time were R. Archibald, 23 and Annie, 22.

The late Agnes S. Harralson, in her book "Steamboats on the Green" described Arch D. Pollock in her writing about Mining City this way: "The large company store was managed by Archie D. Pollock, a Scot from Airdrie".

The families were not found in 1900 in a census, but it is known that a younger Archie Pollock lived in Greenville for many

years, and was well-known and well-respected as he continued the tradition of his family in superintending coal mining operations in the county.

Attempts to trace some of the early Pollocks met with little success. In Muhlenberg County, for instance, Mary of the earliest family, married E. R. Smith in 1868, the same year Archie and Paulina married. Earlier, in 1859, Catherine Pollock married Robert Campbell and in Butler County, in 1883, Annie Pollock, the daughter of John and Charlotta, married B. V. McKinney.

Later, apparently after the death of Archie Pollock, Julina "Mrs. Lina Pollock", married Ebenezer Davis in Muhlenberg County, but they too, were not found in 1900 censuses, indicating their earlier deaths or departure from the area.

The children of Archibald and Julina include Archibald, 1868; Mary, 1871; John 1873; Jennette 1875; Nannie, 1877 and Marian, 1879.

In Greenville today, Harry Pollock lives, and works for Peabody Coal Company. "I am possibly the last coal miner of who knows how many in the family", he noted recently. Harry is the son of the late Archie D. Pollock and Catholine Cox Pollock. Another son, Dr. Archie D. Pollock, Jr. lives in San Antonio, Texas.

(See a separate insert on the six generations of "Archies" Pollock, as provided by Harry Pollock, elsewhere in this history.

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#### DORCAS ISABELA (Johnson, Bowling) RYAN

Dorcias Isabela Steele, known as Isabel, was born in Tennessee in July, 1844, just prior to her parents coming to Kentucky. She is believed to have been married three times, though little is known of her first marriage. Depending on family legend and tradition, it is believed that her first husband was James Johnson, perhaps from Butler County. However, no sustaining record of him, their marriage or other records have been found. The best evidence of this marriage is that she had a child in 1866, named John Johnson, indicating this marriage may have occurred in about 1865. Neither is there evidence of what happened to James Johnson following this period.

However, in 1867, a marriage license was found for James M. Bowling and Isabella D. Johnson (Isabela Steele) in Muhlenberg County on Oct. 19, 1867. Apparently there were no children by this marriage. In 1880, Isabela was censused with her sister, Julina (and Arch) Pollock at Mud River, with her son, John, then four. Possibly, James M. Bowling had died by this time.

In 1878, Isabela's more lasting marriage occurred. On April 29, she married Capt. James Buckner Ryan in Muhlenberg County. He was the owner of Mud River Mine, was preparing a rail line to Mud River from Penrod, and had lived a bachelor's life in his semi-seclusion at Mud River, following his service as an officer in the Confederate Army in the Civil War.

They lived for many years in the Ryan house at Mud River, which was later home to many of the later-day families at Mud River.

There is one shadowy question concerning Ryan's marriage to Isabela. The marriage license clearly states the year of marriage for the pair. Yet census records just as clearly show three children, professed to be the children of Ryan and Isabela, at least two of them born prior to that marriage.



The children were: Carrie, born May, 1874; Herbert, born March, 1875 and Buck, born June, 1878.

This could have been written off as perhaps being her children, by another marriage, or his by the same token. Yet no other marriages have been found. Evidence that these are indeed the children of Capt. Ryan and Isabela Steele comes in a recent letter from Helen Martin of Central City, who is a descendant of the John Steele family, and has diligently researched the family.

"I have a picture of Oniss Cares Rine (written on the back along with Mud River, Ky.) My mother said she often heard her mother speaking of her cousin Carrie (Rine-Ryan)."

To have been a cousin, she would indeed have to have been the daughter of Isabela.

There is little-to-nothing to show what happened to Carrie and Herbert Ryan. However, the youngest is buried beside his father, Capt. J. B. Ryan at Mt. Moriah.

Little also is known of John W. Johnson, son of Isabela by her first marriage to James Johnson. A J. W. Johnson married Mary J. Wood in 1889 in Muhlenberg County. Best efforts indicate this may be Isabel's son. No further evidence is found on this marriage, other than two children, who later lived with their grandmother. George Johnson (born 1891) and William Johnson (born 1893), are probably the children of John, and in 1900 were listed as grandchildren in the home James B. and Isabela Ryan at Mud River.

Capt. Ryan died Aug. 14, 1906 at Mud River, and is buried at Mt. Moriah. A few years later, it is said that Isabela was visiting relatives in Daviess County and died there. She was buried near to where she died.

Today, there is little known of any of her family. A niece, surnamed Johnson, is said to reside in Louisville.

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#### JOHN STEELE

John Steele was the first child of John Edward and Nancy Steele to be born in Kentucky. He was born in 1847, near to Rock Springs Church community. One can only speculate as to the possibilities for John Steele as he grew up, since no records avail themselves to our searchers. First, he may have died young, since he is not seen in censuses beyond 1850 and 1860. Also, he may have left the area, seeking a livelihood elsewhere, and third, since he was of the right age to serve, he may have left as a soldier in the Civil War and never returned. At this date, his fate is unknown by present-day family members, and is unlearned from research sources available.

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#### MARTHA E. (Mrs. Benjamin) HARRISON

Martha E. Steele was born in Kentucky in 1848, and on April 12, 1868, married Benjamin Harrison in Muhlenberg County. Benjamin Harrison does not appear in any census in the era of his marriage, in Muhlenberg or surrounding counties. It is believed that he lived here a short while, married Martha, and they left the area for a destination currently unknown. No other public record of them was found after their marriage.

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NATHANIEL A. STEELE

Nathaniel A. Steele was born in Kentucky circa 1856, and was noted as being four year old in the Muhlenberg County census of 1860 and 14 in the Butler County census of 1870. There is no further record of Nathaniel.

\* \* \*

SARAH C. STEELE

Sarah C. Steele was the last child born to John Edward and Nancy Steele, prior to Nancy's death on April 23, 1858. Sarah appeared in the censuses of 1860 and 1870, but not as Sarah Steele in 1880 or afterward, thus further information is not available.

\* \* \*

The children of  
JOHN EDWARD AND REBECCA JULIAN STEELE

\* \* \*

JOSEPH E. STEELE

(1) Joseph E. Steele was born to John and Rebecca Steele in March of 1860, presumably in Muhlenberg County. In the same county, on Sept 22, 1878, he married Mary T. Martin. Mary was born in 1861, daughter of David M. and Sarah C. Latham Martin, then living below Mud River Mine, toward Skilesville.

Joseph and Mary lived near Mud River Mine in the 1880s, but it is doubtful if Joseph Steele lived far beyond 1880. Two pitances of reasoning: (1) In later records, his daughter, Mary Elizabeth, was known to be living in the home of her grandmother, Sarah Latham Martin in the Paradise area, with no parents to be found, and (2), on July 31, 1884, a Mary T. Steele, which could have been the same Mary T. Martin Steele, married a William Castleberry in Muhlenberg County. This, if the same Mary Steele, might indicate Joseph was deceased.

Two known children came from the marriage of Joseph and Mary. The first child, Calvin M. Steele was born Nov. 25 of 1879, and on July 23, 1899, married Hettie A. Ball (b. June 30, 1883). In 1900 they were censused twice, once at the home of John Ball, his father-in-law, near Greenville, and again in their own home at Mud River. Both times he was listed as a coal miner. Nothing more is known of this family, but it is said that there are descendants perhaps living in the county today. Calvin and Hettie are buried in the Forest Grove Baptist Church cemetery. He died May 21, 1955 and she Aug. 7, 1972. The second child, Mary Elizabeth Steele, who was living with her grandmother Martin in 1900 is more easily traced to today's generation. Mary Elizabeth, born in January, 1881, married James Monroe Arndell (1878-1964) on May 21, 1901 in Muhlenberg County. J. M. Arndell was the son of James Cader Arndell and Martha Ellen Adcock. At least one child is known to have been born to this couple, Ivelta, who

married Dennie Burch. The Burches' daughter, Helen Burch Martin presently resides on Central City, Route 3, where she and her husband operate a commercial fruit orchard. Mary Elizabeth Steele Arndell died in 1963.

Joseph's final resting place is not known. If his wife, Mary, is the same one who married William Castleberry, and there is every reason to believe she is, then Mary also had a daughter, Ethel Castleberry, born in 1885, who lived also with her grandmother, Sarah Latham Martin. Neither the time of death nor burial place of Mary T. Martin Steele Castleberry is known.

\* \* \*

MARY F. (Mrs. Jay H. ) DURHAM

Mary F. Steele was born to John and Rebecca Steele in January of 1862 in Kentucky. On April 23, 1882 she married Jay H. Durham (b. 1854), who among other trades, was a pilot of a small steamboat on Mud River which helped barge coal down river to Rochester. Mr. Durham's origin is not known, but it is believed he came from Ohio County.

In 1900, Mary F. Durham gave census statistics which showed she had given birth the 12 children, but only four of them were alive at the time the census was taken. They were: Buck, March, 1885; Phillip, November, 1886; Willie J., September, 1888 and Luther, March 1896.

Agnes Harralson, in the book "Steamboats on the Green", uncovered this humorous story about Jay Durham. Durham and Bill Hunt were employed by the Mud River Mine owners to "pole" the barges of coal to Rochester to be taken further down river to the coal markets. Then the owners brought on a new method of delivering the coal. Mrs. Harralson quotes Meniffee Hunt, nephew of Bill Hunt about the innovation.

"It was a great day for Bill Hunt and Jay Durham when the owners had a little steamboat built to push the barges. The crude little craft was built with the boiler sitting upright, like the fire engines being used in the cities of that day. They went chugging around the bends of Mud River with smoke and flames shooting out of the short little stack. and right off they burned the top off the cabin, and after that, they took the weather, rain or shine. In the fall, sparks fell on dry leaves and set the woods on fire, destroying timber and fences. The Mud River farmers hated the thing, but there was not much they could do about it but fight the fires. They named the boat the Mayflower. Captain R. T. Williams had a big steamboat by the same name, but the name was the only thing similar. Crude as it was, it greatly expedited the delivery of coal to Rochester, where it was picked up by large boats and taken to Evansville and Bowling Green, and on occasions, a boat load would go all the way to New Orleans or Memphis."

Death dates, burial sites and other marriage records for the Durham family have not as yet been found.

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JAMES W. STEELE

The third child of John Edward and Rebecca Julian Steele was

James W. Steele, born March 10, 1863 at Mud River. He was twice married, fathered ten children and was a respected coal miner at Mud River, in Butler and McLean counties and at Graham.

He married his first wife, D. D. (Dory) Morgan in Logan County on Dec. 26, 1883 (Logan M.R. 3-213) at the home of her mother, Annie Morgan. Two children were born to this marriage, James M., who went onto become a strong pillar in the United Mine Workers of America, and a daughter, Maude (Mossie). Dory's death date and burial place also have not been documented.

James M. Steele, the son was born Sept. 10, 1889 and on Feb. 4, 1911, married Lizzie Williams, daughter of Ellie and Katie Price Williams of Mud River. They were the parents of at least three children, an infant who was born and died in 1912, Leona in 1913 and Fred in 1916. A monument to this man stands in Rose Hill Cemetery in Central City, a tribute to his efforts with the union and with District 23 of that union. It reads: "James M. Steele, Sept. 10, 1889 -- Oct. 27, 1950. Dedicated to the memory of James Steele for distinguished service and self-sacrifice in the cause of labor and the advancement of the United Mine Workers of America."

His sister, Maude, according to the present family, was married to Edgar ?.

Dory Morgan Steele died in the mid-1890s, and James W. Steele followed with his second marriage. He was 35, and she 22, when James W. Steele married Minnie C. Hunt. The license reveals a date of Feb. 22, 1899, though at least one child was born to this union prior to that. Marian Steele Sookekey of Depoy, in aiding with the research of this family, was at loss to explain the discrepancies in marriage and birth dates, so they are given as the public records indicate.

Minnie was the daughter of Thomas and Susan Hunt Day of the Gus area and the great-granddaughter of John and Charity Hunt, pioneers of the Hunt Settlement on Mud River.

To James and Minnie were born at least eight children, Ethel, Robert, Anna Mae, Mitchell, Pearl, Moorman, Kate and Kathelleen Alice.

James W. Steele died Aug. 11, 1928 and is buried in Unity cemetery. Minnie, born in 1877, died in 1965, and is also buried at Unity.

Their children:

- (1) Ethel, born March, 1898, married Raymond Thompson in 1923.
- (2) Robert, a Graham coal miner, known affectionately as Hob for years, was born Jan. 18, 1905 at Island. He married Hazel Faith March 10, 1934. They had one child, Marian, who first married Teddy Gossett, and after his death, married Sam Sookekey. They live at Depoy. The daughter of Teddy and Marian, Lana (Peterson) is employed in the office of the county court clerk in Greenville. Hob died March 18, 1988 and is buried at Unity.
- (3) Anna Mae, born Sept. 27, 1915, married Columbus Gossett in 1932.
- (4) Mitchell, who married Delia Stobaugh, was the father of Wilson Texel, born 1924.
- (5) Pearl who married Michael ?.
- (6) Moorman, who married Maggie Blake.
- (7) Kate, married Rufus Brown.
- (8) Kathleen Alice, born Dec. 26, 1911, married Charley Ford.

\* \* \*

### AUGUSTUS ADOLPHUS (Dolph) STEELE

Was his name really Augustus Adolphus Christopher Columbus Steele? At least one record shows it in this manner, but no one in the family who was questioned about it knows for sure.

Dolph Steele was the fourth child of John Edward and Rebecca Julian Steele, born in May, 1866. (The 1900 census record shows 1864). His exact birthplace is unknown, though it was known his parents lived in Butler County shortly after his birth. There is also the theory put forth by one family member that the Steeles lived in Owensboro for a brief time, with Dolph possibly being born there. Popular belief is that he was born at Mud River on the old Steele farm, which is still in family ownership.

Dolph lived the most of his life on this farm, not far from old Mud River School. He and his wife, Em, were respected members of the community and raised their family there. Many of their descendants still live in Muhlenberg County.

On Jan. 20, 1884, he married Sarah Emeline (or Emmaline) McPherson, daughter of John and Sarah McPherson of Butler County and the Gus community. She was born near Gus March 25, 1867. "Aunt Em" as she was affectionately known (as he was called "Uncle Dolph"), was one of the better known and most sought after mid-wives in the area, delivering many, many children in the Gus, Penrod, Dunmor and Mud River areas -- even up to the time of her death in 1954.

Dolph Steele died in 1943 and Em on July 25, 1954. They are buried in Mud River cemetery, not far from where they lived the most of their lives together.

Their children include:

(1) Josie R. Steele, born Jan. 26, 1886. She married W. Pink Smith, son of Philip and Malinda Smith in 1900.

(2) Sarah E. Steele, born August, 1887, married Joseph W. Ellison in 1902.

(3) Rhoda C. Steele, born August, 1889, married P. C. Lesley in 1907.

(4) John E. Steele was born in July, 1890 and was twice married. He first married Eva Brumley in 1909, and second, Edna Campfield in 1938. The most of the Steeles currently living in the south Muhlenberg area are descendants of John Steele.

(5) Sadie Steele, born in August, 1892, married William L. (Bill) Miller, in 1909.

(6) Ida Steele, born March, 1895, married John Penrod, later to be a minister, in 1912.

A closer look at members of this family will be taken in later paragraphs.

\* \* \*

### MONROE STEELE

Monroe Steele, the son of John E. and Rebecca Julian Steele, was born in 1868. He was censused only once in the family, that when he was two-years-old. The family was living in Butler County at this time. No other record of Monroe Steele has been found. It is believed he died at a young age, possibly before 1880.

\* \* \*

THOMAS STEELE

Thomas Steele, another son of John E. and Rebecca Julian Steele, was born in March, 1870, according to the 1870 census records. This is the only time he appears with the family, and it is believed he also died prior to the taking of the 1880 census when he is not shown with the family.

\* \* \*

SIDNEY SAMUEL STEELE

Sidney Samuel Steele (or sometime it was written Samuel Sidney) was the last known child of John Edward and Rebecca Julian Steele. He was born in March, 1876, probably near Mud River in Muhlenberg County. It is known that he attended Hunt School near Gus in 1890, as he appeared that year on the teacher's roll.

On Feb. 27, 1893, he married Ruthie L. McPherson in Muhlenberg County. She was the daughter of John and Sarah McPherson and a sister of Sarah Emeline McPherson, who had married Sidney's brother, Dolph, in 1884,

The children of Sidney and Ruthie included Mary M. Steele (March, 1894), whom it is believed was married to Roscoe Campfield in 1911; and Ada Steele (October, 1898), who married Prentiss Johnson in 1916. Mr. and Mrs. Johnson operated a store in Penrod for several years, and had a son, Walton, who married Mary Agnes Sumner, daughter of Grace and Ebon Sumner of Penrod. Mary Agnes still resides in Missouri.

It is believed that Sidney died prior to 1903, although no grave markers or records of such death have been located. Ruth then married W. G. Sorrells in 1903. Wash Sorrells was from Butler County, the son of James and Susan Sorrells. He carried the mail in the area for many years. He died in 1926 and is buried at Wyatts Chapel near Beech Creek. Beside his grave there is an unreadable marker, which is believed by family members to be that of Ruth McPherson Steele Sorrells.

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The children of  
DOLPH AND EM STEELE  
and their families.

(1) JOSIE R. STEELE -- Josie was born Jan. 26, 1886, and in 1900 married W. Pink Smith. He was a native of Mud River and the son of Philip Dawson Smith and Malinda Hunt Smith, the latter of the pioneer Hunt family. Malinda died when Pink was a small child, and while giving birth to her second child, Zona.

After Pink Smith's death in 1931, Josie married Joseph Fulkerson.

The children of Pink and Josie Smith were:  
Albert, 1901, married Clara Belle Manahane.  
Alonzo, 1903, married Jessie Bates.  
Malinda, 1905, died 14 days after birth.  
Maybelle, born 1906, married Irby Robinson.

Johnny, 1908. married (1) Hester McPherson and (2) Elizabeth Hughes.

Briget, born 1910, died at three years old.

Grace, 1912, married Thirl McClure and still lives in Central City.

Joseph Daniel, born in 1915, died at two years old.

James Dolphus, called J. D., born in 1920, married Lorene Arnold and lives near Dunmor.

Minnie Evelene (Evelyn), born 1922, married Ruby Whitney of Beech Creek.

Raymond O'Neal and Bertha Nell, twins, born 1925. Raymond, died at age 30, and was never married. Bertha Nell lived only one hour after birth.

Josie died March 12, 1969, and is buried at Ebenezer. Pink, born Feb. 10, 1875, died Nov. 4, 1931, and is buried at Mud River.

(2) SARAH E. STEELE -- Born in August, 1887, Sarah (called Sissy) married Joseph W. Ellison (1880) in Muhlenberg County on July 27, 1902. Among their children were Josie Emiline, who married Waymon Uther Powell, Katie Mae, who first married Albert McPherson, and after his death, married Harrison (Bushel) Wright, Mabel, who married Roy Weightman, Mary, wife of Alvis Langley, and Opal who married John Tooley.

(3) RHODA C. STEELE -- Rhoda was born in August, 1889, and married P. C. Lesley on Oct. 6, 1907. Her husband was descendant of a Scottish family of coal miners, who came to America by way of Cuba, where several members of the family were born. Rhoda's children were Rachel, Jessie Mae, Hallie, Mary Ruth (Mrs. Taft Harper) and Gladys who married Manuel Sorrells of Beech Creek.

(4) JOHN E. STEELE -- John Steele was born July 16, 1890 and in 1909 married Eva Mable Brumley (Feb. 16, 1893), daughter of Burl and Margaret Hughes Brumley. They were the parents of a large family of children including James Edward, Abb, Wilson, J. P., Raymond, Billy and Dorothy. After her death, he married Edna Campfield of Beech Creek on May 14, 1938. He was 47, she 28. She was the daughter of Clayton and Eli Alma Hatfield Campfield. A more detailed report on the families of John E. Steele will follow.

(5) SADIE STEELE -- Sadie Steele was born in August, 1892, and on Feb. 14, 1909 married William L. (Bill) Miller. Among their children were William, Walter, Eddie, Louis, Martha Mae, who married John King and resides near Davis Crossroads in Butler County, Doxie and Rojean. Martha Mae and John celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary in 1991. Eddie, who died in 1971, married Hazel Woodlee of Penrod. She now lives in Colorado.

(6) IDA M. STEELE -- Ida was born in March, 1895, and married John Penrod (10-22-1890), son of Leander and Fannie Latham Penrod on Aug. 25, 1912. Their children included Melvin (Mutt), Andrew, Henry, David, Roy and Charles. A more detailed look at this family will follow, also.

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The families of  
JOHN STEELE

John Steele's first marriage to Eva Mable Brumley, produced these children:

(1) JAMES EDWARD STEELE, born Dec. 13, 1909, married Zora Mitchell (born 1908) on Dec. 20, 1926. James died Nov. 19, 1989, and Zora on July 11, 1991. They are buried in Jackson cemetery. James was coal miner, and he and Zora also operated Steele's grocery and restaurant at Beechmont. Their children are: William Earl, Edward Mitchell, Carl Glendall and Helen Joyce.

William Earl Steele, born Feb. 16, 1928, married Lovelle Grimes (1927) in 1945. Their children are Gary William (1946) who married Sue Wheeler and has one daughter; Sheila Ann (1954), who married Michael James Votzi and has two sons; and Angela Denise (1961) who married Roger Dale Kouns, and has a son and a daughter. All live in Vero Beach, Fla.

Edward Mitchell Steele was born Nov. 15, 1930 and married Mary Grace Cary (1948-1989). They had three children, Mitchell Wesley (1954), married Dorothy Hayes and has one daughter; Robert Edward (1956) married Karen Schmitt and has three sons and Christine Elaine, (1964) married Bobby Osborne. All of these live in the Madisonville, Ky. area.

Carl Glendall was born Feb. 26, 1933 and married Barbara N. Jenkins in 1951. They and their children live in Vero Beach, Fla. Children include: Pamela Kay (1952) married Larry J. Canady and has one son; Deborah Faye (1954) married Markus Donald Gay, and has two sons; Glenda Diane (1955) married Bryan Douglas Blais and has two sons; James Glendall (1957), was killed in a motorcycle accident in 1975; and Katherine Lynn (1963) married Ralph Paul Hamilton, and has one daughter.

Helen Joyce was born June 19, 1935 and married Gerald D. Dukes on Sept. 28, 1951. They live on "Pearlie Fleming Hill" on the road into old Mud River community, and operate a lawn and garden business in Beechmont. They have two daughters, Sherland Joyce, born in 1953, who married Randy Clark and has two children; and Teresa Gail, born in 1957, who married John R. Shutt, Jr., and has a daughter.

(2) ABB ALLEN STEELE married Princetta Hardin. She is deceased. He currently resides with his son, Cecil, in Beech Creek. Abb was born Nov. 19, 1911 and Princetta on Oct. 2, 1918. She died April 1, 1991. Their children include: Andrew Allen, who married Betty Jean Pogue, daughter of Guy Pogue, lives in Florida and has four children; Jerry Wayne of Clarksville, Tenn., who married Vivian Tinsley, daughter of John Tinsley, two children; Cecil Harold of Beech Creek, who married Betty Lou Knight, daughter of Will and Ethel Knight, and has three children; Frances (Mrs. John B.) Stewart of Dundee, Ky., who has two children by a previous marriage; Brenda Dell Wester of Arizona, who is divorced from J. E. Wester, son of Cecil and Martha Wester. They had two children; and Jennifer Lynn, wife of Wayne Christie of Erin, Tenn. They have two children. Another child, Veachel Ray, the third oldest, was born and died in 1939.

(3) HENRY WILSON STEELE, who currently resides near Gus. He was born in 1917 and married Ethel Lewis (born 1917), who died in



1991. Their children include Guy Wilson who married Wanda June Wherry; Edward Earl, not married; David Ray, who married Linda Kay Harris; Gary Ray, married to Sandra Lee Bird; Terry Lynn, who married Sheila Gail Hunt and Mary Janis, who married Hershell Steven Croxton.

J. P. (John Phillip) STEELE who was born in 1922 and lives near Beech Creek. He married Gwindolla Whitney (born 1922), daughter of Guy Whitney in 1942. J. P. And Gwindolla have five children, Jeanie Luvelle (Mrs. Roy Wayne Loney); Doris Gale (Mrs. Glendal Shemwell); Phillip Wayne, who married Diana Rufford; Timothy who married Diana Drake, and Shirel, wife of Jerry Lovell.

RAYMOND ROYCE STEELE, born in 1928, lives in Owensboro. He was married in 1954 to Margaret Mary Ryan, mother of his two children, Mary Ann and Ellen Marie. Mary Ann married Guy Andrew Hoelzer and Ellen Marie married Michael Elliott Crane. Raymond is not married to Margaret at this time, and his marital status is unknown.

BILLY O'NEAL STEELE, born June 1, 1933, married Sennie Pelston (1933) of Adair County on Aug. 3, 1957. They live on Rogers Street in Shepherdsville, Ky. They have one son, Stephen O'Neal, who married Leslie Muncy, parents of one child, Karla Marie. It was Billy O'Neal Steele who supplied much of the information on the current Steele families descending from Dolph and Em Steele.

DOROTHY STEELE (Mrs. Harden Burden), who lives Arizona. They have four children, James Harden, Jerry Wayne, Gary and Ricky.

There were also at least four who died in infancy, born to John and Eva Steele. These include an infant, (11-4-1911), Elizabeth (11-2-1915), Henry W. (10-3-1917) and Paul S., (1-22-1920).

In his second marriage to Edna Campfield, John Steele was the father of five children, Stella (Mrs. Ray Knight) of Beech Creek; Wanda (Mrs. Johnny Long) also of Beech Creek; Hilda (Mrs. Jimmy Staples) of Beech Creek; Emily (Mrs. Vernon Garrett) of Beech Creek and Floyd, who married Patty Dukes, of Beechmont.

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The family of  
JOHN AND IDA STEELE PENROD

The last child of Dolph and Em Steele, Ida Irene Steele, born March, 1895, married John Penrod (10-22-1890) son of Leander and Fannie Latham Penrod, on Aug. 25. 1912. John Penrod was a longtime minister of the Gospel and lived for many years at Beech Creek.

Their children include:

(1) MELVIN, called Mutt, who married Gertrude Bradley, daughter of James Pressley and Sarah Elizabeth Ashley Bradley on Dec. 31, 1941. They live near Belton and have eight children: Charlene married Tommy Mallory; Linda married Dawson Smith; Faye married Edgar Farmer; Donnie married Sandra Dwyer; Ann married Danny Putnam; Diane (Tiny) married Lucian Grayson; Kathy married Donald King and Pam married Carl Reynold.

(2) ANDREW.

(3) HENRY, married Opal Woodruff in 1934.

(4) DAVID

(5) ROY

(6) CHARLES, who married Margaret Jean Wilson, daughter of Jim Bob Wilson, in 1946.

\* \* \*

Information on the Steele family is derived from family and public records, plus research aid from Harry Pollock of Greenville, Helen Burch Martin of Central City, Joyce Dukes of Beechmont, Billy Steele of Shepherdsville, Grace McClure of Central City, Cecil Steele of Beech Creek and Marion Sookkey of Depoy. Correspondence should be addressed to the writer, 7965 Ridgewood Road, Goodlettsville, Tenn. 37072. (615-876-4404). Computer-generated copies of this history are available for \$5.