

# WINCHESTER WRANGLER

Winter 2001

Family Newsletter of the Descendants of Willoughby and Mary Wallace Winchester

Issue #01-1

## Smells of the Past

by Jane Frank Fruendt  
Winchester Family Historian

The papers in the box had that old familiar smell of dark corners of libraries. Paper scraps and pictures fell out between the sheets, as I tried to sort through the stack for that elusive "pot-o-gold".

At first, I tossed aside the notebook, not giving it much attention. Later, I decided I better check inside it for more papers.

The brown vinyl, legal-size, portfolio with the tarnished metal locking clasp opens to reveal a gold imprint on the flap reading "World Conference on Records, August 5-8, 1969, Salt Lake City, Utah 84111 U.S.A." It still contained a couple pieces of paper with scribbled names. The portfolio holds a legal-size pad of paper, two slots for business cards, and pockets for papers.

Time stops and it smells like 1969.

The portfolio belonged to my Great Aunt Winnie Winchester Crowe. I imagine her gripping it as she wandered the Family History Library in Salt Lake City and countless county courthouses, cemeteries and relatives homes in search of our ancestors. Did she ever lose it momentarily and panic? Did she ever bang it on the table in frustration?

I suddenly believed I was wearing her shoes, and relished in the smell before me. Although I won't use the portfolio, I will treasure it as a personal keepsake of Winnie's years and years of hard work that have, by fate, made it to me.

What a very precious treasure I have found!



Winnie Winchester, undated

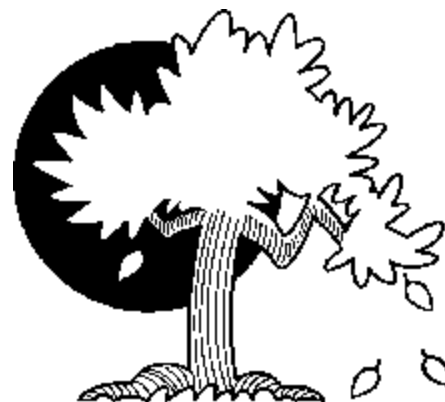
## Mission Statement

To document and preserve an accurate and complete family history of the descendants of Willoughby and Mary Wallace Winchester for future generations.

Willoughby & Mary  
Direct Descendant Count

# 5,308

July 2000: 5,056



## Church Minutes Offer Insight of Ancestors' Lives

From the Minutes Book of the Antioch Baptist Church, Pickens, South Carolina (reprinted verbatim)

Dec the 8th 1866

The church met after worship went into confer. 1st Opened the door of the church & recd Sisters Sarah Jane Howard, Mary A. Howard, Mary Winchester, Mary Moore & Mary A Gilstrap & colerd Sister Amanda McKinney by e ?\_ps & colerd Bro Jackson Anderson & Sister Minerva Kirksy by letter. 2nd Called for fellowship all in peace then elected Elder J.R. Hamlin for our pastor for next year. 3rd Granted sister Matilda Forster & Elizabeth Alexander letters of dismission.

J.R. Hamlin

## Winchester State History

	<u>Union Admission Year</u>	<u>Winchester Settlement Year</u>
<b>South Carolina</b> ▷	1788	early 1700s
<b>North Carolina</b> ▷	1789	1829
<b>Kentucky</b> ▷	1792	1890
<b>Alabama</b> ▷	1819	1835
<b>Texas</b> ▷	1845	1880
<b>Wyoming</b> ▷	1890	1894
<b>Oklahoma</b> ▷	1907	1889



## "On The Ancestor Trail" or "Oh, Those Darn Elusive Winchesters!"

A new regular feature of this newsletter will be biographies of our ancestors who are escaping my research. My primary concern is to "nail down" the first 4 generations of Winchesters, from about 1775 to 1900. Please read through these bios and if you have any information regarding these branches of the family, please contact me!

### ► Nancy WINCHESTER

Of the five children of Willoughby and Mary with living descendants, I have the least amount of information about Nancy. So, let me give you a synopsis of her history.

Nancy was born in 1796, probably in the old Pendleton District of South Carolina. In 1815 she married John Hensley GRAVELY Jr. (b 1786 - d 1881). They had at least seven children all born in Pickens County.

1. The eldest, John Hensley III, is the only child traced to present day with over 470 direct descendants and about fifty great-great-grandchildren. He was born 24 DEC 1823 and married Elizabeth LADD about 1844. John died in 1862 in Charleston.

2. Richard C. was born about 1825 and married Sarah "Sallie" LADD (1834-1892, possibly Elizabeth's sister). They had one child, Margaret Jane born 1 JUL 1864; married 11 DEC 1892 to William Silas EVATT; and died 12 JAN 1934. The line stops there.

3. Joseph was born about 1830 and married Maranda (?). And that's the end of that line.

4. Margaret was born about 1832 and married Bright MOORE. The line stops there.

5. Nancy was born about 1833 and married (?) YOUNGBLOOD. They had two children, Margaret and Waddy, and the line stops there.

6. James was born about 1835.

7. Waddy was born about 1838.

The 1850 census taken August 20 in the Eastern Division of Pickens District lists John Gravely as head of the household, 61 year old farmer born in Virginia. Nancy is listed as being 55 years old and as having been born in South Carolina. Their eldest documented son, John, is listed on this same census along with his wife Elizabeth and two small sons as living

on a farm nearby. Richard, at 25 years old, is listed living at home as well as the other children named above ranging from age twelve to twenty.

Winnie stated, "My guess, also, is that they were laid to rest in that private Winchester cemetery, among their kindred, with only a huge rock to mark their graves."

It is terribly unfortunate that this line is not documented any further. If you are a descendant of the eldest child, John III, and know of other cousins that may be the descendants of John's siblings, please contact me.

### ► Sarah E. GILSTRAP

Born 20 DEC 1860 to John Ambrose GILSTRAP (son of Bright and Elizabeth Ann Morgan GILSTRAP) and Mary Elizabeth WINCHESTER (daughter of Joseph and Isabella Miller WINCHESTER), Sarah's family were farmers in the Nine Times area of Pickens County, South Carolina. She was the 4th of 11 children. Her siblings were William Harrison, Sarah Margarite WALKER, John M., (Sarah E), Joseph, Elizabeth Lavada GRAVELY, Jesse Miller, Jakon or Jackson, Bright Richard, Naomi CLARK BARRETT or BARRETT CLARK, and Jehu Sylvester

John Edward and Malinda Talulla Gravely Porter, and their children: (l to r) Rufus, baby Essie, Henry Jacob, Beulah and William Hensley, about 1913.

The Porters lived in North Carolina. This photo was taken about 2 years before Edward's death at age 33.

Talulla was the youngest of 13 children. Her mother, Hester Ann Winchester Gravely, died when Talulla was only one month old. There is no record of Tallula remarrying. She may have gone to live with some of her large family.

How tough her life must have been to be widowed at a young age with five small children. Talulla only lived to age 47.

"Major". Sarah's middle name may be Elizabeth, but it is unusual that there is another Sarah and another Elizabeth among the four girls. Is this a census error?

Sarah married Willie Columbus "Cull" HARPER (b 18 MAR 1853 - d 12 DEC 1939). Sarah died 17 DEC 1939 and is buried in Mountain Grove Baptist Church Cemetery in Pickens County with her husband.

Did Sarah and Willie have children? Is there a story behind the 5 day separation in their deaths?

### ► Silas MacDuffie THOMPSON

George McDuffie "Mack" and Melissa Lavada Winchester THOMPSON's firstborn child, Silas MacDuffie, was born 30 AUG 1877 in Pickens County, South Carolina. Silas had five younger siblings, Joseph E., Crayton Hughes, Ollie Naomi HENSHAW, Lillie Lavada BOYD and George Bean. Silas married Dora Hallie TERRELL on 15 MAY 1898 in Lamar County, Texas. He died 22 APR 1932 in Roxton, Texas. Did Silas and Dora have any children or is this the end of this particular branch of the family tree? And if so, who and where are they?

