

Rev. Dr. Robert E. H. Peoples +

DESCENDANTS

OF

BENJAMIN LAWTON WILLINGHAM

AND

ELIZABETH MARTHA BAYNARD

Compiled

by

Calder Willingham Payne.

- 1976 -

Lawton
Benjamin/Willingham

born 21 April 1829 at Silver Hill Plantation, Lawtonville, S.C.

died 17 February 1898 at Macon, Georgia

married

Elizabeth Martha Baynard

born 15 September 1830 at Broad River, Beaufort District, S.C.

died 17 July 1897 at Macon, Georgia

Preface

In recent years - as I get older - I have become increasingly aware of the need for an updating of Willingham family data. THE FAMILY CIRCLE, by Annie Elizabeth Miller, was compiled in 1931 and A FAMILY HISTORY, by Anne Willingham Willis, in 1946. These two books give much valuable information but three generations need to be accounted for and it occurs to me that now is the time to do something about it.

My grandmother, Cecilia ("Telie") Willingham Payne, was one of the seven daughters of Benjamin Lawton Willingham and Elizabeth Martha Baynard.

I am sorry this Supplement is not complete but I was unable to secure data from a few of the cousins. In these situations I listed only what information was shown in A FAMILY HISTORY. I am deeply grateful for all those who did respond to my request and especially to those who undertook the very arduous task of securing data from all members of his or her own line. This little booklet would not have been possible without their invaluable assistance.

The seventeen children of Benjamin Lawton Willingham and Elizabeth Martha Baynard are shown parenthetically in Roman numerals just as in A FAMILY HISTORY, by Anne Willingham Willis. I have always understood, as have other cousins of my generation and of my father's that there were eighteen children in this family. I cannot account for the eighteenth. Nine sons and four daughters lived to establish families of their own and there are four graves in the B. L. Willingham lot in Rose Hill Cemetery, Macon.

Virginia Marshall Flatau, a granddaughter of Broadus Estes Willingham, has written a beautiful tribute to her great-grandparents and I have included it as an introduction to this Supplement.

Calder W. Payne.

October 1, 1976

ADDENDA

DESCENDANTS OF BENJAMIN LAWTON WILLINGHAM and ELIZABETH
MARTHA BAYNARD

EASTER, 1978. Winston-Salem, North Carolina gave me an opportunity to peruse the Family Bible of Benjamin Lawton Willingham, now in the possession of Francis Fries Willingham, a great-grandson of Benjamin Lawton Willingham. The following entries were noted:

BORN - Josephine Mary, our sixth daughter and twelfth child, born 7th Oct., 1864 - Allendale.

DIED- on 23rd Oct., 1865 -Josephine Mary-1 year and 16 days old.

"I left my home (Gravel Hill) in Barnwell District on the 10th of January, 1865 with my family and about 50 Negroes, all of my mules and wagons, with enough provisions to last me to my plantation in So.W.Georgia to get out of the way of Sherman's Army. We got to my place in So.W. Georgia on the last day of January. I had twelve children at the time (and one infant, Josie, was very feeble), and we never gave a dose of medicine on the trip".

B.L.W.

"I moved from my So.W.Georgia plantation to Forsyth on the 15th day of Nov., 1865 by R.R."

B.L.W.

"I moved from my Forsyth plantation June 25, 1866 by R.R." (There is a notation here in another handwriting "back to Allendale").

"I moved with my family to Macon, Georgia on 9 of Nov., 1870".

B.L.W.

So the missing 18th has now been found. Josephine Mary died when they were still living in the Albany, Georgia area and must have been buried on the plantation.

March 28, 1978

Calder N. Payne.

Introduction

Benjamin Lawton Willingham and his wife, Elizabeth Martha Baynard, were descended from families who had come from England, Ireland and Switzerland to settle in South Carolina several generations before they were born. Their forebears were people of distinction whose industry, leadership and family stability contributed to the strength of the South Carolina colony.

On the Willingham side of the family, the names of Lawton, Mosse and Robert are notable; Pierre Robert having come to South Carolina in 1686 from Switzerland to become ^{early} ~~the~~ first Huguenot pastor in the colony. On the Baynard side, the list of prominent ancestors includes the names of Calder, Grimball and Barnwell. The first Paul Grimball, a native of England, was Secretary of the Province of South Carolina from 1683 to 1685, a Member of the Grand Council in 1685, and was Receiver General and Escheator in 1687. His son, Thomas Grimball, also born in England, became Sheriff of Charles Town District and Justice of the Peace in 1721. John Barnwell, who came from County Meath, Ireland, settled in South Carolina in 1701 and was Colonel in command of the Expedition against the Tuscaroras in 1712, earning him the nickname, "Tuscarora Jack". He held a command in the Yamasee War in 1715, and he was Commissioner of the Indian Trade and a Justice of the Peace in 1721.

Before their marriage in 1848, Benjamin Lawton Willingham had attended the Citadel in Charleston and Elizabeth Martha Baynard, born on Lady's Island in the Broad River at Beaufort, South Carolina, had attended Miss Ball's School in Charleston. With this background of education, their desire to give each of their children a similar benefit is understandable. Of their thirteen children - nine sons and four daughters - who grew to adulthood, each was sent to college at a time when the South was suffering its deepest depression as a result of the ravages of the War Between the States.

The University of Richmond, Washington and Lee University, Virginia Female College (now Mary Baldwin College), Shorter College, Mercer University and the University of Georgia were among some of the colleges they attended.

"Gravel Hill", the home on their plantation on the Savannah River near Allendale, South Carolina, still stands today, in 1976, miraculously spared by the Union troops as they despoiled the countryside. What a wrench for them to be forced to leave their home in mid-life to start afresh in a new community in order to provide life's necessities which "Gravel Hill" could no longer afford! What a sight the large entourage of buggies and wagons, filled with only the most cherished belongings, must have made as they went first to Albany, Georgia, then to Forsyth, Georgia, and finally to settle in Macon, Georgia!

The Baptist Church, first and foremost, was the guiding influence in the lives of these two and their thirteen children. They contributed in countless ways to their church and the faith they derived from it was a source of great strength and comfort to them. The love and loyalty which existed between the brothers and sisters contributed to the business successes so many of them achieved. They were in many ventures together - cotton factoring, lumber mills, cotton mills and land holdings.

To be a descendant of such forebears is indeed an inspiration and a challenge to all of us living a century later. Our trials and pressures, seemingly insurmountable at times, fade when we compare them with those our ancestors endured and conquered. We surely have reason to be proud of our heritage.

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