

Reynolds Steele Hardegree

The Reynolds, Steele and Hardegree families were earlier settlers in Van Zant County and were united through marriages. Each family reached Van Zant County following the Civil War.

Allen Reynolds was born in 1832. He was a Confederate soldier and a member of Co. H., 34th infantry, Mississippi Volunteers. He died as a soldier in 1863 and was buried in the Myrtle Hill cemetery in Rome, Georgia. Allen Reynolds married **Martha Whittington** from Jefferson County, Alabama. Martha was born March 5, 1837 the daughter of Wilburn Whittington and Mary Goolsby. Allen and Martha had two sons **Jacob Allen** born April 13, 1862 and **John Francis** born December 2, 1859. The sons were born in Tippah County, Mississippi. Martha and the two sons moved to Van Zant County in 1873. Martha later married Mr. **Harrington** whom I have no history. There was also a daughter of Martha's, Mary Sanders whom I have no history. Martha Whittington Reynolds Harrington died October 24, 1922 and is buried in Liberty Cemetery on FM2339 about 5 miles west of Callender Lake in Van Zant County.

John F. Reynolds married **Theodocia (Docia) Earnest Hobbs** on Jan 1, 1881. She was born May 26, 1863 in Van Zant County and died Feb 1, 1933. John F. died Sept. 16, 1934. Both are buried in Liberty Cemetery, Van Zant County. Further history can be found in the "Family History of **William Hobbs (1787-1837)**" begin on page 218.

Jacob Allen Reynolds married **Mattie Williams Steele** on Nov 27, 1887. She was born in Neshoba County, Mississippi on Nov 28, 1867 the daughter of **Sewell W. Steele** and **Sinia Elizabeth (Lizzie) Stovall Steele**. A second daughter of Sewell and Lizzie was **Lula Belle Steele** also born in Neshoba County, Mississippi on Sept 27, 1866. Sewell and family left Mississippi on Dec 3, 1869 and arrived in **Van Zant** County, Texas on Jan 2, 1870. Sewell Steele died 9 July, 1876 and Lizzie Steele, who later married J.W. Williams, died 26 Sept., 1919. Both Sewell and Lizzie are buried in the Edom Cemetery about 2 miles north of Edom on highway FM279.

Lula Belle Steele married **Daniel Whitaker Hardegree** who was born in Smith County, Texas on Nov 11, 1855. He died Oct 17, 1933 and is buried in Prairie Spring Cemetery as well as Lula Belle who died in 1924. The Hardegrees had eight children, five of them being **Edward, Grady, Dean, Leland and Lucile**. There are many members of the Hardegree family buried at the Prairie Spring Cemetery. That is all the information I have at this time on the Hardegree family.

I will digress some and cover the **Steele** family's ancestors. **Sewell Steele** was a lieutenant in the CSA army. He introduced himself to **Lizzie Stovall** through writing her a letter dated 12 Sept. 1861. A scan of the letter will be added at the end, but it is very difficult to read due to its age and the scanning process. The letters continued throughout the war (9 in all) with the last one dated Nov. 1864. Following the war Sewell married Lizzie on Dec 31, 1865 and they moved to **Van Zant County** with their two daughters arriving Jan 2, 1870.

Sewell Steele was born in 1834 in Le Ray, Jefferson County, New York and left home before 1850 ending up in Mississippi. He was the son of **Elisha Steele Jr. and Eunice Barrett Steele**.

The ancestral lineage can be traced back to **Robert Steele** born about 1464 in Fairsted, Essex, England through the Latter-Day Saints ancestral files:

http://www.familysearch.org/ENG/Search/frameset_search.asp

Enter the name Elisha Steele Jr. His Ancestral File Number is AFN VCOR-71.

The following is an abbreviated descendants listing of Robert Steele:

Descendants of Robert STEELE

1 Robert STEELE b: Abt. 1464
 2 Robert STEELE b: Aht. 1500
 -Mrs. Robert STEELE b: Abt. 1495
 3 Richard STEELE b: Abt. 1524 d: January 10, 1594/95
 +Mrs. STEELE b: 1524
 4 Richard STEELE b: April 12, 1549 d: January 12, 1630/31
 +Mrs. Elizabeth STEELE b: 1565 d: April 04, 1626
 5 Richard STEELE b: 1587
 5 George STEELE b: 1589
 5 John STEELE b: December 12, 1591 d: November 25, 1665
 +Rachell WALCOTT b: 1602 d: October 24, 1653
 6 John (Jr.) STEELE b: 1624 d: February 03, 1652/53
 6 Samuel STEELE b: 1626 d: August 14, 1685
 +Mary BOOSEY b: September 10, 1635 d: March 16, 1703/04
 7 James STEELE b: August 31, 1662 d: May 15, 1713
 8 [1] Stephen STEELE b: 1696 d: December 14, 1759
 9 [2] Elisha STEELE b: October 07, 1728 d: August 07, 1773
 +[3] Sarah WALCOTT b: June 17, 1735 d: April 28, 1812
 10 [4] Sarah STEELE b: April 29, 1759
 10 [5] Mary STEEL b: May 27, 1761
 10 [6] Mary Ann STEEL b: April 28, 1763
 10 [7] Roger Wolcott STEEL b: January 19, 1768
 10 [8] Mchitable STEEL b: May 08, 1770
 10 [9] Elisha Steele b: 1765 d: 1844
 11 [10] Elisha Steele, Jr b: 1801 d: 1868
 +[11] Eunice Barrett b: 1813
 12 [12] Sewel W Steele b: April 14, 1834 d: July 09, 1876
 -[13] Sinin Elizabeth Stovall b: April 29, 1836 d: September 26, 1919
 13 [14] Lula Belle Steele b: September 27, 1866
 +[15] W D Hardegree b: November 11, 1855 d: October 17, 1933
 14 [16] Edward Hardegree
 14 [17] Grady Hardegree
 14 [18] Dean Hardegree
 14 [19] Leland Hardegree
 14 [20] Lucile Hardegree
 13 [21] Mattie Williams Steele b: November 28, 1867 d: June 09, 1944
 +[22] Jacob Allen Reynolds b: April 11, 1862 d: October 25, 1922
 14 [23] Lula Mabel Reynolds b: December 14, 1888
 +[24] Albert Milburn
 *2nd Husband of [23] Lula Mabel Reynolds:
 +[25] Bun D. Milburn d: March 08, 1925
 15 [26] Harold Reynolds Milburn b: January 31, 1912
 15 [27] Jack Allen Milburn b: April 30, 1916
 +[28] Billie Bishop
 16 [29] Barbara June Milburn b: June 10, 1944
 15 [30] Mattye Sue Milburn b: January 10, 1915
 +[31] Vernon F Johnson
 16 [32] Roland K Johnson b: February 26, 1939
 16 [33] Sherry Janice Johnson b: May 08, 1940
 14 [34] Clara Maud Reynolds b: February 01, 1891 d: September 17, 1892
 14 [35] Roy Steele Reynolds b: January 24, 1893 d: October 31, 1947
 +[36] Maggie Burrus Branton b: September 12, 1897 d: January 02, 1985
 15 [37] Vivian Jean Reynolds b: February 27, 1922 d: March 1922
 15 [38] Roy Steele Reynolds, Jr b: October 08, 1925
 -[39] Dorothy Ruth Kastendieck b: February 11, 1926 d: August 10, 2001
 16 [40] Craig Steele Reynolds b: July 12, 1955
 +[41] Jenny Lynne Ackerman b: April 11, 1953
 17 [42] Valerie Scott Reynolds b: May 02, 1990
 17 [43] Savannah Leigh Reynolds b: June 24, 1994
 12 [44] Fredrick D Steele b: 1849
 +[45] Maria Prouty

Letter that follows was written by Sewell Steele from Marion Station, Miss. on 12 Sept., 1861 to Lizzie Stovall as an introduction to their letters of courtship throughout the Civil War. Note: A double "s" appears in script to look like the letter "p".

15th Sept 1861

Dear Friend Lizzie -

Without making any apology for so doing I avail myself of this opportunity of writing to you to let you know that I am still in the land of the living, and able to speak for myself - I don't know that I should ever think of writing to you, without being solicited. Had it not been that other members of my Company are constantly receiving letters from home, I should think every one has left some one behind to think of them - all are remembered but one no one there who thinks enough of me to let me know that I ever receive a passing thought, and I don't wonder if I feel lonely

disconsolate - So after a good deal of reasoning & hesitation think to myself it will write to you as the only person most likely to receive an answer from - therefore you are the recipient of this Epistle -

I have nothing of importance to communicate - I came to this place one fortnight in company with E. L. Clement and Tom Barber - I have been visiting at Col. Allens, and am obliged to return to night - I tried to get a furlough to go home to Northam but found that a thing impossible - and I determined as I had a chance to come here to do so, and I expect it will be the last chance I will have of leaving Camp, until I am discharged - We are kept under very strict discipline at Cambridge - have no friends

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at all; though I believe most of the company
are now well satisfied - The days about five
hours per day and have plenty of time to attend
to cooking, and other duties - We have our washing
done at 4 1/2 per month - Bill McDonald does
the washing for the company -

I ap
a Let
than
the
have
inter
but
I have
Every
never

That we have as various plenty of flour,
Bacon, Beef, Coffee, Sugar, Rice, Salt, & Vinegar
if we could have it cooked up in good
water nothing would be wanting to make it
very comfortable - I have no doubt when we will
get where we have heard Gen. Pettus made
us a speech in Camp last Saturday, in
which he stated that it was probable we
would be called to some point on the Miss.
River, either Memphis or Vicksburg, and that
this may be so, for although but a few days
in Camp, we begin to get tired of it -

I don't know but by this time it ought
to reach you as Mrs. J. - Jeps Smith
came down last Saturday and informed me that
Wm. May Jr. & your Brother in law, were
to have been married the Thursday before,
but he had not heard whether they were
or not - I guess it thinks, if it is not
too great a sacrifice, you ought to wait
until after the war, just to give me
an opportunity to be present at the wedding

How did the Protracted Meeting
go off - was Hawk's bill there? Who

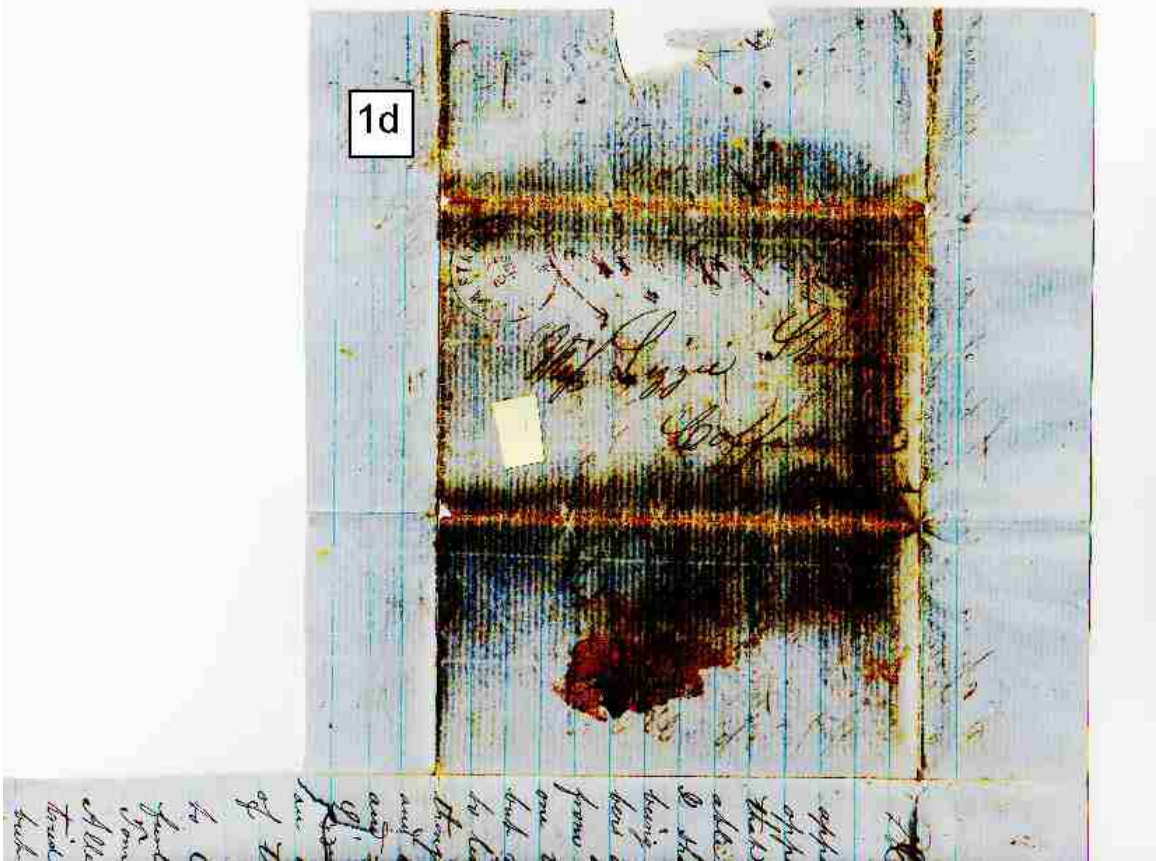
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I assure you that I would appreciate
a Letter from you with the train
than from any one else

I have not time by writing more
the train leaves soon for Enterprise and I
have written this while waiting for it - I
intended to have written to you last Sunday
but had no chance -

Please give my kindest regards to
Grandmother Mr. Mellor's family &
Every body else - Write soon with all
news & believe always

Your sincere friend
L. W. Steele
5th Regt. Mich. Volunteer
Enterprise
Mich.



Jacob Allen Reynolds

Born in Mississippi and came to Van Zant County in 1873 at the age of 11 with his mother and brother John Francis Reynolds. He married Mattie Steele in 1887 and they had two children born in Ben Wheeler – Mable and Roy Steele Reynolds. He owned a General Store in Ben Wheeler. About 1910 he and the family moved to Tuscola, Taylor County, Texas where he opened a General Store and built a cotton gin near his home.

Later he opened a second cotton gin in Littlefield, Texas. He died after a short illness in Littlefield and was buried in the family plot at the Tuscola Cemetery.