

THE FAMILY OF JAMES AND NANCY ROBBINS SARTAIN
of NC, GA and Franklin County , TN
by Reiley Kidd, MD

James Sartain, the son of Josiah Sartain, Sr. of Wilkes Co., NC,¹ was born about 1765.²

Josiah Sartain was from Culpeper Co., VA, the son of John and Anna³ Sartain. A 1760 will there names John's 5 sons - Isaac, Jacob, Josiah, Joel and Job.⁴ Anna had preceded John in death, for she's not mentioned in the will.

The place of James' birth is uncertain - His father Josiah had bought 165 acres on Shocco Creek⁵ in Granville Co., NC in 1762 and was on that county's tax list that year. Josiah sold this property in 1764, and sometime prior to 1769 moved across the state line to Pittsylvania Co., VA. Depending upon the date of his birth, James could have been born in either place.⁶

Josiah, James's father, sold his Pittsylvania Co. land on Frying Pan Creek in 1771 to brother Jacob Sartain and moved to Surry Co. NC, where he appears on the 1771 Tax List. The area where they lived became Wilkes Co., in 1777, and Josiah was named to a jury that year. In 1779 his daughter Mary married James Shepherd, and Josiah was bondsman. Later that year Josiah entered the three separate 50-acre tracts⁷ on the Reddies River in Wilkes Co., NC - one lay on both sides of the Middle Fork of the Reddies R., above the mouth of Laurel Fork, one lay on the Reddies River above the first, and the other lay on both sides "among the mountains."

In 1785 a George McNeel sold 120 acres to Josiah, witnessed by James Sartain and Robert Shepherd. Later that same year Josiah sold 50 acres on the N. side of the South Fork of the Reddies River to Robert Shepherd, again witnessed by James Sartain.⁸

James married Nancy "Ann" Robins 10 Sept. 1786 in Wilkes Co., NC.⁹ He appears on the 1787 NC state census in Wilkes Co.¹⁰, near Josiah Sartain, Sr. and in the 1790 NC census is near John Robins/Robbins, Jr., his father-in-law.¹¹ Nancy's age is uncertain - judging from the

¹ Barbara Dunn (bdunn@crotalus.famu.edu), personal correspondence, 6/98. More on Josiah is available in the book by Ruby Nell and Royce Northcutt. Josiah lived in the Reddies River area of Wilkes Co. and was an early settler there, along with the Sheppard family.

² judging from his age on the 1820 (45 or older) and 1830 (60-69) censuses.

³ Anna's name comes to us from her dower release on various deeds(e.g., Spottsylvania Co. VA DB C, p. 159: John Sartin of St. Geo. Par., Spts. Co., and Anna his wife" sold land "granted by patent to sd. Sartin Sept. 28, 1728" on May 4, 1742.. Her maiden name is unknown.

⁴ Barbara Dunn (bdunn@crotalus.famu.edu), personal correspondence, 6/98.

⁵ This land is most likely in Warren or Franklin Co., NC. Shocco Creek forms the border between these two counties, with its headwaters just across the border of Vance Co., and runs E-SE into Fishing Creek.

⁶ *A Sartain/Tirey Family Tree*, by Ruby Nell Sartain Northcutt and Royce Dean Northcutt, p. 58.

⁷ This land is in western Wilkes Co., NC, near its border with Ashe Co. and NW of Wilksboro, NC.

⁸ Wilkes Co., NC DB D, p. 114: 21 Feb 1787, Josiah Sartain to Robert Shepherd...40 pds.....50 acres on N. side of S. fork of Reddies R.

⁹ Barbara Dunn (bdunn@crotalus.famu.edu), personal correspondence, 6/98. Her note says that James Shepherd (his brother-in-law) served as bondsman for the license. From "Wilkes Co. NC Marriages Prior to 1800", cited in WGS 16(3):5, 1982 (SGS).

¹⁰ "Capt. Judd's District - 10 June 1787, p. 1, #58- 10100. Nearby are Luci Sartin (p. 2, #5- 02300) and Josiah Sartin (p. 2, #20, 12200)

¹¹ 1787 Wilkes Co., NC Tax List, Capt. Judd's district:

Name	Acres	# polls
Robins, John	651	5
Robins, Reuben	-	1
Shepard, James	210	3
" , John	645	1
Sartin, James	120	1
" , Josiah	100	1

1820 census, she was born after 1775, but on later censuses, she could have been born as early as 1760. Nancy's mother may have been Elizabeth¹² Dogan.¹³

James served on a Wilkes Co., NC jury in July 1787. Later that month he was removed from the jury, "probably because the jury was trying a case where his brother-in-law, James Shepherd, was the defendant. Later that same year James Shepherd sued James Sartain, for unspecified reasons.¹⁴

James sold land in Wilkes Co., NC in 1790; by description, this appears to be some of the land his father had entered on the Reddies River in 1771. Josiah apparently passed it on to James without proper deeding, as the deeds came before the county court in 1795, perhaps to properly record ownership in a subsequent land transaction.¹⁵ In that year, Josiah Sr. witnessed a deed for his son-in-law James Shepherd in Franklin Co., GA, and both he and his son Josiah Jr. were on the tax lists of Wilkes Co., GA. James was in Franklin Co., GA with them later. It isn't clear whether Josiah moved earlier, or that they all moved together.

Several of the NC Sartains migrated to GA, as did some Sheppards. Unfortunately there are no extant federal censuses for GA for 1790, 1800 or 1810. Therefore property tax and land records are the primary resource for genealogists in GA in this period.

Unfortunately there appear to be SEVERAL James Sartains in Georgia at this time. A James Sartain was in default on taxes in Washington Co. GA in 1791,¹⁶ and another (same?) James Sartain of Montgomery Co., GA on 4-6-1795 gave power of attorney to William Longstreet, merchant of Augusta, GA to sell 26,000 acres in Montgomery Co., granted to Sartain 3-28-1795 in 26 grants of 1000 acres each.¹⁷ It is unclear whether these two references are our James, but their wealth argues strongly against that. However, our James *was* in Franklin Co., GA by 1799,¹⁸ along with his father-in-law, John Robins.¹⁹ And he is possibly the "James

1790 Federal Census of Wilkes Co., NC, 4th Company:

Jno. Robins 3-1-7-11

Sertain, Jas. 1-1-2-0

Barbara Dunn (bdunn@crotalus.famu.edu), personal correspondence, 6/98. Said to be on p. 121, with 1 M over 16, 1M <16, 3F. The census index, "North Carolina Heads of Families, 1790" lists a James "Sertain" on p. 122, in Morgan District, Co. 4, of Wilkes Co., with one male over 16 (him), one under 16, and 2 females. This implies that he and Nancy have two children by 1790. John Robins is on p. 121 with 3 males >16, 1 male <16, 7 females and 11 slaves. Nearby are Lucy "Certain" (p. 121) and numerous Shepherd families.

¹² There is an 1811 Franklin Co. GA deed naming "John Robins and wife Elizabeth", found in "From Deed Books in Clerk's office, Franklin Co., GA", pp. 216-238 of *Historical Collections of the Georgia Chapters, Daughters of the American Revolution. Vol. 1.* Baltimore, MD: Clearfield Co., Inc. 1995 [reprint of 1926 ed.], p. 268. John Robins and wife were apparently in Franklin Co., TN by this time. And an Elizabeth Robins (apparently a widow) is on the 1830 federal census, age 70-79 and living alone, but with Sartains nearby.

¹³ Jimmie I. Robins, descendant of John Robins, Sr., <<http://www.familytreemaker.com/r/o/b/Jimmie-L-Robins/ODT1-0002.html>> According to this source as of 12-28-98, John Robins, Sr. was b. 1720, and died 1791. His wife was Margaret _____, and their children included Reuben Robbins (1754-1833, m. Jane Turner), Thomas Robbins (m. Mery Foster), John Robbins, Jr. (1755-?, m. Elizabeth Dogan), and Lucy Robbins (? - 1787).

¹⁴ *A Sartain/Tirey Family Tree*, by Ruby Nell Sartain Northcutt and Royce Dean Northcutt, p. 60.

¹⁵ *A Sartain/Tirey Family Tree*, by Ruby Nell Sartain Northcutt and Royce Dean Northcutt, p. 59.

¹⁶ Barbara Dunn (bdunn@crotalus.famu.edu), personal correspondence, 6/98.

¹⁷ Barbara Dunn (bdunn@crotalus.famu.edu), personal correspondence, 6/98, cites Misc. Rec. Book DDD, p. 175, as cited in GA Gen. Mag., Jan. 1985, p. 918.. These two counties are considerably south of Franklin and Elbert Co., and these references may be to another James Sartain.

¹⁸ James is named in a lawsuit, Arthur Jones vs. James Sartain, in Franklin Co. Administration and Wills, dated Aug. 22, 1799 ("from a book unmarked and not indexed", cited in *Historical Collections of the Georgia Chapters, Daughters of the American Revolution. Vol. 1.* Baltimore, MD: Clearfield Co., Inc. 1995 [reprint of 1926 ed.], p. 263.

¹⁹ Barbara Dunn (bdunn@crotalus.famu.edu), personal correspondence, 6/98. She states James witnessed a sale of land by John Robins to Green Roberson et al.

Certam” who was granted 400 acres in Washington Co., GA in 1798.²⁰ The 1803 tax list for Franklin Co. shows that James owed 100 acres on Nails Creek. This is the same area where his father had given James’s brothers Josiah Jr. and John 100 acres each in 179.²¹ In 1804, he’s mentioned in a Franklin Co., GA deed from Tignall Jones, “administrator of Arthur Jones, dec’d” (the same man who sued him in 1799!).²² In October that same year, James was appointed administrator of the estate of Arthur Jones, dec’d.²³

Nails Creek is in the southern part of present-day Franklin County, GA, flowing SE just west of GA State Hwy. 51, west of Franklin Springs, GA. It flows into the Hudson River.

In 1805 he had two draws in the Georgia Land Lottery, but both were blank. That year he sold 200 acres on Nails Creek to a Josiah Sartain, probably Josiah Jr., his brother, for \$435.²⁴ The next year he bought 150 acres on Grags Creek in Franklin Co., GA, from John Robins.²⁵ The next year, in 1807 he sold this land for \$550.²⁶

By 1806 or 1807, James and family had sold his Franklin Co., GA land to Josiah Sartain, and had migrated north to Franklin Co., TN,²⁷ where James had received a grant for 200 acres on the Elk River.²⁸ He received another grant in the same county in 1808.²⁹ His lands were in the Burrows Cove area of the Elk River, in that part of Franklin County that would later be split off to form Coffee County, and then again later to form Grundy County.

In 1809, he sold his remaining Franklin County, GA land on Graggs Creek, “adjoining John Robins and Gabriel Jones.”³⁰ I haven’t been able to find a Graggs or Grags Creek in GA.

²⁰ Grant Book AAAAA, p. 455, cited in *Index to Headright and Bounty Land Grants of Georgia, 1756-1909*, (SPL). The introduction to this book states, “A man (was) entitled to 200 acres as his own headright, plus an additional 50 acres for his wife, each child, and each slave (not to exceed 1000 acres).” In 1784 Franklin and Washington Counties were opened, and were adjacent. [N.B. - the book also states, “These grants do NOT give any family names, the residence of the grantee, or records of military service.”]

²¹ *A Sartain/Tirey Family Tree*, by Ruby Nell Sartain Northcutt and Royce Dean Northcutt, p. 61.

²² in Franklin Co. Administration and Wills, (“from a book unmarked and not indexed”, cited in *Historical Collections of the Georgia Chapters, Daughters of the American Revolution. Vol. 1.* Baltimore, MD: Clearfield Co., Inc. 1995 [reprint of 1926 ed.], p. 271.

²³ in “Franklin Co. Administration and Wills,” dated Aug. 22, 1799 (“from a book unmarked and not indexed”, cited in *Historical Collections of the Georgia Chapters, Daughters of the American Revolution. Vol. 1.* Baltimore, MD: Clearfield Co., Inc. 1995 [reprint of 1926 ed.], p. 246.

²⁴ Franklin Co., GA Deed Book __, p. 169-170: Deed dated 20 Mar. 1805, rec. 14 Oct. 1809, from James Sartain and wife Nancy (X) of Franklin Co. to Josiah Sartain of same,(land) adj. John Bellamy, Zachary Thomas, William Carrothers, Jesse Brawner, Jedediah Garrison, James Jones, Tignal Jones. Wit. Harrison Sartain, Joel Mabry, J.P., (from Kay Rhett’s Outline Desc. Tree, 12/98).

²⁵ in Franklin Co. Administration and Wills, (“from a book unmarked and not indexed”, cited in *Historical Collections of the Georgia Chapters, Daughters of the American Revolution. Vol. 1.* Baltimore, MD: Clearfield Co., Inc. 1995 [reprint of 1926 ed.], p. 270.

²⁶ Franklin Co. Deed Book __, p. 161-162: Deed dated 20 June 1809, rec. 7 Oct. 1809, from James Sartain of Franklin Co., TN adj. John Robins and Gabriel Jones. Wit.: Wm. Robins, Thos. Ivie, Mary Robins. Sworn to by Wm. Robins before Edward Nunley, J.P. 3 Oct. 1809, Franklin Co. GA (from Kay Rhett’s Outline Desc. Tree, 12/98).

²⁷ Barbara Dunn (bdunn@crotalus.famu.edu), personal correspondence, 6/98

²⁸ Franklin Co. TN Deed Book B (or C,G and H?), p. 257, grant # 659: this deed records that James Sartain was the assignee of a land grant certificate, originally granted 13 July 1807 to Joseph Martin, but sold (?) by Martin to James Sartain, and “entered on the 3rd of August 1807 by #16 as an occupant claim.” This land was surveyed Aug 16, 1808, and the deed was recorded 16 Feb. 1810 in the Register’s office of West Tennessee, and 30 Jan. 1811 in the Register’s office of Franklin Co., TN.

²⁹ *A Sartain/Tirey Family Tree*, by Ruby Nell Sartain Northcutt and Royce Dean Northcutt, p. 61.

³⁰ Franklin Co., GA Deed Book __, p. 161-162, deed dated 20 June 1809, rec. 7 Oct. 1809 - James Sartain of Franklin Co., TN conveys to Charles Warren of Franklin Co., GA...for \$550...150 acres in Franklin Co., GA on waters of Graggs Creek. Wit.: William Robins, Thomas Ivie, Mary Robins. Sworn to by Wm Robins.

I find NO Sartains in Middle TN on the 1810 federal census, but James and a Harrison Sartain (possibly his eldest son) are on the 1812 Franklin Co., TN Tax list, as is John Robins, James's father-in-law.³¹

In 1820, James is the ONLY Sartain household head in Franklin Co., TN, with 3 males 10-15, 2 16-25, and one (himself) 45 and older; and 2 females 16-25 and one (Nancy, his wife) 26-45.³²

In 1821, "James Sartain, Sr." buys from Samuel Colquitt for \$200 50 acres in Franklin Co. on the north side of the Elk River, "part of a tract sold to Samuel Colquitt by Robert H. Dyar."³³

In 1830, he, sons Samuel D and James R. Sartain, and a Susan Sartain appear on the Franklin Co., TN census³⁴:

Samuel D. - one male 20-29, one female 0-4, and one 15-19. No slaves.

James - one male 60-69 (him), one female 15-19, and one (Nancy) 50-59.

Susan - one male 0-4, one 10-14 and one 15-19; two females 5-9, one female 10-14, one 15-19 and one (her) 40-49. [this is most likely the widow of an older Sartain son, Harrison Sartain.] In his household are also two male slaves, one under 10 and one over 55 years old, and two female slaves, both over 55.

James R. - 2 males 0-4, 1 5-9, and one (James) 20-29; 2 females 0-4 and one 20-29. No slaves.

In April of 1830, James sold to Barnaby Burrow a tract of land in Franklin Co., TN.³⁵

James Sartain died in 1832 in Franklin Co., TN. Records here are problematic - there are no Circuit Court records prior to 1824, and the County Minute Books prior to 1832 have been lost or destroyed.³⁶

His 1832 Franklin Co. TN will³⁷ names his wife as Nancy Ann Sartain, and lists the following children:

1. George W. Sartain (b. abt 1808)
2. Thomas J. Sartain (b. abt 1810)
3. John Sartain (b. 1-23-1793)
4. James R. Sartain (b.1800-1810, probably abt. 1800)
5. Samuel D. Sartain (b. abt. 1798)
6. Peggy Sartain McGowan (b. 2-28-1801)
7. Polly Sartain King (b. 2-11-1804)
8. Betsy Sartain Wiseman -
9. Nancy Sartain Crockett -

10. Though not named in James's will, there was a 10th child - Harrison Sartain, mentioned in the 1812 tax list, above. Harrison died prior to June 1830, before James's will was written. His ownership of land in 1812 indicates that he'd received his share of his father's estate earlier.

Nancy Sartain, James' widow, lived at least until 1840, when she appears on the Coffee Co., TN federal census (Coffee Co. was formed from part of Franklin Co. in 1836, and this needn't imply a physical change in location for her or the others on that census [see below]). She's

³¹ <http://www.tngenweb.usit.com/franklin/frantax/htm> I haven't looked for them on the 1820 federal census but an Elizabeth Robins (possibly the widow of John) is on the 1830 Franklin Co., TN census, not far from James Sartain and others, by herself, age 70-79.

³² 1820 federal census of Franklin Co., TN, p. 50 (from census index - actual census microfilm [roll 123] at NARA, Seattle is MISSING pages 50-51; they were skipped over by the individual microfilming the census).

³³ Franklin Co., TN Deed Book D, p. 50 (copy in RK's file).

³⁴ Susan and James, Sr. are on p. 82, 11 doors apart. James R. is 4 doors the other side of James, on p. 83.

³⁵ Franklin Co. TN Deed Book M, p. 154-155.

³⁶ USGenWeb Franklin Co., TN web page information.

³⁷ Franklin Co., TN WB, July 22 1832, p. 108-109.

living alone, age 70-79, and has two slaves.³⁸ Also nearby is Susan Sartin,³⁹ the widow of Harrison Sartin.

THE CHILDREN OF JAMES AND NANCY ROBINS SARTAIN

1. Harrison Sartin - (descendant researchers include Vanessa Selewski of Atlanta, GA <amberskywriter@yahoo.com>, Bob Douglas of Powder Springs, GA janedouglas@mindspring.com and Cheryl Jacks of New Market, AL <csjacks@hiwaay.net>.)

Harrison was born 2 July 1788.⁴⁰ As the eldest son and out on his own, he appears on the 1812 Franklin Co., TN Tax List with his father James "Sartin" and John Robins, James's father-in-law. Shortly thereafter, Harrison appears to have accompanied his father-in-law, Thomas Harrison, to Missouri for a time - at least one of his children, James P. Sartin (born July 24, 1816) always listed his birthplace as Missouri on federal censuses, and was said to have learned and practiced veterinary medicine in Missouri before returning to Tennessee. The latter is a bit in doubt, since his father returned to TN by 1822, when James P. would have been only 6 years old. Nevertheless, this absence may explain why Harrison and family are not on the federal census in TN in 1820.

By Nov. 1822 Harrison had returned to Franklin Co., TN, because in that month, he bought a tract of land on both sides of the Elk River, containing 110 acres, for \$700 from Samuel Camp. This land was adjacent to "Mrs. Robbins' corner." This is likely a reference to Elizabeth Robins, widow of John Robins, and Harrison's grandmother.⁴¹

Harrison is said to have died in March of 1830, but I am unaware of documentation for that date. Nevertheless, Susan/Susannah Sartin, his widow, appears near Nancy Robins Sartin (Harrison's postulated mother) on the 1830 Franklin Co. TN federal census⁴² and the 1840 Coffee Co., TN census,⁴³ so it seems very likely that Harrison did indeed die prior to the 1830 federal census. His wife Susannah was the daughter of Thomas Harrison and Nancy Pack. Thomas was a Rev. War pensioner, and his pension application, filed from Franklin Co., TN, is a bonanza of information about the Harrison family AND the family of Susannah and Harrison Sartin.⁴⁴

³⁸ 1840 federal census, p. 183. Nearby is Mahala Sartin, presumed widow/wife of Samuel D. Sartin, her son.

³⁹ *ibid*, p. 184: one male 10-14, and one 20-29; 2 females 15-19 and one (Susan) 40-49.

⁴⁰ from *Revolutionary War Pension Applications from Franklin Co., TN*, by Sherrill, p. 29, contained within the pension affidavit of Nancy Harrison, the mother of Susannah Harrison Sartin, Harrison's wife/widow.

⁴¹ Franklin Co., Deed Book J, p. 533 (copy in RK's file on Harrison).

⁴² p. 82: one male 0-4, one 10-14 and one 15-19; two females 5-9, one female 10-14, one 15-19 and one (her) 40-49.

⁴³ Roll 519, p. 184. Nancy Sartin is on p. 183, as is Mahala Sartin (in a different household).

⁴⁴ from *Revolutionary War Pension Applications from Franklin Co., TN*, by Sherrill, p. 27-29. One of the many entries reads:

9 Dec. 1852, Grundy Co., Tenn.

Susannah Sartin encloses her family record to prove her age.

(cut pages from a small book, difficult to read)

Harrison Sartin born 2 July 1788

Susannah Sartin born 2 Oct. 1789

Rosannah Sartin born 22 May 1811

Mahala Sartin born 16 May 1818

Virginia Sartin born 11 Feb. 1822

Parilla (?) Sartin born 18 Dec. 1824

Aaron Sartin (cut off).....

This affidavit was signed by James Sartin, J.P. This James Sartin was the administrator of Nancy Harrison's estate following her death, 1854-1856 (papers from Carolyn Miller West).

According to a descendant, a family dispute developed regarding the property of Susannah Harrison Sartain (widow of Harrison), and her mother, Nancy Pack Harrison, widow of Thomas Harrison, mentioned above. However, no probate records have been found for either Harrison Sartain or his wife Susannah, nor for Nancy Pack Harrison, despite sustained efforts.⁴⁵

2. John Sartain - (descendant George Ann Hobbs, 6519 Temple Avenue, #B-5, Lubbock, TX 79412, < kisuga3@yahoo.com >

John was born 23 January 1793 in GA, and married Nancy Grayson in Madison Co., AL 10 March 1824.⁴⁶ Much of the information here comes from his descendant George Ann Hobbs, who has pages of the old Grayson family bible (see below).

In April of 1815, a John Sartain of Franklin Co., TN bought from John Boyd two negro girls.⁴⁷

We believe that he is the John Sartin, age 59, b. TN on the 1850 federal census of Talladega Co., AL. Others in the household include Nancy, 50F TN, Sarah 25F TN, John 14M AL, Richard 13M AL, Marion 11M AL, Washington 9M AL, and Olivia 3F AL.⁴⁸ At least Olivia, and possibly other younger children, are grandchildren or other relatives.

Some believe that he died between 1850 and 1860 in Madison Co., GA. Married twice or three times. Descendants later in Lafayette and Yalobusha Co., MS.⁴⁹ However, there is strong evidence that he moved with his family to Rusk Co., TX after 1850, and died there on January 12, 1866.⁵⁰ He and his wife, Nancy Grayson Sartain (who died there on July 27, 1867) are buried in Rusk Co., TX, and their home in Smith Co., TX is a Texas Historical Site.⁵¹

3. Samuel D. Sartain -

In 1830, Samuel D. Sartin is found on the Franklin Co., TN federal census, with one male 20-29, one female 0-4, and one 15-19.⁵²

In March of 1833, Samuel Sartain and wife Mahala of Franklin Co., TN (along with James Brown and Elijah Smith) sold 200 acres belonging to the heirs of Francis Smith.⁵³ This implies that Mahala was the daughter of Francis Smith.

Samuel was apparently killed by his brother James R. Sartain on Christmas of 1839.⁵⁴ Originally charged with first degree murder, the charge was reduced by the jury to manslaughter, suggesting that this was a crime of passion.

Samuel's widow is found on the 1840 federal census in Coffee Co., TN,⁵⁵ with one daughter age 10-14 and one -4, and a son age 0-4, so this couple evidently had three children, including one son. Their names aren't known at this time, and no known descendants are known.

⁴⁵ Carolyn West, whose husband Ted is a descendant of Harrison, writes, "I have personally searchedfor many years. I have been to Grundy Co. and hired genealogists in both Grundy Co., and in Nashville and they have not had much luck either." (1/99) Ted's grandmother told him of this dispute.

⁴⁶ Barb Dunn, <bdunn@crotalus.famu.edu>, posting to Sartain-L@rootsweb.com, 12/21/98.

⁴⁷ Franklin Co., TN Deed Book L, (1828-1829), p. 449.

⁴⁸ p. 448, dw. no. 1360, personally viewed at Nat'l Archives 12/23/98.

⁴⁹ Glenn Gohr (ggohr01@mail.orion.org), personal correspondence, 10/97. More info on this family is available from Glenn.

⁵⁰ the family bible of his son, John Grayson Sartain, provided these dates, confirmed by his headstone - info from Georgeann Hobbs of Lubbock, TX.

⁵¹ personal correspondence from George Ann Hobbs, descendant.

⁵² 1830 federal census, p. 80.

⁵³ Franklin Co., TN Deed Book N (1833-1834), page ___.

⁵⁴ See under James R. Sartain. Another researcher claims that Samuel died on December 25, 1839. Awaiting documentation.

⁵⁵ Coffee Co. had been formed from Franklin in 1836, and the area the Sartains lived in lay in that portion taken to form Coffee Co. in 1836, and in the area taken from Coffee Co. to form Grundy Co., TN in 1844.

4. James R. Sartain - (descendants researching Sartains include Kerry Acker of Monohans, TX <kacker99@earthlink.net> and Debbie Cooper of Nashville, TN <djcooper@mindspring.com>)

Married Matilda Simmons⁵⁶ abt 1821, judging from the projected birthdates of their children.

In 1830, is on the federal census in Franklin Co., near his father, with 2 males 0-4, 1 5-9, and one (James) 20-29; 2 females 0-4 and one 20-29.

He appears on an 1839 Tax List for Franklin Co. (in Civil District 13), as James R. Sartain, with no property, and paying no tax.⁵⁷

James was charged with the murder of his brother, Samuel Sartain in Franklin Co., TN in 1840.⁵⁸ This does dovetail with the family legend that two of J.A.'s brothers (in this case, uncles) were criminals. Another researcher says that the murder occurred on 25 December 1839. According to court documents, the only witness was an Ann Perdieu.

Not with wife and family in Coffee Co. in 1840,⁵⁹ apparently because he was in jail or prison. HOWEVER, there IS a James Sartin, Jr. on the 1840 Coffee Co., TN census,⁶⁰ which COULD be James R. Sartain, but appears to be younger. This is most likely James P. Sartain, the son of Harrison Sartain, who was born in 1816. This James is living close to George W. Sartain, brother of James R. Sartain.⁶¹ Perhaps it is THIS James that is on the 1850 federal census in Grundy Co., TN (which was formed from Coffee Co. in 1844).⁶²

James R. Sartain was convicted of manslaughter in 1841, and sent to the state penitentiary to serve a 6-year sentence, beginning with his arrival at the penitentiary on 17 Dec. 1841.⁶³ However he was released in 1847, with time off for good behavior.⁶⁴

He is found on the 1850 Rusk Co., TX federal census: James R. Sartain 52M GA, Matilda 45F TN, John F. 26M TN, Martha Jane 17F AL, Charles J. 12M TN.⁶⁵

⁵⁶ her maiden name comes to us from the book *Tennessee Convicts* by Charles Sherrill. This specific entry is from Ledger 45, p. 188. See below.

⁵⁷ personal correspondence from Joe Giles, who looked up this info at the TN State Archives. This tax list begins in 1836, but no Sartains are listed until 1839, when James R and two others - George and James Sartain - are also listed.

⁵⁸ 1. Name: James Sartain, age 44, born in Georgia, occupation: labourer. Convicted of murder by a court in Coffee County, and sentenced to 6 years in the Penitentiary. Received Dec. 22, 1841 and discharged Dec. 22, 1843. Notes: conduct fair. Number in ledger 86: 547.

2. James Sartin. From Davidson County. Appeal from Coffee County. Crime: murder. Sentence: six years from 17 Dec. 1841. He is 44 years old, 6' high, weighs 147 lb. Born in Georgia, brought up in Franklin Co., Tenn. Has a wife and five children living in Coffee County on Elk River, four miles above Caldwell's bridge. Her name was Simmons [?] and was bro't up in Robertson County. Has dark grey hair, black eyes and dark skin. [Ledger 45, p. 188] Reference: *TENNESSEE CONVICTS, Early Records of the State Penitentiary, Volume 1, 1831-1850*, by Charles A. Sherril and Tomye M. Sherrill, Published by Charles A Sherrill, 1023 Waters Edge Circle, Mt. Juliet, Tenn. 37211, 1997.

"The sheriff's records where he was searching for James Sartain are hiding somewhere around the house. When I find them I'll forward them to you." 12/30/98.

⁵⁹ Matilda Sartin is a household head in Coffee Co., TN, p. 176, with one male 0-4, one 10-14 and one 15-19; one female 5-9, 2 10-14, and she is 30-39. Nearby are Nancy Sartain (her mother-in-law) and, in another household, Susan Sartain (apparently the widow of Harrison Sartain).

⁶⁰ Coffee Co., TN federal census, 1840, p. 165: one male 0-4, and one (James) 20-29; one female 15-19; one in Agriculture.

⁶¹ Coffee Co. TN federal census, 1840, p. 166: one male 5-9 and one (George) 30-39; 2 females 0-4, 1 5-9 and one 20-29 (Sarah Grayson Sartain); 2 young slaves; one in Agriculture.

⁶² from the census index: James Sartain 33 "MO", Isabella 36 unk, Democratus 11, Arkansas 9, Arrena 9, Arsenith 6, Arminda 4, Erchtus 2, household 180, p. 699. I've not reviewed the actual microfilm.

⁶³ Ledger 45, p. 188.

⁶⁴ personal correspondence from Chuck Sherrill, author of the book *Tennessee Convicts*, <csherrill@mail.state.tn.us>

5. Betsy Sartain Wiseman

I've found no further information on this daughter. Her married name comes to us from her father's will, so she was married by 1832. However no Wiseman household head is found in the vicinity of James Sartain on the 1830 census. They may have moved away, or be elsewhere in the county. I haven't made a vigorous search.

6. Peggy Sartain McGowan - (descendant researcher is Steve McCalip of Houston, TX <smmccalip@juno.com>)

Margaret "Peggy" was born 28 February 1801⁶⁶ in Franklin Co., GA. About 1822, she married George W. McGown, the son of Andrew and Elizabeth Hammons McGown, in Franklin Co., TN. They moved to Sabine Co. TX in 1838. They had 4 sons and 5 daughters. She died there in 1873, and is buried in the McGown cemetery near Milam, TX.⁶⁷

7. Nancy Sartain Crockett

Like her sisters, Nancy's married name comes to us from her father's 1832, will, indicating that she was married by 1832. Several Crockett households are found near James and Nancy Robins Sartain on the 1830 federal census. Two of these, William Crockett⁶⁸ and Samuel Crockett⁶⁹ seem potential spouses for Nancy. No further information is known at this time.

8. Polly Sartain King

Mary "Polly" Sartain was born 11 February 1804, in Franklin Co., GA.⁷⁰ She married Davis King, son of Thomas King, about 1821 in Franklin Co., TN. After the birth of their first five children, this family moved to TX in the fall of 1838.⁷¹ They first moved to Sabine Co., where Polly's sister, Peggy Sartain McGown and her husband lived; in 1839 the moved to Melrose in eastern Nacagdoches Co., where Davis bought a mercantile store. They lived there until 1842, when Polly used the \$100 given to her in her father's will to buy land on Carrizo Creek.

Davis died 24 January 1861, leaving a will naming Polly and their children. Six years later Polly married Rev. Clemons Means, a Presbyterian minister. Polly died 18 April 1886, and is buried in the King family cemetery near Woden, TX.⁷²

9. George W. Sartain (descendant Darryl M. Reed, 1201 Deepwood, Friendswood, TX 77546 - dmreed@pdq.net)

George was born 6-9- 1808.⁷³ He married Sarah Grayson in Madison Co., AL. (see James R., who married Sarah's sister.)⁷⁴ Her father John Grayson was a pioneer settler of Madison Co.,

⁶⁵ Household # 392, listed on the Rusk Co., TX web page at <<http://www.rootsweb.com/pub/usgenweb/tx/rusk/census/1850/>>

⁶⁶ The dates for George, Peggy and their children come from the McGown family bible. Photocopies of the pages have been provided by Steven McCalip of Houston, TX.

⁶⁷ personal correspondence, 3/99, <smmccalip@juno.com>. He has substantial information on earlier McGown ancestors, including a 1742 law book owned by a John McGown.

⁶⁸ page 84 - one male 0-4 and one 20-29; one female 15-19.

⁶⁹ page 84 - one male 0-4 and one 30-39; one female 0-4, one 5-9, and one 20-29 (Nancy?).

⁷⁰

⁷¹ personal correspondence, 3/99, <smmccalip@juno.com>.

⁷² Heritage Book of Nacagdoches County, Texas, F542 - this series of articles gives a substantial amount of information on this family, and their descendants. This information was kindly provided by Steven McCalip of Houston, TX, a descendant of Peggy Sartain McGown.

⁷³ Grayson family bible. I haven't seen the photocopied pages yet, but they are coming from Georgia Ann Sartain Hobbs.

⁷⁴ Barbara Dunn (bdunn@crotalus.famu.edu), personal correspondence, 6/98.

Alabama Territory. He appears on an 1839 Tax List for Franklin Co. (in Civil District 13), as George M. Sartain, as holding 200 acres, worth \$1000, and paid a tax of \$50.⁷⁵

The 1840 Coffee Co. TN census shows G. W. Sartin living there, age 30-39, with a wife 20-29, one son and one daughter 5-9, and two sons 0-4.⁷⁶ Nearby is his mother, Nancy Robins Sartain.⁷⁷ Coffee Co. was formed from Franklin Co. in 1836, and Grundy formed from Coffee in 1844.

Said to have gone to Rusk Co., TX after 1850, from Talladega Co., AL.⁷⁸ Another version says that he was "b. 1808, TN, and md. twice? - 2d to Amanda _____, in 1847, in Hardin Co, TN. Moved to AR and is in Van Buren Co, AR, on 1860 Census."⁷⁹ This may be true, since Sarah Grayson Sartain is alone in TN in 1850. George may have abandoned his first family in Grundy Co., moved to Hardin Co., TN where he married Amanda, and begun a new family.

10. Thomas J. Sartain (descendant - Reiley Kidd, author of this paper)

Thomas, evidently the last surviving child of James and Nancy Robins Sartain, was born abt. 1810 in TN, judging from his age on various censuses. Thomas married Martha _____ (maiden name unknown, but a note in Alta Kidd's hand says that she was a Jefferson) about 1832 somewhere in Tennessee, where they had the first three of their children: James Alexander "Alex" Sartain, born around 1834, probably in TN; Margaret E. Sartain, born about 1836, married George W. Crawford, 3 children; and Nancy Sartain, born about 1838. Between 1838 and 1840⁸⁰, T. J. and Martha Sartain moved their family to the northern part of Marshall County, Mississippi, where they are found on the federal census for Marshall Co. in 1840.⁸¹ The ages of the children in this household coincide reasonably with the known or projected birth years of the children listed above. Evidently he didn't purchase land in Marshall Co. The census listing shows no real estate, and there is no deed record of his buying land.

In 1841 a Thomas J. Sartin purchased land in Tippah County (in S 1/2 of NE 1/4 S3 T4 R2E - 80 acres)⁸², where they appear later on the 1850 Tippah County Federal census.⁸³ However, for reasons unclear, he SOLD this land within two years, for less than he paid.

During their first decade in Mississippi, Martha and Thomas had four more children⁸⁴: William Sartain, born about 1840; Mary S. Sartain, born about 1844, married John Will Walker in 1871, 2 children; Martha Sartain, born about 1845; and John Sartain, born about 1847.

⁷⁵ personal correspondence from Joe Giles, who looked up this info at the TN State Archives. This tax list begins in 1836, but no Sartains are listed until 1839, when George and two others - James R, and James Sartain - are also listed, but without property, and paying no tax.

⁷⁶ Coffee Co. Census, p. 166, personally viewed at the National Archives 12/23/98. He had two young slaves.

⁷⁷ Coffee Co. Census, p. 183, personally viewed at the National Archives 12/23/98. She was age 70-79, and living alone, but had 2 slaves.

⁷⁸ Barbara Dunn (bdunn@crotalus.famu.edu), personal correspondence, 6/98.

⁷⁹ Darryl Reed, Friendswood, TX, personal correspondence.

⁸⁰ judging from the birthplaces of their children, as listed in the 1850 federal census (see above).

⁸¹ Marshall Co., Northern division, p. 16: 10001-21001, 1 in agriculture. Nearby (p. 13) are the families of two aunts (Rebecca Rainey Gears and Nancy Martin) of Modenia Rainey, later to marry J.A. Sartain.

⁸² 26 August 1841, Tippah County Deed Book E, p. 235-36, for \$250. The Sale of this land was recorded on p. 250-1, and occurred 20 June 1843, for \$200, less than he paid for it. The sale names Thomas J. Sartain (who signed for himself) and Martha, his wife (who could not).

No further land records for Thomas J. Sartain are found, despite the fact that he stayed in Tippah County for at least 7 years after giving up his land.

⁸³ all taken from the 1850 Tippah County census, p. 482, Dw. # 1237: T.J. Sartin 40M farmer \$300 real estate b. TN, Martha 38F TN (couldn't read or write), James A. 16M TN, Margaret E. 14F TN, Nancy 12F TN, William 10 MS, Mary 6F MS, Martha 5F MS, John 3M MS. The oldest 4 children were in school.

Josiah Rainey's family was #1222. Eldest son James A. married Modenia Rainey 12-20-1865 in Tippah County.

⁸⁴ all taken from the 1850 Tippah County census. More births may have occurred after the census was taken.

I lose track of Thomas Sartain after this. I cannot find him or Martha in MS or adjacent states in 1860 or thereafter.⁸⁵ They either died by this time, or migrated to another state (or they were missed by the census taker).

Many of the descendants of James and Nancy Robins Sartain remain in Grundy County, Tennessee today, still living in the area where James and Nancy settled as pioneers in 1809, in the Burrows Cove area, when it was part of Franklin County. Others have dispersed west to Arkansas, Mississippi, Texas and farther west. And some went north, to Illinois, before the Civil War.

Ongoing research is needed to track many of these descendants, particularly those of the daughters of James and Nancy Sartain.

I am also very interested in learning more about the 1839 murder of one Sartain son by his brother, and would welcome any information regarding this dark chapter in our family's history. I also welcome any corrections to the information contained here.

Reiley Kidd, MD
5152 54th Ave. South
Seattle, WA 98118-2114
<radcrk@attbi.com>

⁸⁵ I searched the census indices at the Seattle branch of NARA on 10/28/99 as follows: TN - 1860 and 1870, AL - 1860 (no index for 1870 there), AR - 1860 and 1870, LA - 1860 (no index at NARA for 1870), and TX - 1860 (no index at NARA for 1870).

There ARE several Thomas Sartin/Sartains in these censuses, but none matches our Thomas in age, birthplace, etc. The Thomas Sartain in Itawamba Co. on the 1860 federal census, p. 213, is a different person: Thomas Sartain, 24M, b. AL, in HH of Geo. Sanders, 66M b. NC.

Franklin Co., TN Roll 1, Volume 3, p. 526, Circuit Court Minutes

July Term 1841

The State of Tennessee
against
James Sartain

Indictment for murder in the first degree

This day came Andrew F. Goff, Esq. the attorney
General who prosecutes for the State
in this behalf as well as the defendant in

his proper person on motion of the defendant & his attorney. And it appearing to the satisfaction of the Court that Ann Perdieu (sp.?) has been regularly subpoenaed as a witness in this case on behalf of the defendant, and having her called to come into Court to give evidence on behalf of the said defendant came not, but made default. Wherefore it is ordered by the Court that an Attachment issue to the Sheriff of Coffee County against the body of said Ann Perdieu returnable to the present term of this Court. Whereupon the defendant was remanded to jail.

Franklin Co., TN Roll 1, Volume 3, pp. 548-549 Circuit Court Minutes

July term 1841

This day James L. Williamson, jailor of Franklin County produced in Court an account for keeping James Sartin in jail twenty-four days - \$9.00, Ironing \$2.00 for seventeen Turnkeys \$8.50 amounting in all to nineteen dollars & fifty cents which being sworn to by the said James L. Williamson and being examined and certified by this Court that the same be taxed in this bill of costs in the case of the State of Tennessee against James Sartin on a charge for murder.

The State
vs.
James Sartin

Indictment for murder in the first degree
This day again came Andrew F. Goff, Esq.
the attorney General who prosecutes for
the State of Tennessee in this behalf and the

defendant being brought to the bar of the Court in custody of the Sheriff of this Court and thereupon again came the same Jury, to wit, 1. William Fanissen, 2. Shelton Watson, 3. Joseph Mitchell, 4. William A. Taylor, 5. William A. Osborn, 6. Joseph L. Baker, 7. Mitchell K. Jackson, 8. Clement Arledge, 9. Merrill D. Embry, 10. William Thurman, 11. Cornelius Fanis & 12. George R. Rinnenl, who were on a former day of this term elected, tried and sworn well and truly to try and true deliverance make between the State of Tennessee and James Sartin the prisoner at the bar whom they have in charge upon their oath do say they find the defendant not guilty of murder in the first degree as charged in the bill of Indictment, but that he is guilty of manslaughter in the unlawful killing of Samuel Sartin and the Jurors aforesaid upon their oath aforesaid do further say and find that the said defendant for the defence (sic; 'offence' intended?) aforesaid be confined at hard labour in the public jail & penitentiary house of this State for the period of six years.

And thereupon the defendant moved the Court for a new trial And upon argument of said motion and the same being well understood by the Court, it is considered by the court the motion for a new trial be overruled. To which opinion of the court the defendant excepts and tenders his bill of exceptions, which is signed, sealed and (wi) and made a part of the records in this case.

And the said defendant being asked if he hath any thing else to allege, Why the sentence of the law should not be pronounced upon him saith he hath nothing further to say.

It is therefore considered by the court that the Sheriff of Franklin County by himself and deputy convey the said James Sartin to the keeper of the jail and penitentiary house of this State to be there confined at hard labour for six years from this date. It is further ordered by the court that the said Sheriff by himself or deputy set off with said defendant to the keeper of said Jail & penitentiary house

on some day of the present week. It is further considered said defendant be disqualified from holding any offices under this State. It is further considered by this court that the State recover from said defendant James Sartin their costs by the state in this behalf expended for which let execution issue.

Thereupon the defendant prayed & obtained an appeal in the nature of a writ of error to the next Supreme court for the State of Tennessee to be held at the City of Nashville at the Courthouse in said City in the County of Davidson. Whereupon the said James Sartin, George W. Sartin & John Graham Bostich came into Court and acknowledged themselves to owe and stand justly indebted to the State of Tennessee in the following sums, to wit, the said James Sartin in the sum of Fifteen hundred dollars and the said George W. Sartin & John Graham Bostich jointly in the sum of Fifteen hundred dollars to be levied of their respective goods and chattels, lands and tenements to the use of said State, but to be void on condition that the said James Sartin doth make his personal appearance before the Judges of the next Supreme court of Errors (?) and Appeals to be held at the Courthouse in the City of Nashville on the 2nd Monday of December next, and there to answer the State of Tennessee on a charge for murder and doth ~~not depart without leave of the Court~~ abide by and perform the Judgment of the Court thereon & doth not depart the Court without leave.

Court adjourned until Court in (wi)

S. Anderson

(wi) = word illegible