

Enos Prince

*<http://wc.rootsweb.ancestry.com/cgi-bin/igm.cgi?op=DESC&db=whvande&id=I388>
and notes compiled by Kathryn Luke Hendeigh for Jimmy Prince 1998.*

Parents

Richard PRINCE b: about 1804 VA

d: Nov. 26, 1849, Sumter County, AL

Susan R. "Sookie" Jackson PRINCE b: ABT 1812 in AL

d: Jan. 31, 1876, Gholson, MS

Siblings

Sophonria Ann PRINCE b: May 30, 1835 (?) in Sumter County, AL¹

d: Jan. 9, 1906, Rusk County, TX

Francis Marion PRINCE b: 25 Sept. 1835 (?) in Sumter County, AL¹

d: 18 Sept. 1892, Kemper County, MS

Burial: Salem Cemetery, Preston, Kemper County, MS

John Randolph PRINCE b: 28 July 1837, Sumter County, AL

d: 4 June 1910

Burial: Gholson Cemetery, Noxubee County, MS

William M. PRINCE b: ABT July 25, 1839, Sumter County, AL

d: about June 30, 1862 in Civil War battle in Virginia

James Enos PRINCE b: 1 Jan. 1841 in Sumter County, AL

d: about 1886 in Kemper County, MS

Richard Jefferson PRINCE b: about 1844 in Sumter County, AL

d: about 1863

Mary PRINCE b: 10 Dec. 1848, in Sumter County, AL

d: 20 Jan. 1933

Burial: Shuqualak Cemetery, Noxubee County, MS

Susan PRINCE b: ABT 1849, Sumter County, AL

d: before 1855

Marriage

James Enos PRINCE b: 1 Jan. 1841, Sumter County, AL

d: About 1886 in Kemper County, MS

Mary Jane VANDEVENDER b: about 1844, Kemper County, MS

Child

William Richard PRINCE b: 5 Sept. 1867, in Gholson, MS, or Conway County, AR

d: 30 Jan. 1949, Philadelphia, MS

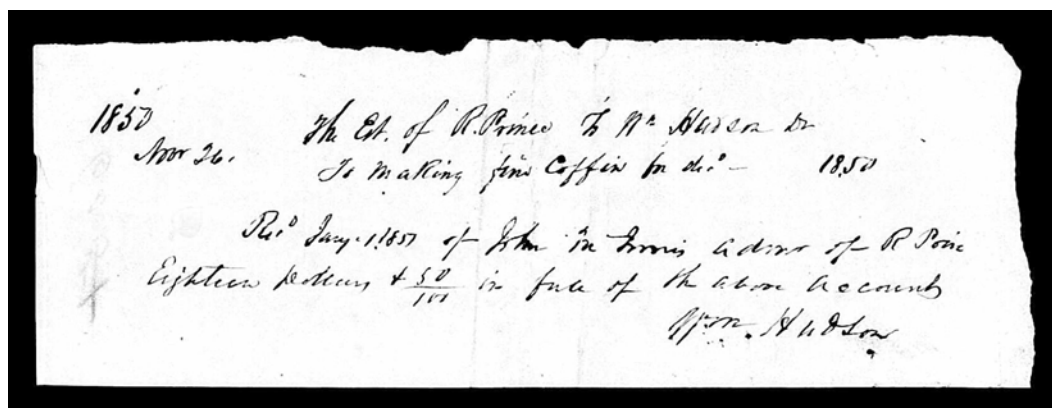
¹ *The birth dates for Sophronia and Francis Marion are taken from their tombstones, but there must be an error. They could not have been born four months apart. The 1850 census lists her as 14 and him 12. Estate records that same year put her at 15 and him at 14.*

James Enos Prince (1841-1886?) was born in Sumter County, Alabama, son of Richard Prince and Susan R. (Sookie or Sally) Jackson Prince. We know little about Richard's early life except that he apparently was born in Virginia. His family moved to South Carolina and then Alabama where he made seven land grant purchases totaling 709 acres and operated an exceptionally successful plantation. Susan's father fought in the Revolutionary War and received bounty land in Georgia for his service. How Richard and Susan met, when they married and how they got to Alabama are not in the records we have.

The salient fact that we do know is that Richard died at the age of 45 in 1849 when Enos was 8. According to county records he was sick for two months before he died, but we have no cause of death. A four-page doctor's bill, covering the late summer months before he died, indicates the doctor gave Richard quinine. Was it for malaria? We can't say. Quinine was routine for any fever in those days. Richard also was prescribed purgatives and as the illness grew worse he twice suffered through what the bill described as the scarifying of hemorrhoids. There was also the standard treatment of "cupping" and "bleeding." The last six days, the doctor stayed with him day and night. Richard left behind a widow, who was 36, with her eight² children and 78-year-old mother Elizabeth still at home.

Although Richard was a justice of the peace, there was no will. Consequently a court-appointed administrator took over the family finances and the long drawn-out distribution of the extensive estate. An inventory submitted to the judge listed 41 slaves and a plantation sprawling over Sumter and Greene counties, along with a detailed accounting of everything in the house and surroundings. It was a meticulous list, from bulk items (35 bales of cotton, 2,500 bushels of corn and 20,000 lots of fodder), to the livestock (he had 153 head of sheep, 3 yoke oxen, 4 mules, 3 horses, 30 head of cattle, and it looks like 172 hogs), and every piece of furniture and houseware (down to listing 1 box of spun thread).

John McInnis was named administrator. It was a daunting task, requiring scrupulous bookkeeping, accurate to the penny. A judge had to approve everything the family spent for



1850
Apr 26. The Est. of R. Prince to W. H. Hudson for
So making fine Coffin for do. - 18.50
Paid July 1, 1850 of John McInnis admr of R. Prince
Eighteen dollars & $\frac{50}{100}$ in full of the above account
W. H. Hudson

Bill for making a "fine coffin" for Richard Prince, \$18.50, paid in full

years. Merchants sold to the family on credit and must have trusted that the bills would be paid in due course since some tote up months of purchases in a single bill. The record includes about 1,500 submissions—covering shoes, hats, fabric, a bridle, a pocket knife.... One curious little bill for Enos totaled only 58 cents: a half dozen marbles (13 cents) and a hat (45 cents).

² The infant Susan, named for her mother, was born about the time Richard died, but lived only a short time. The household also included Susan Jackson, 18, apparently a relative. We do not know if 2-year-old Mary had already lost her sight but a doctor's bill that year has charges for giving her eyedrops. In the 1870 census she was listed as blind,

Two years after her father died, on Dec. 10, 1851, the oldest daughter, 16-year-old Sophronia, married Thomas S. Gathright, a 23-year-old school teacher at Mount Hebron. The widow kept the family in Alabama until Enos' grandmother died June 15, 1854. Then the Gathrights broke away and made the family's first move across the state line into Mississippi where he opened the Summerville Institute, a private boys school at Gholson. The trip took two days by wagon. We have no idea why Gathright picked the four corners area of Noxubee/Winston/Neshoba/Kemper counties. Sumter County, Alabama, was a thriving crossroads at the time, with railroads and at least two schools, one of them a normal college for girls where Sophronia possibly attended. Gholson had a post office but not many people. Mostly they were farmers, working the same kind of terrain that the Princes left in Alabama.

We know Enos had moved to Gholson by September 1855 when he was 14 because the Alabama court approved the September bill for board and tuition (\$65.50) and school items like candles, a lead pencil, a bottle of ink, and \$2 cash. An off-year census that year shows Enos' mother is still in Alabama with four boys and one girl under 21, along with 21 slaves. Getting ready to haul off to Mississippi, Enos loaded up — new boots, new shoes, two hats (one a Panama, the other fur), fishing line and sinkers, a new knife and a trunk to stow it in. He was headed to school, so he also picked up a volume of U.S. history and a copy book.

According to a bill sent the estate, Billy had moved to Gholson, too. A note he wrote, dated March 27, 1856, and apparently sent to McInnis, reports that Gathright "has a very full school now" and asks for 3 or 4 dollars to be sent. It must have been inconvenient to send bills and requests for money to Alabama. And John had already set an example of getting Gathright named guardian. On Christmas day 1851 John wrote McInnis: "Mr. Gathright has married my sister and I am dissatisfied with my situation. I therefore thank you kindly for your past attention and ask that my effects may be placed in his hands or in short that he may act as my guardian in all cases whatsoever." The court approved it.

Then in August 1856, Gathright petitioned in Mississippi court to take over as Enos' guardian. The other children were soon transferred, too, and by the 1860 census Susan and the others had moved to Gholson. She was living in a house with Enos, Billy, Jefferson and Mary. The older brothers had their own places: John was a physician; Francis Marion had started his own family with a wife and two toddlers; and the Gathrights also had their own place, with their two small children and three Gathright relatives in their 20s, one a medical student.

As guardian, Gathright controlled his wards' finances with the same meticulous care that McInnis practiced in Alabama. Reports to the court provide detail upon detail of money given to Enos, what he bought with it, and some of what he did as he grew older. For example, we know shoes cost \$5 before the Civil War and \$12 after; Enos got \$20 pocket money "to go off to school" to Franklin College in Tennessee; when he enlisted in the Confederate army he was given \$90 "cash to carry to war"; couriers delivered \$50 to him on two occasions while he was stationed in Virginia; and he picked up \$900 cash when at home wounded in 1864.

Civil War

Enos joined the army in 1861 when he was 20 after the call went out for volunteers to supplement the home guard by signing up for a year's enlistment "for the war." He was a member of Company F, Mississippi 14th, the Beauregard Rifles. They dispatched to Corinth for training and soon were in battle in Tennessee. Only eight months after enlisting, Enos found

himself among 650 Confederates taken prisoner when they surrendered Fort Donelson on Feb. 15, 1862. It was a disastrous defeat for the South and an early victory for Grant, which led to his being nicknamed “Unconditional Surrender.”

Under terms of the prisoner exchange protocol, Enos was released and was supposed to retire as a non-combatant. However, he quickly re-enlisted as a member of Company A, Mississippi 19th, the Jefferson Davis Guards, and was stationed near the capital in Virginia. The unit saw some of the deadliest engagements in the war — among them the first battle of Cold Harbor, second Bull Run, Fredericksburg, and Cemetery Ridge at Gettysburg.

Enos was apparently wounded. We have no details of where or when, but ledgers from his guardian say he was “at home wounded” when payments totaling \$900 were made between Feb. 21 and Aug. 10, 1864. It was a good time to be out of action. During that span he would have missed his unit’s bloody battles at the Plank Road in the Wilderness and in the second battle of Cold Harbor. He apparently got back to Virginia, however, in time to face Grant’s relentless onslaught of 1865 and was among the remnants of the 19th who stacked their rifles at Appomattox in the final surrender.

Oddly, when Enos was home, Sherman was burning his way across Mississippi just south of where Enos and the family were, taking Meridian on Feb. 21 and heading back west on a scorched-earth campaign that routed him through Union on a line just 20 or 30 miles south of the Prince land.

All four of Enos’ brothers also joined, and two died during the war. We don’t know if any of the brothers served together, but when Enos re-enlisted he was shipped to Brandy Station, Virginia, and was assigned to the same company in which his brother William (Billy) had been serving when he was killed outside Richmond in 1862. Family petitions to close Billy’s estate said he died at Gaines Farm, June 30. Alabama military records identified the fatal battle as Frazier’s Farm. Both engagements were part of the famous and furious Seven Days Battles in which 1,500 Confederates died saving their capital. The Macon Beacon newspaper, reporting his death later that year, said he fell “close to the canon’s mouth, on the 2nd (of July), while charging the batteries of the enemy before Richmond.” The paper noted he belonged to Company C, 11th Alabama, having enlisted in Greene County, Alabama, “where he was sojourning, engaging in the business of medicine.” Alabama Civil War records identify the school as Mount Hebron, which the family had left when they moved to Mississippi. It apparently offered more advanced courses than the school the family opened at Gholson. The records say Billy’s gravesite is unknown.

Billy’s interest in medicine seems to follow the path of his older brother John Randolph who was already a doctor when the war began. John Randolph was elected lieutenant and then promoted to captain of the Neshoba Rifles, Company D, 11th Mississippi, which saw terrible fighting throughout the war — Bull Run, Seven Pines, Gaines Mill, second Manassas, Antietam. And Gettysburg: the 11th was in the action when Pickett’s disastrous charge left Confederate dead lying in heaps. John survived the fighting but was hospitalized a couple of weeks later on July 27. The reason scrawled on military records is “vuln. sclo.” — abbreviation for “vulnus sclopetarium,” an obsolete medical term for a gunshot wound. We don’t know the extent of the injury, but he was a doctor and apparently thought he could take care of himself because he left the hospital on Aug. 8 and returned to his company without being medically discharged. The

next year the 11th was in the thick of the fighting in the Battle of the Wilderness, then at Spotsylvania, Cold Harbor and Petersburg. Miraculously John lived to return to east Mississippi where he practiced medicine, a well respected member of the community, until he died in 1910.

The oldest brother, Francis Marion, was in Company C, 3rd Mississippi, which fought at Shiloh, Missionary Ridge, Chickamauga, Murfreesburo and Franklin. After the war, Francis Marion moved to Kemper County where he was elected sheriff in 1880. He died in 1892; his widow Sarah E. Prince applied for a Civil War pension in 1900, declaring that she was living with a widowed daughter in Shuqualak.

A younger brother, Jefferson, also died during the war in 1862 or '63, but we have no details of whether it was in battle. War records list a J. Prince in the 11th Alabama, the same unit that Jefferson's brother Billy was in, but in a different company. None of the Prince genealogy tables or Confederate records that we found include his date of death. One researcher posted a note a few years ago that he died of illness, but the posting gave no details.

In a 1940 interview in the weekly Kemper County Messenger, a former slave, John Prince, dredged up 79-year-old memories of going to war to forage for the Princes. His applications for a pension after the war said he was servant to Enos. Other records show he was one of four slaves Enos inherited as a child — two were adults (Aaron and Mary Ann) and two were children (Julia Ann and John). John was a couple of years younger than Enos. Aaron listed his age in 1902 as about 85 when he applied for a servant's war pension; he said he was with John R. Prince when the army surrendered at Appomattox.³

The touchy issue of slaves and masters is unsettling to people of our generation. We have few details of the relationship between the family and their slaves. We know from estate records that the slaves got close attention from a doctor. He set fractures, pulled teeth, was present for childbirth, provided quinine, treated them with "cupping and bleeding," and had regular visits when they were sick. The bills list them by name: Royal, Aaron, Peter, Short Tom, Long Tom,

(Confederate.)

P | 19 | Miss.

E. Prince
 Co. A, 19 Reg't Mississippi Vols.

Appears on
Company Muster Roll
 of the organization named above,
 for *Nov Dec*, 186*3*.

Enlisted:
 When *Nov 1*, 186*3*
 Where *Brandy Station*
 By whom *Capt Curraze*
 Period *Three years or the war*
 Last paid: *Brigade*
 By whom *Maj Hearsay, E. M. Posey*
 To what time *Nov 1*, 186*3*

Present or absent *Present*
 Remarks: *Exchanged*

Eligible

The 19th Regiment Mississippi Infantry was organized in June, 1861, and was mustered into the Confederate service for the war. Some of the companies had previously been in the State service.

Book mark: _____

J. M. Wilkinson
 (642) Copyist.

³ There is an interesting story about another Mississippi slave and master who went off to the Civil War together. They posed for a tintype that attracted national attention — and some controversy — on a 2012 TV program of Antiques Roadshow. The picture, described as one of a kind, is now in the Smithsonian. Here's a link to the Washington Post wrapup: http://www.washingtonpost.com/local/library-of-congress-acquires-iconic-civil-war-image-of-master-and-slave-headed-to-war/2014/08/24/0f74befc-29fc-11e4-8593-da634b334390_story.html

Dilce.... The charges are listed chronologically and are interspersed among visits to treat the Princes. There seems to be no difference in the level of treatment.

But the slaves were property and after Richard died they were distributed among the heirs like parcels of land. One court document lists the names drawn by lot to determine which slaves went to which Princes. It appears families were kept together; the four slaves drawn for Enos seem to be a family of husband and wife and two children. The estate set value on each of them. The four, like other slaves, were sometimes rented out to family or neighbors. One record has the high price of \$425 a year.

There is no indication the slaves tried to run away or join the Union forces. Indeed, the slave Aaron made treks to Virginia to deliver cash to Enos in camp. After the surrender, the ex-slave John went back to Mississippi and stayed with the family a year or so before heading off with his new freedom to California. In 1902, Aaron was still living in Gholson when he applied for a pension. We also know Aaron and John were illiterate, signing their applications with a mark, although both had been at a household that ran a school. Illiteracy wasn't unusual, however; Susan, the Prince family matriarch, signed her name with an X.

After the war, Enos disappears from our records, leaving virtually no tracks to follow what he did. We aren't even sure where he was when the war ended, although the final muster report says he was among those taken prisoner with the surrender at Appomattox. There is also a post-war requisition for clothes, presumably so he didn't wear his uniform home. Growing up, Enos was well off. His father left a substantial inheritance from which Enos drew a sizeable share. An inventory of the estate in 1857, shortly after they moved to Mississippi, shows that Enos had \$2,162.89 in cash, in addition to the four slaves. In 1860, Susan declared on the census that her personal worth was \$18,000 in addition to her \$6,000 in property. But the war ruined all that, and Enos came home to find things vastly changed.

We have no records of how he met Mary Jane Vandevender, who was two or three years younger and a native of Kemper County, obviously a neighbor. No one has come up with a record of the marriage or their move about that time to Arkansas. The 1870 census puts them in Griffin Township, Conway County, in northwest Arkansas, with a 3-year-old son William. This census lists William's place of birth as Arkansas, but the 1880 census when they are back in Kemper County lists William's birthplace as Mississippi. Who knows? We don't have any information to straighten it out. Enos told the Arkansas census taker that he was a farmer with property worth \$160. He was poor. The small value was the lowest on the census page. We know that post-Civil War Arkansas, like Mississippi, suffered mightily as it tried to switch to share-cropper economy, and the first two Arkansas cotton crops after the war were disasters. We can only ask questions: Did he take his bride and venture across the Mississippi River on his own? Was he hampered by lingering war wounds? Was Arkansas a failure? Did he lose it all? Why only one child?

We can surmise the family soon headed back to Mississippi because they show up in the 1880 Mississippi census. We have no date of death for Enos. Family history says he died at 39, which would jibe with his last census listing in 1880. However, the name Enos Prince popped up as a postmaster in Kemper County from 1881-1886 in a listing in the Kemper County newspaper which says the "Prince" Post Office was established in 1881 and closed in 1909. It gives no

specific location, other than the county.⁴ One of Enos' grandsons, Winner Prince, who was born in 1905, remembered that the "original post office" was at Kellis Store, which we now know was Vandevender territory. If it is Willie's father, which seems likely, he would have been at least 45 when he died. On the other hand, federal records do not support that. The official roster of postmasters includes no Enos Prince at Kellis Store, although the 1902 listing for Kemper County postmasters shows a John Prince (Enos' brother?). We have no further explanation.

We also have no records on the death of Mary Jane Vandevender, Willie's mother.



Thomas Gathright

Thomas S. Gathright

Thomas Gathright, Enos' brother-in law and former guardian, is a separate story in his own right. He avoided service in the war citing family responsibilities and his school at Gholson. In 1876 he was appointed Mississippi state superintendent of education, a position he held only three months before Jefferson Davis turned down the job of first president of Texas A&M and recommended Gathright.

The history is well documented in Mississippi and Texas archives, covered by Henry Dethloff in detail in two chapters of his book "A Centennial History of Texas A&M University 1876-1976." As Dethloff assesses it, Gathright was lukewarm in support of the Confederacy but nevertheless maintained good relations with his neighbors and prominent Mississippians, including Davis. The Summerville school — which at the time the war started had 32 students — was advertised as the "Oldest Boarding

School for Boys and Young Men in the Southwest." Gathright charged \$100 a term, although some, like a maimed Confederate soldier, enrolled free. During Reconstruction, \$100 was a heady amount, and the school's financial problems grew. Gathright tried a run for the state senate and applied to the governor for post-war appointments, all unsuccessful. In 1876 he petitioned for the job of state superintendent of education, which had become open with the impeachment of the Radical superintendent. Gov. Adelbert Ames, also facing impeachment, resigned at the end of March, and in the midst of that political chaos Gathright's appointment as state superintendent became official April 3, 1876.

⁴ Dunbar Rowland's history of Kemper County lists a "post-hamlet" called Prince, 15 miles northwest of DeKalb, population in 1900 of 23. A mile away is Preston, another post-hamlet, population 35. Kellis Store, a post-hamlet with a money order post office, was 9 miles north-northwest of DeKalb on Sucarnoochee Creek, population 27.

Facing such an unstable situation in Mississippi, Gathright accepted the offer from Texas and moved his family to the Brazos Prairie in the summer. It is about this time that Enos Prince returned to Mississippi from Arkansas, raising the question of whether he brought his wife and young son home to fill the gap left by his one-time guardian and brother-in-law.

Setting up a college was daunting, but by all accounts the prospects were good. Although only six students showed up for the first term, the number reached 106 by the end of the first year; by December of the second year, 1,253 students were on the campus which was designed to accommodate only 160. As the overcrowding drew unfavorable headlines, Gathright stopped accepting new students and pleaded for more money for more facilities.

In 1878 Gathright was given additional responsibility of setting up an A&M satellite campus for blacks, now Prairie View. Despite the increased responsibility, there was no increase in salary. Later there were actual cuts in pay. The financial squeeze was typical of a growing dispute with the state over funding, particularly for money for farm operations and for agriculture and mechanical classes. Integral to that issue was whether the curriculum should be limited to technical courses. Gathright, firmly advocating a liberal arts curriculum, resisted shifting funds away from traditional courses like philosophy and mathematics. It was a sharp-edged dispute, and it split the faculty. It also divided the student body and triggered government investigations. Soon a statewide scandal was raging. In 1879, at the start of the fall session, Gathright and the entire faculty were fired.

It broke him. Gathright, in bitter despair, moved to a small private college for men and women in Henderson, Texas. In a letter quoted by Dethloff, he described his family as living huddled together in a hut, saying his wife cooked a little meat and bread—that is all. Within six months he fell precipitously ill. He died May 24, 1880, from “congestion of the liver.” He was 51.

By all accounts, Gathright was a capable administrator, respected by colleagues, although it was said he had a temper, and he was well-liked by students who took his side in the campus fights. Dethloff nails the immediate cause of his undoing as the faculty feud, not to dismiss the other factors beyond his control. Dethloff ends his portrait with the assessment that, “Through war, in adversity, and despite personal misfortune, Thomas S. Gathright remained dedicated to youth and to education.”

Sophronia Ann Prince Gathright lived 25 more years. She died Jan. 9, 1906, at the age of 71 at the home of a daughter in Palestine, Texas.

James Madison Luke

*Notes from interviews at family reunions and other gatherings.
Genealogy via ancestry.com, census records*

Parents

James R. LUKE b: ABT 1808 in GA (Born in Ireland? South Carolina?)

d: 15 Nov. 1888

Martha REED b: ABT 1815 in SC (Was it Mary? Born in Ireland?)

d: 4 Nov. 1881

Married: 27 Sept. 1848

Siblings

Mary Ann "Sarah" LUKE b: ABT 1837

James Madison LUKE b: 11 May 1839 in Kemper County, MS

Augustus "Gus" L. LUKE b: 14 Aug. 1841, Preston, Kemper County, MS

Christopher Columbus LUKE b: 15 Feb. 1844, Kemper County, MS

William Monroe LUKE b: 13 Feb. 1846, Kemper County, MS

Martha LUKE b: 1848, Kemper County, MS

John Buchanan LUKE b: 8 Jan. 1852, Preston, Kemper County, MS

Allen Verdell LUKE b: 9 Jan. 1854, Preston, Kemper County, MS

Jacob Daniel "Dock" LUKE b: 9 Jan. 1856, Preston, Kemper County, MS

Andy LUKE b: ABT 1858

Jackson Thomas LUKE b: 30 Sept. 1862

Marriage

James Madison LUKE b: May 11, 1839, Kemper County, MS

d: 25 Sept. 1913, Kemper County, MS

Nancy Elizabeth BAUGHMAN b: 22 Dec. 1837, Alabama or Mississippi

d: July 9, 1910, Kemper County, MS

Married: 3 April 1860, in Kemper County, MS

Children

Emma Jean LUKE b: 8 Jan. 1861, Preston, Kemper County, MS

William Claiborne LUKE b: 20 Sept. 1863, Neshoba County, MS

Walter Ivy "Lish" LUKE b: 19 Aug. 1865, Preston, Kemper County, MS

David Franklin LUKE b: 12 Sept. 1869, Preston, Kemper County, MS

Clara "Doll" Lorene LUKE b: 5 Dec. 1870, Preston, Kemper County, MS

James Edward LUKE b: 25 Dec. 1871, Preston, Kemper County, MS

Daniel Monroe LUKE b: Dec. 1875, Preston, Kemper County, MS

Georgia Ann LUKE b: 30 Nov. 1876, Preston, Kemper County, MS

Thomas Wilbur "Monch" LUKE b: 26 March 1878, Preston, Kemper County, MS

James Madison Luke (May 11, 1839 - September 25, 1913) We know little for certain about James Madison Luke. One faded family history, questionable at best, says his father and mother — the first James Luke and Martha Reed Luke — immigrated from Ireland in the 1800s and worked their way inland until settling in Mississippi. That’s not the way James told it through the years to census takers in Kemper County, who variously filled in the place of birth of the parents as South Carolina or Georgia, never Ireland. One two-page recollection — typed and unsigned — links the movement into Mississippi with the opening of Indian territory which made land available. The history has some credibility, although the writer incorrectly called him “James Monroe” instead of “James Madison.” (One of those presidents, I guess.) Someone corrected the error on my copy, which is now barely readable — a purple “duplicator” reproduction given in mid-20th-century to Winner Prince, one of James Madison Luke’s grandsons, but otherwise of undetermined origin.

Nancy Baughman Luke (Dec 22, 1837 - July 9, 1910) was born in Alabama but her family moved to Noxubee County before she was 6. She and James Madison Luke, a neighbor in east Mississippi, married on April 3, 1860, in Kemper County. Census records indicate James could neither read nor write, but Nancy could. In one census he described himself as a farmer, in another as a retail merchant; in 1880 he said he was disabled (the census asked for no details), and in 1910 he declared he was a Confederate veteran (the first year the census asked for that information).

Civil War records list several James Lukes — including one in the Union army and others in Mississippi — so it is hard to figure which papers are his. The James Luke from Noxubee County was a member of the 1st Mississippi Cavalry, Company F, a famous outfit sometimes known as Wirt Adams Regiment. Excellent horsemen, they stormed across the South in constant movement from one bloody engagement to another — including Shiloh, Corinth, Champions Hill and the surprise raid at Decatur which could have finished Sherman himself.⁵

James went home sick shortly after Decatur on April 19, 1864 — an absence personally approved by Gen. William Hicks Jackson. (Oddly, it was the same time that Enos was home wounded.) Muster rolls list James out of action at least through October with no indication of what illness. His name next shows as captured and taken prisoner in Selma, Alabama, April 2, 1865, when Nathan Bedford Forrest’s horses fell to the Yankees, only one week before the final surrender at Appomattox. Although some of the badly outnumbered Rebels, including Forrest himself, managed to escape and keep fighting, Luke was among the scattered forces who were

⁵ *On Feb. 12, 1864, units of the 1st Mississippi Cavalry mounted a little known skirmish at Decatur, about 30 miles south of where the Princes and Lukes farmed. It was a small encounter, but it grows in interest because James Luke could have been a member of the raiding party. We don’t know for certain, but he was in the 1st Cavalry and it was his home turf. In what became known as a trial run to prove an army could fight without supply trains, Sherman marched a 30,000-man Union force from Vicksburg to Meridian, burning everything and eating off the land. At Decatur, he spared one house where he and his officers rested. In a mixup, his line of pickets took off for supper and mistakenly left the command-camp unguarded, to the delight of lurking Rebel horsemen. They swept into the opening, guns blazing, and Sherman raced for cover in a corn crib. As the story is told in Decatur, he was wearing only red longjohns, a fact unverified but often repeated. Sherman sent a runner for the guards and they soon dispatched the raiders. In his memoirs, Sherman chuckles how history would have changed if those Confederates had known who could have been captured or killed in that crib. For more details, see: http://www.nchgs.org/html/tracking_sherman_through_newton_county.html*

surrounded and taken prisoner after the day-long battle trying to protect the major Southern arsenal at Selma.

As with the Princes, the Luke brothers signed up, too. Monroe Luke was in the Mississippi 19th, Company A, the same unit as Enos, better known as the Jeff Davis Guards which served outside Richmond. It was an elite unit, raised and supplied in Noxubee County by L.Q.C. Lamar. We've seen what bloody action the outfit faced — Cold Harbor, second Bull Run, Fredericksburg, Cemetery Ridge.

Another brother Christopher Columbus Luke was in Gamblin's Mississippi Cavalry of unattached state troops. Details in his enlistment papers draw a physical description: 5-foot-8, 16 years old, blue eyes, dark hair and fair complexion. The unit, apparently part of the home guard that stayed in the state, surrendered at Scooba at the end of the war.

(Confederate.)
L 1 Nois
Jas. Luke
19th Regt. Miss.
Appears on a
Roll of Prisoners of War
captured at points between Chickasaw Landing and Macon, Ga., from March 22 to April 20, 1865, inclusive, and turned over to Capt. W. B. Gates, Provost Marshal, 2d Division, Cavalry Corps, M. D. M.
Roll dated Not dated, 186 .
Where captured Selma, Ala
When captured Apr. 2, 1865.
Remarks:

Also in the Confederate army were Doll's uncles Thomas Baughman and William Baughman, both in Gamblin's Cavalry of state troopers. One of Willie's uncles, Sam C. Vandevender, was a corporal with the 35th Mississippi infantry, Company A, better known as Patton's Army of 10,000 which fought deadly encounters all over the South.

In addition there are records of a James Luke in Gamblin's home guard cavalry and one who was prisoner of war in St. Louis. Maybe it's the same James, or a father, or a cousin.... The records here have too few details to clear it up.

Totaling it, the Prince side of our family tree — counting Princes and Lukes and their in-laws — can list two of our great-grandfathers and at least nine other men in their generation in the Confederate forces. Two Princes were killed. The rest came home to pick up the pieces after the war. ⁶

We have a photograph from old age of James Madison Luke and Nancy Elizabeth Baughman Luke (no date, but with positive identification written on it by Lorene Prince, Winner's wife). It's a picture of a dour pair. An irreverent joke was passed along with the print, said to be the only known photo of James Madison Luke, taken the one time they were able to find him sober enough to sit still.

Winner said his Grandpa's house — presumably the Luke place — had a porch that circled it. Grandpa the old cavalryman would get on a horse and ride around the porch when he got drunk. He had a whip and playfully chased the children, running and laughing, all around — rowdy fun.

⁶ There may have been a total of 12 family members in the war. The Prince guardianship accounts in 1864 list "\$300 from W.R. Gathright in Virginia." War records show a Confederate courier by that name, from Mt. Hebron, Ala., and it seems likely related to Thomas Gathright, Enos' brother-in-law — possibly the W.E. Gathright, 22, a student, living with the Prince family in 1860. However, I could not nail it down.

On a heritage tour, when we noticed the innumerable Luke headstones in the cemetery, Winner was asked how many Lukes there were: “Oh, about a cowpen full.” James and Nancy had nine children, all born in Kemper County. In addition numerous in-laws lived nearby. Winner said when he was young, if you heard somebody go by on the road you could say, “It’s another one of them dern Lukes.”



**James Madison Luke and Nancy Baughman Luke
(undated photo)**

It was a family enclave. Census records list the Reeds and the Lukes next to each other — indicating that they lived on adjacent farms. They were not far from Kellis Store, where the Vandevenders lived. Princes, cousins and other relatives were also living along the ill-defined borders where Kemper, Neshoba, Noxubee and Winston counties meet. Lish -- Walter Ivy “Lish” Luke, 1865-1939 — was next door to the house that Doll and Willie built. Uncle Monch -- T.W. “Monch” Luke, 1878-1964 -- lived a short horse ride away. Aunt Georgia Stewart, Doll’s sister (1876-1964), lived on the Neshoba-Kemper line.

Lish had three sons by his first wife and three daughters by his second, Ida. Winner laughed as he remembered Aunt Ida going to Meridian, getting a fancy hat at the store, telling the clerk she had to let her husband approve, wearing it to a shindig, and then taking it back to the store the next day. (He also remembered that she went to Electric Mills hospital to have her little toes amputated because she couldn’t get rid of her corns.)

Also living nearby was the family of Clara’s older brother, David Franklin Luke, whose daughter Vergie married Henry Davis and gave us one of those remarkable stories that color family histories. According to Winner, Davis shot a man in a fight over a cow that got in the corn. It happened when Jim Dees came after Davis with a knife. Davis was ready for him and shot him several times in the stomach. Winner said Dees was taken to Electric Mills and doctors saved his life. After that, Davis and Dees agreed to never let their paths cross again. The Dees family moved to Philadelphia, and Davis did all his trading in Meridian. Winner said Dees was known to be mean and Davis was backing off, so he wasn’t charged. Davis later bought the house from Willie and Doll when they moved to Walnut Grove around 1927. Vergie Luke Davis was still living at the old Lynville place in 1985 at age 95.

Winner said Grandfather Luke was quite good looking and wore whiskers. The comment came as we stood by J.M. Luke’s gravestone outside the Pleasant Springs Presbyterian Church in Preston. A finger pointing to heaven is carved on the stone, along with this verse:

*The Lord seeth not as man
seeth for man looketh on the
outward appearance but the
Lord looketh on the heart*

The adjacent stone is for his wife Nancy Elizabeth. Winner remembered when she died and they laid her out on the bed and brought a casket for her — a vivid memory for a 4-year-old. Her tombstone also has a finger pointing up and this inscription:

*Here lies one who in this life
Was a kind mother and true wife
She was by many virtues blest
And piety among the best*

Nanah Waiya

A fascinating footnote centers on Monch Luke's ownership of the Nanah Waiya Indian mound. It is one of the oldest of the nation's great Indian mounds, dating back 2,000 years to the Middle Woodland period. At 25 feet tall and 218 feet long, it is venerated by Choctaws as the sacred "Mother Mound," the birthplace of their people. When the Choctaw Nation signed the Dancing Rabbit treaty in 1830, the mound and surrounding swamp were among lands ceded to the United States. The mound area, which Monch apparently got in a land swap, lies at the Neshoba-Winston line on the edge of the Bogue Chitto Swamp, the headwaters of the Pearl River. Over time, according to preservationists, some small mounds had been leveled and the original form altered, including loss of a moat and dirt fence. One family story tells that when Monch's son T.W. Jr. was a county supervisor in charge of roads and ditches he viewed the mound as potential fill dirt but thought better of it. Family children played on the mound; drunks who bought moonshine in nearby woods left the place littered; and there is one account of a treasure hunter who dug holes and hauled off a load of what he found. In the interest of saving a historic site, the family handed it over to the state on May 4, 1959, with the provision that it be maintained as a park.

The state cut the trees on it and added amenities, and on May 7, 1973, it was listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Then in 2004, to save money, the Legislature stopped funding. That set off a chain of events which eventually resulted in the family agreeing to give up their claim to the mound so it could go back to the tribe, although the family got almost no public recognition for their generosity. Virtually none of the legislative action, deed transfers, courthouse records or public ceremonies included any mention of the Lukes, except for the quit-claim the family filed in Winston County that made it all legal. Altogether the Choctaws got about 157 acres, including the Nanah Waiya cave, and in 2010 the Choctaws transferred the site, with its wildlife management area, to protection of the federal government. At this writing in 2016, it is posted and fenced off although visitors can drive by on state highway 393

Willie and Doll

*Notes from interviews at family reunions and other gatherings.
Genealogy via ancestry.com and census records*

Doll's Grandparents

James R. LUKE b: ABT 1808 in GA (is it James R. or James Madison? Is it Ireland?)
d: 15 Nov. 1888

Martha REED b: ABT 1815 in SC (is it Mary? Is it Ireland?)
d: 4 Nov. 1881
Married 27 Sept. 1848

David BAUGHMAN b: ABT 1800 in KY
d: 30 Oct. 1852

Maria Ann STEPHENS b: MAY 1805/1808 in TN
d: 15 March 1883

Willie's Grandparents

Richard PRINCE b: ABT 1804 in VA
d: Nov. 1849, Sumter County, AL

Susan R. Jackson PRINCE b: abt 1812 in AL
d: 31 Jan. 1876, Gholson, MS

Hiram VANDEVENDER b: 12 March 1810, Greenbriar County, VA
d: 5 Aug. 1890, Kemper County, MS

Mary VERNON b: 5 Nov. 1822 in AL
d: Oct. 1852
Married BEF 1842 in Kemper County, MS

Willie's Parents

James Enos PRINCE b: 1 Jan. 1841, Sumter County, AL
d: After 1880, Kemper County, MS

Mary Jane VANDEVENDER b: about 1844, Kemper County, MS

Doll's Parents

James Madison LUKE b: 11 May 1839, Kemper County, MS
d: 25 Sept. 1913, Kemper County, MS

Nancy Elizabeth BAUGHMAN, 22 Dec. 1837, Alabama or Mississippi
d: 9 July 1910, Kemper County, MS
Married 3 April 1860, Kemper County, MS

Willie and Doll Marriage

*William Richard "Willie" PRINCE b: 5 Sept. 1867, Gholson, MS (or Conway County, AR)
d: 30 Jan. 1949, Philadelphia, MS*

*Clara Lorene "Doll" LUKE b: 5 Dec. 1870, Kemper County, MS
d: 24 April 1954, Philadelphia, MS
Married 19 Dec. 1889*

Children

- John Herman PRINCE, b: 13 March 1892, Preston, Kemper County, MS
d: 5 July 1963, Carlsbad, New Mexico
- Nancy (Nannie) PRINCE b: 4 Aug. 1893, Kemper County, MS
d: 31 Jan. 1894, Kemper County, MS
- William Marshall PRINCE b: 4 May 1895, Kemper County, MS
d: 9 Sept. 1985, at Meridian hospital, burial Philadelphia MS
- Walter Ernest PRINCE b: 28 Jan. 1897, Kemper County, MS
d: 24 June 1973, at Rush Hospital, Meridian; buried Union, MS
- Sally Ruby PRINCE b: 6 April 1899, Kemper County, MS
d: 25 Aug. 1919, Kemper County, MS, buried Shepherd Cemetery
Married Levi A. MARDIS, 21 Aug. 1915, Neshoba, MS
- James Enos PRINCE b: 19 May 1901, Kemper County, MS
d: 25 July 1974, Macon hospital, buried Shuqualak, MS
- Guy Rencher PRINCE b: 7 April 1903, Kemper County, MS
d: 24 March 1930, South Carolina, buried Gallman, MS
- Winner K. PRINCE b: 25 Dec. 1905, Kemper County, MS
d: 8 Mar 1990, Newton, MS
- Frank Marion PRINCE b: 28 Nov. 1907, Gholson, Kemper County, MS
d: 3 April 2005, Burlingame, Calif. (San Francisco)

William Richard Prince (Sept. 5, 1867-Jan. 30, 1949) was an only child, the son of James Enos Prince and Mary Jane Vandevender Prince. We had so little information about his upbringing that the family thought for years that his father died in the Civil War and that Willie was raised by his mother's family, the Vandevenders. Willie told his children he was born in Gholson in Noxubee County, Mississippi, on Sept. 5, 1867, although the family said he actually wasn't sure. We now have the 1870 census from Griffin Township in Conway County, Ark., that lists his birth place as Arkansas, and we have the 1880 census that puts his birth in Mississippi. It's not clear which is correct. Whatever the case, the move to Arkansas is a blip on the otherwise all-Mississippi biography. They didn't live there long. When he died, the newspaper obit, written by daughter-in-law Lorene Prince (Winner Prince's wife), took the family's word for it and reported place of birth as Gholson.

Using the dates we have now, it's clear Willie could have been as old as 20 -- and already married -- when his father died. As he was growing up, the family apparently lived near, if not actually with, the Vandevenders in east Mississippi. The fact that his father, Enos, was raised in a guardianship may have clouded the story. (Enos was not an orphan, but his father died in 1849 when Enos was 9. He moved to Mississippi in 1855 where his brother-in-law became his guardian and administered his inheritance.)

Clara Lorene Luke (Dec. 5, 1870-April 24, 1954) was the daughter of James Madison Luke and Nancy Elizabeth Baughman Luke, one of nine children whose father was a Kemper County native. Everybody called her Doll. She was born on Dec. 5, 1870, in Preston, and she and Willie married on Dec. 19, 1889. He was 22 and she was 19.



The Prince family in 1903

From left, Ernest (6), Willie (35), Herman (11), Guy (baby), Marshall (8), Clara (33), Enos (2), and Ruby (4). Nancy had died in infancy in 1894. Winner was born in 1905, and Frank in 1907.

Willie's and Doll's parents lived southwest of Shuqualak, in the corner where Neshoba, Kemper and Noxubee counties meet. When Willie and Doll married, they moved into a log cabin nearby, probably at Preston which is 5 miles north of Lynville. They had a house full of children — seven boys and two girls, starting in 1892 when Herman was born. Nancy died in infancy, and Ruby died when she was barely 20, leaving two children. The other Prince boys were Marshall, Ernest, Enos, Guy, Winner and Frank. The brothers didn't talk much about their parents' upbringing and history, admitting frankly they knew very little about it. The family had a joke about not getting anything from Willie: "He just didn't care whether you knew."

The brothers told good stories about growing up, having fun but working hard. It was a strait-laced, church-going family with a strong moral core. Uncle James Madison Luke's drinking was such an exception it verged on legend. Out in the country, their address was a box number at Kellis Store. "You didn't go to the post office; they had a mail carrier," Winner said. But during World War I, with Marshall in Belgium and Ernest in Germany, Willie wouldn't wait for delivery of the Memphis Commercial Appeal. It came by train to Shuqualak and was hauled to Preston to be delivered the next day. He dispatched Winner on a mule to get the news for Doll a day sooner.

The postal service had its own problems getting mail to the post office since the roads "were so bad you couldn't drive over them in a buggy." So the mail came by airplane: "We'd run a half

mile to get on a hill to see it,” Winner remembered. “It would fly over every day about noon. A tiny plane that carried the mail.”

Lynville

In 1905 Willie and Doll moved to a house Willie built in Lynville. The house is no longer there, long since burned down. It was big enough for their big family and included a living room that they turned into a bedroom to rent to school teachers. Norman Davis, a cousin who lived nearby, recalled in the 1990s that the house had three bedrooms — with bedroom, kitchen and dining room on one side of the dog trot hall, two bedrooms and a “parlor” with two beds in it on the other side. (Frank said the boys’ room had three double beds.) There were porches on the north and south, and they could sleep in the hall in the summer. They also had a store, a separate building where share-croppers bought on credit until they were paid at harvest time. When Willie and Doll moved to Walnut Grove about 1927, Henry Davis bought their 600 acres, including the house and sawmill, for \$3,000.

The Princes lived on a small hill, over the valley. They always had a teacher boarding there. Winner remembered being the one whose chores included getting up first thing in the morning to get the house warm. He said Willie would call out to him: “Winner, get up and make the fire.” He’d call twice, Winner said, never three times. If Winner lagged, “you’d hear him hit the porch, after a peach tree switch.” Winner remembered one time being caught still dozing, sitting halfway out of bed, bare legs dangling. The memory was vivid: “he hit me with that switch,” Winner laughed.

Doll used to talk about how she loved to dance when she was young. A favorite story recalled riding to a dance astride a mule behind her older brother Dave, dancing all night, and making it home just in time to start fixing breakfast. (A similar feat when Winner was born on Dec. 25: she cooked Christmas dinner for the whole clan, then gave birth.)

As well as doing the cooking — Frank said she always had kitchen help — Doll ran the store. All the sharecroppers shopped there. There was no money except what she took in. “Only time I saw money was when I went to DeKalb at Herman’s store,” Winner said. “I got a nickel for an ice cream cone there.”

Doll sold everything and anything at the store — even fire crackers at Christmas time. Winner remembered a barrel of soda crackers. He said he’d walk by and snatch a handful and would catch trouble if they saw him.

Choctaws traded hand-woven baskets for meal. They could speak a little English and Doll could speak “pretty good” Choctaw. Winner said she was the one who ran the store. Willie would sell things on credit and forget to keep track. “If she’d been a man, she’d have been a rich one,” he said. Frank had the same assessment: “She could make a living off a rock.”

In addition to the store, they did some farming — cotton, corn, and peas which they sold. They had a hand-cranked pea sheller, and Winner remembered hauling a wagon full of peas to Philadelphia to sell. After the cotton was gathered in the fall, it was hauled in a wagon to market in Meridian. The trip was 40 miles and would take overnight. They slept some in a bed in the wagon because there was no place Willie would stay in Meridian. “He wouldn’t rent anything,” Winner said. There was a favorite place out of Meridian where they cooked fish.

“He always wanted to stop there.” Winner said only one of the boys rode with their Papa to Meridian. Willie “was so carried away” with the store there -- the Winner Klein Co. -- that he named Winner for it. “Had all the stuff he needed in that place.”

In those days before cars, they had lots of mules and horses with a wagon, a surrey and a buggy. Winner told about the time he was driving the buggy, and the horse’s tail snagged in the reins “as tight as nailed.” The horse ran away, getting faster and faster. “It was really traveling and crossed the main road between two trees, out where all our equipment was. The gate was fastened but the horse couldn’t stop and busted through the gate.” Frank said Winner was in real trouble. But it wasn’t his fault. They couldn’t blame him, although they were worried about Willie’s temper.

That temper was remarkable. The boys told how when working on a roof Willie called for a Negro worker to bring him something. The worker didn’t jump fast enough -- if at all -- and Willie threw a hammer. It hit him between the eyes and knocked him out cold. Willie was also tough on animals. Frank said he drove them hard and “didn’t treat them right.” Winner remembered Willie getting a stick and knocking a mule to its knees.

The boys tried to stay out of his reach. They’d scramble to get to the table first so they didn’t have to sit next to him. There were benches for the boys, chairs for Willie at one end and Doll at the other. The boys weren’t allowed to talk much and if one started snickering -- no matter where he sat -- the one next to Willie got it across the mouth. He’d knock them backwards off the bench, probably hard enough for the force to domino down the line and get the one who was messing around.

Another table story: “Here comes Commie,” they’d say. The Rev. Commodore Vandevender, Doll’s uncle, was a circuit rider. “He never bought a meal in his life,” Winner joked. In this instance, Doll put him at the head of the table to say grace because Willie wasn’t there. When he started praying, the boys were all on the bench. Then he just went on and on and on, and one by one the boys left their places, trying to keep from laughing. At the amen, only Commie and Doll were at either end. “Mama laughed, too,” Winner said. “But if Papa had been there we would have done something else to keep from laughing.”

The boys all hunted. Frank told how he raised goats to get enough money for a .22 rifle. “I got so good at shooting birds with that rifle I could hit them on the fly,” he said. “Then Herman got a .22 pump to finish out payment on a car — .22-long shell. I got so good he gave that rifle to me. I could hit anything. Moved to California and never could use it.” So he passed the rifle along to Guy.

“Papa didn’t hunt -- would never let you kill all the birds in a covey. Leave at least four birds in a covey so you have at least two big coveys next year. We all learned that. Winner had a pump gun. Good shot. Always had good bird dogs. Marshall always had a pair.”

Willie also did not drive. When Herman had a Ford car dealership in DeKalb, Willie decided he wanted a car. As Frank told it, “We’d only seen one car before. A man had a Chevrolet and had come by and taken it out in the pasture where we had a baseball field. He’d slide in the rain when it got slick.” Herman brought the car out to the house, a two-seater with curtains and red disk tires. The crank handle was at the front, but they misaligned the spark plugs, and as

Winner turned the crank the engine backfired and it broke his arm.

When Herman set out to teach Willie to drive, Willie told everybody to get in together so there would be no argument about who was going to be the driver. The roads were awful, with ruts and steep banks. As they bounced along, Herman told him, “Don’t go too fast. Put your foot on the brake to slow it down.” When Willie looked down to see where the brake was, he turned into the ditch. “It didn’t even bend the bumper,” Frank said, “but Papa told Ernest to get behind the wheel, and, of course, he didn’t have any trouble driving. Papa never got behind the wheel again. It was very difficult for us not to laugh. We got home and had a good laugh. Never forgot the look on his face.”

Willie could make anything — or thought he could. His shop included blacksmith equipment, a corncrib and grinder, a gristmill, a cane grinder and woodworking tools. It’s probably claimed about every carpenter of the time, but they say he’d eyeball the angle, cut the lumber without measuring, and it would fit. His bent-

wood walking sticks are still treasured among the relatives. His tools were his pride, and when asked about his carpentry the boys usually referred to the high quality of the tools. All of us who remember his shop vividly recall the carpet of wood curls from the hand planer. Talk of the tools usually ends with the question: who inherited them? What a treasure! But missing from the usual inventory was the tool with which he marked his saw-line — his thumbnail, a hard horn with a sharp edge that scored deep grooves in the wood, no pencil necessary.

The boys had good stories on his projects, like the one about the short-lived wheat thresher. As Winner and Frank told it, Willie worked for about three years on the design so he could install it upstairs over the cotton gin. It had a wooden wheel and a three-inch oak beam and was connected to a steam engine downstairs. Geared to operate slowly, with just a little steam, it was apparently going to do the job and was threshing perfectly until things got out of hand. “Ern was upstairs with the men, and Papa told him to shut it down. So Ern called down to Guy, who was just a little whippersnapper, and Guy turned it on instead of off. It started revving up, got faster and faster, and then began to come apart. Rods started slinging loose, going through the roof, and people started running for safety. They jumped out of the second story windows, diving to the ground, panicked,” Frank said. “Daddy didn’t say anything — just turned and walked off. He never said anything to anyone. But he never tried to build another one. It worked, but he quit.”



**William Richard Prince and Clara Luke Prince
50th wedding anniversary 1939**

Walnut Grove

Willie and Doll moved to Walnut Grove after all the boys but Frank had left home. Marshall said he tried to talk them into moving to Philadelphia because of its potential to grow, but they followed the Lukes who had timber operations in Leake County. At Walnut Grove, they lived in one of the company shacks until Willie built their house. There is still a Prince Street in Walnut Grove, presumably where the house was.

Willie worked in the saw mill, and he developed a remarkable habit of walkabouts — which family members mentioned again and again when talking about Walnut Grove. He walked and walked. He'd just take off walking, checking out the swampland. Then he'd watch the newspapers for tax sales so he could go to Jackson to buy it for \$1 an acre. "He bought so much a buzzard couldn't fly over it all," recalled Frank. He made deals with people to clear cut the timber, little hard oaks that they could keep in exchange for the labor. "Then somebody put a canal through there and drained it, so it could be planted in corn — good crops because it was such rich land. Then he sold it as farm land."

Frank said he also made good money spotting land "that was so marshy that when a buzzard flew over his shadow bogged down." He knew they were going to drain it with two canals. Winner said nobody could figure how Willie knew what areas would be drained, but he knew.

Willie had false teeth, but he didn't wear them because they didn't fit. Frank laughed about it, saying Willie grew a mustache to hide it. "Those things must have weighed one and a half pounds. He didn't need them. He could chew as well as anybody" — if he cut the steak into little bitty pieces.

When Willie's health began deteriorating in the mid-1940s, Enos arranged for a house in Philadelphia where they could be closer to family since the timber operation had closed in Walnut Grove. Within two years, Willie was so bad that the boys took turns staying with him. Winner remembered one night Willie started hallucinating. He snatched a shade off the window and tried to use it as a gun to ward off encircling Indians. Another time he told Doll, "Shut up, or I'll throw you out the window." At Thanksgiving 1948, Marshall, Ernest and Winner agreed he needed to be hospitalized. Whitfield, the new state institution near Jackson, seemed the logical choice, but Enos opposed, saying he'd go there first. Winner argued that Willie was sick, that the state had built that hospital for sick people and nobody could handle Willie any more, least of all Clara. By Christmas he was so bad that Enos also agreed. Willie seemed to agree, too. Marshall, Ernest and Winner drove him to Whitfield. Winner signed the papers. He was there only a few weeks before he died Jan. 30, 1949. The funeral was at Marshall's house in Philadelphia. The weather was awful, freezing rain and wind so cold that Marshall's son Walter remembered the '49 Ford's door handle popped off. Only the hardy adults braved the weather to the graveside.

Clara lived four more years in Philadelphia. She was thin all her life — so thin that some family members worried she had TB like her oldest son — but she lived to be almost 84. Maybe her secret lay in the daily doses of the magic elixir Hadacol, a "vitamin supplement" boosted by its 12-percent alcohol preservative. The manufacturer recommended four doses a day. She swore by it.

The Next Generation

*Notes and stories from various reunions and other gatherings
Genealogy from ancestry.com, census records, and family members
These dates seem the most likely, although census and other sources sometimes differ*

John Herman PRINCE b: 13 March 1892, Preston, Kemper County, MS

d: 5 July 1963, Carlsbad, New Mexico

married: Annie Byrd OGLETREE on June 6, 1920, Meridian, MS (b: 1901 in GA; tombstone says 1907), d: 1963

Nancy (Nannie) PRINCE b: 4 Aug. 1893, Kemper County, MS

d: 31 Jan. 1894, Kemper County, MS

William Marshall PRINCE b: 4 May 1895, Kemper County, MS

d: 9 Sept. 1985, at Meridian hospital, buried Philadelphia MS

married: Ethel Jewel DOVE (April 15, 1900-Jan. 24, 1957, Philadelphia, MS)

2nd marriage: Kathleen BLANKS (Jan. 9, 1904-May 28, 1978, Philadelphia, MS)

Walter Ernest PRINCE b: 28 Jan. 1897, Kemper County, MS

d: 24 Jun 1973, at Rush Hospital, Meridian; buried Union, MS

married: Augusta MAJURE (1902-Aug. 11, 1977, Union, MS)

Sally Ruby PRINCE b: 6 April 1899, Kemper County, MS

d: 25 Aug. 1919, Kemper County, MS, burial Shepherd Cemetery

married: Levi A. MARDIS on Aug. 21, 1915, Neshoba, MS

James Enos PRINCE, b: 19 May 1901, Kemper County, MS

d: 25 July 1974, Macon hospital, burial Shuqualak, MS

married: Annie L. CREEKMORE on Dec. 26, 1925 (Feb. 2, 1901,-March 24, 1991)

Guy Rencher PRINCE b: 7 Apr 1903, Kemper County, MS

d: 24 Mar 1930, Columbia, S. C., buried Gallman, MS

married: Ella LILLY (May 11, 1911-May 1968)

Winner K. PRINCE, b: 25 Dec. 1905, Kemper County, MS

d: 8 Mar 1990, Newton, MS

married: Lorene MABRY on June 3, 1931, in Forest, MS (Jan. 19, 1906-Jan. 28, 1978)

2nd marriage: Francis Barland Roebuck, on 20 April 1984

Frank Marion PRINCE, b: 28 Nov. 1907, Gholson, Kemper County, MS

d: 3 APR 2005, Burlingame, Calif. (San Francisco)

married Hazel Florence NORMAN on Feb. 3, 1937, in Reno, Nevada (Dec. 6, 1913 in Georgia-Aug. 4, 1998, Santa Cruz, Calif.)

The four-corners area of Noxubee, Neshoba, Kemper and Winston was thick with relatives. The Lukes, the Vandevenders and their in-laws lived around there. Unlike earlier generations who worked their way westward as Indian lands were opened for farmers, this generation seems to have put down roots. Born there, raised there, lived there and died there. The Princes did too, sort of. When they grew up, Willie and Doll's boys didn't stay on the family farm, but they generally didn't wander too far: Herman to DeKalb where he had a car dealership, Marshall to Philadelphia where he was mayor, Ernest to Union where he settled after being gassed in Germany in World War I, Enos to Shuqualak in the oil business, Guy to South Carolina where he managed a store, Winner to Newton where he was editor/publisher, and Frank all the way to San Francisco to head the Public Health Service hospital in bubonic plague research.

The Prince genes were strong. Stories abound about how the Princes looked alike. Frank's son Roger tells about the time Winner and Marshall met Frank in Las Vegas. Frank went to the washroom. When he turned around for a towel, he faced right into a full wall mirror. "Why, Winner," he blurted out, "how'd you get in here?" Other people there thought it was just a gambler bragging. Winner, who heard about it later, literally fell off his chair laughing.

Marshall especially bore the Prince stamp. It's said that somebody saw Marshall coming up a hill at his father's funeral and thought Willie had gotten up out of the grave.

The resemblance carried down to some of the next generation. At a family reunion, surrounded by a circle of cousins at the Philadelphia house of Enos' son Jimmy, Frank was asked about Herman's funeral. Frank and Enos had met in New Mexico to settle the estate and Frank drove the car home. Roger wanted to know what kind of car? Frank turned to Jimmy, then turned back with a twinkle: "I started to ask Enos here...."

Stories like that tell us something about the character, the personality, of the generation now gone. They told those stories with gusto, and I wrote some of them down. They're only tidbits of biography but I hate to lose them, especially the ones about the family we hardly knew:

Herman

When Herman grew old enough to set out on his own, his parents gave him \$100. (They gave all the boys \$100 to help them get started.) Herman worked in a hardware store in DeKalb until he eventually got a Ford dealership, not a common business in 1930. He operated it, with Annie B. as his bookkeeper, for a short while until he came down with TB. In hopes the dry climate would help his health, they moved to Carlsbad, N.M. They lived in the open air, camped out in a tent for a year or two, until he was cured, then built a house. At first, they had what Frank called a "camper-like that they kept household stuff in, cooking things, but never went inside. Slept outside until he was completely cured."

In time, he went to work as communications manager for a potash mine— like a dispatcher. He built a fine stone house and became an upstanding member of the community. Charles, a nephew, made a surprise visit one summer in the 1960s and said Herman and Annie treated him like royalty. Herman was a member of the country club and played golf.

Annie B. died in 1963, and Herman died of a heart attack six months later. He was 69. Her age is not so clear; dates on her tombstone make her 56; some census data indicates she could have been 62 or 63. Enos and Frank met in Carlsbad to deal with Herman's estate. The story is that



About 1950

From left: Frank, Ernest, Winner, Enos and Marshall with their mother

Annie B. had scores of diamonds, which were never found. Frank speculated that Herman had taken them for appraisal and the jeweler kept them when no one came in to re-claim them.

In March of 1999, when we found Winner's copy of the legal papers on Herman's death, we noted the judgment explicitly excluded Winner from the estate, while giving the other four surviving brothers equal share. At my request, Carolyn asked her father Frank what that was all about. Frank said Herman had loaned Winner some money for a Texaco distributorship in Philadelphia, and Winner had not repaid him. He didn't know how much but apparently the Texaco job didn't work out. So that was Winner's share.

The papers raise a separate, interesting mystery: Herman and Annie B. had no children. A lawyer closed the estate and one of his last letters to the surviving brothers says he was still getting "very sarcastic and slanderous letters from Louise Ogletree Dare." He gave no details but said the letters would have no effect on his work. Louise was Annie B's sister who lived in DeKalb. She named her third child Herman Prince Dare. Did she expect to get part of Annie B's estate because she named her son for the child Herman didn't have? Louise and the child are dead, so we cannot ask.

Ruby

The Princes' second child Nannie died in infancy, so Ruby was the only girl to grow up in that household of rambunctious boys. When she was a teen-ager, Ruby secretly packed her bag and was ready to sneak off and elope with her boyfriend Levi, barely a year older. But Doll found the bag and stopped her. To block further attempts, they nailed the windows shut.

It didn't stop the romance, however. Willie and Doll managed to keep control until Ruby went off to boarding school at Scooba. (The school at home went through only the eighth grade.) Out of sight and with unlocked windows, she and Levi A. Mardis ran away and were married Aug. 21, 1915. She was 16, he was 17. The Princes were furious and refused to let her come visit, although they eventually relented and allowed her to come around with their first grandchildren.

After only four years of marriage and the birth of two small children, Ruby died on Aug. 25, 1919, aged barely 20, leaving Odell, 2, and his baby sister Lizzie. Winner said she died of blood poisoning — simply a matter of not getting adequate medical care for a small wound. He remembered seeing the red streak of infection run up her arm. She died the day Ernest got home from World War I.

Ruby is buried at the Shepherd Cemetery in Kemper County. Her tombstone carries this inscription:

*She was a kind and affectionate wife
a fond mother and a friend to all*

Her husband is not buried there. He re-married, and he and his second wife Mary raised Odell and Lizzie and had three children of their own.

In later years, Ruby's brothers said Willie and Doll didn't talk about why they objected to the marriage, other than that she was so young and that Willie was livid when he saw Mardis take a drink.

Marshall and Ernest

In World War I, both Marshall and Ernest were stationed in Europe. Marshall had the better posting, Ghent. His job was to ride a motorcycle out into the Belgium countryside and barter for food for the troops. He was a sergeant until he got busted. Walt said he wouldn't talk about what happened. He did talk about the sightseeing, particularly the cathedral. Extraordinary for a country boy.

After the war Marshall clerked in a store and a bank in Philadelphia. He was offered a job in New Orleans at the Whitney Bank, the city's premier at the time, but he didn't want to move. He stayed with the Philadelphia bank. Whitney pursued him, but he brushed them off, saying he'd already told them no. He eventually quit banking and opened a Mutual Insurance Agency, providing coverage for schools among other clients. Walt thinks he left banking because it was too confining. Marshall liked to fish and hunt. One vacation he went on a two-week deer hunt. Expert with a bass boat, he always had a freezer full of fish.

As that implies, he was independent. When he grew older, his sons worried about his overnight fishing trips in the Delta. What if something happened in those days before cell phones? One time, it did: he broke his wrist. So he loaded the boat, drove himself back to Philadelphia from

the Ross Barnett reservoir to see his doctor, was told it was a pretty bad break and he should see a doctor in Meridian, so he drove himself over there. One handed.

During World War II, Marshall was a member of the home guard. When the mayor of Philadelphia entered military service in 1942, Marshall took over the job and served as mayor until 1945.

Ernest the soldier was sent to Germany, where he came under gas attack. He survived but suffered the crippling effects the rest of his life. Charles described one collapse: They were fishing — Charles was 4 or 5 — and a storm blew in, sending the temperature plunging. Ernest doubled over in the chill and had to be picked up in a seated position and taken to a hospital.

Ernest went to Hot Springs and Warm Springs for treatment, but nothing helped. With Ernest unable to work outside the home, Gus took a hospital job handling medical records. Ernest turned into quite a cook, whose “clear seed” biscuits were legendary to family members. (Charles said the secret was the way he folded over the dough.) His peanut brittle was what we children remembered.

Guy

Guy also had a physical infirmity. The family called it a rheumatic heart, resulting from his accidentally sitting in a bed of red ants when he was an infant. Winner said the condition prevented Guy from doing field work and led to his early death of heart failure at the age of 26.

Frank said Guy went to St. Louis to college, “Washington University or somewhere like that” and had to come home because of his health. He was left handed and wrote a beautiful script.

Frank described Guy squatting on his haunches to take a rest — a comfortable position that he dropped to “ordinarily,” rather than propping on one knee as so many others do. Frank said it was the position he eased into when he had a heart attack and died at work in South Carolina. He was manager of stock for a J.C. Penny store and collapsed while moving shoes from one place to another. Frank said he squatted down “to get his heart back” and died at the foot of the stairs where his office was. An autopsy said he died of “valvular heart disease.”

Winner went to Atlanta to meet his widow Ella and the body. Ella was pregnant and it must have been an especially hard blow for the young widow, only 18, who Winner said was adopted from the Methodist Home. Ella went back to Gallman, in Copiah County, where she buried her husband. She moved back in with her foster parents, Joel and Kate Lilly, and gave birth to a little girl whom she named Ella Guy.

Winner

With Guy’s infirmities, Winner did double-duty and was assigned to cover Guy’s field work, too. “I was pretty strong,” Winner said. “When I was 13 years old, I could do as much as any man. I was stout.”



Guy Prince

Winner played high school football at Scooba, but dropped out before graduation and headed off to St. Louis for a job. He said he arrived by train at midnight, went to a Chevrolet plant and applied the next morning. Although he was in a long line of applicants, they called his name and he went straight to work. He lasted seven days. When they pressed him to join a union, he refused, picked up his check and went down the

street where he hired on at a stove foundry, pushing a wheelbarrow of sand. That didn't last long, either, and he got a job at American Can Co. where he held metal sheets together under a stamp so the machines could crimp the top for a lid on molasses cans. He said he was there for seven hours when he almost got his thumb caught. "I told them I wouldn't give a thumb for this whole factory."

By that time, he had written home and told his mama he would come back if he had the money. She took the hint. "I knew she would," he said. In all he was in St. Louis for five weeks, rooming at a widow's house. As he packed he said he told her he wanted to pay what he owed. She said he was the only person who hadn't left owing her rent. "That made me proud," he said.

After that, he joined Enos and Ernest working with his Papa in the lumber business. He and Enos hauled the lumber in an old Ford truck with a kind of double low gear for steep hills. But sometimes it wouldn't make the climb, and the brakes weren't that good, either. It would roll back down the hill until it stopped in a ditch. Then they would unload the lumber, get out of the ditch, reload and try the hill again. "Man, you talk about work!" he said. "That was work!"

He went back to school the next year, graduated and enrolled at Mississippi State. He was kicked out when he and a classmate got caught sitting on a window sill smoking and drinking. Eventually he ended up with a business degree from Bowling Green in Kentucky, where he learned bookkeeping and developed an absolutely beautiful handwriting script. He wrote right-handed but he should have been a leftie; the result was ambidextrous.

He had a faint scar on his chin where a mule had kicked him in the face while he was grinding sugar cane. The kick also left a missing tooth that gapped when he grinned. The ladies found it fetching. (He didn't fix the tooth until well into middle age.) When he worked as a state patrolman, riding highways to check truck weights, he was dating all the teachers in Philadelphia. "All the women were after him," was the way Marshall's wife described it. (One of his brothers teasingly said it wasn't just good looks; Winner had a pickup truck and a bottle of whiskey in the back.) One day on a porch at the Neshoba County Fair, he proposed to Lorene, who was one of those teachers. She was wearing another man's ring at the time. They were married at a friend's home in Forest on June 3, 1931.

Things grew tough during the Depression. Winner was out of work and Lorene was teaching in Newton when her father offered Winner the editorship of the weekly Newton Record. Winner said he didn't know anything about newspapering but he could run the machinery. He grew into the editorship and remained at the paper until retirement in 1972 — a perfect partnership with Lorene who could write anything. (Two separate newspaper features on Winner as editor are linked separately to this family history.)

Active in the Democratic Party, Winner used the editorial column as a moral measure, championing causes and supporting candidates. He was named a "colonel" on the staff of Govs. J.P. Coleman and Bill Waller and was a close personal friend of Gov. William Winter. Coleman appointed him to the Agriculture and Industrial Board, through which Newton was able to get a La-Z-Boy chair factory. He was perfectly comfortable chatting with someone like Sen. John Stennis. Or, to Lorene's dismay, bringing Coleman in the kitchen door for squirrel stew.

Winner said he thought the family considered him the black sheep, at least until he married and took on the newspaper. Frank agreed their Papa was hard on him. As editor, however, he was a



**Early 1960s
Winner, Marshall, Enos and Ernest at a family picnic**

solid civic leader, a church steward — and there was no trace of liquor in the house. After 50 years of smoking, he decided one day to stop, cold turkey. He carried that disintegrating pack of cigarettes around in his pocket until it came apart.

Enos

The women said Enos was the most handsome of the lot — like Cary Grant, gushed one admirer looking back years later. The boys had funny stories about his courtship of Annie, who Frank said was the only serious girlfriend Enos ever had. One night when Frank and Winner heard Enos come in late from courting, they teamed up on a prank: Winner pretended to be sleep walking. (It wasn't unusual; one time Winner got out of bed, walked outside, crossed a creek on a plank bridge, ended up at somebody's house and crawled in bed with them.) This time he pretended to be asleep and was hollering and carrying on so much that he upset Enos. "I got up to the window, talking out of my head and scratching," Winner said. "Enos heard it and called Marshall to come see. We got so tickled we gave it away." Enos was furious.

Frank said Enos was never happy to be the butt of a joke. He must have been apoplectic when he was tricked into paying \$1,000 for some land on the Rio Grande in Texas. Frank told the story: the photograph showed the place full of beautiful orange trees. Enos thought he was set for life, bought a new car and took off down there. He was back in two weeks. The land was absolutely worthless, no water on it.

In addition to working with his father, Enos struck out on his own in the timber business. He cleared land in a deal with a landowner who allowed him to keep the wood as payment for the

hard labor of hand-sawing in those days before power tools. Winner said Enos “nearly worked himself into the ground.”

Frank said Enos bought all the land he could and planted pine trees and grass, then went to Texas to get white-faced cattle. Eventually he became a “Texaco consignee” — the business that defined most of his professional life — and operated a distributorship for 49 years.

Frank

Frank said he was named for the Swamp Fox war hero in Charleston, S.C., Francis Marion. The family had an earlier Francis Marion in the grandfather’s generation, so Frank could be called the second Prince Fox. Asked about his training in entomology and how he got to the lab on bubonic plague in San Francisco, Frank told about Dr. Walter Dove, his mentor who spotted his potential at Mississippi State and helped him get a government job in South Carolina after graduation. (Dove was the older brother of Ethel who married Marshall.)

Frank’s early work was on the Salt Marsh Sand Fly: he said he took dirt treated with creosote residue from train ties and worked out the life history of the fly by tracking larvae as they crawled out of the contaminated mud into clear water. Then he moved on to research screw worms. Branded animals, infected with screw worms, were bleeding to death when they returned to the fields, and Frank taught farmers how to save them. He said he wound up in places like Mississippi, where he showed them how to dip cows in creosote as treatment. (Jimmy said once they used too much creosote in a treatment and burned the hair off the cows.)

Soon his government job took him to San Francisco, where he became head of the bubonic plague research center. Much of his work was in the laboratory, where the researchers raised jillions of fleas. (It was a memorable sight: beakers, lining the shelves, full of fleas at every stage of life, eggs to adults. Visitors went away scratching at imaginary bites and felt they were itching for weeks.) Most of the family didn’t know what Frank did out there. He’d send letters from remote outposts, even foreign countries, where he had gone to track down a bubonic outbreak. A detailed description of “veteran plague hunter Frank Prince” cleared the mystery in Tony Hillerman’s book “The Great Taos Bank Robbery,” explaining how Frank camped out in the desert, trapping prairie dogs to try to find the source of the latest outbreak.

California turned out to be a good place for him. As a perk with the government lab, he had access to the elite Presidio Golf Course. Always an athlete (he played basketball at Mississippi State), he was a good golfer and made the papers when he shot his age and a hole in one when he was in his 70s.



**They really do look alike
Winner and Frank about 1976**



Prince Cousins 1939

From left: Back row: Jean (Enos) holding baby Carolyn (Frank), Billy (Marshall) and Denzil (Ernest) holding baby Kent (Winner). Middle row: Tom (Marshall) and Jimmy (Enos). Front row: Walter (Marshall) and Charles (Ernest).



Same Cousins 1981

From left: Back row: Jimmy (Enos), Carolyn (Frank), Kent (Winner), Jean (Enos), Denzil and Charles (Ernest). Front row: Odell (Ruby), Roger (Frank), Lizzie (Ruby), Ella Guy (Guy), Tom, Billy and Walter (Marshall).

Sources

I have not used footnotes, opting instead to attribute sources in the text, in effect treating this as a piece of journalism -- conspicuously imprinted by 40 years as a reporter for The Associated Press. Most of the detail came from my interviews at family reunions. I started late when only a few of the older generation remained, and most of the stories came from my father Winner K. Prince, a newspaper editor who knew the importance of accuracy and a good story, and from Uncle Frank Prince, head of a government entomological research center who also understood the need for precision. Other family members contributed, too, as we swapped stories.

In addition, I used piles of research from other people. It included:

— The packet that the Hendeighs prepared for Jimmy Prince in 1998. It had photocopies of Enos' Civil War and Mississippi guardianship records, as well as genealogical charts and information from family records and official sources.

— The extensive Vandevender genealogy chart being compiled by Walt Vandevender on ancestry.com.

— Census records, war records, and Civil War pension applications from the Mississippi Department of Archives and History, as well as the vast resources linked on the internet through ancestry.com, particularly the Alabama website for wills and guardianships.

— Various Civil War histories, especially Dunbar Rowland's "Military History of Mississippi, 1803-1898" which is on the internet and Shelby Foote's "The Civil War."

— Newspaper clippings in a box of family lore.

— A few letters (like the legal correspondence after Herman died in Carlsbad, N.M.).

— Gathright history from Henry C. Dethloff, "A Centennial History of Texas A&M University 1876-1976," Texas A&M Press.

I am astonished at the amount of garbage in some of the records posted by other families on ancestry.com. Errors abound — obvious mistakes in names, dates and relationships — and I have avoided letting these creep into my copy. A bigger problem, however, is the inaccuracy of official records. For example the 1900 census gives birth dates of the six living members of the Prince household, most of which are a year off from what we have taken to be accurate from tombstones, draft registrations, Social Security, etc. How can the 1900 census put Ern's birthdate as May 1896 instead of 1897? He is only 3 years old. Ditto Marshall on that census, 1894 instead of 1895. Throughout the records, there are similar discrepancies and confusions. I ended up making many educated guesses (or leaning on the news reporters' ultimate weapon: writing around it).

Kent Prince, 2018