

**Ancestors of
James GENTRY French
(1855-1939)**

by

Marvin L French
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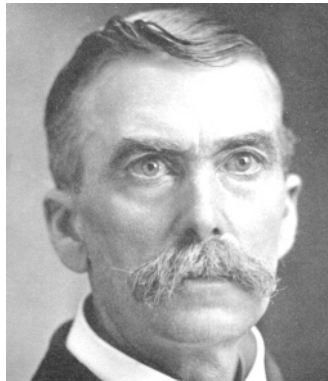


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Ancestors of James Gentry French

Generation 1

1. **James Gentry French**, son of John Peter French II and Sabra Jane Colyer was born on 31 Aug 1855 in Greeneville, TN. He died on 03 Apr 1939 in Central City, NE. He married **Margret Amanda Burgner** on 24 Oct 1878 in Greene Co., TN, daughter of Daniel Forney Burgner and Camola Terring Snapp. She was born on 02 Oct 1858 in Greeneville, Greene Co., TN. She died on 13 Feb 1897 in Watson, MO. He married **Louisa Jane McCollum** on 01 Aug 1898 in Missouri, daughter of Enos Francis McCollum and Anna Vinzant. She was born on 02 Dec 1861 in Hoosier, IN. She died on 04 Jun 1909 in Panama, Lancaster Co., NE. He married **Sadie Nancy Shively** on 28 Jun 1911 in Central City, NE, daughter of Henry Shively and Virginia Adaline Richards. She was born on 29 Jan 1884 in Central City, NE. She died on 01 Nov 1957 in Omaha, NE.

Notes for James Gentry French:

James Gentry French, known as Gentry, had three wives and 20 children with dates of birth that span 48 years, 1879 to 1927. He spent his later life in Central City, Nebraska, where his third wife Sadie was born and where they were married. He remained there until his death.

Notes for Margret Amanda Burgner:

Margret also had two children who "died young," probably at birth. These births probably occurred between those of her sons Claude and Archie, judging by dates. Margret died two weeks after giving birth to a son, Frederick (FRED) Lee French. A beautiful obituary was printed in the "Atchison County Mail," Rockport, MO, 19 March 1897:

OBITUARY OF MARGARET AMANDA BURGNER FRENCH

In Memory of departed Mother Mrs. Margarett French.

When duty is pleasure
And labor is joy
How sweet is the leisure
Of endless employ.

She is gone, never to return to her home any more. She hath no more any portion in anything that is done under the sun. Although it was understood for a few days that she was dangerously sick, friends were shocked by the announcement of her death Saturday morning Feb 13, 1897 at 1 o'clock a.m.

Dear relatives and friends, do not mourn for this loved one, but try and meet her in that beautiful home above where there is no more sorrow, but all is happiness And peace.

Margaretta Amanda Burgner was born and raised near Greenville, Green County Tennessee October 2, 1858 and fell asleep in Jesus February 13, 1897. Her age being thirty eight years, four months, and eleven days. She united with the ME Church at Pleasant Hill, Tennessee at thirteen years of age. She was married to Gentry French October 24, 1878. Moved to Carroll County, Mo. Dec. 7, 1878 and to Atchison County Missouri in 1885. To this union were born nine children, two having died when small and we feel sure the mother will clasp them in a happier land where there is no parting. She was a loving mother and the sons and daughters miss her sweet voice in the family circle, and the bereaved husband--we sympathize with him. If he is faithful he will one day meet her in the sweet by and by. O How sweet it will be to meet that dear mother in the sweet home of the soul.

How changed a home is without a mother. The only consolation is that in that mysterious life beyond the grave there is rest. Mother so fills a home with joy that the silence that is felt is heartbreaking. Too much cannot be said in praise of her. Truly to know her was to love her and those that have known her longest loved her most.

The Reverends Laughlin and Jeffers read select passages of scripture and spoke words of comfort

to the sorrowing ones but her life is ended, her work finished, her words of loving counsel heard no more. She will be missed from her home forever but the good she has done will live after she has gone from earth. Pen is too weak to portray a fitting tribute to the memory of one so beloved as Mother. One to whom we have ever looked for guidance and for words of encouragement when cast down or in misfortune and whose tender solicitude and loving sympathy has ever served to allay our trouble and banish care from the world.

To us so great an affliction has never come before. It fills the heart with sadness, without the warmth of a mother love that has shed its prevailing influence through our life. The world seems cold, empty and desolate, yet we know and find comfort in the thought that the cause of our affliction is the beginning of bright joy somewhere else. It is in heaven where one who has borne with patience and fortitude the tribulations of this life lays them down.

The practice of all that is noble, womanly, pure and good has been learned in this world, and for the exercise of these virtues there is a happier better world beyond and that bright home is the home of this Mother.

Mother's gone and we're so lonely
Mother, sweetest name ere spoken
In her love, our hearts find shelter
When life's storms and tempests broke.

Mother's gone--the Master called her
He who died her soul to save
And she's gone in triumph homeward
Though her path is through the grave.

Thou has left us, and we miss thee
Sadly miss thee mother dear
In vain we listen for thy footsteps
Still thinking thou art near.

Weep not that her toils are over
Weep not that her race is run
God grant we may rest as calmly
When our work like hers is done.

A. L. (A. L. may be Rev. Laughlin)

Marguerite Amanda Burgner French (known in this report as "Margret") has a variety of spellings of her first name: 1. "Marguerite" on a census record; 2. "Margret" on her tombstone; 3. "Margarette" in her obituary; 4. and the family called her "Mattie" according to a letter from Josephine French (sister-in-law of James Gentry French, wife of George A. French); 5. Margaret Irene French Olson was named for this grandmother. She was told by Gilbert and Rose French, her parents, that Grandmother's name was "Marguerite," but that they preferred the spelling of "M-A-R-G-A-R-E-T." Margaret Olson has found a card in her scrapbook which says "Compliments of Margret A. French"--perhaps the tombstone spelling is the one this ancestor herself preferred.

The beautiful stone marking Margret A. French's grave is a grey granite shaft five feet high decorated with carved vines, at the bottom a hand with the index finger pointing upward and the words "In my Father's house are many mansions." Then, the inscription: MARGRET A., WIFE OF J. G. FRENCH, DIED FEB. 13, 1897, age 38 yrs, 4 months. At the top is a carving of a crown with sunbeams radiating outward, surrounded by clouds and topping two or three houses. It is approximately five feet tall, twelve inches square, and is in a remarkable state of preservation although the south side is beginning to be covered with lichens. It is located three-fourths of the way to the top of a hill on the west side of the cemetery and about three hundred yards from the High Creek Baptist Church, Watson, MO.

(The above is from the French Family Record, 1982-3, compiled by Ruth French Duffy and Phillip A. Duffy.)

Notes for Louisa Jane McCollum:

Louisa's name was pronounced with a long "I" (Lou-wise-a). According to a note on the back of Louisa's picture, written by either daughter Mary Ethel or by Gentry, Louisa was born in 1861, not 1860, as her tombstone says.

Notes for Sadie Nancy Shively:

The first child of Sadie and Gentry was a boy that would have to have been born in the year of 1912 or 1913. As far as I know, this baby wasn't named and the birth may not have been recorded. This baby weighed 14 pounds and could not be delivered so had to be sacrificed to save the mother.

The following is an account written by her daughter Lu Etta about 1982:

I, Lu Etta Barnes, the youngest child in our family, would like to write a story about my parents. James Gentry French, born August 31, 1855, was married to my mother, Sadie Nancy Shively, on June 28, 1911. He was almost 56 years old and she was 27. She was born on Jan. 29, 1884, in Merrick County. As my Dad was 71 years old when I was born, I was deprived of knowing him as I would have liked to as he passed away when I was 12 years old.

As I can well remember, both of them were hard working and very devoted, lovable parents. We never had much, but it was always shared in our family, and we were well provided for and well taken care of.

We lived on an acreage just a mile north of Central City, Nebraska. We always had a fruit orchard; my dad had a market for the vegetables and strawberries he raised. As I recall, he did almost all of his farming down on his hands and knees. He had a little hand plow that he used. I don't recall any equipment other than his hand garden tools. You never saw more beautiful gardens and produce than he raised. There were no weeds whatsoever. He worked from sunup until sundown. Thinking back, I don't ever recall going grocery shopping as we do today. We raised everything we ate. Mom always spent all day Sunday baking bread for the following week. It was so delicious! Mom was a wonderful cook and a great gardener also, but this is as I remember them in the last years of my Dad's life. They always had four or five cows and pigs and chickens for meat and eggs.

Before Dad died, Mom worked in town at the sewing center branch of the WPA (Work Projects Administration) in order to make enough money to buy hay for the cows and the other necessities. I can remember her always worrying about getting hay and having it hauled so she would have plenty of feed for her cows. She took great care of her livestock. Dad had made her crates for carrying strawberries into town. She used to get up at 3:00 a.m., milk the cows, and then would always take two crates of strawberries, one in each hand, and go to town. On the opposite days she would carry two gallons of milk which she would sell. As I recall, she got 10 cents a quart for the strawberries she sold at the grocery store. She would walk a mile or better into town carrying this load and would be at work by 7:00 a.m.

We never owned a car, so all our traveling was done on foot. I used to wait after school until Mom was off work, so I could walk behind her, and she would break that cold north wind that we had to face walking home.

They both loved company at any time. There was always a bed ready for anyone or a meal on the table, not always fancy but there was always plenty to eat of whatever they had. During the depression, I don't think a day went by that she didn't feed a bum or two. In fact, one morning she left my breakfast on the table for me, as I was asleep in the bedroom right off of our dining room,

when she went out to do the chores. As she went out, she noticed a man coming down the road. When she came in from doing chores, my breakfast was gone, and I was still sound asleep. So, she knew this fellow had eaten my breakfast and went on his way.

My Dad passed away April 3, 1939. In the Fall, my mother sold off her livestock and moved into town. In later years, she worked at the Omaha Cold Storage processing poultry.

In her final years, she enjoyed her garden and flowers. Any flowers mother raised, she truly loved. I, myself love cooking, company, gardening and my flowers. I have often wished that I could have given her some beautiful flowers which we can buy today. She loved the plain ones so much. While she was living, we (Jerry and Lu Etta) were just starting out and couldn't afford any of these extras that we enjoy so much now.

When Jerry and I got married in Oct., we lived with Mom that winter until March 1 when we moved out on the farm we had rented. Mom had a big tree which we had cut down, and she had Jerry help her saw it up, using a long two-handled logging saw. He was amazed at the strength she had, and she was 60 years old at that time. They sawed wood all day long, and she was still going strong at the end of the day. She was a great woman.

She will always be remembered as being so happy whenever anyone stopped by for a visit. I never heard her complain about anything nor anybody. She always said that if you can't say something good about a person, don't say anything.

When she was a young girl, she got kicked in the face by a horse. Her head was swollen up as large as a bucket for days. There were no doctors at that time so her Dad doctored her with liniment until she got well. She always had a dent in her cheek where the cheek grew to her jawbone. In her last years, she had a nervous tic in her cheek. This was due to a dead nerve and was extremely painful whenever it would strike. She always felt this was what caused her problem. An operation was recommended. At that time it was a very serious operation, but the pain got so bad that she had to have the surgery. She never recovered from that and passed away on Nov. 1, 1957.

She was dearly loved and missed by everyone who knew her. She was known as "Mom" to all three of the French families.

The preceding information was taken from the French Family Record, written in 1982, compiled by Ruth French Duffy and Philip A. Duffy.

Generation 2

2. **John Peter French II**, son of William Lewis French and Sarah Ann Glass was born in 1836 in Greeneville, TN. He died on 31 Aug 1912 in Norborne, MO. He married **Sabra Jane Colyer** on 24 Sep 1854 in Greeneville, TN.
3. **Sabra Jane Colyer**, daughter of William Colyer and Elizabeth Dyche was born on 30 Sep 1836 in Greeneville, TN. She died on 07 Jan 1916 in Norborne, MO.

Notes for John Peter French II:

The date of death on John P.'s tombstone, 30 Sep 1912, is incorrect. The right date is 31 Aug 1912.

The first recorded sale of property we found for him was dated 11 Apr 1910. From his birth we can determine that he was 74 at that time and had undoubtedly decided to retire. He was 75 at the time he had a stroke and 76 at the time of his death. The following is copied from the 6 Sep 1912 issue of the Norborne Democrat, Norborne, MO.

John P. French, one of Norborne's best citizens, committed suicide by hanging himself in the barn at his home, Sat. morning, about 5:00 o'clock.

Mrs. French had gone to the station with one of her granddaughters, who was returning to her home in Carrollton, leaving Mr. French alone in the house. During her absence, he secured a rope, tied a regulation hangman's knot in it, climbed up into the barn loft, raised a board in the floor, tied the rope on a joist, adjusted the noose around his neck; then tied his hands together and jumped through the hole in the barn loft. The drop was not sufficient to dislocate his neck and he died of strangulation. When found he was hanging in the stall where there was a horse, and was dead when cut down.

The coroner was notified, but concluded that an inquest was not necessary as there was no question as to how he died. Dr. Brunner issued a burial permit.

In Feb 1911, Mr. French was stricken with partial paralysis, his tongue and vocal cords being so badly affected that he could not talk sufficiently plain to be understood; this seemed to worry him greatly and he grew morbid; taking but little, if any interest in things around him. After being afflicted for several months his usually cheerful nature seemed to undergo a change, and nothing could restore his interest in affairs. He seemed to have lost hope, and with it, the desire to live. He knew there was no hope of recovery and the constant brooding over his condition probably unbalanced his mind and when in an irresponsible condition took his life.

John P. French was born at Greeneville, Tenn., Oct. 8, 1836, and there grew to manhood. In 1854 he was married to Miss S. J. Collier, and in 1855 they came to Missouri; first settling in Franklin County. In 1866 Mr. French left his home in Franklin Co. and started on a prospecting tour of Texas. For nearly two years not a word was heard from him, and Mrs. French concluded that he must have been killed by Indians, that were at that time attacking whites who were traveling throught the state. In 1867 Mrs. French, having given up hope of seeing her husband alive again moved to Carroll County where she had relatives. In 1868 Mr. French returned to his old home in Franklin Co. and learned that his wife and children were in Carroll Co., and at once came here to be with his family, and has since been one of our best citizens. For more than 40 years Mr. French made his residence in Sugartree and Cherry Valley townships and Norborne, and during all these years has been esteemed and recognized as an honest upright man whose word was his bond. There were no better men than John P. French nor was there one who had more friends. No man can point to any act of his that breathed of dishonor, he was honest and just and foursquare to the world. His tragic death is truly and sincerely mourned by all who knew him.

He is survived by his wife and seven children, Gentry, Jeff D., George A., Oliver, and William French, and Mrs. Thomas W. Jones, and Mrs. John Eden. Funeral services were held at his late home in this city, Monday morning, conducted by the Rev. John Tanquary, of the ME Church South. He has long been an honored member of Carroll Lodge #249 AF & AM and the Masonic Order had charge of the services at his grave, burial was in beautiful Fairhaven.

A search of marriage records of Greene County reveals that John P. French married Sabra Jane Collier on Sept. 24, 1854 (#2475 1838-1855 records), John F. Broyles JP officiating. From the tombstone in Fairhaven Cemetery in Norborne, Missouri, we learn that John P. French died on Sept. 30, 1912, and his wife Sabra Jane (Collier) was born Sept. 30, 1836, and died in Norborne, Mo. on Jan. 7, 1917. A search of files of the Norborne Democrat reveals the unfortunate circumstances of John P. French's death. A copy of his obituary is attached to this record. It is obvious from the newspaper report that the tombstone of John P. French contains an error. The tombstone shows his death as being Sept. 30, 1912, the newspaper issued on Friday, Sept. 6, 1912, states his death occurred Saturday morning about 8:30 (photostat in possession of Ruth N. Duffy). This would mean that he died on August 31, 1912. There are no files of the Norborne Democrat for 1917 so the obituary for Sabra J. French could not be obtained.

Some of the questions we had concerning John P. French have been answered on the receipt of

his obituary; but as with all of this work, more questions have come up.

His birthdate has been established as October 8, 1836. The first recorded sale of property we found for him was dated 4-11-1910. From his birthdate we can determine that he was 74 at that time and undoubtedly decided to retire. He was 75 at the time he had this stroke mentioned in the obituary and 76 at the time of death. One question comes up--the record in the courthouse stated "Mud Creek," but the obituary makes no mention of this but calls it Cherry Valley. Perhaps it was locally known as Cherry Valley, since the title "Mud Creek" is not particularly inviting.

We also can imagine the feelings of his wife, Sabra J., who, after twelve years of marriage and seven children, found herself without a husband. How did they live during the two years John P. was gone? Were they farmers and did she and the children run the farm? Did they own property in Franklin Co., MO? Did she sell it when they left? How could she have title to it without having John P. declared dead?

There must have been some money when John P. came to Norborne because the farm in Sugartree and Cherry Valley is very good land, and according to the obituary, they must have lived on it the rest of their lives. Or did it belong to some of the Colliers and was Sabra J. and family living there when John P. returned? There are still Colliers living in Carroll County. We have determined that there were Colliers there, and also Burgners, in Atchison County, MO. This is where James GENTRY French went and where his first wife, Margaret Amanda Burgner French, is buried. Records show that these three families (Collier, Burgner, and French) were all in Greene County, TN at the same time. Why was there a general exodus from Greene Co., TN?

Our research has indicated how terribly trying the post Civil War period was--especially for the citizens of Tennessee and the residents of Greene Co. in particular. Newspaper accounts of a 4th of July celebration held in Greeneville in 1868 indicate that farmers who had been Confederates were met at the city limits and not allowed to attend the festivities. Naturally, this would have resulted in some form of retaliation. This constant fighting among relatives, former friends, and neighbors must undoubtedly have been one of the causes of the exodus from the state. [There are no Frenches listed from Greene County on the Confederate rosters ("Tennesseeans in the Civil War," Vol. I, prepared by the Tennessee Civil War Centennial Commission).

The obituary states that the funeral was "conducted by Rev. John Tanquary of the ME Church South." While in Greeneville, we discovered that in 1816 the Methodist Church in its General Conference had made statements against slavery to the extent that "any slaveholder could not hold office in the Methodist Church." This irritated Methodists who owned slaves to the extent that in 1844 General Conference they split from the Methodist Church and formed the Methodist Church South. Naturally this caused a great deal of bitterness. We found that in 1875, the ME Church South sued the Methodist Church in Greeneville for possession of the building. The case went to the Tennessee Supreme Court, with the result that the Methodists had to vacate the building in favor of the ME Church South. Interestingly enough, they moved into the upper floor of the Courthouse and conducted services there until they could get their own building. This split continued until 1939, when the Methodist Church was finally reunited.

Mrs. Josephine French (widow of George French, son of John P. French and and brother of James GENTRY French) wrote a letter in 1959 stating in part, "John P. French and wife (Sabra Collier) married quite young and left Tenn. and went by flatboat on rivers until they got to Franklin County, Missouri,-- he bought a farm there and part of their family was born there. Later they moved to Carrol County, Mo., and bought land there. Gentry was their oldest child; and when a young man, he went back to Tennessee to visit and he met his wife there--her name was Mattie Burgner."

In checking with the Missouri Historical Society, I found that many early settlers in Missouri did come down the Ohio River by flatboat until they reached the Mississippi. They then took steamboats because a flatboat could not be propelled up the Mississippi or the Missouri. So, it must be assumed that John P. and his wife did this. Probably landing at Herman, MO, since it was an active river port at that time and was nearest to Franklin County. Franklin County records have not been checked at this writing (1981)

Norborne, MO, is in Carroll County, and in the Carroll County courthouse, Carrollton, MO, we discovered a great deal of information about the French family. Records show many property transactions concerning members of the family. John P. and Sabra J. apparently were farmers living on a very rich Missouri bottomland farm located in the Sugar Tree and Mud Creek townships. George A. French was apparently a developer of town lots as additions to the town of Norborne. Jefferson D. and Henry S. also had several real estate transactions. There were only two entries for John P. One, a small parcel of land in the Mud Creek area, dated 11 Apr 1910 (book #211, p. 634), and then a peculiar one signed by Sabra J. French selling the main farm in Sugar Tree township. This transaction is dated 26 Feb 1917 (book #213, p. 492) and signed by her. It should be noted that the tombstone shows her date of death as 7 Jan 1917. We did not have time to pursue this mystery further since we did not have the obituary or death certificate, and we have already found that tombstones are sometimes in error. There are no files of the Norborne Democrat for 1917, so the obituary for Sabra could not be obtained.

(All of the above comes from the French Family Record, written in 1982, compiled by Ruth French Duffy and Philip A. Duffy.)

Notes for Sabra Jane Colyer:

The following was taken from the Norborne Leader, Norborne, MO, 11 Jan 1916:

OBITUARY OF SABRA JANE COLLIER FRENCH

MRS. SABRA FRENCH DEAD

Mrs. Sabra French died in this city Sunday, January 7, at 6 o'clock a.m. of valvular disease of the heart after an illness of several months following a stroke of paralysis, aged 81 years 2 months and six days.

Sabra Jane Collier French was born in Greene County, Tennessee, October 1, 1836 (mathematically this would make her 79 years 3 months and 10 days old). After growing to womanhood, she was married to John P. French and lived on the old French farm south of town until a few years ago when they moved to Norborne and have since lived here.

To this union eight children were born, seven of whom survive her. They are: George and Jeff of Norborne, William of Tina, Gentry of Nebraska, Oliver of Texas, Mrs. Tom Jones of Norborne, and Mrs. John Eden of the Stet country. (The 1960 Post Office directory lists a 4th class Post Office in Carroll County by the name of Stet, by 1970 it was gone from the listing). She also leaves to survive her several grandchildren and a host of relatives and friends who sincerely mourn her passing.

Mrs. French has lived a true, consistent Christian life, doing good and administering to the wants of loved ones and friends. She was a member of the Methodist church in this city; and in her going to that better world, she will be missed, not only from her place in the church, but by all her friends and all who knew her.

Funeral services were held at the Methodist church Monday afternoon at one o'clock conducted by her friend and pastor, Rev. W. B. Condes, after which burial was in Fairhaven cemetery by the side of her husband.

A photocopy of the original of this obituary is in the possession of Ruth N. Duffy. The original paper is on file with the Missouri State Historical Society, Columbia, Missouri.

Some interesting things that have come to light from this obituary are: John P. French was born Oct. 8, 1836 and Sabra J. Collier was born Oct. 1, 1836, both in Greene County, Tennessee.

Sabra J's tombstone in Fairhaven cemetery, Norborne, Missouri shows her date of death as Jan. 7, 1917. The masthead of the Norborne Leader (the paper that published the obituary) is dated January 11, 1916!! There is a land transaction on file in the court house in Carrollton, Missouri dated February 26, 1917, and signed by her. (Book #213, page 492).

(All of the above was taken from the French Family Record, 1982-3, compiled by Ruth French Duffy and Phillip A. Duffy.)

Another spelling of Collier is Colyar.

The date of death on her tombstone, Jan 7, 1917, is incorrect.

Sabra Jane Colyer and John Peter French II had the following children:

1. i. James Gentry French was born on 31 Aug 1855 in Greeneville, TN. He died on 03 Apr 1939 in Central City, NE. He married Margret Amanda Burgner on 24 Oct 1878 in Greene Co., TN, daughter of Daniel Forney Burgner and Camola Terring Snapp. She was born on 02 Oct 1858 in Greeneville, Greene Co., TN. She died on 13 Feb 1897 in Watson, MO. He married Louisa Jane McCollum on 01 Aug 1898 in Missouri, daughter of Enos Francis McCollum and Anna Vinzant. She was born on 02 Dec 1861 in Hoosier, IN. She died on 04 Jun 1909 in Panama, Lancaster Co., NE. He married Sadie Nancy Shively on 28 Jun 1911 in Central City, NE, daughter of Henry Shively and Virginia Adaline Richards. She was born on 29 Jan 1884 in Central City, NE. She died on 01 Nov 1957 in Omaha, NE.
- ii. Jefferson D. French was born in 1861.
- iii. Ferdinand T. French was born in 1864. He died on 10 May 1930.
- iv. George A. French Sr was born in 1866. He died in Oct 1944 in San Diego, CA. He married Josephine Broyles. She was born before 1890. She died after 1959.

Notes for George A. French Sr:
See notes for John Peter French II.

In 1937 George lived at 401 Olive St, San Diego, CA, where he and Josie managed an apartment building (44 units) called Kier Manor. The building is still there (July, 2000), starting to show its age, and is now Martin Apartments. Thanks to Lu Etta Barnes, we have a number of letters from him to her and her mother (Gentry's third wife Sadie), and to Gentry, written in the late 30s and early 40s.

Another address on one of his letters is 1205 12th St, San Diego, but whatever was at that address is now gone.

Donald L. French, Jr, in a letter to Beverly Chickering around 1980, wrote:

"My grandfather [Henry Velmer French - mlf] told me about a George French who moved to Pleasant Hill during the Depression from San Diego, California. I do not know how this man might have known it, but he said that he was related to my grandfather. George French had been a prosperous building contractor-carpenter there and during the depression lost everything. George French married a girl from the Pleasant Hill Community whose last name was Broyles. They had 2 children, G. A. and a daughter, whose name my grandfather does not know. You may have some information about this George French from San Diego."

Since our George was the first cousin of Henry Velmer's father, Thomas Newton French (1859-1932), it is likely that Donald's George is the same man. Our George had a son George A. Jr, and a daughter Mildred (and two more sons besides). We can add that George's wife's first name was Josephine, so we will assume that her name was Josephine Broyles, based on the above.

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- v. Victoria Alice French was born on 24 Dec 1867 in Franklin Co., MO. She died on 24 Jun 1954 in Sharpe Rest Home, Excelsior Springs, MO. She married Thomas W. Jones in 1888 in Carroll Co., MO. He was born about 1865. He died before 1954.

Notes for Victoria Alice French:

According to Victoria's brother George A. French Sr, writing in 1937 to brother Gentry, "she was very fleshy big, and fat" when he last saw her May 11, 1934. He expected he had seen her for the last time, but she lived another 20 years.

Her obituary states that she was survived by three of her four daughters: Mrs. Lucy Showalter of Las Vegas, NV; Mrs. Mary Phillips of Farmington, NM; and Mrs. Bernice Westhauser of Highmore, ND. Also by nine grandchildren, 10 great-grandchildren,"and nieces and nephews."

It also says that Victoria's last year was spent in the Sharpe Rest Home, where "she was visited by her many Norborne friends," and "She enjoyed life and always greeted her friends with a smile."

- vi. Oliver T. French was born on 05 Feb 1871 in Franklin Co., MO. He died on 15 Oct 1951 in New Madrid Co., MO.

Notes for Oliver T. French:

George A. French Sr, wrote to Gentry French in 1937:

"Brother Oliver was the last time ever heard from at Lilburn, Missouri, down in the south-east corner of the state. Don't know if he is there or not, he is a ROVER, never stays anywhere very long at a time, and never satisfied anywhere, I don't know how he is getting along in the world."

No doubt Oliver's full name was Oliver Temple French, his uncle's name.

A Missouri death certificate for an Oliver French is no doubt his. The year of birth agreed with what was known. The birth and death data shown here are from that death certificate. It says he never married, and had no address. The "informant" of the death was the Welfare Office. Cause of death unknown.

- vii. Josephine French was born in 1872. She died on 23 Apr 1933. She married John Eden.
- viii. Henry S. French was born in 1875. He died before 1912.

Notes for Henry S. French:

Since Henry wasn't mentioned in his father's 1912 obituary along with all his other siblings, we can assume he had died prior to that.

- ix. William Lewis French was born on 09 Jan 1881 in Missouri. He died on 18 Aug 1954 in Missouri. He married Maude Martin on 31 Dec 1900 in Monnett, Barry Co., MO, daughter of John Martin and Miranda Blackburn. She was born on 02 Apr 1882 in Missouri. She died on 06 Oct 1952 in Missouri.

Notes for William Lewis French:

Brother George A. French Sr wrote to Gentry French in 1937:

"Our Baby Brother 56 years old last January the 9th, lives at Bethel, Kansas. Just six miles west of the Court House in Kansas City, Kansas. Billy is a good Man, and I think he is doing fine. He & His Son-in-Law are Partners in farming and Stock-raising, and have quite a bit of Money behind them, and that close to Kansas City. They will make it."

Generation 3

4. **William Lewis French**, son of Henry French I and Unknown was born on 04 Jul 1795 in Blount Co., TN. He died on 16 Mar 1864 in Chuckey, TN. He married **Sarah Ann Glass** on 27 Jan 1826 in Greene Co., TN.
5. **Sarah Ann Glass**, daughter of Samuel Glass and Elizabeth Rutherford was born on 29 Mar 1806 in Blount Co., TN. She died on 23 Dec 1887 in Greene Co., TN.

Notes for William Lewis French:

William was born on 4 Jul 1795, in Blount Co., TN. He was killed 16 Mar 1864, and is buried in the Pleasant Hill Cemetery, Horse Creek section of Greene County, TN. A lineal descendant (Donald L. French, Jr) has supplied the circumstances surrounding his death. Donald states that during the later days of the Civil War, Confederate forces came through the area looting and burning, and took William from his sickbed. Apparently they intended to draft him into their depleted forces. As the party of soldiers rode off, William managed to slide off the back of the horse in an attempt to escape, and was shot by the marauders. This event took place in the front yard of the farm now (1981) occupied by Donald L. French, Jr, of Chuckey, TN. His descent record is included in this family tree.

Our research has indicated that the terrible uncertain times in which these people lived has no parallel in American history. We have discovered many surprising facts about conditions during that period. There were more battles fought in Tennessee during the Civil War than in any other state. The state was so crushed economically that it took over 40 years to recover. It was the last state to leave the Union and the first to return. Andrew Johnson, Lincoln's Vice President and successor, literally escaped during the night from Greeneville to avoid going into the Confederacy.

The census records of Greene County for that period do not list all individuals by name or age. It only lists the head of the household and the number of males and females by age groups, not stating whether they are related or merely residing in that household. It also lists freed negroes but not slaves. The 1830 census lists three children and two women as living with William L. French. The 1840 census lists William L. as having seven children, two males under five, two males 5-10, one male 15-20, one female 5-10, and one female 10-15.

Other information lists the children as follows: Alexander, birth date unknown; Jackson, born 1824; James B., born 1843; John P., born 1836; and Henry C., born 1841; Anderson G., born 1843; Augustin Franklin, born 1845; and Oliver Temple, born 1846.

The 1850 census lists all individuals by name and age, and we find William L. French, age 55; wife Sarah A., age 42, then a James L., age 18; Nancy J., age 16; John P., age 14; Henry C., age 9; Anderson G., age 7, Augustus F., age 5; and Oliver T., age 3. Note that the undocumented listing has a James B., while the census lists the 18-year-old son as James L. Also, the other information lists Nancy L. and the census has the 16-year-old girl listed as Nancy J. Obviously "Augustin" and "Augustus" must be the same person, as must be Nancy J. and Nancy L. No attempt has been made to solve these anomalies, and the census versions of the names have been used in the family tree, with the other versions listed as AKA.

The same census lists a Jackson French, age 24, and wife Susan, age 26, and their four children. If this Jackson is William L.'s son, which we assume, he would have been 26, not 24. This census also provides us with the birth state (Tennessee) of William L. and wife Sarah A., but not the exact location.

(The preceding information was taken from the French Family Record, written in 1982, compiled by Ruth French Duffy and Philip A. Duffy.)

Greene County marriage records show that William L. was a justice of the peace performing marriages during most of the 1850s.

Julie Walters reports that he was a landholder in 1819 in Washington County, TN. He is listed in the 1850 census for Greene County, TN. In the 1870 census his widow Sarah is shown as living with her son Anderson and his family. His trade is listed as carpenter in the 1850 census, with land worth \$500.

Pat Nickel has a reference to 1818 Greene Co., TN deed records and 1840-1860 Greene Co. census.

It is fairly certain that his middle name was Lewis. Best evidence is that his son John named a son William Lewis. Accordingly, that is how we name him.

There was a William Lewis French (1775?-1839), of "Oak Hill", Loudoun County, VA, married to Anna Guy Isemonger. One wonders if this could be a long-sought connection between William's father Henry, and a French line in Virginia.

Notes for Sarah Ann Glass:

1880 Greene Co., TN census shows Sarah to be 75 years old, with occupation mid-wife.

Inscription on Sarah's tombstone: "Gone Home"

Her grandson George A. French (1856-1944) reported in a 1941 letter to his nephew Archie French that a genealogist working for him found that Sarah had a brother who was the father of Senator Carter Glass of Virginia. Also, Carter's mother was one of two Lynchburg sisters named Livingston, and the other was the mother of Sir John French, a British general during World War I. The genealogist's papers were lost, and as of this date none of the above has been verified.

Carter's biography on the internet says that Carter married "a schoolteacher from Lynchburg at age 28," so that is perhaps some verification, but the connection is very doubtful.

Inscription on Sarah's tombstone: "Gone Home"

Sarah Ann Glass and William Lewis French had the following children:

- i. William Jackson French was born on 09 Jan 1825 in Washington Co. TN. He died on 02 Feb 1885 in Greene Co., TN. He married Susan E. Broyles on 26 Sep 1843 in Washington Co., TN, daughter of William S. Broyles and Margaret Green. She was born in 1824. She died before 1864. He married Barbara A. Moore on 26 Mar 1865 in Greene County, TN. She was born in 1840 in North Carolina. She died in Jan 1885.

Notes for William Jackson French:

In Sistler's "Early East Tn Marriage" Vol 1, Grooms on page 125, there is an entry for Jackson French to Mary Sneed 1-14-1864 (Knox Co.) but the second date is not there. Since he went by the name of Jackson, from all accounts, that could be this William Jackson French. However, this was just a marriage bond and a second entry showing the marriage occurred was not entered. Perhaps one or the other had a change of mind.

The census for 1850 shows George, Cynthia, and Jane (really Brunetta Jane) in the household, along with Susan, and lists William's occupation as "tenant."

Jackson's daughter Cordelia, who married Jacob S. Gray, had James A. French, born Nov 1867, and Lola French, born Jul 1872 in their household per the 1900 census. It is possible that James is another child of Jackson's, as his date of birth date fits in between Susan Emma (1866) and Edna (1868).

The William Jackson line is researched by Joyce Henley and Julie Smith Walters.

We have a clipping of his obituary in the (unknown) local paper, which reads:

OBITUARY

Departed this life at his home on Horse Creek on the 2d day of February, 1885, W. J. French, aged 60 years and 23 days. Deceased had been suffering with Cancer for several years, though able to attend to his business up to about November last, when it grew worse and confined him to the house. His sufferings were intense but he bore them patiently, was never heard to complain. He was one of our most worthy and intelligent citizens. The writer knew him intimately, found him honorable and upright, always honest in dealing with his fellow men, anxious and willing to do all he could for his neighbors. By industry and economy he leaves his children in comfortable circumstances, though much bereaved at his death; they having lost their mother, who died a few weeks before the father, it was a sore trial to children, brothers, and sisters, and truly so to his aged mother who now numbers her four score years and more, to give him up. But I am informed that he gave them ample evidence that their loss was his eternal gain. The remains were followed to the cemetery by a very large concourse of friends and neighbors and interred [sic] beside his wife at Pleasant Hill Church near the homestead.

A. FRIEND

Horse Creek, Tenn., Feb 8, 1885.

Notes for Susan E. Broyles:

Some researchers have Susan's last name as Brownlow, based on the fact that a six-year-old boy named William Brownlow was living with them in Greene Co., TN, according to the 1850 census. However, we are assuming that this was her first child by William Jackson, going by the dates. In 1870 this family was living in the Brownsboro District in Washington Co., TN. However, William Jackson had married again by then (twice!), so more investigation is in order.

The book of Washington Co., TN, Marriages 1780-1870, compiled by Goldene Burgner, has her name as A. E. Broyles.

Notes for Barbara A. Moore:

Barbara had been previously married to John Franklin Broyles, Sarah Broyles' brother, who was killed in the Civil War. Joyce Henley says she and John Franklin had two sons, but nothing is known of them at this date.

- ii. Martha Elizabeth French was born on 06 Mar 1827 in Greene Co., TN. She died on 07 Jun 1909 in Greene Co., TN. She married Michael A. Broyles on 24 Aug 1843 in Greene County, TN. He was born on 14 Oct 1824. He died on 31 Jul 1881.
- iii. Alexander Bradford French was born on 24 Jul 1829. He died in Oct 1905 in Maloneyville, Knox Co., TN. He married Mary Ann LaRue on 20 Mar 1860 in Knox Co., TN, daughter of William LaRue and Sarah Tindell. She was born on 02 Mar 1839 in Corinth, Knox Co., TN. She died on 01 Jul 1921 in Knox Co., TN.

Notes for Alexander Bradford French:

It is doubtful that Alexander is the A. French who married Louisa Hinkle on 13 Feb 1886, as he would have been 56 at the time.

- iv. James Lewis French was born in 1832 in Greene Co., TN. He died on 28 Dec 1886 in Morrison, Gasconade, MO. He married Bethia Serina Jennings on 18 Sep 1853 in Greene County, TN. He married Martha Unknown before 1858. He married Mary
-

Loop about 1860.

Notes for James Lewis French:

Ancestry.com shows that James L had a brother James B who was born on the same date. Evidently James B did not survive.

- v. Nancy Jane French was born on 29 Mar 1834 in Greene Co., TN. She died on 07 Jan 1909 in Horse Creek Community, Greene Co., TN. She married Andrew C. Gray on 04 Apr 1851 in Washington Country, TN.

Notes for Andrew C. Gray:

Andrew's tombstone states he was in Co. E, 4th Tennessee Infantry.

2. vi. John Peter French II was born in 1836 in Greeneville, TN. He died on 31 Aug 1912 in Norborne, MO. He married Sabra Jane Colyer on 24 Sep 1854 in Greeneville, TN, daughter of William Colyer and Elizabeth Dyche. She was born on 30 Sep 1836 in Greeneville, TN. She died on 07 Jan 1916 in Norborne, MO.
- vii. Henry C. French was born in 1841 in Greene Co., TN. He died on 08 Aug 1864 in National Cemetery, Knoxville, TN. He married Sarah H. Scott on 24 Dec 1859 in Greene County, TN.

Notes for Henry C. French:

Listed on the Cocke County internet web page is a Civil War listing of Cocke County men. One of those listed is a Henry C. French, enlisted 26 Oct 1861 and a permanent desertion date of Nov 1861. However, "Forgotten Soldiers: 4th Tennessee Volunteer Infantry Regiment (USA) 1863 - 1865" by Eddie M. Nikazy, has the following entry:

"French, Henry C: sergeant, Company E; age: 23: enrolled at Greeneville, 19 Feb 1863, appointed sergeant, 26 May 1863: captured and paroled at McMinnville, 3 Oct 1863; sick in hospital at Knoxville, 11 May 1864; died in general hospital at Knoxville, 8 Aug 1864, cause not stated."

Henry may also have married Sarah A. Johnson, who had an 11-year old boy, Dover, and a 3-year old daughter, Mary, according to the 1870 census.

- viii. Anderson Glass French was born in 1843 in Greeneville, Greene Co., TN. He died in 1920 in Fairland, OK. He married Martha Jane Stanton on 11 Oct 1860 in Washington Country, TN, daughter of Unknown Stanton and Unknown Wife. She was born in 1841 in Greeneville, Greene Co., TN. She died in 1877 in Tennessee. He married Barbara Oakley on 24 Nov 1890 in Barry Co., MO.

Notes for Anderson Glass French:

Anderson had 17 children, nine by his first wife Jane and eight by his second wife Barbara.

From family writings by Hattie French Lazrath, Anderson's granddaughter::

Anderson joined the Union Army when the Civil War broke out. He was in the Army when my father, Robert Anderson [French] was born on August 14th, 1862. He was taken prisoner and spent many months in the Andersonville Prison in Georgia. When the war was over the prisoners were turned loose. I never knew if the government did not furnish transportation home for the soldiers or if Grandfather did not wait to find out. At any rate he walked from Georgia back to Tennessee.

[The Andersonville prison records do not include his name, but do include the name

of Stephen French. Hattie's son Ralph says Hattie was wrong, Robert was never in Andersonville.]

Notes for Martha Jane Stanton:

Martha's name may have been Margaret, according to one record. According to her granddaughter Hattie French Lanzrath, she went by her middle name, Jane.

She and Anderson had five boys and four girls. The three boys and one girl who are unnamed here died in infancy.

Notes for Barbara Oakley:

According to a letter from nephew George A. French Sr to his brother Gentry French in 1937, Anderson had a second wife by whom he had five children, three boys and two girls, in Oklahoma. "They were all good children and good Christians too."

Actually this marriage produced eight children, but three died in infancy, according to granddaughter Hattie French Lanzruth.

- ix. Augustus Franklin French was born in 1845.

Notes for Augustus Franklin French:

Augustus went by the name of Frank, from his middle name Franklin. The 1860 census shows his name as Franklin A.

- x. Oliver Temple French was born on 07 Jul 1846 in Horse Creek, Greene Co., TN. He died on 14 Nov 1920. He married Susannah Catherine Nelson on 01 May 1881 in Greene County, TN by J. P. Milburn. She was born on 21 Oct 1850. She died on 28 Aug 1889. He married Sarah Jane Broyles on 08 Nov 1868 in Greene County, TN by Rev. Moses Seaton, daughter of George Jones Broyles and G. E. Unknown. She was born on 06 Nov 1847. She died on 08 Nov 1873. He married Kate Glass on 10 Sep 1890 in Greene Co., TN by Rev. J. D. Droke. She died on 14 Jan 1891 in Arlington, IN. He married Rebecca Kellar on 05 Mar 1891 in Greeneville, TN by Rev. R. T. McDowell. She was born in Feb 1850.

Notes for Oliver Temple French:

Oliver built a house that is still (1983) standing in Greeneville, TN. He was a local "squire" (Justice of the Peace) and a rural postman. He apparently was named for Oliver Temple, a well-know politician of the time. He is listed as a "Register" (s Greene Co. office) in 1886.

Marriage records for Greene County, TN show that an O. T. French registered a marriage bond with Julia A. Bird on 3 Aug 1867. We are supposing that this O. T. is our Oliver Temple. Since the marriage date is not included with the entry, which names W. B. French, no doubt Oliver's nephew, it seems that a marriage never took place. Also, he does not list Julia as one of his wives on a form he sent to the Bureau of Pensions in 1915.

He married Sarah J. Broyles little more than a year later, and the reason for Julia's dropout is unknown.

The other marriages are verified by him on the Bureau of Pensions form, even though the short interval (less than two months!) between the death of Kate and his

marriage to Rebecca seems rather unusual. On that form he claims to have served in Co."E" 4th Tenn. Vols. Infantry. This is verified by the following entry in "Forgotten Soldiers: 4th Tennessee Volunteer Infantry Regiment (USA) 1863 - 1865" by Eddie M. Nikazy:

"French, Oliver T.: private, Company G, age 20, enrolled at Greeneville, 18 Dec 1862; sick in hospital, Jun 1863, captured and paroled at McMinnville 3 Oct 1863, absent on parole until Mar 1864, discharged, 2 Aug 1865."

Notice that Oliver and brother Henry C. were captured and paroled on the same date at McMinnville, where Henry may have been visiting his sick brother in the hospital.

His birthplace is shown on his death certificate as Blount Co., TN. This is an error, as he plainly states he was born at Horse Creek, Greene Co., TN on the Bureau of Pensions form.

Notes for Sarah Jane Broyles:

She was the daughter of G. J. and G. E. Broyles, according to FFA -quoted cemetery record. John K. Broyles Sr has different dates for her birth and death. Those shown are from the cemetery record.

Notes for Rebecca Kellar:

In Hazel Cemetery, Bell Buckle, Bedford Co., TN is a gravestone: O. T. French, Jr 1892-1940. It seems likely that this was a child of Oliver and Rebecca, so we are showing that in the record. Also in the same cemetery is a Daisy French, 1883-1940, who we assume was his wife even though she was about nine years older. Admittedly this is all guesswork.

xi. Elizabeth French was born in 1852.

6. **William Colyer** was born in 1811 in Tennessee. He married **Elizabeth Dyche** on 28 Oct 1833 in Greene Co., TN.

7. **Elizabeth Dyche** was born in 1807.

Notes for William Colyer:

It is possible that William's parents were Thomas and Rebecca Collier, for whom the 1830 census shows a son about William's age (Kent French opinion).

Notes for Elizabeth Dyche:

It is not certain, but quite likely, that William and Elizabeth were the parents of Sabra Jane Collier, although William's name is spelled "Colyer" in the Greene Co. marriage records.

Elizabeth Dyche and William Colyer had the following child:

3. i. Sabra Jane Colyer was born on 30 Sep 1836 in Greeneville, TN. She died on 07 Jan 1916 in Norborne, MO. She married John Peter French II on 24 Sep 1854 in Greeneville, TN, son of William Lewis French and Sarah Ann Glass. He was born in 1836 in Greeneville, TN. He died on 31 Aug 1912 in Norborne, MO.

Generation 4

8. **Henry French I**, son of George French Sr was born about 1755. He died in Washington, Greene Co., TN. He married **Unknown**.

9. **Unknown.**

Notes for Henry French I:

Notes from the past, before Henry's parentage was discovered.

Henry is at present a man of mystery. In 1982, we discovered through another descendant (Maidie Strellman of Bellevue, WA) that Henry had received a land grant from the State of North Carolina for his services in the Revolutionary War. A copy of this grant is in the files of Ruth N. Duffy. According to Ms Strellman, the size of the grant indicates the rank the man would have held at the time he was paid off. The size of this grant (150 acres) indicates Henry was an Ensign. The grant is located in what is now Washington County, TN. The grant was issued 25 Aug 1779, and recorded on 11 Jul 1788. No explanation is given for the delay between the issuance and the recording. There is one possible explanation: In 1784 North Carolina ceded part of its western lands to the federal government. Before Congress had time to act, North Carolina took back those lands. Meanwhile, the citizens of that area, being without state or federal protection, formed a new state, the State of Franklin. This state functioned for about three years but was never taken into the union. It ultimately became part of the State of Tennessee. In 1788, North Carolina again gained control of the area, pardoning the leaders of the now defunct state of Franklin, and assuming the functions of a state. This could explain the delay in recording, since the land grant of Henry French and all the other land grants in that area were dated identically, 11 Jul 1788, and were recorded by one Sam Johnston

This information only serves to increase the mystery of Henry French, since the only Revolutionary War record we have found lists a Henry French as a member of the "Illinois Regiment of the Virginia State Troops." If they are the same person, why is North Carolina paying off the Virginia veterans? Also, no record has ever been found where any Henry French ever applied for a Revolutionary War pension. We have also discovered that there was a fire in the National Archives in Washington, D. C., which destroyed all records received there before Nov 1800. This would account for some of the mystery.

Another mystery: We have a copy of a marriage record in Washington County, TN, where Henry French married Catherine Heatrone on 30 Dec 1817 (photostat in Strellman file). Also, there is a record of a marriage of Henry French and Catherine Watson on 29 Dec 1817--also in Washington Co. (Duffy file). Obviously this is a case of miscopied information. The Strellman record is a photostat. If this is the same Henry, it would have to be a second marriage since William L. French was born in 1795 and John Peter French in 1793.

There is a lot of fascinating information in the Greene County courthouse, Greeneville, TN, concerning the Frenches. We found that Henry purchased 100 acres of land in 1801, and the cost was "40 pounds." So, we know that Henry was in Greene County by 1801. Ruth Duffy has a copy of this deed. A peculiar thing about it is that it is signed by "Henry French---his mark," indicating that Henry was unable to write. Yet by 1818, when another deed was recorded (sale of a farm to his two sons, John P. and William L.), his signature appears written by himself. Apparently he had learned to write during those 17 years. There were two other deeds recorded between 1801 and 1818 which gave Henry approximately 400 acres of land by 1818.

The above information is taken from the French Family Record, written in 1982, compiled by Ruth French Duffy and Philip A. Duffy.

Other information shows that the NC land grant was issued in 1787, No. 836, 150 acres, Washington County on the waters of Cherokee Creek. Maidie Strellman has obtained information that the land grant had nothing to do with military service. Perhaps it was purchased from a veteran to whom it was granted, a common occurrence.

The current family tree includes the assumption that the people mentioned in the 1809 deed are Henry I and his siblings, and that Henry married Catherine Heatrone, not Catherine Watson, in 1817. Perhaps Catherine was a schoolmarm who taught Henry to write his name in 1818! Or possibly we are confusing two different Henrys. Some researchers believe that this Henry was the one who married Abigail Anderson in Frederick, VA in 1790. A letter from Willa Norwood to Maidie

Strellman makes clear that Abigail's Henry was not this Henry.

It is possible that the Barbara French who married Pleasant Phillip in Greene Co., 3 Dec 1817, was another child of Henry's. Henry had a sister named Barbary. Of course Barbary may have been marrying rather late in life, as Barbary was probably a variant spelling of Barbara.

Maidie Strellman reports: I think Henry French lived near Providence on the Greene Co/ WA Co line 6 miles from Limestone. He had property on limestone Cr. at one time. His neighbor was John Cosson who lived in Providence and also Edward Ross is here who witnessed deed.

Also from Maidie Strellman: The Greene Co. Deeds Book 2 carries the following item on Page 318

Indenture 4 Mar 1818 HENRY FRENCH, Senr, and his son JOHN PETER FRENCH, both of Greene Col, TN, \$480 pd, 50 acr tr on Mill creek, a branch of Big Limestone. Wit: WILLIAM FRENCH, EMANUEL LAMON, JOSEPH LAMON.

On page 319:

Indenture 4 Mar 1818 HENRY FRENCH, Senr, and WILLIAM L FRENCH, both of Greene Co., TN, \$490 pd, tr being on Mill creek branch of Big Limestone & adj cor of CASSON, being 98 acres. Wit: JOHN P FRENCH, EMANUEL LAMON, JOSEPH LAMON.

On page 511:

Indenture 31 Oct 1809 SCHOLFIELD MADDEUS and THOMAS LOYD, both of Greene Co., TN, \$180 pd. 50 acre tr on draught of Bid Limestone, part tr of 100 acres granted by NC to JOHN COLSON and by COLSON to FRENCH. Wit: HENRY FRENCH, ABEL LOYD, ADAM FRIKER Reg 15 Sept 1813.

Enoch, Henry, and Hugh French lived in the area of Winchester, Virginia, according to one researcher, but any connection to this Henry is unknown. Donald L. French Jr. claims he heard when young that Henry came from Pennsylvania, but there is no evidence of this.

UPDATE: It is now known that Henry's father was George French Sr, son of John French, the immigrant ancestor.

Unknown and Henry French I had the following children:

- i. Henry French II was born in 1778 in Wilkes Co., NC. He died about 1869 in Greene Co., TN. He married Rody Cotter on 31 Jan 1804 in Greeneville, TN. She was born in 1780 in Virginia. She died between 1850-1860.

Notes for Henry French II:

The descendants of Henry and Rody are maintained in a separate FTM file, with data mainly from Julie Smith Walters, She is descended from William M. French, his son.

In the 1830 Greene Co., TN census there were 8 children listed, 3 boys (two 5-10, one 10-15) and 5 girls (two 10-15, two 15-20, one 20-30). We don't know which girl was Polly Ann, and there is a girl whose name we don't know. These two are in the 10-15 and 15-20 ages.

In the 1850 Greene Co., TN census Henry was age 71 and Rody was 72. His occupation is listed as "labourer." Living with them was 14-year-old Rhody Brammon (sic), whom we assume is the daughter of Betsy French, Henry's daughter, and George Brannon (married 7 Jul 1832). Apparently Betsy had died before 1850. Rhody's older brother Henry was apparently taken in by his aunt Ruth French Trobaugh, and is shown on the census information of 1850.

In the 1860 census the household consisted only of Henry and daughters Nancy

and Mary. Henry's age is given as 65, but he was 72 in 1860. Mary and Nancy's ages are given as 35, which is correct for Mary but Nancy was about 38. People in those days were not overly correct about their ages when asked by the census taker.

Notes written by Martha Jane Knipp says Henry lived to the age of 90. She shows only William, Jim, Polly Ann, Nancy, and Ruth as children of Henry.

Notes for Rody Cotter:

Rody's name is spelled "Rhody Coiler" on their Greene County marriage record. Her name is also known as Rhoda, and her last name as Callow, or Collor. There are both Colliers and Cotters listed on the 1800 Greene County, TN Tax List. Another AKA, per Julie Waters, is Rhody Carter.

- ii. Elizabeth French was born about 1781 in Virginia. She died in 1855. She married James Joseph Layman on 23 Oct 1805 in Greene County, TN, son of David Lamon and Catherine Unknown. He was born in 1785. He died about 1847 in Morgan Co., Alabama. She married Jacob Varner.

Notes for James Joseph Layman:

James Joseph's name is shown as Joseph in the Greene County Marriages record #1053.

- iii. John Peter French I was born on 09 Feb 1793 in Greene or Washington Co., TN. He died on 16 Mar 1877 in Alma, Marion Co., IL. He married Elizabeth Ann Hartman on 26 Sep 1815 in Washington Co. TN, daughter of Joseph Hartman and Mary Henley. She was born about 1791 in Virginia. She died about Nov 1850 in Alma, Marion Co., IL. He married Tamer Walker on 11 Oct 1851 in Shelby Co., IL. She was born about 1795 in Virginia. .

Notes for John Peter French I:

According to Sharon Haennelt John served in the War of 1812 from Greene Co., TN as a private under Col. Samuel Bayless and Captain Solomon Hendrix, E. TN Military.

John was a farmer and a developer in Alma, IL. He owned property in 1818 on Mill Creek (branch of Big Limestone). He is listed in the Greene Co. census list for 1830, which shows 6 boys and 2 girls in the household. In 1835 John gave his house to the school district and moved his family to St. Clair Co., IL. He resided in Tonti Township until 1855 and then lived in Alma, Marion Co., IL, where he received 80 acres for his service in the War of 1812. He and Eliza had 11 children.

Notes for Elizabeth Ann Hartman:

Ann Elizabeth's name is shown as Eliza in the marriage record.

Notes for Tamer Walker:

This second wife was mentioned in the 1860 census and a June 30, 1854 deed. However, she is not mentioned in John Peter's much-later pension papers. (per Maidie Strellman).

The 1850 census (Shelby Co., IL, Wabash Township, pg 92) shows her name as Tamer Walker, living with three young men: Elias, age 22; James, age 19; and Reuben, age 16. It seems likely that she was a widow at that time and these are her sons. She may have had an older daughter, as Sharon Haennelt writes:

On the IL marriage site, there are 3 Tamer Walker's listed for Shelby Co.

FRENCH, JOHN P	WALKER, TAMER
SHELBY 10/11/1851 1/ 20	
BAKER, JESSE	WALKER, TAMER
SHELBY 06/18/1845 1/ 12	
CARNAHAN, THOMAS	WALKER, TAMER E
SHELBY 05/16/1860 C/ 25	

I think the Tamer that married Jesse Baker is likely a daughter of Tamer Walker who married John P French. She is shown on the 1850 census with Jesse Baker, she is 21 and born in TN, has children all born IL, Joseph 3, Elizabeth 2, William 4/12.

The other Tamer who married Carnahan, don't know who she might be.

4.
 - iv. William Lewis French was born on 04 Jul 1795 in Blount Co., TN. He died on 16 Mar 1864 in Chuckey, TN. He married Sarah Ann Glass on 27 Jan 1826 in Greene Co., TN, daughter of Samuel Glass and Elizabeth Rutherford. She was born on 29 Mar 1806 in Blount Co., TN. She died on 23 Dec 1887 in Greene Co., TN.
 - v. Nancy French was born about 1808. She married John Pope on 10 Feb 1827 in Greene County, TN.
 - vi. Stephen C. French was born after 1810. He married Matilda Broyles on 11 Nov 1829 in Greene County, TN. She was born before 1810.

Notes for Stephen C. French:

One source says that Stephen and Matilda had two young boys (age 0-5) shown in the 1830 census. Mike White says this is not so, he has a copy that shows no children.

Stephen and Matilda may have had a daughter Matilda, since there is a Matilda French who married Samuel Broyles 20 Oct 1846. Or possibly Stephen's Matilda was widowed and she remarried (a cousin?). It is possible that there is no connection, but if so where did Matilda French come from?

10. **Samuel Glass**, son of John Glass. He married **Elizabeth Rutherford**.

11. **Elizabeth Rutherford**.

Notes for Samuel Glass:

Samuel's will mentions his wife Elizabeth and children Elizabeth, Sarah, William, Alexander, Robert, Thomas, David, and Lewis. The will was registered in Blount Co., TN, dated 23 December 1808.

Elizabeth Rutherford and Samuel Glass had the following children:

- i. Elizabeth M. Glass. She married Samuel Glass on 21 Jan 1817 in Blount Co., TN.

Notes for Samuel Glass:

Odd that Elizabeth married a man with the name same of her father, perhaps a cousin.

5.
 - ii. Sarah Ann Glass was born on 29 Mar 1806 in Blount Co., TN. She died on 23 Dec 1887 in Greene Co., TN. She married William Lewis French on 27 Jan 1826 in Greene Co., TN, son of Henry French I and Unknown. He was born on 04 Jul 1795
-

in Blount Co., TN. He died on 16 Mar 1864 in Chuckey, TN.

- iii. William Glass. He married Agnes McCulloch on 02 Apr 1811 in Blount Co., TN.
- iv. Alexander Glass. He married Ann McCulloch on 16 Aug 1812 in Blount Co., TN.
- v. Robert Glass.

Notes for Robert Glass:

An unknown genealogist, working for Robert A. French (Gentry's brother) in the 1940 time period, reported that this Robert Glass was the father of Carter Glass. However he said that Robert married one of two sisters named Livingston. Carter Glass's mother had another name, Augusta Christian. The connection is therefore highly unlikely.

- vi. Thomas Glass.
- vii. David Glass.
- viii. Lewis Glass. He married Sarah Simpson on 19 Oct 1819 in Knox Co., TN.

Generation 5

16. **George French Sr**, son of John French was born about 1731 in Pennsylvania. He died about 1772 in West Virginia.

George French Sr had the following children:

- i. George P French was born in 1749 in Virginia. He died before 1820 in Tennessee. He married Annie Mae Holt. She died before 1820.

Notes for George P French:

George and his brother Henry bought 200 acres of land on Cherokee Creek in Washington Co., TN for \$1,000 on 9 December 1812.

Maidie Strellman writes:

1788 Siever and John Tipton fought about Franklin (which was failing). On Oct 10, 1788 Siever surrendered and Tipton sent Siever to Morgantown guarded by Jacob Tipton, Thomas Gourley and GEORGE FRENCH. This is a military called up for this purpose mostly from Sullivan Co and Greasy Cove. I suspect George was from Greasy Cove as it sits just below (SE of) Cherokee Creek, where he and Henry had land. Greasy Cove is 15 miles from Jonesborough and was at that time in Washington County, Now in Unicoi.

His wife's name is unknown

- ii. Eavy Margret French was born between 1750-1754. She married Unknown Toppin.
- iii. Barbary French was born between 1750-1754. She married Unknown Felkner.

Notes for Barbary French:

Felkner is apparently a German name. They may have had a son Henry Felker. b. 1777 The name is spelled many other ways too: Felker, Felken, Fleckner, Felckner.

Notes for Unknown Felkner:

Other spellings of the name are Felker, Feltner, and Falkner.

- iv. Mary French was born between 1750-1754. She married Everett Walker.
-

Notes for Mary French:

It is possible that this Mary is the Mary Walker who married E. Odum Dec 24, 1827.

- v. John PETER French was born after 1755.
- 8. vi. Henry French I was born about 1755. He died in Washington, Greene Co., TN. He married Unknown. He married Catherine Heatrone on 30 Dec 1817 in Washington County, TN.
- 20. **John Glass**, son of Samuel Glass was born about 1710.

John Glass had the following children:

- 10. i. Samuel Glass. He married Elizabeth Rutherford.
- ii. John Glass. He married Margaret Unknown.
- iii. William Glass.
- iv. Elizabeth Glass. She married James Gibson on 16 Jun 1804 in Greene Co., TN.
- v. Sarah Glass.
- vi. Mary Glass.

Generation 6

- 32. **John French**, son of John French and Mary Unknown was born in 1705 in England. He married about 1730 in Franklin Co., PA.

John French had the following children:

- i. Jacob French Sr was born about 1730 in Berkeley Co., WV. He died in 1788 in West Virginia. He married Magdalena Shively.

Notes for Jacob French Sr:

Only the sons shown are mentioned in Jacob Sr's will.

Notes for Magdalena Shively:

Magdalena was the sister of John, Louisa's husband.

- 16. ii. George French Sr was born about 1731 in Pennsylvania. He died about 1772 in West Virginia.
- iii. Louisa French was born about 1732 in Pennsylvania. She died after 1791. She married John Jacob Shively in 1762 in Antrim, Franklin, PA. He was born about 1730 in Mannheim, Lancaster, PA. He died after 1791 in Antrim, Franklin, PA.

Notes for Louisa French:

Louisa was also known as Levinia. She and John had at least five children: Michael, Jacob, Barbara, Margaret ANNA, and John Jr.

Notes for John Jacob Shively:

John's name may actually be Snabley, Schebley, Savely, Shively, or Schnebele. He is also known as Johann.

- iv. John French Sr was born about 1742 in Chansford, York Co., PA. He died on 25 Dec 1787 in Hagerstown, Washington Co., MD. He married Maria Barbara Schmeiss about 1760.

Notes for John French Sr:

Also known as Johannes. Moved to Chansford/Chanceford, York Co., PA

- 40. **Samuel Glass** was born in Ireland.
-

Samuel Glass had the following child:

20. i. John Glass was born about 1710.
-

Generation 7

64. **John French.** He married **Mary Unknown.**

65. **Mary Unknown.**

Notes for John French:

There is no proof that this family and their son John is connected to the same John French in their next generation. The England and Wales Christening Records (1530-1906) have a John French born "about 1705," christened 27 Feb 1705, place Broadwater, Sussex, England. Father's name John French and mother's name Mary. The 1705 date fits in perfectly with the age of their supposed son shown on Passenger and Immigration Lists Index, 1500s-1900s, source publication 1219.6 That record, dated 1728, shows John French, age 23, estimated birth year "abt 1705," arriving in Pennsylvania.

Mara French of FFA says the son John met and married Mary in 1729. Same name as his mother? Looks like a mistake as there is no confirming source.

Mary Unknown and John French had the following child:

32. i. John French was born in 1705 in England. He married about 1730 in Franklin Co., PA.
-

Family Group Sheet for John Peter French II

Husband:		John Peter French II
	Birth:	1836 in Greeneville, TN
	Death:	31 Aug 1912 in Norborne, MO
	Burial:	Fairhaven Cemetery, Norborne, MO
	Marriage:	24 Sep 1854 in Greeneville, TN
	Father:	William Lewis French
	Mother:	Sarah Ann Glass
Wife:		Sabra Jane Colyer
	Birth:	30 Sep 1836 in Greeneville, TN
	Death:	07 Jan 1916 in Norborne, MO
	Burial:	Fairhaven Cemetery, Norborne, MO
	Father:	William Colyer
	Mother:	Elizabeth Dyche
Children:		
1	Name:	James Gentry French
M	Birth:	31 Aug 1855 in Greeneville, TN
	Death:	03 Apr 1939 in Central City, NE
	Burial:	Pierce Chapel Cemetary, Fullerton, NE
	Marriage:	24 Oct 1878 in Greene Co., TN
	Spouse:	Margret Amanda Burgner
2	Name:	Jefferson D. French
M	Birth:	1861
3	Name:	Ferdinand T. French
M	Birth:	1864
	Death:	10 May 1930
4	Name:	George A. French Sr
M	Birth:	1866
	Death:	Oct 1944 in San Diego, CA
	Spouse:	Josephine Broyles
5	Name:	Victoria Alice French
F	Birth:	24 Dec 1867 in Franklin Co., MO
	Death:	24 Jun 1954 in Sharpe Rest Home, Excelsior Springs, MO
	Burial:	28 Jun 1954 in Fairhaven Cemetery, Norborne, MO
	Marriage:	1888 in Carroll Co., MO
	Spouse:	Thomas W. Jones
6	Name:	Oliver T. French
M	Birth:	05 Feb 1871 in Franklin Co., MO
	Death:	15 Oct 1951 in New Madrid Co., MO
7	Name:	Josephine French
F	Birth:	1872
	Death:	23 Apr 1933
	Spouse:	John Eden

8	Name:	Henry S. French
M	Birth:	1875
	Death:	Bef. 1912

9	Name:	William Lewis French
M	Birth:	09 Jan 1881 in Missouri
	Death:	18 Aug 1954 in Missouri
	Marriage:	31 Dec 1900 in Monnett, Barry Co., MO
	Spouse:	Maude Martin

Notes

John Peter French II

The date of death on John P.'s tombstone, 30 Sep 1912, is incorrect. The right date is 31 Aug 1912.

The first recorded sale of property we found for him was dated 11 Apr 1910. From his birth we can determine that he was 74 at that time and had undoubtedly decided to retire. He was 75 at the time he had a stroke and 76 at the time of his death. The following is copied from the 6 Sep 1912 issue of the Norborne Democrat, Norborne, MO.

OBITUARY

John P. French, one of Norborne's best citizens, committed suicide by hanging himself in the barn at his home, Sat. morning, about 5:00 o'clock.

Mrs. French had gone to the station with one of her granddaughters, who was returning to her home in Carrollton, leaving Mr. French alone in the house. During her absence, he secured a rope, tied a regulation hangman's knot in it, climbed up into the barn loft, raised a board in the floor, tied the rope on a joist, adjusted the noose around his neck; then tied his hands together and jumped through the hole in the barn loft. The drop was not sufficient to dislocate his neck and he died of strangulation. When found he was hanging in the stall where there was a horse, and was dead when cut down.

The coroner was notified, but concluded that an inquest was not necessary as there was no question as to how he died. Dr. Brunner issued a burial permit.

In Feb 1911, Mr. French was stricken with partial paralysis, his tongue and vocal cords being so badly affected that he could not talk sufficiently plain to be understood; this seemed to worry him greatly and he grew morbid; taking but little, if any interest in things around him. After being afflicted for several months his usually cheerful nature seemed to undergo a change, and nothing could restore his interest in affairs. He seemed to have lost hope, and with it, the desire to live. He knew there was no hope of recovery and the constant brooding over his condition probably unbalanced his mind and when in an irresponsible condition took his life.

John P. French was born at Greeneville, Tenn., Oct. 8, 1836, and there grew to manhood. In 1854 he was married to Miss S. J. Collier, and in 1855 they came to Missouri; first settling in Franklin County. In 1866 Mr. French left his home in Franklin Co. and started on a prospecting tour of Texas. For nearly two years not a word was heard from him, and Mrs. French concluded that he must have been killed by Indians, that were at that time attacking whites who were traveling throught the state. In 1867 Mrs. French, having given up hope of seeing her husband alive again moved to Carroll County where she had relatives. In 1868 Mr. French returned to his old home in Franklin Co. and learned that his wife and children were in Carroll Co., and at once came here to be with his family, and has since been one of our best citizens. For more than 40 years Mr. French made his residence in Sugartree and Cherry Valley townships and Norborne, and during all these years has been esteemed and recognized as an honest upright man whose word was his bond. There were no better men than John P. French nor was there one who had more friends. No man can point to any act of his that breathed of dishonor, he was honest and just and foursquare to the world. His tragic death is truly and sincerely mourned by all who knew him.

Notes (con't)

He is survived by his wife and seven children, Gentry, Jeff D., George A., Oliver, and William French, and Mrs. Thomas W. Jones, and Mrs. John Eden. Funeral services were held at his late home in this city, Monday morning, conducted by the Rev. John Tanquary, of the ME Church South. He has long been an honored member of Carroll Lodge #249 AF & AM and the Masonic Order had charge of the services at his grave, burial was in beautiful Fairhaven.

A search of marriage records of Greene County reveals that John P. French married Sabra Jane Collier on Sept. 24, 1854 (#2475 1838-1855 records), John F. Broyles JP officiating. From the tombstone in Fairhaven Cemetery in Norborne, Missouri, we learn that John P. French died on Sept. 30, 1912, and his wife Sabra Jane (Collier) was born Sept. 30, 1836, and died in Norborne, Mo. on Jan. 7, 1917. A search of files of the Norborne Democrat reveals the unfortunate circumstances of John P. French's death. A copy of his obituary is attached to this record. It is obvious from the newspaper report that the tombstone of John P. French contains an error. The tombstone shows his death as being Sept. 30, 1912, the newspaper issued on Friday, Sept. 6, 1912, states his death occurred Saturday morning about 8:30 (photostat in possession of Ruth N. Duffy). This would mean that he died on August 31, 1912. There are no files of the Norborne Democrat for 1917 so the obituary for Sabra J. French could not be obtained.

Some of the questions we had concerning John P. French have been answered on the receipt of his obituary; but as with all of this work, more questions have come up.

His birthdate has been established as October 8, 1836. The first recorded sale of property we found for him was dated 4-11-1910. From his birthdate we can determine that he was 74 at that time and undoubtedly decided to retire. He was 75 at the time he had this stroke mentioned in the obituary and 76 at the time of death. One question comes up--the record in the courthouse stated "Mud Creek," but the obituary makes no mention of this but calls it Cherry Valley. Perhaps it was locally known as Cherry Valley, since the title "Mud Creek" is not particularly inviting.

We also can imagine the feelings of his wife, Sabra J., who, after twelve years of marriage and seven children, found herself without a husband. How did they live during the two years John P. was gone? Were they farmers and did she and the children run the farm? Did they own property in Franklin Co., MO? Did she sell it when they left? How could she have title to it without having John P. declared dead?

There must have been some money when John P. came to Norborne because the farm in Sugartree and Cherry Valley is very good land, and according to the obituary, they must have lived on it the rest of their lives. Or did it belong to some of the Colliers and was Sabra J. and family living there when John P. returned? There are still Colliers living in Carroll County. We have determined that there were Colliers there, and also Burgners, in Atchison County, MO. This is where James GENTRY French went and where his first wife, Margaret Amanda Burgner French, is buried. Records show that these three families (Collier, Burgner, and French) were all in Greene County, TN at the same time. Why was there a general exodus from Greene Co., TN?

Our research has indicated how terribly trying the post Civil War period was--especially for the citizens of Tennessee and the residents of Greene Co. in particular. Newspaper accounts of a 4th of July celebration held in Greeneville in 1868 indicate that farmers who had been Confederates were met at the city limits and not allowed to attend the festivities. Naturally, this would have resulted in some form of retaliation. This constant fighting among relatives, former friends, and neighbors must undoubtedly have been on of the causes of the exodus from the state. [There are no Frenches listed from Greene County on the Confederate rosters ("Tennesseans in the Civil War," Vol. I, prepared by the Tennessee Civil War Centennial Commission).

The obituary states that the funeral was "conducted by Rev. John Tanquary of the ME Church South." While in Greeneville, we discovered that in 1816 the Methodist Church in its General Conference had made statements against slavery to the extent that "any slaveholder could not hold office in the Methodist Church." This irritated Methodists who owned slaves to the extent that in 1844 General Conference they split from the Methodist Church and formed the Methodist Church South. Naturally this caused a great deal

Notes (con't)

of bitterness. We found that in 1875, the ME Church South sued the Methodist Church in Greeneville for possession of the building. The case went to the Tennessee Supreme Court, with the result that the Methodists had to vacate the building in favor of the ME Church South. Interestingly enough, they moved into the upper floor of the Courthouse and conducted services there until they could get their own building. This split continued until 1939, when the Methodist Church was finally reunited.

Mrs. Josephine French (widow of George French, son of John P. French and and brother of James GENTRY French) wrote a letter in 1959 stating in part, "John P. French and wife (Sabra Collier) married quite young and left Tenn. and went by flatboat on rivers until they got to Franklin County, Missouri,-- he bought a farm there and part of their family was born there. Later they moved to Carrol County, Mo., and bought land there. Gentry was their oldest child; and when a young man, he went back to Tennessee to visit and he met his wife there--her name was Mattie Burgner."

In checking with the Missouri Historical Society, I found that many early settlers in Missouri did come down the Ohio River by flatboat until they reached the Mississippi. They then took steamboats because a flatboat could not be propelled up the Mississippi or the Missouri. So, it must be assumed that John. P. and his wife did this. Probably landing at Herman, MO, since it was an active river port at that time and was nearest to Franklin County. Franklin County records have not been checked at this writing (1981)

Norborne, MO, is in Carroll County, and in the Carroll County courthouse, Carrollton, MO, we discovered a great deal of information about the French family. Records show many property transactions concerning members of the family. John P. and Sabra J. apparently were farmers living on a very rich Missouri bottomland farm located in the Sugar Tree and Mud Creek townships. George A. French was apparently a developer of town lots as additions to the town of Norborne. Jefferson D. and Henry S. also had several real estate transactions. There were only two entries for John P. One, a small parcel of land in the Mud Creek area, dated 11 Apr 1910 (book #211, p. 634), and then a peculiar one signed by Sabra J. French selling the main farm in Sugar Tree township. This transaction is dated 26 Feb 1917 (book #213, p. 492) and signed by her. It should be noted that the tombstone shows her date of death as 7 Jan 1917. We did not have time to pursue this mystery further since we did not have the obituary or death certificate, and we have already found that tombstones are sometimes in error. There are no files of the Norborne Democrat for 1917, so the obituary for Sabra could not be obtained.

(All of the above comes from the French Family Record, written in 1982, compiled by Ruth French Duffy and Philip A. Duffy.)

Sabra Jane Colyer

The following was taken from the Norborne Leader, Norborne, MO, 11 Jan 1916:

OBITUARY OF SABRA JANE COLLIER FRENCH

MRS. SABRA FRENCH DEAD

Mrs. Sabra French died in this city Sunday, January 7, at 6 o'clock a.m. of valvular disease of the heart after an illness of several months following a stroke of paralysis, aged 81 years 2 months and six days.

Sabra Jane Collier French was born in Greene County, Tennessee, October 1, 1836 (mathematically this would make her 79 years 3 months and 10 days old). After growing to womanhood, she was married to John P. French and lived on the old French farm south of town until a few years ago when they moved to Norborne and have since lived here.

To this union eight children were born, seven of whom survive her. They are: George and Jeff of Norborne, William of Tina, Gentry of Nebraska, Oliver of Texas, Mrs. Tom Jones of Norborne, and Mrs. John Eden of the Stet country. (The 1960 Post Office directory lists a 4th class Post Office in Carroll County by the name

Notes (con't)

of Stet, by 1970 it was gone from the listing). She also leaves to survive her several grandchildren and a host of relatives and friends who sincerely mourn her passing.

Mrs. French has lived a true, consistent Christian life, doing good and administering to the wants of loved ones and friends. She was a member of the Methodist church in this city; and in her going to that better world, she will be missed, not only from her place in the church, but by all her friends and all who knew her.

Funeral services were held at the Methodist church Monday afternoon at one o'clock conducted by her friend and pastor, Rev. W. B. Condes, after which burial was in Fairhaven cemetery by the side of her husband.

A photocopy of the original of this obituary is in the possession of Ruth N. Duffy. The original paper is on file with the Missouri State Historical Society, Columbia, Missouri.

Some interesting things that have come to light from this obituary are: John P. French was born Oct. 8, 1836 and Sabra J. Collier was born Oct. 1, 1836, both in Greene County, Tennessee. Sabra J's tombstone in Fairhaven cemetery, Norborne, Missouri shows her date of death as Jan. 7, 1917. The masthead of the Norborne Leader (the paper that published the obituary) is dated January 11, 1916!! There is a land transaction on file in the court house in Carrollton, Missouri dated February 26, 1917, and signed by her. (Book #213, page 492).

(All of the above was taken from the French Family Record, 1982-3, compiled by Ruth French Duffy and Phillip A. Duffy.)

Another spelling of Collier is Colyar.

The date of death on her tombstone, Jan 7, 1917, is incorrect.

James Gentry French

James Gentry French, known as Gentry, had three wives and 20 children with dates of birth that span 48 years, 1879 to 1927. He spent his later life in Central City, Nebraska, where his third wife Sadie was born and where they were married. He remained there until his death.

George A. French Sr

See notes for John Peter French II.

In 1937 George lived at 401 Olive St, San Diego, CA, where he and Josie managed an apartment building (44 units) called Kier Manor. The building is still there (July, 2000), starting to show its age, and is now Martin Apartments. Thanks to Lu Etta Barnes, we have a number of letters from him to her and her mother (Gentry's third wife Sadie), and to Gentry, written in the late 30s and early 40s.

Another address on one of his letters is 1205 12th St, San Diego, but whatever was at that address is now gone.

Donald L. French, Jr, in a letter to Beverly Chickering around 1980, wrote:

"My grandfather [Henry Velmer French - mlf] told me about a George French who moved to Pleasant Hill during the Depression from San Diego, California. I do not know how this man might have known it, but he said that he was related to my grandfather. George French had been a prosperous building contractor-carpenter there and during the depression lost everything. George French married a girl from the Pleasant Hill Community whose last name was Broyles. They had 2 children, G. A. and a daughter, whose name my grandfather does not know. You may have some information about this George French from San Diego."

Notes (con't)

Since our George was the first cousin of Henry Velmer's father, Thomas Newton French (1859-1932), it is likely that Donald's George is the same man. Our George had a son George A. Jr, and a daughter Mildred (and two more sons besides). We can add that George's wife's first name was Josephine, so we will assume that her name was Josephine Broyles, based on the above.

Victoria Alice French

According to Victoria's brother George A. French Sr, writing in 1937 to brother Gentry, "she was very fleshy big, and fat" when he last saw her May 11, 1934. He expected he had seen her for the last time, but she lived another 20 years.

Her obituary states that she was survived by three of her four daughters: Mrs. Lucy Showalter of Las Vegas, NV; Mrs. Mary Phillips of Farmington, NM; and Mrs. Bernice Westhauser of Highmore, ND. Also by nine grandchildren, 10 great-grandchildren;"and nieces and nephews."

It also says that Victoria's last year was spent in the Sharpe Rest Home, where "she was visited by her many Norborne friends," and "She enjoyed life and always greeted her friends with a smile."

Oliver T. French

George A. French Sr, wrote to Gentry French in 1937:

"Brother Oliver was the last time ever heard from at Lilburn, Missouri, down in the south-east corner of the state. Don't know if he is there or not, he is a ROVER, never stays anywhere very long at a time, and never satisfied anywhere, I don't know how he is getting along in the world."

No doubt Oliver's full name was Oliver Temple French, his uncle's name.

A Missouri death certificate for an Oliver French is no doubt his. The year of birth agreed with what was known. The birth and death data shown here are from that death certificate. It says he never married, and had no address. The "informant" of the death was the Welfare Office. Cause of death unknown.

Henry S. French

Since Henry wasn't mentioned in his father's 1912 obituary along with all his other siblings, we can assume he had died prior to that.

William Lewis French

Brother George A. French Sr wrote to Gentry French in 1937:

"Our Baby Brother 56 years old last January the 9th, lives at Bethel, Kansas. Just six miles west of the Court House in Kansas City, Kansas. Billy is a good Man, and I think he is doing fine. He & His Son-in-Law are Partners in farming and Stock-raising, and have quite a bit of Money behind them, and that close to Kansas City. They will make it."

Family Group Sheet for William Lewis French

Husband:	William Lewis French		
	Birth:	04 Jul 1795 in Blount Co., TN	
	Death:	16 Mar 1864 in Chuckey, TN	
	Burial:	Pleasant Hill Methodist Cemetery, Horse Creek Valley, Chuckey, TN	
	Marriage:	27 Jan 1826 in Greene Co., TN	
	Father:	Henry French I	
	Mother:	Unknown	
Wife:	Sarah Ann Glass		
	Birth:	29 Mar 1806 in Blount Co., TN	
	Death:	23 Dec 1887 in Greene Co., TN	
	Burial:	Pleasant Hill cemetery Greene Co., TN	
	Father:	Samuel Glass	
	Mother:	Elizabeth Rutherford	
Children:			
1 M	Name:	William Jackson French	
	Birth:	09 Jan 1825 in Washington Co. TN	
	Death:	02 Feb 1885 in Greene Co., TN	
	Burial:	Pleasant Hill Church	
	Marriage:	26 Sep 1843 in Washington Co., TN	
	Spouse:	Susan E. Broyles	
2 F	Name:	Martha Elizabeth French	
	Birth:	06 Mar 1827 in Greene Co., TN	
	Death:	07 Jun 1909 in Greene Co., TN	
	Burial:	Pleasant Hill Cemetery, Greene Co. TN	
	Marriage:	24 Aug 1843 in Greene County, TN	
	Spouse:	Michael A. Broyles	
3 M	Name:	Alexander Bradford French	
	Birth:	24 Jul 1829	
	Death:	Oct 1905 in Maloneyville, Knox Co., TN	
	Burial:	Oct 1905 in Union Baptist Church Cemetery on WA Pike, Knox Co., TN	
	Marriage:	20 Mar 1860 in Knox Co., TN	
	Spouse:	Mary Ann LaRue	
4 M	Name:	James Lewis French	
	Birth:	1832 in Greene Co., TN	
	Death:	28 Dec 1886 in Morrison, Gasconade, MO	
	Burial:	Morrison Cemetery, MO	
	Marriage:	18 Sep 1853 in Greene County, TN	
	Spouse:	Bethia Serina Jennings	
5 F	Name:	Nancy Jane French	
	Birth:	29 Mar 1834 in Greene Co., TN	
	Death:	07 Jan 1909 in Horse Creek Community, Greene Co., TN	
	Burial:	Pleasant Hill Cemetery	
	Marriage:	04 Apr 1851 in Washington Country, TN	
	Spouse:	Andrew C. Gray	

6	Name:	John Peter French II
M	Birth:	1836 in Greeneville, TN
	Death:	31 Aug 1912 in Norborne, MO
	Burial:	Fairhaven Cemetery, Norborne, MO
	Marriage:	24 Sep 1854 in Greeneville, TN
	Spouse:	Sabra Jane Colyer
7	Name:	Henry C. French
M	Birth:	1841 in Greene Co., TN
	Death:	08 Aug 1864 in National Cemetery, Knoxville, TN
	Marriage:	24 Dec 1859 in Greene County, TN
	Spouse:	Sarah H. Scott
8	Name:	Anderson Glass French
M	Birth:	1843 in Greeneville, Greene Co., TN
	Death:	1920 in Fairland, OK
	Marriage:	11 Oct 1860 in Washington Country, TN
	Spouse:	Martha Jane Stanton
9	Name:	Augustus Franklin French
M	Birth:	1845
	Burial:	National Cemetery, Knoxville, TN
10	Name:	Oliver Temple French
M	Birth:	07 Jul 1846 in Horse Creek, Greene Co., TN
	Death:	14 Nov 1920
	Burial:	Oak Grove (Park?) Cemetery, Greeneville, TN
	Marriage:	01 May 1881 in Greene County, TN by J. P. Milburn
	Spouse:	Susannah Catherine Nelson
11	Name:	Elizabeth French
F	Birth:	1852

Notes

William Lewis French

William was born on 4 Jul 1795, in Blount Co., TN. He was killed 16 Mar 1864, and is buried in the Pleasant Hill Cemetery, Horse Creek section of Greene County, TN. A lineal descendant (Donald L. French, Jr) has supplied the circumstances surrounding his death. Donald states that during the later days of the Civil War, Confederate forces came through the area looting and burning, and took William from his sickbed. Apparently they intended to draft him into their depleted forces. As the party of soldiers rode off, William managed to slide off the back of the horse in an attempt to escape, and was shot by the marauders. This event took place in the front yard of the farm now (1981) occupied by Donald L. French, Jr, of Chuckey, TN. His descent record is included in this family tree.

Our research has indicated that the terrible uncertain times in which these people lived has no parallel in American history. We have discovered many surprising facts about conditions during that period. There were more battles fought in Tennessee during the Civil War than in any other state. The state was so crushed economically that it took over 40 years to recover. It was the last state to leave the Union and the first to return. Andrew Johnson, Lincoln's Vice President and successor, literally escaped during the night from Greeneville to avoid going into the Confederacy.

The census records of Greene County for that period do not list all individuals by name or age. It only lists the head of the household and the number of males and females by age groups, not stating whether they are related or merely residing in that household. It also lists freed negroes but not slaves. The 1830 census lists three children and two women as living with William L. French. The 1840 census lists William L. as having seven children, two males under five, two males 5-10, one male 15-20, one female 5-10, and one female 10-15.

Notes (con't)

Other information lists the children as follows: Alexander, birth date unknown; Jackson, born 1824; James B., born 1843; John P., born 1836; and Henry C., born 1841; Anderson G., born 1843; Augustin Franklin, born 1845; and Oliver Temple, born 1846.

The 1850 census lists all individuals by name and age, and we find William L. French, age 55; wife Sarah A., age 42, then a James L., age 18; Nancy J., age 16; John P., age 14; Henry C., age 9; Anderson G., age 7, Augustus F., age 5; and Oliver T., age 3. Note that the undocumented listing has a James B. , while the census lists the 18-year-old son as James L. Also, the other information lists Nancy L. and the census has the 16-year-old girl listed as Nancy J. Obviously "Augustin" and "Augustus" must be the same person, as must be Nancy J. and Nancy L. No attempt has been made to solve these anomalies, and the census versions of the names have been used in the family tree, with the other versions listed as AKA.

The same census lists a Jackson French, age 24, and wife Susan, age 26, and their four children. If this Jackson is William L.'s son, which we assume, he would have been 26, not 24. This census also provides us with the birth state (Tennessee) of William L. and wife Sarah A., but not the exact location.

(The preceding information was taken from the French Family Record, written in 1982, compiled by Ruth French Duffy and Philip A. Duffy.)

Greene County marriage records show that William L. was a justice of the peace performing marriages during most of the 1850s.

Julie Walters reports that he was a landholder in 1819 in Washington County, TN. He is listed in the 1850 census for Greene County, TN. In the 1870 census his widow Sarah is shown as living with her son Anderson and his family. His trade is listed as carpenter in the 1850 census, with land worth \$500.

Pat Nickel has a reference to 1818 Greene Co., TN deed records and 1840-1860 Greene Co. census.

It is fairly certain that his middle name was Lewis. Best evidence is that his son John named a son William Lewis. Accordingly, that is how we name him.

There was a William Lewis French (1775?-1839) , of "Oak Hill", Loudoun County, VA, married to Anna Guy Isemonger. One wonders if this could be a long-sought connection between William's father Henry, and a French line in Virginia.

Sarah Ann Glass

1880 Greene Co., TN census shows Sarah to be 75 years old, with occupation mid-wife. Inscription on Sarah's tombstone: "Gone Home"

Her grandson George A. French (1856-1944) reported in a 1941 letter to his nephew Archie French that a genealogist working for him found that Sarah had a brother who was the father of Senator Carter Glass of Virginia. Also, Carter's mother was one of two Lynchburg sisters named Livingston, and the other was the mother of Sir John French, a British general during World War I. The genealogist's papers were lost, and as of this date none of the above has been verified.

Carter's biography on the internet says that Carter married "a schoolteacher from Lynchburg at age 28," so that is perhaps some verification, but the connection is very doubtful.

Inscription on Sarah's tombstone: "Gone Home"

William Jackson French

Notes (con't)

In Sistler's "Early East Tn Marriage" Vol 1, Grooms on page 125, there is an entry for Jackson French to Mary Sneed 1-14-1864 (Knox Co.) but the second date is not there. Since he went by the name of Jackson, from all accounts, that could be this William Jackson French. However, this was just a marriage bond and a second entry showing the marriage occurred was not entered. Perhaps one or the other had a change of mind.

The census for 1850 shows George, Cynthia, and Jane (really Brunetta Jane) in the household, along with Susan, and lists William's occupation as "tenant."

Jackson's daughter Cordelia, who married Jacob S. Gray, had James A. French, born Nov 1867, and Lola French, born Jul 1872 in their household per the 1900 census. It is possible that James is another child of Jackson's, as his date of birth fits in between Susan Emma (1866) and Edna (1868).

The William Jackson line is researched by Joyce Henley and Julie Smith Walters.

We have a clipping of his obituary in the (unknown) local paper, which reads:

OBITUARY

Departed this life at his home on Horse Creek on the 2d day of February, 1885, W. J. French, aged 60 years and 23 days. Deceased had been suffering with Cancer for several years, though able to attend to his business up to about November last, when it grew worse and confined him to the house. His sufferings were intense but he bore them patiently, was never heard to complain. He was one of our most worthy and intelligent citizens. The writer knew him intimately, found him honorable and upright, always honest in dealing with his fellow men, anxious and willing to do all he could for his neighbors. By industry and economy he leaves his children in comfortable circumstances, though much bereaved at his death; they having lost their mother, who died a few weeks before the father, it was a sore trial to children, brothers, and sisters, and truly so to his aged mother who now numbers her four score years and more, to give him up. But I am informed that he gave them ample evidence that their loss was his eternal gain. The remains were followed to the cemetery by a very large concourse of friends and neighbors and interred [sic] beside his wife at Pleasant Hill Church near the homestead.

A. FRIEND

Horse Creek, Tenn., Feb 8, 1885.

Alexander Bradford French

It is doubtful that Alexander is the A. French who married Louisa Hinkle on 13 Feb 1886, as he would have been 56 at the time.

James Lewis French

Ancestry.com shows that James L had a brother James B who was born on the same date. Evidently James B did not survive.

John Peter French II

The date of death on John P.'s tombstone, 30 Sep 1912, is incorrect. The right date is 31 Aug 1912.

The first recorded sale of property we found for him was dated 11 Apr 1910. From his birth we can determine that he was 74 at that time and had undoubtedly decided to retire. He was 75 at the time he had a stroke and 76 at the time of his death. The following is copied from the 6 Sep 1912 issue of the Norborne Democrat, Norborne, MO.

Notes (con't)

OBITUARY

John P. French, one of Norborne's best citizens, committed suicide by hanging himself in the barn at his home, Sat. morning, about 5:00 o'clock.

Mrs. French had gone to the station with one of her granddaughters, who was returning to her home in Carrollton, leaving Mr. French alone in the house. During her absence, he secured a rope, tied a regulation hangman's knot in it, climbed up into the barn loft, raised a board in the floor, tied the rope on a joist, adjusted the noose around his neck; then tied his hands together and jumped through the hole in the barn loft. The drop was not sufficient to dislocate his neck and he died of strangulation. When found he was hanging in the stall where there was a horse, and was dead when cut down.

The coroner was notified, but concluded that an inquest was not necessary as there was no question as to how he died. Dr. Brunner issued a burial permit.

In Feb 1911, Mr. French was stricken with partial paralysis, his tongue and vocal cords being so badly affected that he could not talk sufficiently plain to be understood; this seemed to worry him greatly and he grew morbid; taking but little, if any interest in things around him. After being afflicted for several months his usually cheerful nature seemed to undergo a change, and nothing could restore his interest in affairs. He seemed to have lost hope, and with it, the desire to live. He knew there was no hope of recovery and the constant brooding over his condition probably unbalanced his mind and when in an irresponsible condition took his life.

John P. French was born at Greeneville, Tenn., Oct. 8, 1836, and there grew to manhood. In 1854 he was married to Miss S. J. Collier, and in 1855 they came to Missouri; first settling in Franklin County. In 1866 Mr. French left his home in Franklin Co. and started on a prospecting tour of Texas. For nearly two years not a word was heard from him, and Mrs. French concluded that he must have been killed by Indians, that were at that time attacking whites who were traveling throught the state. In 1867 Mrs. French, having given up hope of seeing her husband alive again moved to Carroll County where she had relatives. In 1868 Mr. French returned to his old home in Franklin Co. and learned that his wife and children were in Carroll Co., and at once came here to be with his family, and has since been one of our best citizens. For more than 40 years Mr. French made his residence in Sugartree and Cherry Valley townships and Norborne, and during all these years has been esteemed and recognized as an honest upright man whose word was his bond. There were no better men than John P. French nor was there one who had more friends. No man can point to any act of his that breathed of dishonor, he was honest and just and foursquare to the world. His tragic death is truly and sincerely mourned by all who knew him.

He is survived by his wife and seven children, Gentry, Jeff D., George A., Oliver, and William French, and Mrs. Thomas W. Jones, and Mrs. John Eden. Funeral services were held at his late home in this city, Monday morning, conducted by the Rev. John Tanquary, of the ME Church South. He has long been an honored member of Carroll Lodge #249 AF & AM and the Masonic Order had charge of the services at his grave, burial was in beautiful Fairhaven.

A search of marriage records of Greene County reveals that John P. French married Sabra Jane Collier on Sept. 24, 1854 (#2475 1838-1855 records), John F. Broyles JP officiating. From the tombstone in Fairhaven Cemetery in Norborne, Missouri, we learn that John P. French died on Sept. 30, 1912, and his wife Sabra Jane (Collier) was born Sept. 30, 1836, and died in Norborne, Mo. on Jan. 7, 1917. A search of files of the Norborne Democrat reveals the unfortunate circumstances of John P. French's death. A copy of his obituary is attached to this record. It is obvious from the newspaper report that the tombstone of John P. French contains an error. The tombstone shows his death as being Sept. 30, 1912, the newspaper issued on Friday, Sept. 6, 1912, states his death occurred Saturday morning about 8:30 (photostat in possession of Ruth N. Duffy). This would mean that he died on August 31, 1912. There are no files of the Norborne Democrat for 1917 so the obituary for Sabra J. French could not be obtained.

Notes (con't)

Some of the questions we had concerning John P. French have been answered on the receipt of his obituary; but as with all of this work, more questions have come up.

His birthdate has been established as October 8, 1836. The first recorded sale of property we found for him was dated 4-11-1910. From his birthdate we can determine that he was 74 at that time and undoubtedly decided to retire. He was 75 at the time he had this stroke mentioned in the obituary and 76 at the time of death. One question comes up--the record in the courthouse stated "Mud Creek," but the obituary makes no mention of this but calls it Cherry Valley. Perhaps it was locally known as Cherry Valley, since the title "Mud Creek" is not particularly inviting.

We also can imagine the feelings of his wife, Sabra J., who, after twelve years of marriage and seven children, found herself without a husband. How did they live during the two years John P. was gone? Were they farmers and did she and the children run the farm? Did they own property in Franklin Co., MO? Did she sell it when they left? How could she have title to it without having John P. declared dead?

There must have been some money when John P. came to Norborne because the farm in Sugartree and Cherry Valley is very good land, and according to the obituary, they must have lived on it the rest of their lives. Or did it belong to some of the Colliers and was Sabra J. and family living there when John P. returned? There are still Colliers living in Carroll County. We have determined that there were Colliers there, and also Burgners, in Atchison County, MO. This is where James GENTRY French went and where his first wife, Margaret Amanda Burgner French, is buried. Records show that these three families (Collier, Burgner, and French) were all in Greene County, TN at the same time. Why was there a general exodus from Greene Co., TN?

Our research has indicated how terribly trying the post Civil War period was--especially for the citizens of Tennessee and the residents of Greene Co. in particular. Newspaper accounts of a 4th of July celebration held in Greeneville in 1868 indicate that farmers who had been Confederates were met at the city limits and not allowed to attend the festivities. Naturally, this would have resulted in some form of retaliation. This constant fighting among relatives, former friends, and neighbors must undoubtedly have been on of the causes of the exodus from the state. [There are no Frenches listed from Greene County on the Confederate rosters ("Tennesseans in the Civil War," Vol. I, prepared by the Tennessee Civil War Centennial Commission).

The obituary states that the funeral was "conducted by Rev. John Tanquary of the ME Church South." While in Greeneville, we discovered that in 1816 the Methodist Church in its General Conference had made statements against slavery to the extent that "any slaveholder could not hold office in the Methodist Church." This irritated Methodists who owned slaves to the extent that in 1844 General Conference they split from the Methodist Church and formed the Methodist Church South. Naturally this caused a great deal of bitterness. We found that in 1875, the ME Church South sued the Methodist Church in Greeneville for possession of the building. The case went to the Tennessee Supreme Court, with the result that the Methodists had to vacate the building in favor of the ME Church South. Interestingly enough, they moved into the upper floor of the Courthouse and conducted services there until they could get their own building. This split continued until 1939, when the Methodist Church was finally reunited.

Mrs. Josephine French (widow of George French, son of John P. French and and brother of James GENTRY French) wrote a letter in 1959 stating in part, "John P. French and wife (Sabra Collier) married quite young and left Tenn. and went by flatboat on rivers until they got to Franklin County, Missouri,-- he bought a farm there and part of their family was born there. Later they moved to Carrol County, Mo., and bought land there. Gentry was their oldest child; and when a young man, he went back to Tennessee to visit and he met his wife there--her name was Mattie Burgner."

In checking with the Missouri Historical Society, I found that many early settlers in Missouri did come down the Ohio River by flatboat until they reached the Mississippi. They then took steamboats because a flatboat could not be propelled up the Mississippi or the Missouri. So, it must be assumed that John. P. and his wife did this. Probably landing at Herman, MO, since it was an active river port at that time and was nearest to Franklin County. Franklin County records have not been checked at this writing (1981)

Notes (con't)

Norborne, MO, is in Carroll County, and in the Carroll County courthouse, Carrollton, MO, we discovered a great deal of information about the French family. Records show many property transactions concerning members of the family. John P. and Sabra J. apparently were farmers living on a very rich Missouri bottomland farm located in the Sugar Tree and Mud Creek townships. George A. French was apparently a developer of town lots as additions to the town of Norborne. Jefferson D. and Henry S. also had several real estate transactions. There were only two entries for John P. One, a small parcel of land in the Mud Creek area, dated 11 Apr 1910 (book #211, p. 634), and then a peculiar one signed by Sabra J. French selling the main farm in Sugar Tree township. This transaction is dated 26 Feb 1917 (book #213, p. 492) and signed by her. It should be noted that the tombstone shows her date of death as 7 Jan 1917. We did not have time to pursue this mystery further since we did not have the obituary or death certificate, and we have already found that tombstones are sometimes in error. There are no files of the Norborne Democrat for 1917, so the obituary for Sabra could not be obtained.

(All of the above comes from the French Family Record, written in 1982, compiled by Ruth French Duffy and Philip A. Duffy.)

Henry C. French

Listed on the Cocke County internet web page is a Civil War listing of Cocke County men. One of those listed is a Henry C. French, enlisted 26 Oct 1861 and a permanent desertion date of Nov 1861. However, "Forgotten Soldiers: 4th Tennessee Volunteer Infantry Regiment (USA) 1863 - 1865" by Eddie M. Nikazy, has the following entry:

"French, Henry C: sergeant, Company E; age: 23: enrolled at Greeneville, 19 Feb 1863, appointed sergeant, 26 May 1863: captured and paroled at McMinnville, 3 Oct 1863; sick in hospital at Knoxville, 11 May 1864; died in general hospital at Knoxville, 8 Aug 1864, cause not stated."

Henry may also have married Sarah A. Johnson, who had an 11-year old boy, Dover, and a 3-year old daughter, Mary, according to the 1870 census.

Anderson Glass French

Anderson had 17 children, nine by his first wife Jane and eight by his second wife Barbara.

From family writings by Hattie French Lazrath, Anderson's granddaughter::

Anderson joined the Union Army when the Civil War broke out. He was in the Army when my father, Robert Anderson [French] was born on August 14th, 1862. He was taken prisoner and spent many months in the Andersonville Prison in Georgia. When the war was over the prisoners were turned loose. I never knew if the government did not furnish transportation home for the soldiers or if Grandfather did not wait to find out. At any rate he walked from Georgia back to Tennessee.

[The Andersonville prison records do not include his name, but do include the name of Stephen French. Hattie's son Ralph says Hattie was wrong, Robert was never in Andersonville.]

Augustus Franklin French

Augustus went by the name of Frank, from his middle name Franklin. The 1860 census shows his name as Franklin A.

Oliver Temple French

Oliver built a house that is still (1983) standing in Greeneville, TN. He was a local "squire" (Justice of the

Notes (con't)

Peace) and a rural postman. He apparently was named for Oliver Temple, a well-know politician of the time. He is listed as a "Register" (s Greene Co. office) in 1886.

Marriage records for Greene County, TN show that an O. T. French registered a marriage bond with Julia A. Bird on 3 Aug 1867. We are supposing that this O. T. is our Oliver Temple. Since the marriage date is not included with the entry, which names W. B. French, no doubt Oliver's nephew, it seems that a marriage never took place. Also, he does not list Julia as one of his wives on a form he sent to the Bureau of Pensions in 1915.

He married Sarah J. Broyles little more than a year later, and the reason for Julia's dropout is unknown.

The other marriages are verified by him on the Bureau of Pensions form, even though the short interval (less than two months!) between the death of Kate and his marriage to Rebecca seems rather unusual. On that form he claims to have served in Co."E" 4th Tenn. Vols. Infantry. This is verified by the following entry in "Forgotten Soldiers: 4th Tennessee Volunteer Infantry Regiment (USA) 1863 - 1865" by Eddie M. Nikazy:

"French, Oliver T.: private, Company G, age 20, enrolled at Greeneville, 18 Dec 1862; sick in hospital, Jun 1863, captured and paroled at McMinnville 3 Oct 1863, absent on parole until Mar 1864, discharged, 2 Aug 1865."

Notice that Oliver and brother Henry C. were captured and paroled on the same date at McMinnville, where Henry may have been visiting his sick brother in the hospital.

His birthplace is shown on his death certificate as Blount Co., TN. This is an error, as he plainly states he was born at Horse Creek, Greene Co., TN on the Bureau of Pensions form.

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