

THE COMBS FAMILY

Stacey Combs was the first wife of Reding Putman. This is what I know of her parents, Bennett and Dorothy Combs.

The earliest record of our Combs line in America is a marriage record in St. Mary's County, Maryland, when William Combs married Mary Hatton. William Combs was born in 1672 and died in St. Mary's County in 1740.

I have from another source that William's father was Enoch Combs probably born in the late 1640s to early 1650s but I am not sure where.

William's son, Enoch, married Mary Manning and another son, William, married Elizabeth Manning, both in St. Mary's County. The Putmans are descended from Enoch and Mary Combs.

Enoch and Mary lived all their lives in St. Mary's County. He died there on July 6, 1756 and she on April 12, 1769. They had at least one child, Bennett Combs, born in St. Mary's County in 1745.

Bennett Combs resided in Maryland during the Revolution and served in the Maryland State Militia from 1775 through 1782. He was promoted to Captain on June 22, 1780 in the Leonardtown Company of the 21st Battalion.

Sometime during the late 1770s, he married his wife, Dorothy, in Maryland. Dorothy, or Dolly as she was called, was born in Maryland in 1753. Shortly after his War service, they moved to the Pendleton District of South Carolina. Their eldest daughter, Verlinda, was born in Anderson County on August 6, 1781.

In addition to **Verlinda**, Bennett and Dolly had the following children, all born in Anderson County, South Carolina: **Sarah Nancy, Isabella, Stacy, Rachel, William, Joel, Robert, James and Levi.**

Sarah Nancy Combs was born in 1783, and she married Joseph McDowell Duff in Gibson County, Indiana.

Verlinda Combs married Abraham Duff in Anderson County in 1797 and their eldest daughter, Elizabeth Duff, born in 1798, later married Elijah Putman.

The family was listed in the Pendleton District in the 1800 Census.

On March 4, 1801, Bennett Combs died intestate and estate settlement was signed by Dolly on March 10th.

Dolly Combs and her family joined with the Duffs and Putmans and others and moved to Warren County, Kentucky in the early 1800s. Dolly appears in the 1810 Census of Kentucky with one male and 3 other females living with her.

When the Putmans and others moved to Indiana in 1811, Dolly seems to have remained in Kentucky. She was there in 1817, as was Abraham Duff, as both witnessed her daughter, Rachel,

when she married Abraham Dilbach.

My ancestor, Reding Putman Senior married Stacy Combs on June 7, 1812.

It seems that Dolly left Kentucky with Reding Putman when he left the state in 1818 for a temporary return to Gibson County, Indiana. In a 1829 deposition, Dorothy Combs stated she was familiar with a land deal made by Reding Putman in Gibson County in 1818. Possibly she had been in Gibson County for a while and had returned to Kentucky with Reding in 1817. No one knows for certain.

At any rate, Dolly Combs moved in with her daughter Verlinda Duff and spent her remaining years with her. Dolly died at the Duff home on February 12, 1838 at age 85. She is buried at the Old Salem Cemetery in Sangamon County, Illinois.

The youngest son, Levi Combs, seems to have gone to Washington County, Arkansas with Reding Putman. Levi Combs appears in the 1880 census of Washington County at age 83 living with Reding junior in Fayetteville. Levi was born March 9, 1796 in Rowan County, North Carolina, and died July 13, 1886 in Fayetteville, Arkansas. He married Sarah Arrington July 27, 1817 in Wilkes County, North Carolina. She died in Washington County, Arkansas April 7, 1859. He remained on the farm until 1870 when he moved in with Reding Putman.