

UPDATED NOVEMBER 29, 2008

William Woods & Robert C. Putnam of Gordon & Whitfield Counties Georgia

Beginning in the 1860 Georgia census, we find a set of twins born July 31, 1854 living with their mother Hepsy (Hephzibah) Williams. Williams was the name of her first husband. Her maiden name was Hepsy or Hepsy Teete. She married Andrew Jackson Williams in Rabun County, Georgia February 16, 1834.

Then there is a marriage record in Gilmer County, Georgia where a John Putman/Putnam married Hepsy Ann Williams on September 25, 1853.

I have no clues as to which family John Putman belongs to. If he is connected to our 'Southern' line, then the most logical is either connected to Ezekiel Putman's brood or a kin to Hosea Putnam or John Putman from South Carolina and Alabama.

According to her tombstone in Oakwood Cemetery, Hepsy was born December 7, 1818 and died December 12, 1897. She would have been about 35 when she married John Putman.

A possibility is. The only John Putman that might also be involved was the John Putman from Lawrence County, Alabama who would have been about 65. His son Anderson Putman was there in the area and he appears to be the best choice. His wife, Lucy Covington had died in about 1851. He may well have gone to Georgia with Anderson, as it was only a few miles away in Northwest Georgia from Northeast Alabama where he had been living.

In the 1880 census reports, Robert stated that his father was born in Massachusetts while his brother Willie said their father was born in Georgia.

A descendent, Claudine Putnam, has picked up a 'family story' that he was indeed tied back to Massachusetts. He left in the mid 1850s to visit his family 'up north' and simply never returned. It is assumed he died on the trail somewhere. He may have been connected with the family that began the Putnam Dye Company in Putnam County, Missouri. That family was indeed New England stock from Sutton, Massachusetts.

At any rate these twins raised families and lived in Northwest Georgia. I am in contact with descendants of both these men and the information comes from them.

William Woods Putnam

Willie was born July 31, 1854 in Ellijay, Gilmer County Georgia. He died at age sixty-three on October 31, 1917 in Ranger, Gordon County Georgia.

His first wife was Sarah Noland or Nolan. They were married in Murray County Georgia on September 26, 1874. Sarah was born in North Carolina on December 8, 1859 and died in Georgia on March 2, 1889. They had seven children:

ANN E. PUTNAM born in 1876. She married W. H. Holcombe in Murray County January 10, 1892.

JOHN ROBERT PUTNAM born August 9, 1877 and died January 16, 1919. In 1900 he is in Gordon County with his wife Anne Swan and one son. He married Annie Swan in Gordon County on February 28, 1897. They were in Gordon County in 1900 and 1910. In 1920 Anne was shown as a widow with two children. In 1930 she is in Etowah, McMinn County Tennessee with two of her then married kids. Their children were:

George Thomas Putnam born October 18, 1897. Home in 1920. In 1930, he was married to a Chassie and they were in McMinn County Tennessee. Chassie was born September 6, 1902 and died August 17, 1980 in McMinn County. George died there October 1, 1990. They are both buried in Green Hill Cemetery in Etowah.

Jodie Putnam born in 1902 and gone or married by 1920.

Myra Putnam born in 1905. Home in 1920. She is married to Bailey McDonald and they are in McMinn County Tennessee and her widowed mother is living with them.

GEORGE W. PUTNAM born February 26, 1880 and died November 14, 1896.

SAMUEL LOVE PUTNAM born August 26, 1882 and died November 14, 1950. He married Ida Blackwell in Gordon County on December 8, 1901. He is then in Harlan County Kentucky in 1930 with a new wife named Emma. Children as of 1920 were:

William T. Putnam born in 1903. He looks to be the one in Marshall County, Alabama in 1930 married to Inez Terry also from Georgia.

Lucille Putnam born in 1905.

Samantha Putnam born in 1907.

John R. Putnam born in 1911. He is with his dad in Harlan, Kentucky in 1930 and then will marry Gladys Skidmore later that year.

CHARLES F. PUTNAM born in 1884-1885. He married Cora Bell Kell in 1918 in Gordon County, Georgia. In 1920 they were living with her folks and in 1930 were in De Kalb County, Alabama and her folks were there too. They had:

John Lewis Putnam born in August 1919 in Georgia.

Autrell Putnam a son born in 1926 in Alabama.

THOMAS J. PUTNAM born August 18, 1886 and died October 12, 1886.

SUSAN A. PUTNAM born October 23, 1888 and died October 26, 1891.

After Sarah died on March 2, 1889. Willie married Sarah Murray later in 1889. They had one child:

LILLY M. PUTNAM born August 20, 1890 and died in 1891.

After the second Sarah died on July 20, 1893, Willie married Rhonda Vianna Merinda Holcomb on August 27, 1893. She was a daughter of Henry Snow Holcomb and Rhonda Ann Bates. Vianna was born January 7, 1872 in Birmingham, Georgia and died in Ranger, Georgia on October 28, 1955.

Willie had another batch of kids with Vianna, some twelve or more that I have names for. There

were some 22-24 kids all told. Willie Putnam died in Ranger on October 29, 1917 and Vianna died there on October 28, 1955 at age seventy-one. Both were probably worn plumb out.

Their children were:

PEARL PUTNAM born July 19, 1894 and died December 12, 1972. She married William A. Eaton in Cobb County, Georgia on February 20, 1921. He was born January 19, 1894 and died December 26, 1936. Their children were:

William A. Eaton Jr.
James Earle Eaton
Edna Pearl Eaton
Joyce P. Eaton

WILLIAM HOLCOMB PUTNAM born May 15, 1895 and died May 20, 1895.

RHODA LOU EMMA PUTNAM born April 17, 1896 and died in April 1966. She married Lathrop Bura Greene. He was born December 7, 1890 and died August 24, 1938. Their children were:

Willie L. Greene
Ruth Viana Greene

MARY ANN PUTNAM born May 30, 1897. She married Robert Monroe McAfee in 1918. He was born March 10, 1889 and died July 3, 1950. She died August 31, 1979. Their children were:

Mary McAfee
Roberta McAfee
Warren G. McAfee
Loneita McAfee

WILLIAM DEWEY PUTNAM born July 19, 1898. He married Emma Duane Keys. He died in Gordon County on February 10, 1982. Emma was born November 4, 1903 and died August 9, 1994. The children were:

Truett King Putnam
Blake Maurice Putnam
Patricia Joy Putnam
Lamar Alvin Putnam
Leonard Alvin Putnam

ROBERT LEE PUTNAM born November 25, 1899. He married Mary Florence Boyd in Whitfield County, Georgia on December 24, 1924. She was born February 25, 1905 and died January 5, 1979. He was an educator and later County tax commissioner. He died June 9, 1975. They had two daughters:

Sarah F. Putnam
Betty Jean Putnam

HENRY GRADY PUTNAM born February 3, 1901, died October 24, 1979 in Calhoun, Georgia. He married Lessie Ann Long in Ranger, Gordon County on February 24, 1924. She was born June 11, 1903 and died January 15, 1971. Their children were:

Willie Grady Putnam
Martha Ann Putnam

MINNIE LEE PUTNAM born May 11, 1904 and died June 8, 1905.

INFANT PUTNAM born and died in 1905.

JAMES HOWARD PUTNAM born June 10, 1906. He married Lola Vashti Holmes. She was born April 4, 1906 and died in April 1976. He died in Gordon County on December 1, 1990. The children were:

Moline Putnam
James Carmace Putnam,

JEWEL JEANETTE PUTNAM born August 1, 1910. She never married and died April 10, 1961.

CHAD SPURGEON PUTNAM born March 8, 1913. He married Rachel Melinda Davis on April 2, 1933. He died in November 1995. Rachel died in February 2005. They had four children:

Wayne Putnam
Donald Putnam
Judy Carol Putnam
Joseph Roy Putnam

Robert Clinton Putnam

He was the other twin born July 31, 1854. He married Lucy Louisa Thomas in Gordon County on November 30, 1873. Louisa was born October 14, 1856.

They are in Gilmer County in 1880. In the 1900 census of Whitfield County, Georgia he is 45 and his wife Eliza is 44. Louisa and Eliza are one and the same gal.

Robert Putnam died August 21, 1926 and Louisa died a few weeks later on October 6, 1926.

They had four sons and two daughters:

WILLIAM HENRY PUTNAM born December 27, 1878 and died January 20, 1938. He married Mary Lillie Young October 19, 1894. Mary was born April 3, 1875 and died at age 96 on August 24, 1969. They lived in Whitfield County, Georgia and had five children. They were there through 1920, but back in Gordon County in 1930. The children were:

Ethel Cora Putnam born November 19, 1895 and died January 9, 1987. She married Franck C. Brock in 1914. He was born November 15, 1890 and died July 1, 1970.

Alice Putnam born June 3, 1897 and died May 31, 1917. She married Arthur Reuben Brock in 1913. He was born November 30, 1893 and died June 28, 1917.

Robert Lee Putnam born in 1899 and died June 9, 1975.

Frederick William Putnam born September 29, 1903 and died January 16, 1934. He married Iva Terry October 16, 1928 in Whitfield County.

Henry Clinton Putnam born October 10, 1907. He married Mary Ellen Godfrey who was born August 25, 1911. They died together in an auto accident on January 1, 1946 probably coming home from a wild New Year's Eve party.

JAMES ROBERT PUTNAM born July 7, 1875 and died January 22, 1946. He married

three times. First to Eva Louella Mitchell on March 17, 1895. She was born March 10, 1875 and died September 19, 1900. They had three children, including a son that died at birth:

Clifford Riley Putman born November 19, 1895 and died November 20, 1972. He married Bessie Seay and had one child that died young (J. C. Putnam) and then he married Josie Lee Ila Crumbley August 20, 1920, and they had Thelma, Otis, Evelyn and Helen Putnam. They got divorced and he married a Florence in 1944. He always used the Putman spelling.

Maude Eva Louella Putnam was born July 30, 1900 and died August 6, 1976. She married Lee Gilbert on August 8, 1918, and had seven children.

He then married Elma Ada Prince on July 3, 1903 and they had eight more children. She was born May 17, 1883 and died April 9, 1927.

Charles Martin Putnam born July 31, 1904 and died June 16, 1973. He married Grace Lea Williams on October 7, 1926. She was born October 31, 1910 and died January 16, 1974. They had six children: Charlie, Hazel, James, Kenneth, Norma Jean and a girl who died in infancy.

Claude James Putnam born February 12, 1906 and died August 21, 1998. He married Callie Mae Martin on August 25, 1932. She was born September 30, 1912 and died March 21, 1989. They had four children: Julia Claudine, Paul Lebron, Wanda Leola and Alice Pearl Putnam.

William Robert Putnam born December 31, 1907 and died June 28, 1970. He never married.

Pauline Edna Putnam born November 19, 1909 and died November 24, 2001. She was married three times and widowed each time. She married Judson H. Boyd on August 25, 1928, J. J. Stanfield on March 19, 1942 and to Arvel Shipp on June 17, 1960.

John Otis Putnam born April 22, 1912 and died October 4, 2003. He married LASSIE MAE COFFMAN on June 25, 1938. She was born April 3, 1916 and died November 21, 1993, and they had a daughter Carolyn Putnam. He then married Mae John Tapp Hammontree on April 14, 1996. She was born March 15, 1922 and died March 18, 2006.

Margaret Putnam died in infancy.

Sarah Agnes Putnam born May 20, 1915 and died October 26, 2002. She married Thomas Arthur Wilbanks in 1933 and after his death married William Jennings Bryan Cavin on March 31, 1967. There were three children in the first marriage.

Eugene Webster Putnam born September 9, 1917. He married Mary Louise Butcher on September 9, 1942. She was born December 30, 1925 and died September 11, 1986. They had two children, David and Gerald. He later married Beatrice Goodman May 12, 1987.

Vina Elma Putnam born July 11, 1920 and died December 31, 1978. She married Luther Cantrell Beasley May 14, 1941. He was born April 26, 1915 and died June 16, 1996. They had three children, Luther, Dennis and Linda Gail.

James Robert Putnam later married, about 1929, a widow named Catherine Brannon Cooper Goad and they had one more child before Catherine died September 1, 1931. They were in Chestnut Flat, Walker County in 1930.

Franklin David Putnam born February 5, 1931. He was twice married. First to Corinna Lois Riddle and they had a son James Robert Putnam. He then married a Minnie Lea and there were no more children.

CHARLES HUSTON PUTNAM born August 31, 1880 and died July 23, 1936. He married Sarah Amanda Henson in Murray County on October 12, 1904. She was a daughter of John T. and Mary C. Henson, and was born November 16, 1884 and died December 6, 1961. They had:

Oscar Franklin Putnam born July 19, 1905 and died November 25, 1964.

Edward Richard Putnam born September 30, 1906 and died September 1, 1931. He was single in Grady County Oklahoma in 1930.

Harriett 'Hattie' Lou Caroline Putnam born June 10, 1908 and died August 1, 1981.

James Ernest Putnam born February 5, 1910 and died May 4, 1961.

Effie Mae Putnam born February 28, 1914 and died April 3, 1984.

Mary Emma Putnam born June 17, 1912 and died September 6, 1976. She married Richard Jones.

Cecil Leon Putnam born December 30, 1916. He married Ruth Dennington. He died in Whitfield County on February 7, 1979.

William Grady Putnam born February 11, 1918 and died March 27, 2004.

Robert Elbert Putnam born August 14, 1919 and died July 23, 1981.

Nina Viola Putnam born November 25, 1921.

Daisy Louise Putnam born August 28, 1923.

AMANDA or MAUDE PUTNAM born April 13, 1882 and died January 20, 1912. She married Charles E. Brown in Whitfield County on September 3, 1905.

JOSEPH LAFAYETTE PUTNAM born March 9, 1885 and died July 9, 1952. He married Martha Jane Gibson December 22, 1907. She was born October 2, 1884 and died November 17, 1957. They were in Dalton, Whitfield County in 1910, Gordon County in 1920, and back in Tilton, Whitfield County in 1930. They had six children:

Arthur L. Putnam born September 22, 1908 and died April 12, 1978.

Philip Dewey Putnam born October 22, 1910 and died September 19, 1913.

Myrtle Elizabeth Putnam born April 2, 1913 and died December 6, 1992.

Dolly Dimple Putnam born July 23, 1915 and died September 30, 1987.

Joseph Lafayette Putnam Jr. born November 15, 1917. He died February 6, 1993 in Whitfield County.

Richard Putnam born January 21, 1921 and died February 12, 1983.

Lewis Miles Putnam born February 22, 1926 and died December 25, 1980.

PEARL LEUTHY PUTNAM born November 4, 1895 and died December 12, 1955 all in Whitfield County. She married Harvey Lee Caldwell in 1915. He was born October 20, 1894 and died February 17, 1953. They had one son:

Victor Caldwell born January 20, 1917 and died January 22, 2005. He married Trellis Edna Babb February 24, 1940. She was born November 22, 1922 and they had for children.