

UPDATED MAY 11, 2008

James Hamilton Putman

Pickens & Oconee Counties South Carolina

Every State has its 'problem child.' Hamilton here is the one here in South Carolina.

He first appears in the 1860 census of Pickens County. In 1870 and 1880 he is in Oconee County. Still living on the same farm, but Oconee was formed out of western Pickens County in 1868. In 1870, he has children born as early as late 1850 or early 1851. He married Susan Hancock there about 1850. They were both born in South Carolina. He was born about 1834 in SC.

That's the easy part. Tough part is where did he come from and who were his folks.

Got a clue as to his folks though. There is a marriage record in Pickens County, South Carolina where a (Mrs.) Mary Putman married Absolom Hide on January 14, 1844. She was Ham's mom, as he was with them in the 1850 census. He was listed as being 18 SC. There is a deed showing that Mrs. Mary Putman of the Anderson District of South Carolina bought land in Pickens County in 1838. Then a descendant has heard from the 'family' that James Hamilton's folks were James Putman and Mary Hale. No bible or other records though.

Then the toughest part. There is a record of a James Putman paying taxes in Franklin County, Georgia in 1811 as was a Jesse Putman. Franklin County abuts South Carolina. Jesse was a definitely son of James and Joice Putman from Union County, South Carolina. I think this James was also a son of James and Joice. I have very little on him. He drops out of site completely until he reappears in the 1830 census of Laurens County, South Carolina. And then he is gone again. The Georgia censuses before 1820 are lost, so no other way of checking.

Age is another problem. In 1850, he says he is 18, in 1860 he says he is 25, Susan 29. In 1870 he says he is 45, Susan 42, and in 1880 he says he is 42 and Susan is 40. Interesting. I don't find them in 1900, and they may have died by then. I think the whole family moved to Franklin County, Georgia about 1884.

Info from a couple of folks can bring him forward, but no one can get back to his folks for a positive ID. But I am pretty certain he is a son of James Putman, Junior and Mary Hale from Union County, South Carolina.

Here is what I have do on the children of James Hamilton and Susan Putman:

MARTHA PUTMAN born in 1852-1853. She married William G. Cain in Pickens County in 1873. They had these children:

N. Walker Cain born in 1874.

Henry G. Cain born in 1875.

Lula Cain born in 1879.

Charles Cain born in 1887.

MARY PUTMAN born in 1853. She married Roland Watkins and the two of them were

with her folks in 1880. They had one child born in 1882 and I think she died in childbirth. Roland then married a second time. The child was:

Richard Watkins born in 1882. He was not told about his real mother until he was an adult.

JAMES ERWIN PUTMAN born in Pickens County February 10, 1857, and died August 24, 1930 in Habersham County, Georgia. He married Josephine Lippe April 1, 1880 in Oconee County. They moved to Royston, Franklin County, Georgia in about 1884, and were there in 1900 and 1910. In 1920 and 1930 they are in Habersham County. They farmed and later ran a café in Clarkesville, Georgia. Their children were:

Andrew Byrd Putman born 1883 in Oconee County and died September 3, 1936 in Royston, Georgia. He married Jessie Detter about 1911. In 1920, they were in Royston, Franklin County, Georgia and living with her parents. At the time they had Bessie Lee born in 1913, and James Byrd and William Lamar twins born in 1918. They were there in 1930 and no more kids.

Carl E. Putman born in Franklin County, Georgia August 22, 1885 and died in Etowah County, Alabama May 24, 1919. In 1920, his widow Bessie Williams was back with her parents William and Sallie Williams in Attalla, Etowah County with their only child Carl E. Junior born in 1919. I don't find Bessie or young Carl in 1930.

Charles Putman born in 1887 in Georgia. He died in Pomona, California May 25, 1962. He married Ola Wallace in 1911. They had James B. Putman born in September 1912, Harry K. Putman born in 1914, and Frances Putman born in 1918, all born in Habersham County, Georgia. In 1930 Ola and Frances are in Atlanta. She says she is widowed then. Guess it was a divorce.

Quillian Putman born July 2, 1892 in Madison County, Georgia. Quill died in Clarkesville, Georgia on December 8, 1965. He married Honor 'Omie' Kennedy in Batesville, Habersham County. Omie was born April 26, 1898 and died in Habersham County May 5, 1939. They had one child, Lucille born 1924. Lucille married Donald Jordan Stewart, and was the mother of Donna Stewart Black who gave me all this good info.

Stokes Putman born October 24, 1896 and died January 18, 1981 in Gainesville, Georgia. He married Willie Berryman in 1914. They had two sons:

Felton Reed Putman born June 13, 1916 and married Alice Whitford. She was born May 14, 1917 and died in Gainesville March 23, 1999. Felton died in Gainesville My 23, 2006.

Robert E. Putman born January 20, 1918 and married Estell Hall. Robert died in Gainesville April 13, 1988. Stokes worked for Bell South Telephone. They were in Elbert County in 1920 and in Marietta, Cobb County in 1930.

Forest Sumner Putman born August 17, 1898. He was single in 1920 in Habersham County. He then married Pearl Gable and worked for Goodyear Tire in Michigan and then moved to Arizona in 1931, where he died in March 1979. They had one child, Forest S. Putman, junior born in 1925 in Georgia.

Kate Bell Putman born in 1899. She was struck by lightning as a child and it affected her mind. She was placed in an institution after her mother died until her death in 1973.

Samuel Joseph Putman born in 1902 and died in 1948. He never married. He was never really named as a child. He just started calling himself Sam Joe and it stuck.

FLORENCE PUTMAN born August 10, 1860. She married Brack Lippe on April 1, 1880, and remained in Seneca, Oconee County. After Brack died in 1891, Florence moved to Royston, Franklin County, Georgia to be near her brothers. She died in Hart County,

Georgia April 26, 1942. They had two daughters:

Nellie Lippe born in 1889 and died in 1947. She married William Haffed Williams.

Allie Bertie Lippe born in 1891 and died in 1972. She married Leland Dickson Baker in 1914.

THOMAS FOWLER PUTMAN born in March 1862. His wife was Martha Jane Hardin. They were in DeKalb County, Alabama in 1910, and in 1920 they were in Cherokee County, SC. He was a circuit rider. He died in 1926 in Oconee County, South Carolina. Martha was in Pickens County with her daughter Carrie in 1930. Their children were:

Carrie Putman born in 1884, and died in 1972. She married Theodore Eckford and later Jolly Turner. Her children were: Ted Eckford junior, Evelyn Turner who married Roy Bowen, and Nelson Turner who married Elizabeth Wells.

William Lee Putman born in 1886. In 1920, he is in DeKalb County, Alabama with a wife named Odessa Martha Holbrooks. He died in 1928 in a train/car accident in Fort Payne, De Kalb County, Alabama. They had Edith Clyde who married Samuel Earl Gassendaner, Clara Elizabeth who married Hoyt Milton Jacobs, and Olena Edna who married Delbert Frazer Cochran.

Clyde Monroe Putman born in 1899. He married Laura Elizabeth Harvey, and in 1920 and 1930 they are in Oconee County, South Carolina. They had: Mildred, Margaret, Sarah Jane, Derrill Darby, and Wilma Jeanne Putnam.

HARRIET PUTMAN born in 1865 and listed with her parents in the 1880 census. I don't have any more info.

WILLIAM EBENEZER PUTMAN born in 1867. He died by 1900, as his wife, Mary Ann Compton, was alone there with the kids in 1910 and 1920. The children were born across the border in Georgia, but I don't find him there in 1900. The children were:

Emma Putman born in 1889 in Georgia. She married Clyde Craig O'Kelly. They had Allard and Gladys O'Kelly.

Thomas E. Putman born in 1891 in Georgia. In 1920 he is married to Lela Price in Oconee County and has Louise born 1911 and Carl born 1919 at home. They later had Ronald in 1924 and James in 1926.

William E. (Ebenezer) Putman born in 1894 in Georgia. In 1920 he is at the Newry Cotton Mill with a wife named Nannie and Paul born 1914, Edna born 1916, Louise born in 1918, and Audrey born in 1922.

Dellia Putman born in 1898. She is with mom in 1920 at the mills.

ANNA PUTMAN born in 1875. She was listed with her parents in the 1880 census. I don't have any more info.