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**Draft revised 24 November 2003**

**The Family of  
William C. Gray  
and his wife  
Rachel Ann Rouse  
of Lenoir County, North Carolina**



**Variously Residing in Craven, Green, and Lenoir Counties  
Allied Families: Dail, Deaver, Keener, Newman, Hopewell, Parson**

**by  
Lynn Hopewell**

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Cover Photograph: The tombstone of Sarah Elizabeth Gray, middle daughter of William C. Gray and his wife Rachel Ann Rouse. Sara was the wife of William Parson. Photograph taken October, 2003 by Stewart Hopewell. The tombstone reads "Sarah E. Parson, wife of William Parson, BORN 27 February 1849, DIED 25 October 1906, (Rouse Cemetery, near Hookerton, Greene County, North Carolina.)"

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- Craven County, North Carolina Public Library
- North Carolina State Archives, Raleigh, North Carolina

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# Dedication

Dedicated to the memory of my great-grandmother,

**Sarah Elizabeth Gray**  
**1849-1906**

And her daughters—my grandmother and great-aunt

**Nancy Susan Parson**  
**1872 – 1931**

**Rachel Ann Parson**  
**1878 - 1915**

of  
**Bridgeton, North Carolina**

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# Preface

The author is the great-great-grandson of William C. and Rachel Gray, and the grandson of Rachel Ann Parson Hopewell. I have been researching the genealogy of the Hopewell and allied families for thirty years. This book is about my great-grandmother's family.

Finding the missing details about each Gray descendant will require much assistance from other members of the family. Therefore I ask readers to send a brief sketch on themselves. I also need information on the deceased. Those who would like their families included in future editions are asked to fill out the family group sheet (make as many copies as you need) enclosed with this book and forward it to the author.

The Gray family did not leave much of a written trail. I have run across no letters. There are no photographs of William and Rachel or their daughters. Yet, I am confident that these materials exist, buried in a box in someone's dresser drawer. I hope you will want to review any material on the family you may have. If you by chance, have any corrections to the data herein, or information that would add to the knowledge of the Gray and allied families, please take the time to communicate with me. Corrections of name spellings and dates are very much needed. I am always happy to hear from cousins and anyone interested in the Gray and allied families. We particularly need information on the first three generations of Grays. I can be found at:

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Web: [www.hopewell.org](http://www.hopewell.org)

If you run across a photograph, that odd letter or fact please let me know. The Gray family is a small one and much information is in the hands of descendents.

This book is regularly updated with new information. If you have children or grandchildren who may like to receive the latest version of this book, I would appreciate receiving names and mailing addresses. Also check [www.hopewell.org](http://www.hopewell.org) for the latest version that you can download.

This book stops with the fourth generation of the descendants of William C. and Rachel Gray. In a later edition, I hope to add the details of further generations. A complete list of known descendants by name is given in Appendix 1. The children of the fifth generation are incomplete. References are only partly documented in this edition.

Lynn Hopewell  
Warrenton, Virginia  
24 November 2003

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# Chapter 1

## The Gray Family of Lenoir County- The Beginning

### Geography

The earliest known members of our Gray family began in Lenoir County, North Carolina.<sup>1</sup> They did not travel far. Some members spread to neighboring counties and traces of them can be found: Greene County to the North and Craven County to the West. The map nearby shows the general area of the three counties. Family members are found in the Woodington section of Lenoir, in Kinston and in the Hookerton area, near Snow Hill<sup>2</sup> in Greene County, and in Bridgeton, in Craven County.

### Early Clues

Tracking down ancestors is a combination of detective work and solving puzzles. Where to begin? I knew several things that would help me find my Gray ancestors:

- I knew my grandmother's maiden name, Rachel Ann Parson. And I knew her father's name was William Parson.
- A cousin, the late Gertrude Keener Holton, at an advanced age, told me that my grandmother's mother's maiden name was Sara Elizabeth Gray, husband to William Parson, and that Sarah Elizabeth's mother's maiden name was Rachel Ann Rouse. [Gertrude got the Prize in our family for knowing her genealogy! She was the key to unlocking the Grays.]
- Gertrude knew where Sara Elizabeth Gray Parson was buried. Her tombstone gave her birth and death dates and said that she was the wife of William Parson.

These were excellent clues with which to begin. The research strategy For the Gray family was to start with the U.S. censuses and look for Rachel Gray.

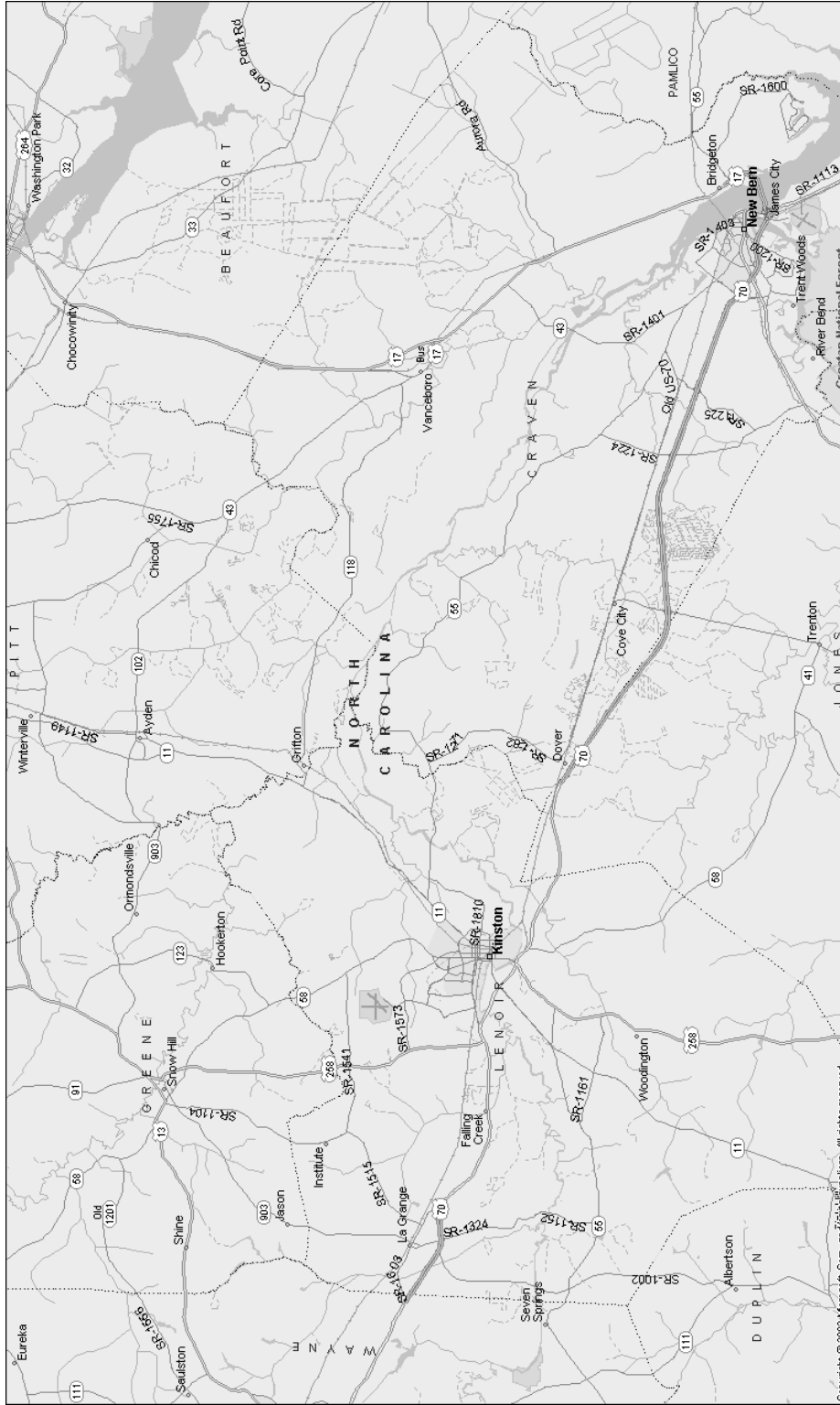
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<sup>1</sup> Lenoir was formed in 1791 from Dobbs. It was named in honor of William Lenoir, one of the heroes of Kings Mountain. It is in the eastern section of the State and is bounded by Craven, Jones, Duplin, Wayne, Green and Pitt counties. The present land area is 399.42 square miles and the 1990 population was 57,274. When Kinston was established in 1762 it was in Dobbs County. It was made the county seat of Dobbs in 1764, and when Dobbs was established in 1791, Kinston became the county seat of Lenoir. The courthouse burned in 1878, complicating family research.

<sup>2</sup> The town of Snow Hill was named for it's white, sandy soil. There are sections of Snow Hill which, from a distance, look like hills covered with snow.



*The Gray Family Domain: Lenoir, Green and Craven Counties, North Carolina*



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## Mining the Censuses

In searching the censuses, you generally start with the 1850 census because it was the first to record the names of every family member, not just that of the head of the household. There was no record of the Grays in the 1850 census, although there should have been (They had two children by then). Where were they?

### *The 1860 Census*

We had better luck with the 1860 census. We find Rachel, a husband William C. and their three daughters in the Woodington District of Lenoir County which is the same area where a future family connection, the Hopewells, lived.

1860 U. S. Census, Woodington District, Lenoir County, North Carolina							
Name	Age	[Est. birth year]	[Known Age]	Sex	Race	Occup.	Birthplace
William C. Gray	56	1804		M	W	None listed	North Carolina
Rachel Gray	46	1814		F	W	“	North Carolina
Susan Gray	19	1841		F	W	“	North Carolina
[Sarah] Elizabeth Gray	14	1846	11 (b. 27 February 1849)	F	W	“	North Carolina
Nancy Gray.	12	1848		F	W	“	North Carolina

Now we knew the name of the Gray father. We also see Rachel Ann Rouse Gray and her three daughters, Susan, Sarah Elizabeth and Nancy. Susan was nearly grown and Sarah and Nancy still teenagers.

The census tells us a little about them. Neither William nor Rachel could read or write.<sup>3</sup> They were all born in North Carolina. William owned real estate worth \$150 and personal property worth \$75. No occupations are listed, but they undoubtedly were farming. We can guess they were married about 1840, a year or so before Susan's birth in about 1841.

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<sup>3</sup> There were no marks in the “cannot read or write” columns for the daughters in the 1860 census, meaning they could read. In the 1870 census, none are listed as unable read nor write. However, this is contradicted in the 1880 census.

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### *The 1870 Census*

The 1870 Federal census of Kinston, North Carolina, adds some new information.

<b>1870 U. S. Census, Lenoir County, North Carolina</b>					
<b>Name</b>	<b>Age</b>	<b>Sex</b>	<b>Race</b>	<b>Occup.</b>	<b>Birthplace</b>
Rachel Gray	70	F	W	Keeping House	North Carolina
[Sarah Elizabeth] Betsey Gray	23	F	W	Harlot	North Carolina
Nancy Gray	20	F	W	Harlot	North Carolina
Willie Gray	1 [b. 1869]	F	W		North Carolina

#### **William**

William has died because Rachel is listed as a widow.

#### **Rachel**

The previous census listed Rachel as 46. Ten years later, she is shown as 70, not 56. This is surely an error. It is unlikely she would be having children when she was 50 or older. Rachel is keeping house.

#### **Susan**

Five to seven years older than her sisters, Susan is no longer living at home (she would have been 29 in 1870.) Left are her mother and two sisters (and her two children.)

#### **Betsey (Sarah Elizabeth) and Nancy**

What catches the eye is that Betsey, 23 and Nancy, 20, are shown as “harlots.” All we can say is that the reader should remember that this was only five years after the end of the War Between the States. The Southern economy was devastated and it was hard times. This was the bitter period of “Reconstruction,” the occupation of the South by the Union army. Perhaps the census taker used the occasion to slander the girls. Both list their last name as Gray.<sup>4</sup> That means that Betsey and Nancy are unmarried.

#### **Willie**

This census contains a new name—a granddaughter, Willie Gray, female, age 1 appears. Children took their unmarried mother’s name by law, so she was a daughter of one of the sisters. Which one? See the further discussion of Willie’s parents in her section of the next chapter.

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<sup>4</sup> Martial status was not shown in the 1870 census.

*The 1880 Census*

From the 1880 census,<sup>5</sup> shown in the table below, things clear up even more.

1880 U. S. Census, Lenoir County, North Carolina										
Name	Relation	Race	Sex	Age	[Known Age]	Married	Occup.	Birth	Father	Mother
Rachel [Ann Rouse] Gray	Self	W	F	88		Widowed	Farmer	NC	NC	NC
[Sarah] Elizabeth [Gray] Parsons	Daughter	W	F	35	31	Widowed	Farm Lab.	NC	NC	NC
Nancy S. [Susan] Parsons [known dau. of Elizabeth]	Granddau.	W	F	7	7	Single		NC	NC	NC
Rachel A. [Ann] Parsons [known dau. of Elizabeth]	[Left blank]	W	F	3	2	Single		NC	NC	NC
Willie S. [Susan] Parsons	Granddau.	W	F	11	11	Single		NC	NC	NC
John B. [Born] Parsons	Grandson.	W	M	6	6	Single		NC	NC	NC

A handwritten census record from 1880 for Rachel Gray and her family. The record is organized into columns for name, relation, race, sex, age, known age, married status, occupation, birthplace, father's birthplace, and mother's birthplace. The entries are as follows:

Name	Relation	Race	Sex	Age	Known Age	Married	Occup.	Birth	Father	Mother
Gray Rachel 77 9 88		W	F	88			Farmer	NC	NC	NC
Parsons Elizabeth 77 9 35	Daughter	W	F	35	31		Farm Laborer	NC	NC	NC
Nancy S 77 9 7	Grand Daughter	W	F	7	7			NC	NC	NC
Rachel A 77 9 3	Grand Daughter	W	F	3	2			NC	NC	NC
Willie S 77 9 11	Grand Daughter	W	F	11	11			NC	NC	NC
John B. 77 10 6	Grand Son	W	M	6	6			NC	NC	NC

**Rachel Gray**

Rachel is still head of the family. Her age is still misstated. If her age in the 1860 census is accurate, she would be about 76 in 1880.

**Nancy**

Nancy Gray has left home. She would have been about 30 in 1880. We never run across Nancy again.

**Elizabeth**

Rachel’s daughter Sarah Elizabeth “Betsey” Gray is the only child living with her mother now. In the intervening years, she has married, had two children and been widowed.

About 1871, we know Betsey married William Parson and had Rachel Ann (named after her grandmother,) and Nancy Susan, (named after her mother's two sisters.) Nancy and Rachel are the only children of Elizabeth Gray Parson. Her husband William Parson has died, between 1876 (the birth of Rachel) and 1880 (the census year.)

<sup>5</sup> Neither Rachel Gray, Elizabeth Parson, nor Willie could read or write although Willie was shown as attending school.

---

### **Willie S. and John B.**

Willie had already appeared in the 1870 census. Now a new grandson has appeared, John B. Listing her and John B.'s last name as Parsons in the census was a mistake. Since neither Susan nor Nancy were living there, perhaps the census taker just assumed they were Rachel's children. Which one, Susan or Nancy was their mother? Later we determine that she was Susan.

#### ***Summary of the Gray Information Found in the Censuses***

We have found the family of William C. Gray and his wife Rachel Ann Rouse.

- They had three daughters, Susan, Nancy and Sarah Elizabeth.
- We know nothing else about Nancy.
- There are two grandchildren, Willie S. and John B.
- Sarah Elizabeth had two children, Nancy S. and Rachel A.
- We know the approximate ages of each family member
- Rachel Gray's family was the only Parson family listed in the Lenoir County, North Carolina 1880 census.

## **Research and Documents Needed**

Here is a list of questions and research needed for this family:

1. Where are William C. Gray and his wife Rachel buried?
2. Is there a marriage record for Susan? If in Lenoir County, we have the difficult problem of burned courthouse records in 1878, after the birth of her two children. The best place to look would be in Craven County records.
3. When did Susan die?
4. Where is Susan buried?
5. Where is the family in the 1850 census?
6. Does any family member have a bible listing Nancy or Susan?
7. What happened to Nancy, the youngest daughter? We have no information on her.
8. Are there any bible records on this family? Or photographs of Willie, her sisters or her parents?

## **Summary**

Two sisters, Susan and Sarah Elizabeth left four children in the next generation:

- *Susan*: Willie Susan Gray (who married twice), John Born Gray,
- *Sarah Elizabeth*: Nancy Susan Parson (who married twice) and Rachel Ann Parson.

The chart on the next page shows the first three generations of this family. It incorporates information presented in later chapters.

In Chapter 2 we will look of Susan Gray's family.

In Chapter 3 we will look at the Sarah Elizabeth Gray Parson's family.

---

There is no chapter for their sister Nancy Gray because we have found nothing else about her. The burning of the records in Lenoir County and the absence of any reference to her in family tradition will make finding information about her rather difficult.

## *Descendants of William C. GRAY*

William C.  
GRAY  
b: 1804  
North Carolina  
d: Bet. 1860 - 1870

Rachel Ann  
ROUSE  
m: Abt. 1840  
b: 1792  
North Carolina

Susan  
GRAY  
b: 1841

DAIL?

Sarah Elizabeth  
GRAY  
b: February 27, 1849  
Lenoir County, North  
Carolina  
d: October 25, 1906

William  
PARSON  
m: Abt. 1871  
b:  
Lenoir County, North  
Carolina  
d: Bef. 1880

Nancy  
GRAY  
b: 1851  
North Carolina

William  
NEWMAN  
m: Abt. 1888

Willie Susan  
GRAY  
b: November 11, 1869  
Snow Hill, Greene  
County, North Carolina  
d: January 09, 1965  
Glenrock, Norfolk City,  
Virginia

John Born  
GRAY  
b: 1874

Zebuel Simpson  
DEAVER  
b: June 28, 1876  
d: November 16, 1919

James Daniel  
KEENER  
m: March 15, 1893  
Lenoir County, North  
Carolina

Nancy Susan  
PARSON  
b: November 28, 1872  
North Carolina  
d: November 11, 1931  
Bridgeton, Craven  
County, North Carolina

William Robert  
HOPEWELL  
m: March 03, 1901  
Greene County, North  
Carolina  
b: October 05, 1875  
at her residence on C  
street, Bridgeton, Craven  
County, North Carolina  
d: November 16, 1940  
Kecoughtan, Hampton  
(city), Virginia

Rachel Ann  
PARSON  
b: January 09, 1878  
Lenoir County, North  
Carolina  
d: June 26, 1915  
at her residence on C  
street, Bridgeton, Craven  
County, North Carolina

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# Chapter 2

## Susan Gray Family

### Introduction

Susan Gray was the first daughter of William C. Gray and his wife Rachel Ann Rouse. From the 1870 census, we know she was not married; we assume she had two children, Willie S. and John B. We don't know Susan's middle name, exactly her birth year, or where she died and is buried.

### Willie's Father

Numerous relatives remember that Susan's daughter Willie gave her name as "Willie Dail" (sometimes spelled Dale.) Willie's husband's obituary said his wife was Willie Susan Dale Gray.<sup>1</sup> Her death certificate says her parents were "John Dale and Susan." Research for a marriage record in North Carolina is underway.

Most likely, Willie's mother Susan married a Dail/Dale and Willie and her brother John took his name. We know nothing more about Susan.

### Susan's Child John Born Gray

Willie's brother John Born Gray lived in Greenville, North Carolina according to family tradition. We don't yet know much about John. We would know more if we found out what name Willie's brother used, Gray or Dail. Research continues on John Born Gray (or Dail). We need his death date, obituary and death certificate. It will give the maiden name of his mother.

### Susan's Child Willie Susan Gray

#### *Who Was Willie's Mother?*

First we address the issues of Willie's parents. Who were they? She is the daughter of either Nancy or Susan Gray. We can eliminate Sarah Elizabeth because we know her descendants and she had no child named Willie.

#### **Is Nancy Her Mother?**

The main argument for Willie to be the daughter of Nancy are that Willie would most likely live with her mother, weighting against the absent Susan as her mother. According to the 1880 census, both Nancy and Susan are gone, but the two children are still living with their grandmother. So maybe absence of the mother is not a convincing argument. If Susan was

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<sup>1</sup> Benjamin Franklin Gray obituary.



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Willie's mother she would have been 29 at her birth, not unreasonable, but the age of Nancy, at twenty would be more plausible.

### **Her Mother Is Susan**

However, there is more significant support for Willie as Susan's daughter. The obituary of Willie's second husband, Benjamin Franklin Gray said that his wife's name was "Willie Susan Dail Gray," leading you to think that Willie's maiden name was "Willie Susan Dail." From where did the Dail name come? The most logical explanation is that her mother married to a Dail and he adopted Willie, and Willie used his name as her surname. Another argument for Susan as her mother is that Willie's middle name was Susan. On the other hand, this could be interpreted as an argument for Nancy who would name her child after her sister Susan. The strongest argument is that Willie's obituary said she was the daughter of "John and Mrs. Susan Dail Gray, and her death certificate<sup>2</sup> that said her father was John Dale and that her mother's name was Susan." Her mother's first name, or the name used as her first name is Susan, not Nancy. We will assume Susan is Willie's mother in this book.

### **Willie's Obituary Confuses**

How can we interpret the names "John and Mrs. Susan Dail Gray?" We noted that her husband's obituary says that his wife was "Willie Sue Dale Gray. But, we know from Willie's death record that her maiden name was Dale. Adding the name Gray to her parents' name was likely an error.

### **Willie Susan Gray's Family**

Willie was born 11 November 1869 in Snow Hill,<sup>3</sup> Lenoir County, North Carolina and died 9 January 1965 in the Glenrock section of Norfolk, Virginia. She is buried in Riverside Memorial Cemetery, in Norfolk, Virginia.<sup>4</sup> Here we refer to her by her name given in the 1870 census, "Willie Gray."

At Willie's death, her obituary said she had "20 grandchildren, 46 great-grandchildren and one great-great grandchild." Willie's story begins with a 1900 census record. Combining the information in this record with the information from Willie's grandchildren, we get a pretty good picture of Willie's family.

**Mrs. Willie S. Gray**  
NORFOLK—Mrs. Willie Susan Gray, 95, of 128 Glenrock Road, widow of Benjamin F. Gray and daughter of John and Mrs. Susan Dail Gray, died in her home Saturday at 5:20 a.m. A native of Snow Hill, N.C., she lived in Norfolk 46 years and was a member of Glenrock Pentecostal Holiness Church. She is survived by two daughters, Mrs. Dora Clark of Ayden, N.C., and Mrs. Hubert H. Chambers of Norfolk; two sons, Robert L. Gray of Fort Lee, N.J., and Fred V. Newman of Chesapeake; 20 grandchildren, 46 great-grandchildren and a great-great-grandchild. The body will be taken from Hollomon-Brown Funeral Home to Glenrock Pentecostal Holiness Church for a funeral service Monday at 11 a.m. conducted by the Rev. W. L. Mayo Jr. and the Rev. R. D. Bray. Burial will be in Riverside Memorial Park. The body will be in the church one hour before the service.

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<sup>2</sup> Willie Susan Dale Gray death certificate.

<sup>3</sup> Willie Susan Gray obituary, *The Virginian-Pilot* newspaper, Jan. 1, 1965-Jan. 15, 1965, Roll # 285; January 10, 1965, Page A-13; record located at the Kim Memorial Library, Norfolk, Virginia.

<sup>4</sup> Interview, Christine Newman LeDoyen, (Mrs. Mathew W. LeDoyen,) 11 November 2003, 15 Shamrock Drive, Portsmouth, VA 23701. Mrs. LeDoyen is Willie Gray's granddaughter.

Here is the 1900 census record.<sup>5</sup>

1900 U. S. Census, Hookerton, Lenoir County, North Carolina										
Name	Relation	Race	Sex	Age	Born	Married	Occup	Birth	Father	Mother
Benjamin F. Gray	Self	W	M	26	April 1874	3 Years	Farmer	NC	NC	NC
Willie S. Gray	Wife	W	F	30	June 1869	3 Years		NC	NC	NC
Dora	Dau	W	F	11	June 1888	Single		NC	NC	NC
Fred R. Newman	S-son	W	F	7	March 1893	Single		NC	NC	NC

The family is living in Hookerton, near Snow Hill in Lenoir County, North Carolina. This is in the general area of the domain of the Gray and Parson families. (Willie's aunt Sarah Elizabeth Gray Parson is buried just a few miles away.) The listing for Dora as a daughter of Benjamin is a mistake, she was his step daughter. The census tells some other facts. Benjamin is renting his farm. Both parents can read and write. Dora can read but not write yet. Willie is the mother of two children, both living. All are born in North Carolina as were their parents. The birth dates of Benjamin and Willie are not the same as is on their tombstones.<sup>6</sup> Here we see that Willie was previously married to a Newman and had Fred and Dora. Here is the 1910 census record.<sup>7</sup>

1910 U. S. Census, Craven County, North Carolina										
Name	Relation	Race	Sex	Age	[Known Age]	Married	Occup	Birth	Father	Mother
Benjamin Gray	Self	W	M	33	35	12 Years	House carp.	NC	NC	NC
Willie S. Gray	Wife	W	F	40	40	12 Years		NC	NC	NC
Bessie L. Gray	Dau.	W	F	6		Single		NC	NC	NC
Robert L. Gray	Son	W	M	4		Single		NC	NC	NC
Dora M. Newman	S-dau	W	F	21		Single		NC	NC	NC
Fred R. Newman	S-son	W	F	17		Single	Saw filer	NC	NC	NC

The family has moved from Hookerton to Bridgeton in Craven County. Bridgeton is where Willie's cousins Nancy and Rachel are living with their families. Bessie and Robert have been born. Benjamin is now working as a carpenter. We also learn that Willie is the mother of six

<sup>5</sup> Benjamin Gray household, 1900 Federal Census, State of North Carolina, Greene County., Hookerton Twp., Date of Enumeration: 15 June 1900, Enumerator: James S. Smith, SD # 2, ED # 17, Sheet # 11-B, Microfilm # T-623, Roll # 1197; record located at the Kim Memorial Library, Norfolk, Virginia.

<sup>6</sup> Benjamin's birth year on his tombstone is 1875, not 1876. However his 1900 census record and his World War I draft registration both say 1874. Willie's 1900 census record says she was born June, 1869. Her tombstone says November 11. Willie S. Gray tombstone, Riverside Memorial Cemetery, Norfolk, Virginia. Benjamin F. Gray tombstone, Riverside Memorial Cemetery, Norfolk, Virginia.

<sup>7</sup> Benjamin F. Gray household, 1910 Federal Census, State of North Carolina, Craven County., Bridgeton Town, Date of Enumeration: 18 April 1910, Enumerator: James B. Paul, SD # 3, ED # 14, Sheet # 3-B; record located at the Virginia State Library, Richmond, Virginia.

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children, four of whom are living. We have no record of the deceased children. Fred's middle initial is mistakenly given as R. not V.

By 1920, the family had moved to Norfolk. We find them there in the 1920 census.<sup>8</sup>

1920 U. S. Census, Norfolk, Virginia									
Name	Relation	Race	Sex	Age	Married	Occup	Birth	Father	Mother
Benjamin Gray	Self	W	M	45	Married	House carp.	NC	NC	NC
Willie S. Gray	Wife	W	F	50	Married		NC	NC	NC
John Hartley	Son-in-law	W	F	23	Married	House carp.	NC	NC	NC
Bessie L. Gray	Dau.	W	M	16	Married	None	NC	NC	NC

In January 1920, they lived in the Washington Magisterial District. Bessie has gotten married young and she and her husband are living with her parents. John Hartley is from North Carolina and is a house carpenter like his father-in-law. John and Bessie were married in Norfolk. Benjamin and Willie have prospered. They now own their own home and have a mortgage.

Combining the census information and other family sources, we can now summarize Willie's family.

#### ***Willie's First Marriage to William Newman***

Willie first married William Newman 31 October 1886 in Lenoir County, North Carolina,<sup>9</sup> when she was ten days shy of her 17<sup>th</sup> birthday. By him she had Dora Mae Newman and Fred Van Newman.<sup>10 11</sup> We have not found any other information on William. Research continues. Family tradition says that one day William rode off on his horse to look for a job. He never came home again.<sup>12</sup>

By William Newman, Willie had two children, Dora Mae Newman and Fred Van Newman.

(The 1890 census was lost in a fire, so we have no census record corresponding to a year Willie was married to William.)

#### ***Willie's Daughter Dora Mae Newman***

Dora was born in 22 June 1888 in North Carolina and died 15 October 1958 in Greenville North Carolina. She was a resident of Snow Hill, North Carolina.<sup>13</sup> She married first R. D.

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<sup>8</sup> Benjamin Gray household, 1920 Federal Census, State of Virginia, Norfolk Co., Washington Magisterial District, Date of Enumeration: 14 January 1920, Enumerator: Hole Paxson, SD # 2, ED # 147, Sheet # 2-A, Page # 168; record located at the Virginia State Library, Richmond, Virginia.

<sup>9</sup> Lenoir County, North Carolina Marriage Register 1873-1924, FHL Film #550325. Licensed issues 29 Oct. 1886, married 31 Oct 1886, groom Wm. Newman of Lenoir Co. age 21, bride Willie S. Gray of Lenoir Co., age 18, married by C. A. Dudley J. P., witnesses Guliford Johnson and Wm. Stroud. [Willie was ten days shy of her 17th birthday.]

<sup>10</sup> Interview Gertrude Keener Holton, 16 March 1975. Typescript by Vera Farrow Hopewell Whitford.

<sup>11</sup> Eula Deaver says Elizabeth "Nellie" Grey had son Fred. Are Nellie and Willie the same person? [\[Ask Eula.\]](#)

<sup>12</sup> Interview, Christine Newman LeDoyen, 11 November 2003.

<sup>13</sup> Dora W. Clark Social Security Record. The initial W. is unexplained.

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Wilson, She married second a Clark. More research on Dora is needed. [emailed for obit 6 Dec. 2003.]

### ***Willie's Son Fred Van Newman***

Fred was born 9 March 1893 in Lenoir County, North Carolina and died 16 May 1966 in Chesapeake, Virginia. He was described in his World War I draft registration as a man of "medium height, medium build, blue eyes and light hair."<sup>14</sup> He married first Julia Fleetwood Bessant 25 May 1892 in South Mills, North Carolina. She was born 25 May 1896 in Marion, South Carolina and died 21 December 1928 in Goldsboro, North Carolina. They had five children.

Fred married second Annie Belle Ginn 7 September 1929, in Dillon, South Carolina. She was born 25 December 1911 and died 17 August?? in Chesapeake, Virginia. They had ten children. When he was seven, he lived near Hookerton, in Greene County, North Carolina. When he was seventeen, he lived in Bridgeton, Craven County, North Carolina. When he was fifty, he was in Marion, South Carolina. He finally settled in Great Bridge in Chesapeake, Virginia, then known as Norfolk County. Fred's obituary<sup>15</sup> read:

*Chesapeake--Fred Van Newman, 73, of 1119 Hall Drive, Great Bridge, died Monday at noon in his home after a long illness. A native of Lenoir, N.C., he lived here 10 years. He was the husband of Mrs. Annie Belle Ginn Newman and a son of William and Mrs. Willie S. Newman. He was retired from Richmond Cedar Works and was a member of Deep Creek Pentecostal Holiness Church. Besides his widow, surviving are six sons, Lloyd K. Newman and Eugene G. Newman of Norfolk, James R. Newman of Virginia Beach, Robert B. Newman, Charles O. Newman and E. Jack Newman of Chesapeake; seven daughters, Mrs. Helen Land of Norfolk, Mrs. Marjory Beacham of Franklin Springs, Ga., Mrs. Christine LeDoyen of Portsmouth, Mrs. Linda McCloud of Wauchula, Fla., Mrs. Judy Lancaster, Mrs. Betty Carlucci and Miss Marcia Newman of Chesapeake; a half brother, Robert L. Gray of East Orange, N. J.; two sisters, Mrs. Dora Dail of Greenville, N.C. and Mrs. Bessie Chambers of Norfolk; 28 grandchildren; and a great-grandchild.*

*A funeral service will be held Wednesday at 2 p.m. in Deep Creek Pentecostal Holiness Church by the Rev. C. G. Chappell. Burial will be in Riverside Memorial Park. The body will be taken from Twiford Colonial Chapel, Great Bridge to the church at 1 p.m. Wednesday.*

### ***Willie's Second Marriage to Benjamin Franklin Gray***

Willie next married Benjamin Franklin Gray 7 July 1897, in Lenoir County, North Carolina,<sup>16</sup> "a tall, slender man with blue eyes and dark hair."<sup>17</sup> "Frank" Gray was born 18 April 1874<sup>18</sup> in

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<sup>14</sup> Fred Van Newman, World War I draft registration, U. S. National Archives.

<sup>15</sup> Fred Van Newman obituary, *The Virginia Pilot* newspaper, Norfolk, Virginia., October 17, 1966, page 10, Microfilm # 3683; record located at the Kim Memorial Library, Norfolk, Virginia.

<sup>16</sup> Lenoir County, North Carolina Marriage Register 1873-1924, FHL Film #550325. License issued 3 July 1897, married 7 July 1897, groom B. F. Gray of Lenoir Co., age 23, bride Willie Newman of Lenoir Co. age 27, married by H. D. Harper M. G. in Kingston, witnesses Moses Mark and Matt Slaughter.

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North Carolina and died 14 August 1943 in Norfolk, Virginia. He is buried in Riverside Memorial Cemetery with his wife. Willie was five years older than her husband.

Willie's granddaughter Christine LeDoyen remembers being told the Benjamin was Willie's third cousin. He was not her first cousin, because none of the Gray sisters had a child with his name. In World War I, Frank Gray worked as a carpenter in Shop 80 in the Norfolk Naval Shipyard, in Portsmouth, Virginia.<sup>19</sup> Willie and Frank had two children, Elizabeth L. Gray and Robert Levi Gray.<sup>20</sup> His obituary read:

*Benjamin Franklin Gray, aged 69, husband of Willie Sue Dale Gray, died at the residence at Glen Rock yesterday afternoon at 5:40 o'clock. Besides his wife, he is survived by a daughter, Mrs. H. H. Chambers, of Glen Rock; a son, Robert L. Gray, of Brooklyn; a stepdaughter, Mrs. R. D. Wilson, of Ayden, N.C.; a stepson, F. V. Newman, of Marion, S.C. ; a brother, W. C. Gray, of Richlands, N.C., 20 grandchildren, a great-grandchild and several nieces and nephews. Mr. Gray was a native of North Carolina, and had been a resident here for the past 25 years. He was a member of the W. O. W, [Woodmen of the World], of Bridgeton, N.C., and the First Christian Church, Disciples, Askins, N.C. The body was taken to the Hollomon-Brown Funeral Home pending funeral arrangements.*<sup>21</sup>

The mention of a brother, W. C. Gray of Richlands, North Carolina is a clue for further research into Benjamin's family. Also, Charles T. Gray, born 10 August 1876, died 16 August 1942, is buried next to Benjamin. He could be a brother.

#### ***Willie's Daughter Elizabeth L. Gray***

Elizabeth was born about 1903 in Greene County, North Carolina. On 27 November 1918, at age 15, she married John L. Hartley in Norfolk, Virginia. He was 23 and was the son of M. and L. Hartley. He was in the merchant marines and was a carpenter. She married second, Hubert H. Chambers. By Hartley she had a daughter Elsie who married a Delaney. More research needed.

#### ***Willie's Son Robert Lee Gray***

He was born about 1906 in North Carolina. He married Lolitta S. Kellam, 19 June 1926, in Norfolk, Virginia.<sup>22</sup> They lived in Norfolk. He worked variously for the Norfolk and Western Railroad, as an accountant for Southgate Forwarding and Storage Company, and the Hampton Roads Line.<sup>23</sup> We know nothing else about him. Research continues.

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<sup>17</sup> B. F. Gray, World War I draft registration, U. S. National Archives.

<sup>18</sup> The census, his obituary, and his WWI draft record support 1874, not 1875 as his birth year.

<sup>19</sup> B. F. Gray, World War I draft registration, U. S. National Archives.

<sup>20</sup> Conversation with Gertrude Keener Holton, 1972. 1880 Lenoir County, North Carolina U.S. Census.

<sup>21</sup> *The Virginian Pilot* newspaper, August 1943, Roll # 1755, August 15, 1943, Part 2, page 9; record located at the Kim Memorial Library, Norfolk, Virginia

<sup>22</sup> Robert Lee Gray marriage record, Norfolk Courthouse, Norfolk, Virginia.

<sup>23</sup> Norfolk Virginia City Directories, Kim Memorial Library, Norfolk, Virginia.

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# Chapter 3

## Sarah Elizabeth Gray Family

### Introduction

Sarah Elizabeth Gray, the second daughter of William C. Gray and his wife Rachel Ann Rouse, was born 27 February 1849 in Lenoir County, North Carolina, died at age 57, 25 October, 1906 and is buried in the Rouse cemetery near Snow Hill, Green County, North Carolina.<sup>29</sup>

### Sarah's Marriage to William Parson

She married William Parson after 1870.<sup>30</sup> He was also born in Lenoir County.<sup>31</sup> We have no record of his birth or death, but he must have died after the birth of his youngest daughter, Rachel Ann, born 1877 and before the census of 1880 when his wife was listed as a widow. A rather thin family tradition is that he was a circuit rider preacher.<sup>32</sup>

### Was William a Confederate Soldier?

Sarah Elizabeth received a \$140 Civil War widow's pension in 1903.<sup>33</sup> In her pension application she said her husband William was a member of Company B, 27<sup>th</sup> North Carolina infantry, which was mustered in Lenoir County. However, there is no service record found for William Parsons. In the application, Sarah says they were married before 1865 (a requirement for the pension.) But, it is unlikely that seven or eight years would have passed before they had children. Furthermore, in the 1870 census, Sarah was shown with the surname of Gray. If she had married William Parson by 1870, Parson would have been her surname in the census. One possibility is that he was not a Confederate soldier and Elizabeth said he was to get the pension. Another possibility is that his service record has been misidentified.

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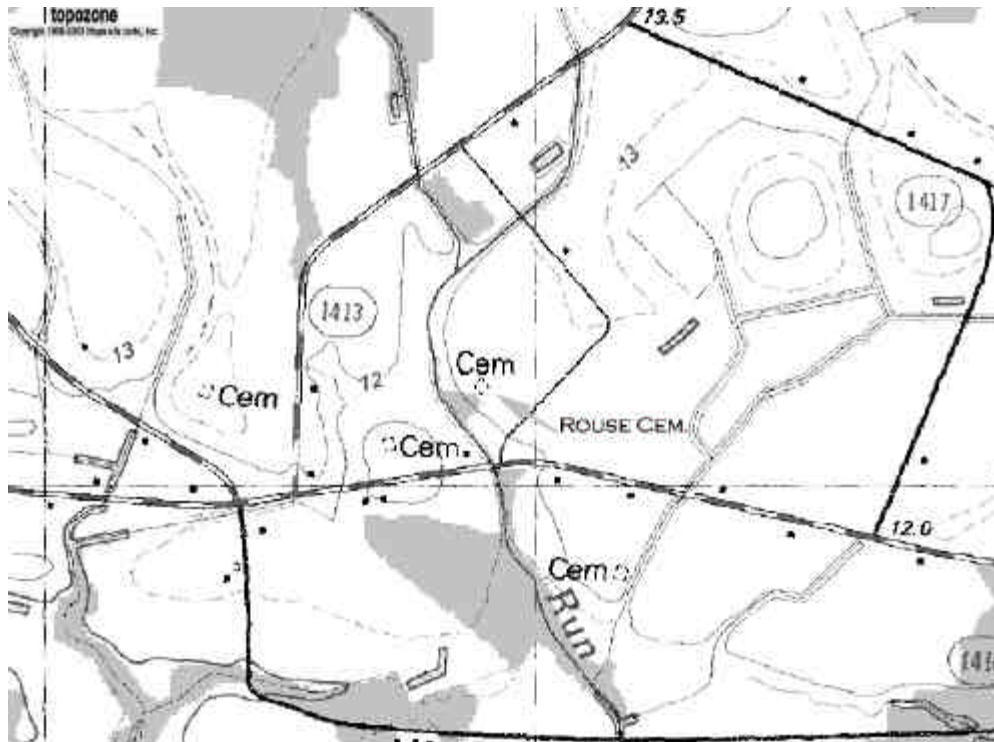
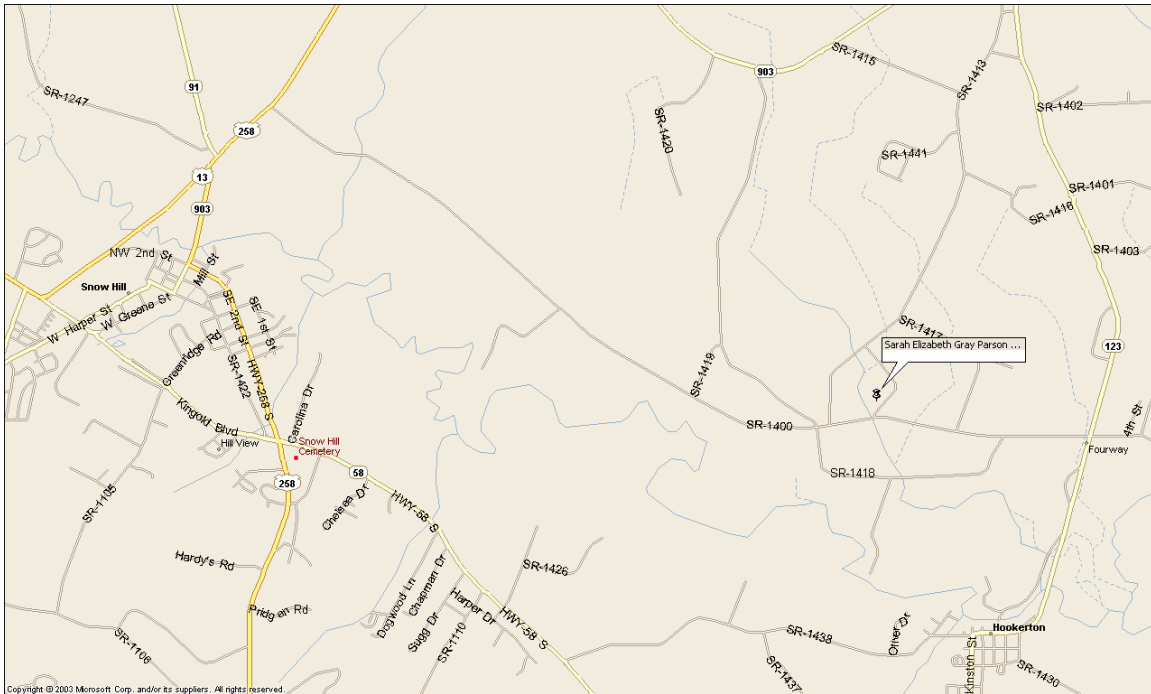
<sup>29</sup> Sarah E. Parson Tombstone, Rouse Cemetery, Hookerton, North Carolina. Tombstone reads: Sarah E. /wife of William Parsons /Feb. 27, 1849 /Oct. 25, 1906. Driving directions to the cemetery: From Snow Hill, North Carolina, follow highway 258 N. out of town to right on (state route 1400-Four Way Run (some maps, Creek Rd.) Continue until pass third paved road on left (state route 1413-Moore Rouse Rd.), proceed .25 miles and cross Beaver Dam Run. Cemetery is on the left at edge of field on small hill under a large oak tree. The cemetery is fenced. The site is about 1.1 miles North of Hookerton. Cemetery location first provided by Dock Rouse, 210 Oak Street, Snow Hill, North Carolina. The house to the immediate West of the cemetery, across the run, is owned by James Jones, 4011 Four Way Run (on some maps, Creek Rd.,) Kinston, North Carolina. Cemetery Decimal Latitude-Longitude: 35.4439. -77.6014.

<sup>30</sup> Because she is listed as Elizabeth Gray in the 1870 census, indicating she was unmarried. Yet, in her Civil War widow's pension application, she affirmed she was married to William Parson before 1865.

<sup>31</sup> Death certificate of her daughter Rachel notes that Rachel's mother and father were born in Lenoir Co. N.C. The information was given by Rachel's husband. Most records show name as Parson. In two newspaper accounts Rachel Elizabeth Gray Parson is listed as "Parson." Her daughter Elizabeth's tombstone says Parson. Her granddaughter Rachel Hopewell's death certificate names her father as William "Parson." Then entry for her mother's maiden name mistakenly uses Rachel's maiden name.

<sup>32</sup> Conversation with Mary Gertrude Keener Holton and Vera Hopewell Whitford, 16 March, 1975, New Bern, North Carolina.

The General Vicinity of Sarah Elizabeth Gray Parson's Grave, Near Hookerton



**Rouse Cemetery, near Hookerton, Greene County North Carolina**

33 The Daily Free Press Dec 15, 1903. <http://ftp.rootsweb.com/pub/usgenweb/nc/lenoir/military/1903pension.txt>. This file was contributed by Mary Simmons February 2001.

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William Parson and Sarah Elizabeth Gray had two girls; Nancy Susan and Rachel Ann.

## **Sarah's Daughter Nancy Susan**

Nancy Susan Parson was born 28 November 1872 and died 11 November 1931, in Bridgeton, North Carolina at age 59, of diabetes, and is buried in Bridgeton in the Bridgeton Cemetery. She was called Aunt "Sudie" by her nieces and nephews. She was obviously named for her mother's two sisters.

### *Nancy's First Marriage to James Daniel Keener*

Nancy Susan Parson married first, Lt. James Daniel Keener, 15 March, 1893 at the home of her mother in Lenoir County.<sup>34</sup> James is buried in Greenleaf Memorial Cemetery in New Bern, North Carolina. By this marriage she had Charles and Gertrude.

### *Nancy's Son Charles E. Keener*

Charles E. Keener, son of Lt. James Daniel Keener and Nancy Susan Parson, was born on 4 January 1890 in North Carolina, and died in January 1965, at age 75, and was buried in New Bern, Craven County, North Carolina (Greenleaf Memorial Cemetery). He lived in Bridgeton, North Carolina. In 1930, he worked as a sawyer at a lumber mill.<sup>35</sup> Since he was born three years before his parent's marriage, he may have been adopted by James or Nancy.

About 1911, Charles married Lillian Dunn. Lillian was born on 22 December 1892 in Olympia, Pamlico, North Carolina and died on 22 September 1979 in New Bern, Craven County, North Carolina, at age 86. In 1930 she was the proprietress of a café and lived Bridgeton, Craven, North Carolina. Her obituary read:

*Lillian D. Keener - N & O Sun. Sept 23, 1979. New Bern - Mrs. Lillian Dunn Keener, 86, died Saturday. Funeral 3 p.m. today, Cotten Funeral Home chapel. Burial, Greenleaf Memorial Park. Surviving; son, C. Lyle Keener of New Bern; daughter Melba Keener Everhart of Newbern; one grand child; one great-grandchild.*<sup>36</sup>

Charles and Lillian's children were Charles Lyle Keener and Melba Keener. Charles was born 17 June 1912 in North Carolina, and married about 1940 Mildred Vera Stahl, daughter of Mathew Stahl and Minnie Anderson who both were born in Sweden, in Long Beach California while he was in the Navy. Charles died 12 November 1987 in New Bern, North Carolina and is buried in Greenleaf Cemetery. Mildred was born 5 September 1908 in San Francisco, California. Later he was in the Marine Corps. They lived in Cherry Point, North Carolina for many years then

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<sup>34</sup> Kinston Free Press, Thursday 23 March 1893. MD: 15 March - home of bride's mother Mrs. Elizabeth Parson of Lenoir County - Sudie Parson to Lt. Jos. D. Keener. [Joseph an error. His first name was James.] <http://ftp.rootsweb.com/pub/usgenweb/nc/lenoir/military/1903pension.txt>. This file was contributed for use in the USGenWeb Archives by Russell King, email: RolandKing51@aol.com.

<sup>35</sup> Charles E. Keener US Census 1930, (Year: 1930; Census Place: Bridgeton, Craven, North Carolina; Roll: T626\_1683; Page: 2B; Enumeration District: 4; Image: 0649. Dwelling 34, family 41.

<sup>36</sup> N & O Sun, September 22, 1979. Clipping in scrapbook of Vera Hopewell Whitford.



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moved to New Bern, North Carolina. Their adopted son, Gordon Lyle Keener lives in 2003 in Raleigh. Mildred, age 95 in 2003, lives in New Bern.<sup>37</sup>

Melba Keener married Clyde Everhart. They had no children, but Melba had a daughter by a previous marriage. Melba and Clyde are buried in New Bern, in Greenleaf Cemetery. [Sent for her obit 6-2-1001, & husb. Clyde, 6-8-1999, on Dec. 6 2003]

#### ***Nancy's Daughter Mary Gertrude Keener***

Mary Gertrude Keener was born 15 July 1893 in Lenoir County, North Carolina, and moved to Greene County when a small girl. She married Isaac Frank Holton. Their children were Lynwood, Ethel Frances, Edwin and Mary Elizabeth. Gertrude died in February, 1985 while living in San Pedro, Los Angeles, California.<sup>38</sup>

#### ***Nancy's Second Marriage to Zebuel Simpson Deaver***

Nancy Parson married second, Zebuel Simpson Deaver who was born 28 June 1876 and died 16 November 1919 at the age of 43. Nancy and Zebuel Deaver are buried in Bridgeton, North Carolina.

#### ***Nancy's Son Paul***

Paul died at age 16.

#### ***Nancy's Son Clarence.***

Clarence, the oldest, born 1901, served in the Army in Hawaii, had no children and died in Arizona;

#### ***Nancy's Son Douglas***

Douglas had no children and settled in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

#### ***Nancy's Daughter Helen***

Helen married George Stanley and had one child, Michael (Mickey.) Helen died in Arlington, Virginia, 22 September 1973. Her obituary<sup>39</sup> read.

*Mrs. Helen Dever Stanley. Arlington, Virginia. A funeral service for Mrs. Helen Dever Stanly, 62, retired Postal Service Employee, who died Saturday, will be held at 2 pm Tuesday at Cotton Funeral Home in New Bern by the Revs. Ralph Summer and Bill Abernathy. Burial: Cedar Grove Cemetery. Surviving, a son, Michael Stanley of Dail City; a brother, Ernest Dever of Bridgeton, North Carolina; a sister, Mrs. Gertrude Holton of Ft. Lauderdale, FL and two grandchildren;*

#### ***Nancy's Son Rupert***

Rupert, who was born 8 August 1905, had two children and died July 1969 in Philadelphia Pennsylvania,<sup>40</sup>

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<sup>37</sup> Interview, Mildred Vera Stahl, (Mrs. Charles Lyle Keener), 23 November 2003, P.O. Box 65A, Route 5, New Bern, NC 28510.

<sup>38</sup> Social Security Index. Born 15 July 1892, died Feb 1985. SSN 245-09-4507, issued North Carolina.< <http://ssdi.rootsweb.com>>  
Hellen Keener Stanley obituary, 24 September 1973, *Sun-Journal*, New Bern, North Carolina.

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### ***Nancy's Son Ernest***

Ernest Leroy Deaver was born 12 May 1903<sup>41</sup> in Green County, North Carolina, died 12 August 1988 in New Bern, North Carolina and is buried in New Bern Cedar Grove Memorial Cemetery. On 18 December 1923, in New Bern, he married Eula Ipock who was born 17 April 1907 in Pamlico County, North Carolina. Her father was John Thomas Ipock and her mother was Gertrude Minnie Fulcher,<sup>42</sup> who are buried in Cedar Grove Cemetery in New Bern. In 2003, Eula lives near New Bern, aged 96. Ernest and Eula's children were Edwin Earl and Evelyn Louise:

### **Nancy's Daughter Rachel Ann**

Rachel Ann Parson was born 9 January 1878. She died 26 June 1915, in Bridgeton, North Carolina.<sup>43</sup> She is buried in the Webber/Whitley Cemetery in Grainger Station, North Carolina. She was the daughter of William Parson and Sarah Elizabeth Gray. She was named for her grandmother. Rachael Ann Rouse.

Her obituary in the New Bern paper<sup>44</sup> read:

*Mrs. Rachel A. Hopewell Dead. Bridgeton Lady Died Today - Body To Be Taken To Kinston. Mrs. Rachel A. Hopewell, wife of Mr. W. R. Hopewell died at her home on C. Street, Bridgeton, this morning at 2 o'clock. Mrs. Hopewell was in her 37th year. The funeral services will be held this afternoon at the Bridgeton Methodist church at 4 o'clock, conducted by Rev. W. A. Cade. The remains will be taken on the afternoon train to be interred tomorrow in a cemetery near Kinston.*

### ***Rachel's Marriage to William Robert Hopewell***

Rachel married William Robert Hopewell. He<sup>45</sup> was born 5 October 1875, probably in Lenoir County, North Carolina. He married Rachel Ann Parson 3 March 1901 in Green County.<sup>46</sup> He died 16 November 1940 in the Kecoughtan Veterans Hospital, Kecoughtan, Virginia. He is buried in the National Cemetery in New Bern, North Carolina.

He married second, Hannah May Phillips Pugh, 15 October 1915, in Norfolk, Virginia.<sup>47</sup>  
<sup>48</sup>She was the daughter of Benjamin F. Phillips, who was born 12 August 1827 and died 31

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<sup>40</sup> Social Security Index. SSN 131-01-4566.< <http://ssdi.rootsweb.com>>

<sup>41</sup> Social Security Index. SSN 240-05-8792.< <http://ssdi.rootsweb.com>>

<sup>42</sup> Interview with Eula Deaver, by author, 11, Oct. 1992, New Bern, North Carolina.

<sup>43</sup> Craven County Deaths, 1915, p. 957. She died of Toxemia: Intestinal putrefaction: autcepsis.. Contributory: Chronic lorton & constipation.

<sup>44</sup> *The Sun*, New Bern, North Carolina, Saturday Evening, Jun 26, 1915, p. 1. On microfilm, Craven County Library, New Bern, North Carolina.

<sup>45</sup> Several family bibles have his first name entered as Willie.

<sup>46</sup> Greene County, North Carolina, marriages. Notes that they were residents of Lenoir Co. Witnesses: A.C. Rouse [perhaps a relative of her grandmother, Rachel Ann Rouse Grey.] G.H.C. Taylor, & J.R. Tyndall. Minister, Thomas A. Tyndall.

<sup>47</sup> According to his daughter, Vera Farrow Hopewell, as told to the author.

<sup>48</sup> Marriage Certificate. "I Thos. M. Watson, Minister of the Christian Disciple Church, or religious order of that name, do certify that on the 15<sup>th</sup> day of October, 1915, at Norfolk, Virginia, under authority of a license issued by L. B. Roberts Dep. Clerk of Corp. Court of Norfolk City, State

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August 1893, and Elizabeth Phillips who was born 15 January 1835 and died 14 July 1890; and who were married 24 July 1853. Hannah was born 6 October 1877 and died 11 January 1936. She is buried in Cedar Grove Cemetery in New Bern, North Carolina. She had been previously married to Malthus F. Pugh.<sup>49</sup> She had four daughters by this first marriage.<sup>50 51</sup>

He married third, Ada Jackson. Ada Jackson was born 6 August 1887 and died 6 February 1974. She is buried with William in the New Bern National Cemetery.<sup>52</sup> She was the daughter of William Henry Jackson and Sue O' Marellry.<sup>53</sup> She was a nurse. She had been previously married to a Hudson and had two children by him. He was regarded as a snappy dresser and liked to wear all white outfits. He served as a policeman in Bridgeton, North Carolina. He served in the Spanish American War in the Coast Artillery Corp, Battery I, 1st Coast Artillery Reg. He served in Cuba.

His obituary in the New Bern paper<sup>54</sup> read:

*W.R. Hopewell Dies at Veteran's Hospital*

*W.R. Hopewell of Bridgeton died Saturday afternoon at Veterans hospital at Kecoughtan, Virginia. Funeral service was to be conducted Monday afternoon at 3 o'clock from the Bridgeton Christian Church by the Rev. John R. Smith with interment in the national cemetery. Pallbearers were I.H. Bright, R.C. Potter, Harvey Moore, Wallace Toler, H.L. Caton and Yens Hansen.*

### ***Rachel's Daughter Ruby Leigh Hopewell***

Called "Booble", by her children and grandchildren, she was born 25 February 1902, probably in Hookerton, North Carolina. She married Rower James Yates 15 December 1919 in New Bern, North Carolina. They were divorced 10 October 1932. She then married Dennis Lilley, but they shortly separated. She died 2 July 1963, aged 61, in New Bern, North Carolina from tetanus by a cut on her hand from a basket wire, and is buried in Bridgeton, North Carolina.<sup>55</sup>

Rower James Yates was born 23 May, 1893. He died 22 June 1975 in Tarboro, North Carolina and is buried in Oak City, North Carolina. They had three daughters.

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of Virginia, dated the 15<sup>th</sup> day of October 1951, I united William Robert Hopewell, husband, and Hannah May Pugh, his wife. Given under my hand this 15<sup>th</sup> day of October 1915. Thos. M Watson." Certificate in possession of Lynn Hopewell.

<sup>49</sup> Craven County, North Carolina, Minutes of Special Proceeding, Book J, p. 225, 3 March 1916. Hannah applies for support from her former husband's estate. Court awarded support for five persons of \$518.84.

<sup>50</sup> According to Eula Deaver, conversation with author, 11, Oct. 1992.

<sup>51</sup> Three of her daughter's names were Ruth, Helen and Mabel (who married a Hall,) according to Virginia Rivenbark, conversation with the author, November 16, 1992.

<sup>52</sup> Ada J. Hopewell tombstone, New Bern National Cemetery, Section 15, New Bern, North Carolina.

<sup>53</sup> Craven County, North Carolina, deaths, 1974, p. 268.

<sup>54</sup> *The Sun-Journal*, New Bern, North Carolina., November 19, 1940, p. 5. On microfilm, Craven County Library, New Bern, North Carolina

<sup>55</sup> She is buried in the Bridgeton Cemetery. Her last name on her tombstone is Yates.

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***Rachel's Son Arthur Robert Hopewell***

He was born 1 October 1903. He married first, Mildred Mabel \_\_\_\_\_ while in the Army in Panama. On 6 June, 1941, he advertised in a Jones County paper that he was seeking a divorce.<sup>56</sup> (to stay out of prison. Ask Betty Stilley for details.) He married second, 12 October 1941, Julia Margaret Parker, in Dillon, South Carolina. He died 3 July 1974 in New Bern and is buried in Kitt Swamp Christian Church Cemetery, Askins, Craven County, North Carolina.

Julia Margaret Parker was born 5 May 1908 and died February 24, 1983. She is buried next to her husband Arthur. She was the daughter of Sylvester "Wess" Gray Parker and Elizabeth Ballard. She married first Levy Clyde Stilley by whom she had four children. She had three children by Arthur Hopewell

***Rachel's Son Guy Herman Hopewell***

He was born 10 May 1905. He married Elizabeth Wadsworth Dawson, 28 August 1929 in Suffolk, Virginia. He died 15 May 1972 in New Bern, North Carolina and is buried in Greenleaf Memorial Park.

Elizabeth Wadsworth Dawson was born 28 October 1911 in Craven County, North Carolina. She died 7 September 1991 in New Bern, North Carolina. She is buried next to her husband. She was the daughter of Herbert Harrison Dawson and Patricia Shepherd Smith. They had five children.

***Rachel's Son Ray Patrick Hopewell***

He died young, 22 September 1910 [year incorrect]. He is buried in Cedar Grove Cemetery, in New Bern, North Carolina.

***Rachel's Son Harry Lynn Hopewell***

He was born 10 Oct. 1910 in Bridgeton, North Carolina, in the Scales house, later the Methodist parsonage. He married Charlotte Ross Mathews 30 January 1937 in Portsmouth, Virginia. He died 26 November 1988, aged 78, in Portsmouth and is buried in Olive Branch Cemetery in City Park.

Charlotte Ross Mathews was born 6 November 1914 in Portsmouth, Virginia. She is the daughter of Mathew Stewart Mathews and Jessie Ross Pedigo. In 2003 she lives in Newport News, Virginia in the Chesapeake Retirement Home.

Harry Hopewell's family moved around quite a bit when he was a child, as his father tenant farmed. As a teenager he drove a school bus and lived in Bridgeton. During the depression he moved to Portsmouth under the tutelage of his Uncle Clyde Hopewell. He operated a canteen in the Norfolk Naval Shipyard in Portsmouth all during the war. He then operated several grocery stores. In 1947 he founded, with his brother-in-law, Stewart Mathews, Jr., The Circle restaurant, which became a social Mecca for several generations of Portsmouth families. In 1957 he sold his interest in the Circle and entered the residential building business. He later worked for the Portsmouth Redevelopment & Housing Authority and supervised the rebuilding of "Old Town." He was an early member of the Polygon Club and a founding member of Elizabeth Manor

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<sup>56</sup> According to a receipt from Grady Publishing Co., in the possession of his daughter Betty Stowe.

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Country Club. He was an avid golfer and built his home backing on the 18th tee of the club. In retirement he would sit on his back porch and talk with the golfers as they passed by. He was known by all as “Pappy,” a stubborn, genial individualist.

Cora Moore Sanderson remembered Harry's mother cutting off his long hair as a young child. Harry and Charlotte had four children, including the author.

***Rachel's Son Fred Wright Hopewell***

He died at the age of about one year, 14 August 1914, of typhoid fever. He is buried in Cedar Grove Cemetery, in New Bern, North Carolina.

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## About the Author

Lynn Hopewell is a native of Portsmouth, Virginia and grew up in the Waterview neighborhood.

He is the son of Harry Lynn Hopewell and Charlotte Ross Mathews. His grandmother was Rachel Ann Parson Hopewell, of Bridgeton, North Carolina.

He graduated from Woodrow Wilson High School in 1955.

Lynn received his undergraduate degrees from the College of William and Mary in Norfolk, and Virginia Tech. He has an MBA from Harvard Business School.

He now resides near Warrenton, Virginia where he has been Senior Warden of St. James Episcopal Church, a member of the Town of Warrenton Architectural Review Board, and Chairman of the Board of Trustees of Wakefield School. He chaired the Fauquier County Historic Preservation Committee. He is a retired personal financial and investment advisor.

All his life, he regularly visited relatives in North Carolina with his father, who loved to visit his family and old haunts. He has been working on his family histories for over thirty years. He is always on the lookout for new cousins who can help filling in the details of his families' stories.

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# Appendix 1

## Descendants of William C. Gray and Rachel Ann Rouse

**William C. GRAY**, b. 1804 at NC, d. between 1860 and 1870

+**Rachel Ann ROUSE**, b. 1792 at NC, m. circa 1840

+-- **Nancy GRAY**, b. 1848

+-- **Susan GRAY**, b. 1841 at NC

+unknown spouse

+-- **Willie Susan GRAY**, b. 11 Nov 1869 at NC, d. 09 Jan 1965 at Glenrock, Norfolk City, VA

+**William NEWMAN**, m. circa 1888

+-- **Dora Mae NEWMAN**, b. 1889 at NC, d. at Greenville, NC

| +(--?) **DAIL**, m. before 1966

+-- **Fred Van NEWMAN**, b. 09 Mar 1893 at NC, d. 16 May 1966 at Chesapeake, VA

+**Julia Fleetwood BESSANT**, b. 25 May 1896 at Marion, SC, m. 25 May 1892 at South Mills, NC, d. 21 Dec.

1928 at Goldsboro, NC

+-- **Helen Elizabeth NEWMAN**, d. 13 Oct at Chesapeake, VA

| +**Grover LAND**

+-- **Fred Van NEWMAN Jr.**

+-- **Lloyd Kelland NEWMAN**

| +**Nell BATEMAN**, m. at South Mills, NC

| +**Giesla (--?)**

+-- **Majorie Fleetwood NEWMAN**, b. at Horry County, SC, d. 15 Jun 2001 at Franklin Springs, Franklin, GA

| +**Rev. Arthur Douglas BEACHAM Sr**, d. before 15 Jun 2001

| +-- **Catherine BEACHAM**

| +-- **Dr. Arthur Douglas BEACHAM Jr.**

| +-- **Van BEACHAM**

+-- **Christine Bessant NEWMAN**, b. 19 Aug 1921 at Allen, SC

| +**Mathew Waverly LEDOYEN**, b. 27 May 1916 at Portsmouth, VA, m. 25 Oct 1947 at Norfolk, VA

+**Annie Belle GINN**, b. 25 Dec 1911, m. 07 Sep 1929 at South Mills, NC, d. 17 Aug at Chesapeake, VA

+-- **Julia Van NEWMAN**

| +**Richard BUTTON**

+-- **Betty NEWMAN**

| +**Peter Placido CARLUCCI**

+-- **Linda NEWMAN**

| +**John Oscar McCLOUD**

+-- **Marcia NEWMAN**

| +**John MARTIN**

+-- **Earl Jackson NEWMAN**

+-- **James Royal NEWMAN**

+-- **Eugene Gray NEWMAN**

+-- **Charles Osborne NEWMAN**

+-- **Robert Benjamin NEWMAN**

+-- **Miller Harrell NEWMAN**

+**Benjamin Franklin GRAY**, b. 18 April 1875, in NC, m. circa 1903, d. 14 August 1943, in Norfolk, VA

+-- **Elizabeth L. GRAY**, b. circa 1904 at NC

| +**John HARTLEY**, m. 27 Nov 1918 at Norfolk, VA

+-- **Elsie HARTLEY**

| +(--?) **DELANEY**

| +(--?) **CHAMBERS**, m. before 1966

+-- **Robert Levi GRAY**, b. 1906 at NC, d. at Norfolk, VA

|     + -- John Born GRAY, b. 1874  
 |     + (--?--) DAIL  
 + -- Sarah Elizabeth GRAY, b. 27 Feb 1849 at Lenoir County, NC, d. 25 Oct 1906  
    + unknown spouse  
    + William PARSON, b. at Lenoir County, NC, m. circa 1871, d. before 1880  
    + -- Nancy Susan PARSON, b. 28 Nov 1872 at NC, d. 11 Nov 1931 at Bridgeton, Craven, NC  
       + unknown spouse  
       + Zebuel Simpson DEEVER, b. 28 Jun 1876, d. 16 Nov 1919  
       + -- Clarence DEEVER, b. 1901  
       |     + Lillian (--?--)  
       + -- Ernest Leroy DEEVER, b. 12 May 1903 at Greene County, NC, d. 12 Aug 1988 at New Bern, Craven, NC  
       + Eula IPOCK, b. 17 Apr 1907 at Olympia, Pamlico County, NC, m. 18 Dec 1923 at New Bern, Craven, NC  
       + -- Edwin Earl DEEVER, b. 19 Dec 1924 at Bridgeton, NC, d. 24 Feb 1993 at Memphis, Shelby, TN  
       |     + Emma Jean BLALOCK  
       |     + -- Douglas DEEVER  
       |     + -- Timothy DEEVER  
       |     + unknown spouse  
       |     + -- Bobby Jean DEEVER  
       + -- Evelyn Louise DEEVER, b. 04 Dec 1927 at Bridgeton, Craven, NC  
       + Ronald Arthur KEMP, b. at Plattsburgh, Clinton, NY  
       + -- Ronald Arthur KEMP Jr.  
       + -- Robert KEMP  
       + -- Teresa KEMP  
       |     + Phillip LEWIS  
       + -- Rupert L. DEEVER, b. 08 Aug 1905, d. Jul 1969  
       |     + unknown spouse  
       |     + -- (--?--) DEEVER  
       |     + -- (--?--) DEEVER  
       + -- Douglas DEEVER, b. 1909  
       |     + unknown spouse  
       + -- Helen DEEVER, b. 1912, d. 22 Sep 1973 at Arlington, VA  
       |     + George STANLEY  
       |     + -- Michael STANLEY  
       + -- Paul DEEVER, b. after 1913, d. at New Bern, Craven County, NC  
       + unknown spouse  
       + Lt. James Daniel KEENER, m. 15 Mar 1893 at Lenoir County, NC  
       + -- Charles E. KEENER, b. 04 Jan 1890 at NC, d. Jan 1965  
       |     + Lillian DUNN, b. 22 Dec 1892 at Olympia, Pamlico, NC, d. 22 Sep 1979 at New Bern, Craven County, NC  
       |     + -- Charles Lyle KEENER, b. 17 Jun 1912 at NC, d. 12 Nov 1987 at New Bern, Craven County, NC  
       |     |     + Mildred Vera Stahl, m. 5 Sept 1908, San Francisco, CA  
       |     + -- Melba KEENER, b. 1915 at NC  
       |     + Clyde EVERHART  
       + -- Mary Gertrude KEENER, b. 15 Jul 1893 at Lenoir County, NC, d. 15 Feb 1985 at San Pedro, Los Angeles, CA  
       + Isaac Frank HOLTON  
       + -- Edwin HOLTON  
       + -- Lynwood E. HOLTON, b. 07 Apr 1915, d. 23 Jan 1999 at Raleigh, Wake County, NC  
       |     + unknown spouse  
       + -- Mary Elizabeth HOLTON, b. 1917 at NC, d. at New Bern, Craven County, NC  
       + -- Ethel Frances HOLTON, b. 1921 at NC, d. at New Bern, Craven County, NC  
       |     + Doyle (--?--)  
 + -- Rachel Ann PARSON, b. 09 Jan 1878 at Lenoir County, NC, d. 26 Jun 1915 at Bridgeton, Craven County, NC  
    + William Robert HOPEWELL, b. 05 Oct 1875 at NC, m. 03 Mar 1901, Greene County, NC, d. 16 Nov 1940 Hampton, VA  
       + -- Ray Patrick HOPEWELL  
       + -- Fred Wright HOPEWELL



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+ -- **Ruby Leigh HOPEWELL**, b. 25 Feb 1902 at Hookerton, Greene County, NC, d. 02 Jul 1963 at New Bern, NC  
 +Dennis Lilley (--?--)  
 +Rower James Yates (--?--), b. 23 May 1893, m. 15 Dec 1919 at New Bern, NC, d. 22 Jun 1975 at Tarboro, NC  
 + -- **Melba Kathleen YATES**  
 + -- **Dorothy Rachel YATES**  
 + -- **Virginia Leigh YATES**

+ -- **Arthur Robert HOPEWELL**, b. 01 Oct 1903, d. 03 Jul 1974 at New Bern, Craven County, NC  
 +Mildred Mable ? (--?--), m. 12 Oct 1941  
 + -- **Elizabeth Rachel HOPEWELL**  
 + -- **Emmie Lou HOPEWELL**  
 +Julia Margaret PARKER, b. 05 May 1908, m. 12 Oct 1941 at Dillon, Dillon County, SC, d. 24 Feb 1983

+ -- **Guy Herman HOPEWELL**, b. 10 May 1905, d. 15 May 1972 at New Bern, Craven County, NC  
 +Elizabeth Wadsworth DAWSON, b. 28 Oct 1911 at Craven County, NC, m. 28 Aug 1929 at Suffolk, d. 07 Sep  
 1991 at New Bern, NC

+ -- **Rachel Pat HOPEWELL**  
 + -- **Guy Herman HOPEWELL Jr.**  
 + -- **Viva Maxine HOPEWELL**  
 + -- **Elizabeth Jean HOPEWELL**  
 + -- **Georg Robert HOPEWELL**, b. 28 Jun 1940 at New Bern, Craven County, NC  
 +Janeth HILL

+ -- **Harry Lynn HOPEWELL**, b. 10 Oct 1910 at Bridgeton, Craven, NC, d. 26 Nov 1988 at Portsmouth, VA  
 +Charlotte Ross MATHEWS, b. 06 Nov 1914, Portsmouth, VA, m. 30 Jan 1937 at, Portsmouth, VA  
 + -- **Harry Lynn Hopewell JR**, b. 19 Dec 1937 at Portsmouth, VA  
 +Carolyn Jean LAWRENCE, b. 05 Jul 1939 at Portsmouth, VA, m. 19 Oct 1955, Norfolk County, VA  
 + -- **Harry Lynn HOPEWELL III**, b. 20 May 1956 at Kings Daughters Hospital, Portsmouth, VA  
 + -- **Frank Mathew HOPEWELL**, b. 19 Dec 1958 at Kings Daughters Hospital, Portsmouth, VA  
 +Leslie Ann LINDSAY, b. 02 Sep 1944, San Francisco, CA, m. 09 Oct 1976 at Oakton, VA  
 + -- **Stewart Lindsay HOPEWELL**, b. 28 Sep 1979 at Falls Church, Fairfax, VA  
 + -- **Robert Stewart HOPEWELL**, b. 08 Nov 1941 at Kings Daughters Hospital, Portsmouth, VA  
 + -- **Lou Ross HOPEWELL**, b. 05 Sep 1945 at Portsmouth, Portsmouth (city), VA  
 + -- **Charlotte Nina HOPEWELL**, b. 10 Nov 1947 at Kings Daughters Hospital, Portsmouth, VA

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# Family Group Record

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<b>Husband</b>			
Born	date:	place:	
Died	date:	place:	
Buried	date:	place:	
Cause of Dth			
Occupation			
Father		Mother	
Married	date:	place:	
<b>Wife</b>			
Born	date:	place:	
Died	date:	place:	
Buried	date:	place:	
Cause of Dth			
Occupation			
Father		Mother	
<b>Children</b>			
<b>1</b>	gender		
Born	date:	place:	
Died	date:	place:	
Buried	date:	place:	
Cause of Dth			
Spouse	name:	married:	
Spouse	name:	married:	
<b>2</b>	gender		
Born	date:	place:	
Died	date:	place:	
Buried	date:	place:	
Cause of Dth			
Spouse	name:	married:	
Spouse	name:	married:	
<b>3</b>	gender		
Born	date:	place:	
Died	date:	place:	
Buried	date:	place:	
Cause of Dth			
Spouse	name:	married:	
Spouse	name:	married:	
<b>4</b>	gender		
Born	date:	place:	
Died	date:	place:	
Buried	date:	place:	
Cause of Dth			
Spouse	name:	married:	
Spouse	name:	married:	