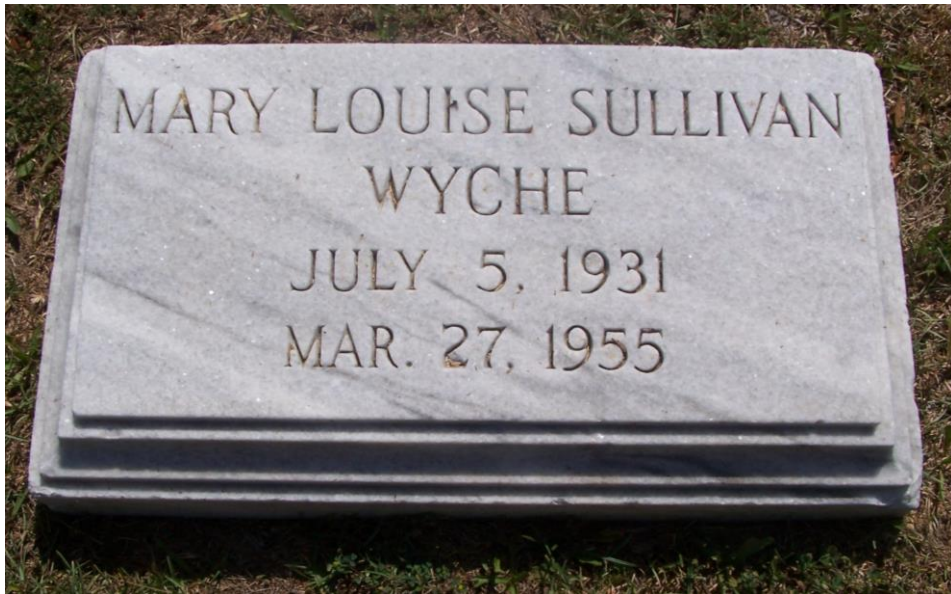


# The Madison County, Florida Genealogical News

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Fellow Society Members,

We are excited as we face this upcoming summer of genealogical research. We challenge you to make it a very fruitful search for you as well! We need your help to allow us to continue to grow and therefore look forward to receiving information about your searches.

Have you thought about giving someone a birthday gift/Christmas gift of a membership? If they are involved in genealogy they will love it and if not, well now might be the time to get them involved. Remember that without your memberships, our society would be required to close down the library and possibly the society itself. Let’s NOT let that happen.

Many of you have not only paid your 2015 dues, but paid the extra \$10.00 (for a total of \$35.00) to continue to receive a printed copy of the newsletters. We are very pleased to be able to continue to support you and look forward to doing so for a long time in the future. However, to make the newsletter better for you and your needs, please let us know what you would like to see in it.

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Effective 15 April our new username and password on our Members only page will be:

**Username: Richard Password: Mays**

For access to our [www.madisongenealogy.tribalpages.com](http://www.madisongenealogy.tribalpages.com) use SanPedro.

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### Upcoming 2015 Genealogy Conferences

**2015 New England Regional Genealogical Consortium, Inc.** invites you to join them at their thirteenth genealogical conference, 15-19 Apr 2015 at the Rhode Island Convention Center in Providence, Rhode Island. The Convention Center offers outstanding facilities, amenities, and service in an easy-to-reach location. It is located in the heart of historic Providence—the only US city to be named “one of the Top Ten Up-and-Coming Travel Destinations in the World. The conference theme, “Navigating the Past: Sailing into the Future” has a strong nautical connection. With over 60 lectures to choose from in two and ½ days and levels ranging from beginner to expert, NERGC will help attendees “navigate.”

**2015 National Genealogical Society** Family History Conference, 13-16 May 2015 in St. Charles, Missouri. Hosted by the St. Louis Genealogical Society. Registration begins 1 Dec 2014. As pioneers migrated across the country along the waterways, trails, and eventually railroads in search of new homes, the Midwest became the crossroads of the nation. Some settlers arrived from their first American homes in the East while others traveled directly from abroad. Some migrated via east coast ports while others sailed to New Orleans then made their way up the Mississippi River to reach points north and west. All traveled with their families, their hopes and dreams, customs, occupations, and religious beliefs. Regardless of their final destinations, those early travelers left many footprints along the way as they crossed America.

**Federation of Genealogical Societies, 28 August – 4 September, 2015**—Alaska Cruise. FGS Alaska Cruise goers will set sail from Seattle, Washington on August 28, 2015 for 7 nights aboard Royal Caribbean’s luxurious Jewel of the Seas in FGS’ maiden voyage of genealogy cruising. The ports fo call will include Alaskan cities Juneau and Skagway and Victoria, British Columbia, and cruise goers will experience breathtaking views while cruising the Alaska Inside Passage and Tracy Arm Fjord. Plus, no other genealogy cruise in 2015 will bring you Elizabeth Shown Mills, Judy Russell, David Rencher and D. Joshua Taylor. [WWW.FGS.Org](http://WWW.FGS.Org)

**Federation of Genealogical Societies, 17-29 September, 2015, Syracuse, New York.** Held in partnership with the New York State Family History Conference, FGS will kick off this regional conference with a Focus on Societies Day—a full day packed with sessions for society leaders, society members, and those wanting to be more involved in societies. [WWW.FGS.Org](http://WWW.FGS.Org)

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### GotGenealogy.com’s Golden Rules of Genealogy

1. **“Speling Dusen’t Cownt.”** Back in the days folks couldn’t spell and many could barely write, so how a name sounds is more important than how it’s spelled. Use wild cards or Soundex searches to help find variant spellings of names.
2. **Assume Nothing.** Check all your facts, don’t assume that any particular document is right or wrong, and always try to find other independent sources to collaborate your facts as much as

possible. Verify, Verify, Verify. For instance, don't assume that: your ancestors were married, census information is accurate, vital (or other) records were correct, your ancestor's life events were recorded, or ancestors had the same name as their enslaver.

3. **Use Discretion.** Never lie in your genealogy reports, but use discretion when reporting family information, especially when it involves living relatives.

4. **Always document your sources, no matter how much they contradict one another.** Over time, you will compile more data and those once seemingly contradictory pieces of evidence may prove to be just the pieces of the puzzle you need to prove or disprove your theory. Be consistent as you cite your sources. There are standard citation formats, but even if you just make up your own format for listing your sources, be consistent with it. You want your descendants to be able to retrace your steps, so you should always cite your sources.

5. **Most Dates Are Approximate.** It's okay to state that someone was born "abt. 1845" or died "May 1915" if you don't have an exact date or where various documents have different dates. Which date is "correct?" They all are.

6. **If Unsure, Say So.** Future researchers will thank you for being honest if you simply say that you cannot prove a specific fact, yet you "suspect" such and such is true. Don't fudge the facts. Ever.

7. **You Cannot Do it All Online.** Yes, we love doing research online and there's nothing better than using the computer to find new sources, view digital images of original documents and even connect with relatives. For genealogists, the internet will never replace the wonderful work of libraries, county courthouses, archives, and historical societies. Do as much as you can online, then turn off your computer and hit the bricks.

8. **Just Because It's Online Doesn't Mean Its True.** The internet is a wonderful thing but it's filled with oodles of bad information. Don't make the mistake of believing anything you find online at face value. Verify against other sources, even if you paid for the information you found online. Consult the original source whenever possible.

9. **Pass Along Your Research.** No matter how many decades you spend researching your family, your research will never be done. Plan on passing along your research to the next generation's researchers. Leave excellent notes, cite all your sources, explain your shorthand....in essence, leave your research the way you'd liked to have found it.

10. **Don't Die With Your Stories Still In You.** Giving credit to Dr. Wayne Dyer for his "Don't die with your music still in you," we want to remind you to tell the stories as completely and as accurately as possible. Genealogy isn't about just doing research. Genealogy is about telling the stories and ensuring that your ancestor's legacies live on for generations to come. Without the stories, the research won't do anyone much good. The legacy of your ancestors rests in your capable hands. Doing the research is fine, but always remember that you have been chosen to tell their stories.

11. **DNA Is Not A Trump Card.** DNA is just one of many possible sources of information you can use to verify or deny a relationship. Human error occurs when the results are transcribed, thereby providing false information. DNA results should always be used in concert with other sources.

12. **Anything You Post Online Will Be “Borrowed.”** You need to accept the fact that any family information you post online will be “borrowed” or outright stolen, and you will probably not get credit for all your hard work. This is the nature of the beast--the internet. Get over it.

*[GotGenealogy.com has given permission to use/publish these Golden Rules.]*

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**Below is a copy of a speech given in Madison, Florida on:**

**Confederate Memorial Day, April 26, 2001**

**by the Honorable Judge John W. Peach.**

"Today, in this age of political correctness, there seems to be attacks upon anything remotely representing the Confederacy. There are many without and within the South who don't stop at debating the justification, the right and the wrong, the good and the evil of the era. They want to wipe away our history and our heritage.

We Southerners are not a subversive, evil people. That Southerners fervently fought for southern independence does not diminish their rightful place as patriotic citizens of this United States of America. Southerners have joined the fight and given their lives for their country from the Revolutionary War to the present. I have read that the greatest per capita number of citizens taking part in the military conflicts of the United States have been from the South. We are proud of our place as patriots of the United States, and we likewise have the right to be proud of our South.

This feeling Southerners have had for the South is somewhat of a mystique. It is subject to varied descriptions, yet it defies description. It is a state of mind. There are courses taught in colleges on the mind of the South. I took such a course 40 years ago, and I'm sure such are still being taught - there are books written and debates had on the subject - there is no capsule answer - We may not be able to define it, but I know we love it.

For this Confederate Memorial Day Service, I will not try to validate or justify the great Civil War, neither its causes nor its consequences. We should leave to other debate the intrinsic worth of that struggle as it bears upon the principles of constitutional liberty and its effect on the American people. However, I do want to bring to you one imperative duty which we owe to our forefathers. That is the preservation in perpetual remembrance the lives of those who died in the Confederate cause.

This is especially our duty, because in the South back then, a choice between the parties and principles at issue was scarcely possible. The feeling of state loyalty throughout the South of that era was almost fanatic intensity. When the Southern States succession from the Federal Government was declared in 1860 and 1861, it is almost impossible for anyone then and now not familiar with the habits and thoughts of the South to understand how completely the question of duty was settled for Southern men.

Practical men who had no faith in the result of secession, old and eminent men who had long served under the national flag, all may have had their doubts and misgivings, but there was no hesitation among them as to what they were to do. Especially that was true of that great body of men just coming into manhood - to them this call of their State was an imperative summons.

The fathers and mothers who had reared them, the society whose traditions defined them, the friends with whom they planned their future, the very land they loved - all of this was a part of their very being.

Never in the history of the world has there been a more noble response to a more thoroughly recognized duty than this by the youth and manhood of the South.

There was not a community in the South from which the young men did not take up the heavy burden of their responsibility. As glorious as was that response, the most admirable response was yet to come. When the glory had faded and there were deep sufferings at home and on the front, the Southern people continued their struggle with honor and determination. To the memory of these people we to this day owe a special remembrance.

Of the great men, the leaders, the generals of that war, history has and will continue to judge and remember them. But for that great body of youth, the men in gray that answered their call to duty that defended their homeland that gave the supreme sacrifice, these must not be forgotten. They honored their country - and we should continue to honor them.

In a shaded old cemetery in Middle Georgia, where many of my wife's people are buried, there is an inscription on one of the graves that I've long admired - in a way it sums up the emotion to which I've referred this morning. It reads: Oh heavens heavens but we'll be missing the sunlight, the palms and the South."

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### **PIONEERS OF MADISON COUNTY**

Your Madison County Genealogy was honored with a request from the Greene Publishing, Inc. to submit sketches of Madison County Pioneers. Many of the residents of Madison County have deep family roots here; and the rest of us may be interested in learning about the earliest settlers who struck out into an unknown territory to forge a new life for themselves and their descendants.

Genealogy Society members are asked to submit sketches of their pioneer ancestors' biographies. Biographies also will be taken from the Madison Genealogy Society research and excerpts from the Madison County, Florida Family History Book.

But, the best information, we know, is in your family's history. We would be honored, again, if you, the reader, would let us share your Madison County Pioneer story. You can write it, and send it by mail or e-mail to the Madison County Genealogy Society, P.O. Box 136, Madison, FL 32341-0136 or [mcgenealogysociety@live.com](mailto:mcgenealogysociety@live.com). Or, if you would like for us to write your story, we would love to interview you and collect your information. Contact us and let us know what you would like.

Submitted sketches could include as much of the following as possible: 1. Name of your earliest pioneer ancestor and when he/she arrived in Madison County. 2. Where he/she came from. 3. Which part of the county he/she settled in. 4. What brought him/her to Madison County and what he/she did for a living? 5. Interesting family stories that have been passed down. 6. How you descend from that pioneer?

Please let us hear about your brave, hardy ancestors who came to Madison County in the 1800s. For those who do not receive the Enterprise-Recorder, we have included the stories thus far posted. Use them as a model to write your own family history and please share them with us.

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**Pioneers of Madison County, Florida**  
**Richard Johnson Mays**  
**1808—1864**

**Richard Johnson Mays** migrated to Madison County with four of his brothers from South in the 1830's and 1840's. Other Mays brothers who came to the county in the 1830's were **Dennett Hill Mays, James Butler Mays,** and **Enock Grigsby Mays;** in the 1840's, **Rhydon Grigsby Mays** moved in with his family. **James Butler,** born 1798, died in 1836 in Madison County, and is buried in the Old Oakland Cemetery in Madison. By 1860, **Enock Grigsby** and his family had moved to Grimes County, Texas, and by 1870, the family had moved to Dallas Texas. **Rhydon Grigsby Mays** and his family moved to St. Johns and then Putnam County, Florida. **Dennet Hill Mays** raised his family in Madison County and died May 10, 1861, in Madison County. Parents of the five brothers who migrated to Madison County were **General Samuel** and **Nancy Grigsby Mays.**

**Richard Johnson,** was born January 8, 1808 in South Carolina. He married **Elizabeth Ann Williams** on October 19, 1830, according to Edgefield, South Carolina marriage records. Elizabeth was born December, 1812, in South Carolina. **Elizabeth,** or **Eliza,** was the daughter of **Dr. Thomas B. Williams,** of Greenville, S.C., and **Elizabeth Maxwell.** **Eliza's** maternal great grandfather was **Col. Robert Anderson,** Revolutionary War Soldier, according to the National Sons of the

American Revolution application of Dannitte Hill Mays.

Richard Johnson and Eliza first moved to the Lake Sampala area of southern Madison County; mosquitoes and malaria resulted in the death of their daughter **Elizabeth,** born around 1833, shortly after the family arrived in the county. In 1833, they settled in the northern part of the county, near Hamburg, and built the ten bedrooms Clifton Mansion on their plantation. Between 1833 and 1864, the plantation grew to include thousands of acres and produced cotton, timber, and livestock.

Richard Johnson was quite involved in the settlement and governance of the Madison County territory. In 1838, he was a delegate to a constitution convention that later resulted in the Florida territory becoming a state in 1845. He was a postmaster from 1835 to 1838; in 1837, he was justice of the peace. And as a loyal Southerner, he supplied food and several sons to fight in the Civil War.

Richard Johnson was also a deeply spiritual man, who was a founding member of the Hickstown Baptist Church, which was the forerunner to the current First Baptist Church of Madison. In 1841, he, along with the **McCall** and **Johnson** families established the Concord Baptist Church, near his plantation. He gave 20 acres of land and helped construct the original church with hand hewn logs. Soon after, he was licensed to preach, and served as minister to the church from 1843 to 1846



and from 1857 to 1860. In 1854, Richard Johnson felt the need to form a Florida Baptist Association, and delegates to the first Florida Baptist Convention met in his home and drew up the constitution for the Florida Baptist State Convention. Richard died at age 56 July 8, 1864 and is buried in Lovett at the Concord Missionary Baptist Church Cemetery. *[Excerpts are taken from an article by Don Hepburn in February 2004.]*

**Eliza Ann Williams Mays**, wife of Richard Johnson, was an admirable person in her own right. She was 14 when she married; not long afterwards, she left her home and set out for the undeveloped Madison Territory. She grew bounteous gardens, kept chickens, had a large smokehouse, and preserved large amounts of vegetables and jellies. She sold wagonfuls of her produce in town, adding to the family coffers with her hard work and thriftiness. She sewed and knitted, was known for her cooking and baking, and loved her flower garden, where she planted flowers collected from all around. In many ways opposite from Richard Johnson, **Eliza Ann** was fair, blue-eyed, plump, and talkative. Richard Johnson was slender, serious, and dark complexioned with a Roman nose. *[Excerpts taken from an article written by Patti Mays, August 7, 1941.]*

Life was not easy for Eliza after the death of her husband Richard in 1864. The Civil War had just ended, most of her sons had served and come home to their own families and farms, and Eliza was lost without Richard's management skills. In 1870, she lived with her two youngest children, **Dennett H** and **Mary Caroline**. In 1880, she lived with her son, **Richard Johnson, II** and his family in Hamburg. Later, she moved to South Carolina, to again

live with her youngest daughter, **Mary Caroline**. **Eliza** died on April 3, 1890, and is also buried in the Concord Cemetery.

Richard and Eliza had 11 children, seven who grew to adulthood:

1. **Elizabeth Williams**, born 1833, died 1834
2. **Richard Johnson, II**, born 1836
3. **Dennett Hill, I**, born 1840, died 1851, buried at Concord Church Cemetery
4. **Thomas Williams**, born 1841
5. **James Warren**, born 1843, died in 1864, buried in Concord Church Cemetery; James Warren served in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Regiment of the Florida Cavalry mustering out as a Sergeant.
6. **Samuel Pope**, born 1846
7. **John the Baptist**, born 1848
8. **Waddy Thompson**, born 1849, died 1853
9. **Mary Caroline**, born after 1850
10. **Sarah Caroline**; born after 1850, died in childhood
11. **Dannette Hill, II**, born April 28, 1852.

*[In the Richard Johnson Mays family, Dennett Hill continues to be a strong family name. After the death of the first Dennett Hill, born 1840, died 1851, Eliza and Richard Johnson named a second son named **Dennett Hill II**.]*

### Generation Two

**Richard Johnson, II**, born 1836, served in the 1<sup>st</sup> Regiment, Florida Infantry, in the Civil War, also in the 5<sup>th</sup> Battalion, Florida Cavalry, and the 2<sup>nd</sup> Regiment, Florida Cavalry. He mustered out as a 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant. He married **Mary Finlayson**, and the couple had two children that we could identify. **Richard Johnson, II** and his family lived in Jefferson County in 1870 and Hamburg in 1880.

**Thomas William**, born 1842, enlisted as a private in Company C, Florida 4<sup>th</sup> Infantry



Regiment in 1861. He mustered out in 1863 as Sergeant. He married **Martha Patti Simpkins** and had six children that we are aware of. **Thomas William** and his family lived in Greenville in 1880 and 1900.

**Samuel Pope**, born June 10, 1845/1846, enlisted in 1865 as a Sergeant in Company F, Florida 5<sup>th</sup> Cavalry Battalion. He married **Ann Oregon** ? The family lived in Hamburg in 1880, and by 1900, the family had moved to Suwannee County. Samuel passed away on July 16, 1913. We know of six children of **Samuel Pope** and **Ann Oregon**.

**John the Baptist**, born July 2, 1848, married **Christine Bailey** on December 9, 1869 in Madison County. A John R., which possibly could be **John B.**, served in the 5<sup>th</sup> Regiment of the Florida Infantry as a Private. In 1880 **John** and **Christine** lived in the Hamburg area, but by 1900 and 1910, they had moved a few miles west to live in the Ashville area of Jefferson County. Census records told of seven children.

**Dannitte Hill Mays**, born April 28, 1852, married **Emmala Parkhill**, born March 20, 1861. The couple married on June 2, 1880, in Monticello. We found six children of **Dannitte** and **Emmala** listed on census records. The family lived in Monticello.

**Mary Caroline**, born in 1857, married **John Edgeworth Beattie**, and she and her family moved back to Greenville, South Carolina.

### Generation Three

**Richard Johnson, II** and his wife, **Mary Finlayson** were in Hamburg in 1880, and had two children: **John Finlayson**, born 1869 and **Richard**, born 1872.

**John F.** and his wife **Lizzie** were in Hamburg in 1900; by 1920, they were living

in Thomasville. **John F** was a bookkeeper; he died in Thomasville on May 22, 1927. **John F.** and **Lizzie** had six children. One of their sons, **Richard J**, was a bookkeeper in California and Arizona; and one was a bookkeeper in Thomasville. We don't know where the rest of the family ended up, but we don't find them in Madison County.

**Richard Johnson** and **Mary Finlayson's** other son, **Richard** married **Minnie Batt** and the couple raised their family in Jefferson and Leon County.

**Thomas William** and **Martha Patti Simpkins** were in Greenville in 1900 and had the following children:

1. **Richard J.**, born 1866, died in 1946 in Corsicana Texas
2. **Sarah Josephine**, born 1869, married **Randolph Eppes**
3. **Eva**, born 1872, married **P. E. Griffin**, and later divorced
4. **Martha Simpkins**, or Patti, was born 1875; in 1935, Patti was living in Madison County; it seems likely that Patti is **Isabel Simpkin Mays**, who was in Madison County, in Greenville, teaching school in 1940; she died in Jacksonville in 1974
5. **Eldred Simpkin**, born 1880, died in Tucson, Arizona
6. **James Warren**, born 1884, farmed and taught school. He died in 1966 in West Palm Beach.

None of **Thomas William** and **Martha Patti's** sons remained in Madison County as far as we know.

**Samuel Pope** and **Ann Oregon** were in Hamburg in 1880, but by 1900, the family had moved to Suwannee County. Their children were:

1. **January**, born 1868
2. **Eliza**, born 1870

3. **Blythewood Joseph**, born 1875, married Leila and wound up in Tampa and Daytona Beach

4. **Jane Champion**, born 1880, married **Mays Sandford**

5. **Howard Jasper**, born 1883, married **Willie Mae**, had at least one daughter, **Carolyn**, and lived in Folkston and Waycross, GA

6. **Isaac Hampton**, born 1885, lived in Atlanta and Alabama and possibly had a wife named **Grace**

Again, none of Samuel Pope and Ann Oregon's sons raised families in Madison County.

**John Baptist**, (or **John the Baptist**, as his father referred to him in his will,) and **Christine Bailey** were in Asheville, Jefferson County, by 1900. The couple had seven children that we know of:

1. **William Bailey**, born 1872, married **Louise Folsom**, and died in 1925 in Valdosta; the couple had one daughter that we know of: **Elizabeth**, born 1922; in 1935, Louise, widowed, and Elizabeth were living in Madison County; by 1940, Elizabeth had moved to Levy County to live with her step-brother, **W. Bartlett Folsom**.

2. **Mary C.**, born 1874;

3. **Dennet Hill**, born 1876, married **Frances G.**, had two daughters, **Christine** and **Louise** that we are aware of

4. **Virginia** was born in 1884

5. **Thomas Sumpter**, born 1886, did not marry, we believe

6. **Christina** was born in 1890

7. **Liza**, born 1892.

It doesn't appear that any of **John Baptist's** sons remained in the county.

**Dannitte Hill II**, born 1852, son of Richard Johnson, and **Emmala Parkhill**,

born 1861, raised their six children that we know of in Jefferson County. Their children follow:

1. **Elizabeth B.**, born 1883

2. **Mary E.** born 1884

3. **Sarah C.**, born 1887

4. **Emmala P.**, born 1889

5. **Dannitte H., Jr.**, born August 2, 1897

6. **Charles Parkhill**, born 1903

In 1940, there were three Mays in the county:

**Mattie Mays**, a widow, born in 1887, living in Macedonia. Her parents were both born in South Carolina; likely she was married to one of the Mays men.

**Isabel A. Mays**, born in 1878, who we think possibly was Martha Patti Simpkin Mays.

The third Mays was **Dorothy Mays**, who was born in 1937 and lived with her grandmother, **Stella Woods** in Madison. We don't know who **Dorothy** belonged to.

While Richard Johnson Mays did not leave any descendents in Madison County, that we are aware of, he did leave a rich legacy of community service. He also left us a few more **Dannitte Hill Mays**, to go with the five that his brother, **Dennett Hill Mays**, left. Richard had two sons named Dennett Hill Mays, and at least six grandsons and great grandsons followed. It is interesting to note that an **Allison M. May**, born in 1858, lived in Hamburg in 1920. His parents were both born in South Carolina. His father was **George May**, of Jefferson County. We don't know the relationship of George with Richard Johnson and his four pioneer brothers. However, **Allison M. May** also named one of his sons **Dennet May**. So, it appears that for the present, we in Madison County no

longer have a Dennet Hill May, nor any other Mays descendant with us. We have lost a long and productive line, who for quite a few generations contributed their talents, hard work, and family values to our county.

*The Madison County Genealogy Society welcomes your input and invites you to join our organization. We meet on the second Thursday monthly, except during summer months, in the Madison Public Library from 6 to 7 PM. Annual dues are \$25. We offer apologies to families of descendants who find errors, and we welcome corrections. To add comments to our articles or to submit your own sketch of your ancestor, contact us at Madison County Genealogy Society, P.O. Box 136, Madison, FL 32341. Or contact us by email at [mccgenealogysociety@live.com](mailto:mccgenealogysociety@live.com)*

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#### **Florida Baptist Historical Society**

<http://www.floridabaptisthistory.org/mays.html>

Mr. **Richard Johnson Mays** holds the distinction of having led the effort to organize the Florida Baptist State Convention in 1854, after having been an active church starter and participant in the formation of the Florida Territory's first Baptist association.

Mays and his wife, **Eliza Williams Mays**, migrated around 1830-31 to Middle Florida from the Edgefield District, South Carolina. Mays was 21 (b. January 22, 1808) and Eliza was 14 when they married in 1829. When they moved to the Florida Territory, they initially settled near Lake Sampala in the southern part of Madison County. During this period their first daughter died.

In about 1833 they moved to the northern end of Madison County and

established the Clifton Mansion. In the ensuing years, the couple had eleven other children of which seven survived to adulthood. Mays acquired large holdings of farm and timber lands and became an imposing figure as a religious, civic, and cultural leader. By 1860 Mays owned 5,480 acres of land and had 120 slaves. To provide for the educational needs of his children and his neighbors, he established Mays Academy on his plantation.

Richard Johnson Mays was a spiritually committed layman who was involved in starting churches and whose spiritual pilgrimage led him to be ordained to the ministry. In 1831, the Mays joined several other families to start the Hickstown Baptist Church, the forerunner to the current First Baptist Church of Madison. Even after his move to the north end of the county, Mays continued to attend and hold leadership positions in the Hickstown Church. Mays briefly served as a lay-preacher for the Elizabeth Baptist Church (Jefferson County), near Monticello between 1832 and 1834.

Recognizing the need for a church in the north end of Madison County, Mays joined with other settlers and on June 20, 1841 organized the Concord Baptist Church. He donated 20 acres of land for the church site. Also at his request, the church first ordained Mays as a deacon and six months later (October 1841) ordained him to the pastoral ministry. He served on two separate occasions as pastor of the church. Over the next 15 years, Mays provided a guiding hand in the organization of the Monticello Baptist Church in 1841, the Liberty Baptist Church (Brooks County, Georgia) in 1843 and the Piney Grove Baptist Church in 1856.

As Baptist pastors and laymen recognized the need for fellowship and the moral support of churches working together, Mays was among the church delegates that organized the Florida Baptist Association in 1843. This was the Florida Territory's first association of missionary Baptist churches.

Subsequently, on November 20, 1854, Mays hosted 17 delegates from the then three existing missionary Baptist associations in Florida to meet in his home, Clifton Mansion to discuss the formation of a Baptist state convention organization. The Florida Baptist State Convention was formed and subsequently Mays was elected president of the new entity.

In addition to spiritual matters, **R. J. Mays** was involved in civic responsibilities. In 1838, Mays served as a delegate to the constitutional convention that met at St. Joseph to frame the constitution that provided the organizational framework for the State of Florida in 1845. He also served as the Madison County postmaster from 1835 to 1838. In 1837, Mays was appointed as a justice of the peace. And as a loyal Southerner, he provided supplies and several sons to support the Confederate cause during the Civil War.

He died at Clifton on July 18, 1864.

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**Samuel Pope Mays**  
**Florida Memory.com**

On 27 Jul 1909, **Samuel Pope Mays** in the county of Suwannee, Florida. He declared that he was 63 years old having been born on 10 Jun 1846 in Madison, Florida. He stated that he had resided in Florida continuously since birth. His application was approved 27 Aug 1909 for \$100.00 per annum. According to his

pension application, he served in Co. F., Scott's Battalion, winter of 1863, Tallahassee, Fla. It appears he might have been wounded at the Battle of Natural Bridge.

Later, Samuel Pope Mays applied to the State Board of Pensions in Tallahassee, Florida for an increase in his pension. His pension number was 1366. He was receiving \$100.00 per annum and declared that he was 36 years of age and living in Live Oak, Fla. He declared that he was suffering from heart disease and senility.

On 6 Oct 1913, **Ann Oregon Mays** of Live Oak, Suwannee, FL applied for a pension. She declared that she was the widow of Samuel Pope Mays and that she had lawfully married Samuel under the name of **Ann Oregon Germany** in Chatham, Georgia on 24 January 1867. She declared that she had not been divorced from him nor remarried since his death which occurred on 16 Jul 1913 in Suwannee, FL. Her application as approved on 18 Nov 1913 for the amount of \$150 per annum.

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**Florida Pioneers**  
**Dennett Hill Mays 1809—1861**

The story of Dennett Hill Mays is similar to many Madison County settlers. Dennett and four of his brothers migrated from South Carolina into Madison County in the 1830's and 1840's. Other Mays brothers who came to the county in the 1830's were **James Butler Mays**, **Richard Johnson Mays**, and **Enock Grigsby Mays**; in the 1840's, **Rhydon Grigsby Mays** moved in moved in with his family. The brothers were sons of **General Samuel** and **Nancy Grigsby Mays**. Samuel fought in the Revolutionary War, owned extensive acreage in South Carolina, and knew many

of the officers in the war. According to **Jerry M. Windsor**, in "Father of the Florida Baptist Convention", Samuel Mays was in three battles of the Revolutionary War before he was 16 years old. He was a Brigadier General during the War of 1812. He and his wife Nancy were quite wealthy, owning thousands of acres of land in South Carolina. Samuel knew **President Washington**; he was one of the founders of the University of South Carolina. He named his children after his friends and fellow soldiers.

**James Butler Mays** was the oldest migrating son; he was born 1798. He migrated with his second wife, **Miriam Earle Mays**, and their son, **Sam III. James Butler** died in 1836 in Madison County, and is buried in the Old Oakland Cemetery in Madison. The families of **James Butler Mays** and **Richard Johnson Mays** moved in around the same time, in the early 1830's, settling in the Sampala Lake area.

**Rhydon Grigsby Mays**, born around 1801 in South Carolina was married to **Sarah B.**, born 1803 in South Carolina. Rhydon was the second oldest Mays in Madison County, arriving in the 1840's. He settled in the southern part of the county, in the Sampala Lake area also. The value of Rhydon's property in Madison was \$3,000. The following six children were born in South Carolina: **Elizabeth**, born 1830; **Samuel B.**, born 1832; **Sarah**, born 1834; **Susan**, born 1836; **William Dannett**, born 1840; and **Frances**, born 1842. Son, William Dannett died January 29, 1852, and is buried in the Old Oakland Cemetery. Shortly after William's death, the family moved to St. Johns and then Putnam County, Florida. In 1861, Rhydon was a member of the Florida Secession

Delegation. He died in 1878 in Putnam County

**Richard Johnson Mays**, was born January 8, 1808 in South Carolina. He married **Eliza Ann Williams** on October 19, 1830, according to Edgefield, South Carolina marriage records. Elizabeth was born December, 1812, in South Carolina. He and Eliza Ann had 11 children; only 7 survived childhood. Richard initially settled in the Lake Sampala area of the county. Mosquitoes and malaria resulted in the death of their first child, **Elizabeth**. In 1833, Richard and Eliza moved to the Lovett area and lived on what was known as the Glendower Plantation, and built for their home, a ten bedroom home, known as the Clifton Mansion. (More information will follow on **Richard Johnson** in a later article.)

**Enock** was Samuel's youngest son and was born after Samuel died in 1816 in South Carolina; his wife **Caroline** or **Clotilde** was born in 1819, also in South Carolina, according to census records. The couple moved to the county while they were in their early 20's and had five children here. (Find-a-Grave information relates that Enock's wife was **Clotilde Elizabeth Linton**; and the couple married in Madison County.) Their children were: **Mary E.**, born 1840  
**Samuel R.**, born 1843  
**William R.**, born 1844  
**Sarah Caroline**, born 1846; Sarah died at age 7, buried in Oak Ridge Cemetery; and **Margaret**, born 1849

In 1850, **Enock** was a farmer and the value of his property was \$7,000.; he owned 800 acres; his plantation was just North of Madison on the Quitman Road. By 1860, Enock and his family had moved to Grimes

County, Texas, and by 1870, the family had moved to Dallas, Texas. Find-a-Grave relates that in Texas, Enock became a cotton farmer on a large scale. The Civil War destroyed his plantation, and he moved into village of Dallas, where he was a pioneer merchant, owning two blocks of downtown Dallas near the courthouse. Enock died in Dallas.

**Dennett Hill Mays**, born June 10, 1809 in Edgefield, South Carolina, was the second youngest of the Mays brothers who migrated to Madison. He married **Jane Olive Thomas**, who was born around 1831 in Georgia, on January 15, 1850 in Madison County. Census records show the couple with four children: **Sarah Louise**, born 1851, who married **Thomas Livingston**; **Richard J.**, born March 24, 1854; **Samuel Bate**, born May 1857, and **Dennett Hill**, born 1860; Dennett, the least wealthy of the four brothers, was a lawyer. His land was valued at \$1,000 in 1850.

### Second Generation

At age 52, Dennett Hill Mays, father of the four children listed above, died, leaving his widow and four children, under the age of 10. His youngest, **Dennett Hill** was between one and two years old. He was buried in Oak Ridge Cemetery.

1. **Sarah Louise**, 1851, married Theodore (or Thomas) Livingston and had at least two children: **Janie Mays Livingston**, 1877; and **Sallie S. Livingston**, 1880. Janie Mays died at age 10, and is buried in Oak Ridge Cemetery, Madison, near her mother.
2. **Richard J.** born March 24, 1854, died at age 21 on May 7, 1875. He is also buried in Oak Ridge Cemetery, Madison.
3. **Samuel Bate**, born January 4, 1855, married **Millie C.** or **Willie C.**; as far as we

can tell. Samuel Bate and Millie C. had one son, **Dennet Hill**, born 1897. Samuel Bate died January 1, 1930, and is buried at Oak Ridge Cemetery, Madison.

4. We don't find any information of a family of Dennett Hill, born 1860. He was buried in Oak Ridge Cemetery, Madison, and his headstone simply states: **Dannitte H. Mays**, son of **DH** and **Jane O. Mays** 1860—1921. A **Dennitt Mays** died in Gadsden County in 1921.

### Third Generation

**Samuel Bate**, 1855, seems to be the only male descendent of **Dennett Hill Mays** who had a son. Samuel Bate's son was **Dannitte Hill**, born August 2, 1897, who married **Viola Whitlock Mays**, born March 11, 1898. The couple married on April 14, 1920. According to census records, the couple had one son, **Dannitte Hill Mays, Jr.** The family farmed in Madison in 1930; in 1940, they were in Miami. We think they moved back to Madison in the 1840's. **Dannitte Hill, Sr.**, died June 20, 1980, and was buried in Oak Ridge Cemetery, Madison. Viola died October 25, 1988, and is also buried in Oak Ridge Cemetery.

### Fourth Generation

**Dannitte Hill Mays, Jr.** was born January 19, 1927; he died November 20, 1990, and is buried in Oak Ridge Cemetery. According to one of the family trees in Ancestry, he was married to **Clara Marie Hughey**.

### Fifth Generation and Sixth Generations

**Dannitte Hill Mays, III**, was born Oct 10, 1950; he lived in Madison for most of his life; he died on December 11, 2007, and is buried in Oak Ridge Cemetery in Madison. **Dannitte Hill Mays, IV** son of **Dannitte Hill Mays, III**, previously lived in

Madison County. Currently, there are no Mays in Madison County listed in the telephone directory.

**Dennett Hill Mays**, Madison Pioneer, left five Dannitte Hill Mays. For many years, the Dannitte Mays were an important part of Madison County and they have left a lasting legacy.

Was there an original Dennett Hill? Indeed there was—a Dennit Hill, born in 1790, who lived in the Laurens District of South Carolina. We don't know the connection that this Dennit Hill has with the Madison Mays Pioneers. Perhaps he was one of Samuel Mays Revolutionary War friends; perhaps he was the father of one of the Mays women; perhaps he was Samuel's neighbor in South Carolina. In any instance, he has stamped an imprint in this region. Or perhaps Dennette Hill Mays, himself, was such an extraordinary fellow that five of his descendants were named after him. And perhaps the Mays family has been as loyal to their ancestors as they have been to Madison County.

*The Madison County Genealogy Society welcomes your input and invites you to join our organization. We meet on the second Thursday monthly, except during summer months, in the Madison Public Library from 6 to 7 PM. Annual dues are \$25. We offer apologies to families of descendants who find errors, and we welcome corrections. To add comments to our articles or to submit your own sketch of your ancestor, contact us at Madison County Genealogy Society, P.O. Box 136, Madison, FL 32341. Or contact us by email at [mcgenealogysociety@live.com](mailto:mcgenealogysociety@live.com)*  
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E-Mail received from Mr. **Rick Millinor**:

I enjoyed your recent piece in the Carrier about my great-great-grandfather,

**Richard Johnson Mays**. Here are a few comments that may be helpful in building the record on this family:

Richard Johnson has at least three living descendants in Madison county: One of them is my mother, **Christine Mays Millinor**. She is the daughter of **Dannitte Hill Mays** (son of **John Baptist**) and **Frances Lavonia Garwood Mays**. Christine was born in Monticello in 1917, attended FSCW, taught school in Cherry Lake, married **Pat Millinor** in 1938, and has lived in Madison since then.

Two others are **Colin Howerton** and **Mary Howerton Blackmon**. Their mother, **Emmala (Emy) Kelly Howerton**, was the daughter of **Colin P. Kelly** and **Mary (Mamie) Mays Kelly**. Mamie's father was the **Dannitte Hill Mays** who was the son of **Richard Johnson Mays** and the brother of **John Baptist**, and her mother was **Emmala Parkhill**.

My grandparents, **Dannitte Hill** and **Frances Garwood Mays**, had three children...**Christine**, **Louise** (lives in Tallahassee) and **George** (passed away two years ago and is buried in Greenville). Dannitte and Frances lived in Monticello all of their adult lives. Both are buried there.

There are a confusing number of men in this family with the name Dannitte, and it's possible that the name has not always been spelled the same way...but I've never seen it any other way than Dannitte.

**John Baptist** and **Christine Bailey Mays** (my great-grandparents) left Lovett shortly after the Civil War and moved to the Bailey family plantation in Ashville (Jefferson County). The plantation had been mismanaged by Christine's brothers, and she and John bought it to avoid foreclosure. The name of the plantation was (and is) Lyndhurst, and the original



antebellum Greek Revival house is still standing.

Two of John and Christine's children, **Virginia** and **Sumter**, remained unmarried and managed Lyndhurst until ill health forced them to sell it in 1965.

Keep up the good work.

*We sincerely thank Mr. Millinor for his comments and will ensure we include them in our database.*

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### **Memoirs of Florida, page 624**

**Dannitte Hill Mays**, of Monticello, was born in Madison county, Fla., April 28, 1852, son of **Richard J.** and **Eliza A. (Williams) Mays**. His father, a native of Edgefield district, S. C., born on a farm in 1808, remained on the farm until 1831, when he was licensed as a Missionary Baptist minister and first pursued this holy calling in Madison county, Fla., whither he had removed shortly after entering the minister. Farming, as well as preaching, his efforts were crowned with the most unqualified success in temporal as well as spiritual pursuits, and he was the owner of several large plantation, many hundred slaves, and was accounted one of the wealthiest men of the state at the beginning of the civil war. He proved himself to be a true son of the South and furnished the Confederacy with many thousand dollars' worth of supplies. His farming interests were invariably successful and profitable, and he made it a rule that each farm should raise its own supplies and not own a plantation that was not self supporting. He was married in 1829 and died in 1864, leaving a wife and six children, among the youngest of whom was the subject of this sketch. **Dannitte H. Mays** attended the Washington and Lee

University, Va., from 1866 to 1870, when from lack of means with which to further prosecute his studies he was forced to return home. Engaging in agricultural pursuits, he has been a most extensive and successful farmer, having devoted the greater portion of his career to that industry. Mr. Mays has been long one of the notable figures in the political affairs of the State and is one of the best-known men and highly honored citizens of Florida. Being chosen by the Democratic voters to represent his county in the state legislature in 1891, he was a prominent and influential member of that body and was nominated as a candidate for the United States senatorship. In 1895 he served as a member of the legislature, and again in 1897, at which session he was speaker of the house and made a splendid record in that capacity. Mr. Mays was one of the strongest candidates for the gubernatorial nomination before the Democratic convention at Jacksonville, in 1900, and received the second largest vote, losing the nomination by only a few votes and running ahead of some other very prominent men in Florida. In 1880, Mr. Mays was married to **Emmala**, daughter of **Capt. George W.** and **Elizabeth (Bellamy) Parkhill**. His wife's father was a gallant soldier in the civil war and gave his life to his country, falling at the battle of Gaines' Mill. Mr. Mays' married life has been blessed with four daughters and one son, **Elizabeth P.**, **Mary E.**, **Sallie C.**, **Emmala P.**, and **Dannitte H., Jr.**

### **Dannitte H. Mays Obituary**

**Dannitte H. Mays**, age 89, of Monticello, died last Saturday and funeral services were held Monday afternoon in the First Baptist church of Monticello, followed by burial in Roseland cemetery there. Mr. Mays spent

his long life in his native county of Jefferson where he was active in business affairs and also in the political life of the county. At one time he represented Jefferson county in the Legislature. He is survived by his widow, **Mrs. Frances Mays**; two daughters, **Mrs. Henry Sercey** of Tallahassee and **Mrs. Pat Millinor** of Madison; a son, Major George G. Mays; a brother, **T. S. Mays** of Quitman; two sisters, Miss Virginia Mays of Quitman and **Mrs. W. F. Parramore** of Jacksonville; and five grandchildren. *[Extracted from The Enterprise-Recorder, 2 Jul 1965]*

#### **Mr. Dannitte Hill Mays, Jr.**

Mr. Dannitte Hill Mays, Jr. was born January 19, 1927 in Callahan, Florida. He died on November 20, 1990 in Tallahassee, Florida. Funeral service was held Saturday, November 24, 1990 at 11:00 in the Chapel of the T. J. Beggs, Jr. & Sons Funeral Home in Madison, with **Rev. Eddie Humes** officiating and **Mrs. C. Vernon Ragans** playing the organ. He was interred in the Oak Ridge Cemetery, Madison, Florida. *[Extracted from his funeral card]*

#### **Mr. Dannitte Hill Mays, III. Obituary**

Mr. Dannitte Hill Mays, III was born October 10, 1950 in Live Oak, Florida. He died on December 9, 2007 in Madeison, Florida. Mr. Mays' funeral service was held Wednesday, December 12, 2007 at 11:00 in the Beggs Funeral Home Madison Chapel in Madison, Florida with **Rev. Roy Saint** officiating. Special music was provided by Mr. **Bailey Barefoot**. Mr. Mays was interred in the Oak Ridge Cemetery, Madison, Florida. *[Extracted from his funeral card]*

#### **Viola W. Mays Obituary**

Viola W. Mays, died Tuesday, Oct. 25, at the Madison County Memorial Hospital.

Mrs. Mays was a native and lifelong resident of Madison County, was a homemaker and a member of the First United Methodist Church of Madison. She is survived by her son, Dannittee H. Mays, Jr. of Madison, two grandchildren' and three great-grandchildren. Graveside services were held Wednesday, Oct. 26, at 11:00 a.m. in the Oak Ridge Cemetery in Madison with **Rev. Rich Wilson** officiation. *[Extracted from the Enterprise Recorder, 14 Nov. 1988]*

#### **David Barnes Mays**

**David Barnes Mays**, 51, of Tallahassee, died Monday morning at his home. The family will receive friends Sunday, October 17, 3:00 PM until 5:00 P.M. at Culley's MeadowWood Funeral Home- Riggins Road Chapel. The funeral service will be Monday, October 18, at 1:30 P.M. at Killearn United Methodist Church with the **Rev. Gene Strickland** officiating. There will be another celebration of David's life to be planned in the near future. David was born and raised in Tallahassee, Florida, the grandson of two prominent pioneer Florida families where his roots ran deep into the Madison and Chaires communities. He graduated from Florida High School in 1977 and Florida State University in 1982. David was the second FSU student to be selected to portray FSU's "Chief Osceola" from 1980-1981. David captivated FSU fans as the rider of "Renegade", displaying his natural and fearless skills as an accomplished horseman. David was always so proud to have this opportunity to represent FSU and be part of the FSU Renegade Team. He opened Gold's Gym in 1986 and was well-known among the body-building community in north Florida. In 2002, David formed Sun Belt Agricultural Consultants and Real Estate Services. David's greatest

accomplishment was becoming the father of Dakota Strano Mays. David will always be remembered for his infectious smile and wonderful sense of humor. Although big in stature he was a gentle horse with a heart full of love for his friends and family. He is survived by his son **Dakota Strano Mays**; and his two brothers; **Dannitte H. Mays, IV** and wife **Sandy**; and **George A. Mays**, and his niece; **Ashten Mays**. He was preceded in death by his mother and father; **Kitty Chaires Mays** and **Dannitte H. Mays, III**, and his beloved sister, **Mandy Mays**.  
*[Extracted from The Voice, 15 Oct 2010]*

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#### **Florida Pioneers George Wyche 1793-1844**

This story has a familiar beginning. **George Wyche** and his brother, **John Scott Wyche**, 1819-1889, migrated, by way of Georgia, to Madison County sometime in the 1830's. Both were large landowners; the value of John Scott's estate in 1850 was \$10,000; George Wyche's son's land was valued at \$15,000 and his personal worth was estimated to be \$40,700 in 1860.

George and John Scott were sons of **Batt** and **Mary Jarrett Wyche**. According to the Georgia Historical Society's Batt Wyche Family Bible and Genealogy Notes, 1866-2007, **Batt Wyche** was born in 1767 in Richmond County, Georgia, died in Decatur County, Georgia at the home of his daughter, and was buried in Montgomery County, Georgia. According to the DAR website, **Devereaux Jarrett, Mary Jarrett Wyche's** father, was a Revolutionary War Soldier in Georgia.

**John Scott Wyche** married **Hannah Lawson McIntyre** in Thomas County,

Georgia on June 1, 1837. John Scott and Hannah had the following daughters:

- 1. Margaret Susannah**, born November 15, 1838, married **Thomas Livingston**, and died April 3, 1873 in Brooks County, Georgia
- 2. Lucinda Jane**, who was born around 1841, married **William A. Livingston**, had a daughter, **Hannah McIntyre Livingston** in 1860, who married **James Young**
- 3. Mary Lawson**, born around 1844.

**John Scott** died in 1855; in the 1860 census, his wife, **Hannah**, lived with her daughter and son in law, **Thomas** and **Margaret Livingston** and her daughter, **Mary Lawson**. By 1880, **Hannah** was living with her granddaughter, **Lula Livingston**. Hannah died in 1889, and is buried in Laurel Hill Cemetery, Thomasville, Georgia. A posting on the Family History website, Genforum, tells us that on May 26, 1845, **John Scott** was an elections supervisor in the first Florida statewide election in Madison County, Precinct 4, Cherry Lake.

Some family history websites say that **Hannah** was the second wife of **John Scott**, and he had sons that he left behind in Georgia. We don't find any evidence of sons in Madison County, and feel that **John Scott's** lineage died out in Madison County, when he died in 1855.

**John Scott Wyche's** brother, George Wyche, married **Margaret Smith Bryan** in Montgomery County, Georgia on June 6, 1816. George, according the Ancestry Family Data Collection, was born March 25, 1793, and died December 27, 1844. George and Margaret had only one child, a son, **James Lawrence**, born September 20, 1828, in Montgomery County, Georgia.

### Second Generation

**James Lawrence** married his second cousin, **Elizabeth Hannah Wyche**, in Thomasville, Georgia on November 16, 1851. Elizabeth Hannah was born on August 16, 1831, in Thomas County, Georgia. **James Lawrence** and **Hannah Elizabeth** had at least one child, **Catherine M. (Kate) Wyche**, born April 12, 1855, married **James M. Groover**, died Oct 5, 1887, and is buried in Cherry Lake Church Cemetery.. Elizabeth Hannah, first wife of James Lawrence, and mother of Catherine M., died December 10, 1858, in Madison County, and is buried in the Cherry Lake Methodist Church Cemetery.

**James Lawrence** then married **Mary Elizabeth Rosseter**, in Terrell County, Georgia. **Mary Elizabeth** was born May 25, 1839, and died December 23, 1900. The couple had six children. **James Lawrence** died September 17, 1868, at almost 40 years of age, and is buried in Cherry Lake Methodist Church Cemetery. He was a planter, and, as mentioned above, his land was valued at \$15,000, and his personal worth, in 1860, was \$40,700.

### Third Generation

Children of James Lawrence and Mary Elizabeth are as follows:

1. **Elizabeth H.**, born around 1857
2. **Margaret B.**, born around 1861
3. **David R.**, born around 1864
4. **James Lawrence**, born 1865
5. **Mary Clayton**, born, 1867
6. **Arthur Rosseter**, born 1869.

**David R.** appears to be **Robert David**, who died on February 19, 1872, at age 8 and is buried in Cherry Lake Methodist Church Cemetery. **Margaret** married **Robert Groover**. In 1900, **Margaret** and

**Robert Groover** resided in Nankin, Brooks County, and **Margaret's** mother, **Mary Elizabeth** lived with them. An **Eliza Wyche** married **Reed Williams** in 1887, but we aren't sure that this Eliza is the daughter of James Lawrence and Mary Elizabeth. According to Ancestry family trees, **Mary Clayton** died, unmarried, in 1910 in Georgia. We also couldn't find any evidence that **Arthur Rosseter** lived to adulthood and left descendants.

**James Lawrence**, born September 21, 1865, married **Maud Waring Wyche**, born November 25, 1870. The couple married on January 24, 1894. In 1900, the couple was residing in Dunnellon, in Marion County. **James Lawrence** died on January 14, 1907, leaving **Maud** a widow with two young boys, ages 9 and 5. **Maud** moved back to Madison County, and died four years after **James Lawrence**, on Sept 16, 1911. **Maud** and **James Lawrence** are both buried in Oak Ridge Cemetery in Madison.

### Fourth Generation

**James Lawrence** and **Maud** had the following children:

1. **James Lawrence**, born 1899
2. **Benjamin Waring**, born March 20, 1902

In the 1920 census, **James Lawrence** and **Benjamin Waring** lived with their uncle and aunt, B. G. and **Vera Waring**. James Lawrence was a 21, a store clerk, and Benjamin Waring was 17. Although no records refer to James Lawrence as James Lawrence, III, he appears to be a third.

### Fifth Generation

**James Lawrence**, born 1899, or **Lawrence** as later records indicate, married **Louise Young**, born April 7, 1901, according to Ancestry Family Trees. In

1940, Lawrence and Louise lived in Madison; Lawrence was a bookkeeper. Lawrence and Louise had one son, **James Lawrence**, or Jimmie, who may have been James Lawrence IV. Jimmie did not marry nor have children, so the name James Lawrence ends with him. Lawrence died in Lowndes County, in 1979. Louise died in Madison February 2, 1994. Their son, Jimmie was born December 14, 1921, and died August 30, 1995 in Tallahassee. He owned a popular restaurant on Highway 90, near downtown, that sold pizza and is remembered for the toy train that ran around the top of the walls, just under the ceiling. He also showed short cartoons on his walls for the families with children who came to his business. Jimmie is also remembered for the interest he took in **Carl Joseph**, who was born with only one leg, and played football for Madison High School. Jimmie helped Carl earn a football scholarship, and helped Carl write a book on his successes.

**Benjamin Waring**, brother of **James Lawrence III**, and second son of **James Lawrence II**, married **Mosely Randell Smith**, and the couple had two sons.

#### Sixth Generation

Sons of **Benjamin Waring Wyche** and **Mosely Smith** were:

1. **Benjamin Guignard Wyche**, born July 8, 1927
2. **Waring Wyche, Jr.**, born October 11, 1929

**Benjamin G.** married **Blanche Grantham Purdon** August 4, 1956. The couple had two sons and a daughter. Benjamin died August 19, 2001, and is buried in Oak Ridge Cemetery in Madison.

**Waring Jr.** married **Mary Louise Sullivan** on April 19, 1952. The couple had

one son, born in 1954, while Mary Louise was in an iron lung, suffering from the effects of polio. Mary Louise died on March 27, 1955. **Waring** then married **Emma Jane Folsom** on May 9, 1959. The couple had another son, born in 1961. **Waring** died December 7, 1982.

#### Seventh and Eighth Generations

Sons of **Benjamin** and **Waring** remain in Madison County, working and raising their families. The Wyche family, descended from George Wyche, who came to Madison County in the 1840's, has been a continuous, stable, influential, contributing presence for seven generations. They are Madison County.

Sources for this article include Ancestry.com, family articles located through Google, and the Madison Genealogy Club website. Please let us know if you see mistakes. Often, deducting descendents involves a bit of guesswork, so we welcome your corrections.

*The Madison County Genealogy Society welcomes your input and invites you to join our organization. We meet on the second Thursday monthly, except during summer months, in the Madison Public Library from 6 to 7 PM. Annual dues are \$25. To add comments to our articles or to submit your own sketch of your ancestor, contact us at Madison County Genealogy Society, P.O. Box 136, Madison, FL 32341. Or contact us by email at [mcgenealogysociety@live.com](mailto:mcgenealogysociety@live.com)*

#### **Mrs. Maude Wyche Died Saturday**

On Saturday morning at 6 o'clock, after a lingering illness which had lasted for some time, Mrs. **Maude Waring Wyche**, widow of the late **James L. Wyche**, passed away at her home in this city. The deceased

had been in very poor health for several months and for this reason her death was not unexpected.

Mrs. Wyche was born in Madison on November 24, 1870, and was therefore nearly forty one years of age at the time of her death. On January 24, 1894, she was married to **James L. Wyche**, also of Madison, who preceded her into the Great Beyond on Jan., 16, 1907. Of this union two sons were born, **Lawrence** and **Waring**, both of whom are yet quite young.

The deceased had lived the greater part of her life in Madison. With the exception of a few years, her life was spent in the county of her birth. She was a consistent member of the Methodist church of this city, a member of the Home Mission Society of that church, of the W. C. T. U., and of other organizations. Although the latter part of her life was filled with suffering, she endured it with the greatest patience until the end came.

Those who survive her are two sons, Lawrence, age 13, and Waring, age 9; two brothers, **B. G.** and **M. H. Waring** of Madison; and two sisters, **Mrs. C. W. Barnard**, of Pinetta, and Miss **Mary Belle Waring**, of this city.

The funeral was held at the cemetery Sunday morning, the Rev. **Dr. Hudson**, pastor of the deceased, performing the last sad rites.

*[Extracted from the Enterprise-Recorder, 22 Sep 1911]*

#### **Capt. Thomas John Livingston**

<http://files.usgwarchives.net/ga/brooks/bios/gbs343livingst.txt>

A South Carolinian who for many years was prominent in the public life of the state of Georgia, the late **Capt. T. J. Livingston**

was born at Abbeville, South Carolina, on the 25th of February, 1828, and was a son of **Thomas** and **Margaret (Fraser) Livingston**.

The first of the name to come to America was **Robert Livingston**, who settled in New York and lived there the rest of his life. He married Alida Schuyler. He was known as first lord of Livingston Manor. From him the line of descent is through the following: His youngest son **Gilbert** who married **Cornelia Beekman** was born in 1690 and died in 1746; was registrar of the colonial court of chancery, 1720; county clerk of Ulster county, 1722; member of the assembly for the manor, 1728-1737, and lieutenant colonel of the provincial militia. **Cornelius**, son of Gilbert, married a Taliaferro, and both died in Virginia, Their son Thomas was twice married, his wives being sisters, **Mary** and **Nancy Childs**, of Virginia. He was a private in Company Eight of Virginia, under **Capt. Thomas Tebbs**, April, 1777, as shown by record of Revolutionary War by **W. T. R. Saffell**, page 275.

Thomas, a son of Thomas, married **Margaret Fraser**, of Abbeville, South Carolina and they were the parents of the late Captain Livingston. Leaving South Carolina, they became pioneers of Madison county, Florida. For a number of years after their settlement the Indians were so troublesome that each community had its fort or block-house, to which the inhabitants fled on the first alarm. **Thomas Livingston**, the father, was a lawyer by profession, but spent most of his years as a planter, having a large number of slaves. He and his wife spent their last years on the plantation home near Madison.

**Thomas John Livingston**, their son, was eight years old when the family moved to

Florida, in which state he was reared and educated. He began his career as a farmer and was engaged in that occupation when the War Between the States began. Raising a company for the Confederacy, he was made captain, and as a comrade wrote after his death, he performed his duty faithfully and with ability in every position he was placed. At the close of the war he entertained for a few days at his home **Gen. J. C. Breckinridge**, who was then trying to elude capture by his federal pursuers. Captain Livingston and **Captain Tucker** took this noted Confederate leader in a boat down the Suwanee River to the coast, whence he embarked for Cuba.

After the war Captain Livingston engaged in merchandising at Quitman, Georgia, for a time, and then retired to his farm in the Grooverville district of Brooks county. During succeeding years he took a high stand as an influential and able leader in civic affairs. He was chosen state senator and represented the counties of Brooks, Thomas and Colquitt. During his youth he united with the Methodist church, and for a quarter of a century was superintendent of his local Sunday-school. He was faithful in his religion, making it a practical guide in his everyday life, was a just and upright man, and a splendid type of the old southern gentleman. His death occurred at his homestead in Brooks county on the 15th of February, 1903.

Captain Livingston was twice married. **Margaret S. Wyche**, who became his first wife, was born at Madison, Florida, daughter of **John Scott** and **Hannah Lawson(MacIntyre) Wyche**. Her ancestry is interesting. **Henry Wyche**, founder of the family in America, was born in England and came to the colonies about 1679, settling in Surry county, Virginia, and is mentioned as

one of the foot soldiers of Surry county, Virginia. His son **George** (II) lived in Surry county, and George's son **Peter** (III) lived in Brunswick county, Virginia. **George** (IV), son of Peter, married a **Miss Scott** and became a pioneer settler in Richmond county, Georgia. Batte (V), the next in line, married a **Miss Jarrett**. John S. (VI), son of Batte, married **Hannah Lawson L. MacIntyre**. The latter was a daughter of **Archibald** and **Hannah (Lawson) MacIntyre**, and a lineal descendant of **Daniel MacIntyre**, founder of that name in America. Captain Livingston's first wife died at the age of thirty-five, and he later married **Ellen Groover**. The children of Captain and Margaret (Wyche) Livingston were:

1. **Margaret Fraser**, who became the wife of the late **Archibald T. MacIntyre**, of Thomasville
2. **Lula Lawson**, who married **William H. Mitchell** and lives in Thomasville
3. **Irvine Camillas**, who married, first, **T. J. Howard**, and, second, **T. L. Shofner**, and lives in Dade City, Florida
4. **Thomas John**, who married **Mary McCall** and lives in Fitzgerald.

The children of Captain Livingston's second marriage are:

1. **Donald Madison**
2. **Emily Josephine**, wife of **McCall Quarterman**, of Lane Park, Florida
3. **LeRoy Rushin**
4. **Helen Lucile**, wife of **R. W. Adams**, of Boston, Georgia.

*[Extracted from A History of Savannah and South Georgia by William Harden, 1913]*

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### **Pioneers of Madison County The Nathan L. Gornto Family**

A close look at the 1850 Census shows four Gornto families living in Madison, Florida. The heads of these families were **Nathan L. Gornto**, **David M. Gornto** (first child of Nathan), **Elijah D. Gornto** (eighth child of Nathan), and **James Barnett Gornto** (tenth child of Nathan). There were no Gornto families listed in Madison on the 1840 Census but a study of the birth dates of those on the 1850 Census reveals that the families moved down during the early to mid-1840s.

#### **Nathan L. Gornto (1779-1861)**

**Nathan L. Gornto** was born in September 1779 in Onslow, NC. He was one of a group of Onslow County people who moved to Bulloch Co., GA between 1800 and 1802. He was married in Bulloch Co. on October 16, 1802 to **Easter (or Esther) Elizabeth Burnett**, born 1781 in Onslow Co. She had moved with her widowed mother and brothers, **John** and **Daniel**, to Bulloch Co. shortly before 1802. Nathan and his family moved to Irwin Co. in early 1820. There he served as Tax Collector in 1825 and 1826, as Justice of the Peace from 1827-1831 and as Trustee of the Poor in 1827. They moved again in 1830 to Lowndes Co, where he served as justice of the peace, 1834-1845.

Nathan served as a private under Capt. Robert D. Bradley in the 13th Regiment Florida Militia, December 28, 1837 to February 11, 1838, in the Seminole Indian Wars. His sons, **Elijah D.** and **David** were also privates in the same company.

After the death of his daughter, **Ellender**, in 1847, Nathan and his wife

moved to Madison, FL until 1858 when they moved back to Brooks, GA with their son, **Joel**. When Joel died in the small pox epidemic, Nathan went back to Florida to live with his son David. Nathan first appears on the Madison, FL census in 1850 with his wife. He died October 22, 1861 in Madison, FL and Easter died 1864 in Madison, FL. They were both buried in the Fayetteville Cemetery, Dixie Co., FL.

Nathan and Easter were the parents of:

1. **David**, born September 25, 1804 in Bulloch, GA; died May 19, 1864 (some sources show his death date as 8 May) in Lafayette, FL. He came with his parents to Irwin Co. and was married there on November 20, 1827 to **Eliza Ann Allen**, daughter of **James Allen**, the first Sheriff of Irwin County. Eliza was born November 27, 1811 in NC and died December 1, 1871 in Dixie, FL. David served with his father as a private in the 13th Regiment, Florida militia during the Seminole Indian Wars. In 1841, David moved with his family to Madison, FL where he homesteaded lands and made his home. In 1867 he moved to the newly created Lafayette County, FL (in the portion that later became Dixie County). He and his wife are buried in the Fayetteville Cemetery, Dixie, FL.

2. **Joel Ashley**, born November 7, 1806 in Bulloch, GA; died in October 22, 1860 in Brooks, GA. On July 4, 1837 in Lowndes, GA he married **Mary Joyce Blair**, daughter of **William Blair** and **Mary Joyce**. She was born December 29, 1810 in Screven, GA and died March 10, 1889 in Brooks, GA. They were both buried in the Mount Zion Campground in Brooks, GA. Joel and Mary Joyce were the parents of: **Nathan L.**, born 1838 in Brooks Co., GA, who married **Mary D. Strickland**; **Mary Miriam**, born 1840 (it

is believed that she married **W. B. Davis**); **Sibbiah Easter**, born 1843 married **John Lee** and later **John Thomas Seay**; **William Blair**, born 1845 who married **Martha J. Taylor**; **Hannah Elizabeth**, born 1847; **Rhoda**, born 1849; **Martha** born 1851 and **Joel Ashley**, born 1855 who married **Camilla Hiers**.

3. **Hannah**, born February 22, 1809 in Bulloch, GA; died 1846 in Dade City, Pasco, FL. On November 8, 1838 in Lowndes (now Brooks), GA, she and **William C. McLeod** were married. He was born December 15, 1811 in Bryan, GA and died December 5, 1886 in Hernando Co., FL. They were the parents of **Mary Jane McLeod Croft**, **William C. McLeod**, and **David McLeod**.

4. **Ellender**, born April 11, 1811 in Bulloch, GA; died December 21, 1847 in Brooks Co., GA. It appears that she never married.

5. **Polly H.**, born February 18, 1813 in Bulloch GA; died May 11, 1822, Bulloch, GA.

6. **John J.**, born May 8, 1815 in Bulloch, GA; died about 1867 in Tampa, FL. He married **Jane Blair** on December 7, 1835, daughter of **William Blair** and **Mary Joyce**. He later married **Martha Jane Connell**, daughter of **James Isaac Connell**, on April 19, 1846.

7. **William**, born 1816 in Bulloch, GA; died 1817 in Bulloch, GA

8. **Elijah D.**, born September 3, 1817 in Bulloch, GA; died December 6, 1886 in Suwannee, FL. On December 18, 1838, he married **Susan Ann Allen**, who was born about 1820 and died in 1913 in Suwannee, FL. They are both buried in the Antioch Baptist Church Cemetery in Live Oak, Suwannee, FL.

9. **Elizabeth H.**, born August 25, 1821 in Irwin, GA; died 1862. She married **Simeon**

**Duggar Allen** on March 30, 1843. He was born about 1820.

10. **James Burnett**, born May 17, 1824 in Irwin, GA; died 1901 in Brooks, GA. He first married **Margaret Ann Blanton** on July 28, 1840 in Valdosta, Lowndes, GA. She was born March 1, 1819 in Sampson, NC. He later married **Levicy Mehala Dean** on February 10, 1849.

#### **David M. Gornto (1804-1864)**

**David M. Gornto** was the first-born son of Nathan L. Gornto and **Easter Burnett**. He married **Eliza Ann Allen**, born abt. 1811 in North Carolina, on November 20, 1827 in Irwin, Georgia. David and his family were shown living next door to Nathan and his family on the 1850 Census.

David and Eliza were the parents of:

1. **Hannah**, born about 1830 in Lowndes, GA; died 1870 in Alachua, FL. She married **William P. Lightfoot** on September 8, 1847 in Madison, FL.

2. **Nancy Elizabeth**, born 1833 in Lowndes, GA; died 1916 in Madison, FL. On January 8, 1851, she married **Emanuel Waters**, son of **William Waters** and **Cecilia Brewton**. He was born about 1829 in Tattnall, GA and died September 5, 1895 in Alachua, FL. Emanuel was a Confederate soldier who enlisted May 15, 1862 at the Confederate Camp in Huston, FL. He died because of an injury he received during the battle of The Wilderness in May 1864. Nancy is buried in the Fayetteville Cemetery, next to her family in Dixie, FL. Emanuel was buried in Townsend Cemetery, Gilchrist, FL.

2. **John Jarrett**, born about 1836 in Lowndes, GA; died January 1, 1892 in Perry, FL. He first married **W. B. Davis** on April 4, 1861 and later married **Sarah A. Tucker**, daughter of **Elijah** and **Margery Tucker**. John Gornto and Sarah Tucker were parents

of **David Madison** and **John Mitchel Gornto**. John enlisted in Company C, Florida 7th Infantry Regiment on 25 Apr 1862 at Gainesville, Florida. He received a disability discharge from Company C, 7th Infantry Regiment Florida on 9 Aug 1862. He served in Captain Stubbs Regiment of Munnerlyn's Battalion, from March 1864 till May 1865. John Died 1 Jan 1892 in Perry, Taylor, Florida where he was killed trying to settle an argument between two of the big cattlemen in Taylor County, FL.

3. **Mary M.**, born 1839 in Lowndes, GA; died 1865 in Lafayette, FL

4. **Thomas J.**, born January 4, 1841 in Lowndes, GA and died December 31, 1909 in Lafayette, FL. It appears he had three wives: **Nancy A. Carter**; **Mary E. Gornto**; and **Georgia A. Fuqua**. Thomas served as a Private in Co. C, 4th Florida Infantry, CSA. He was buried in the Fayetteville Cemetery, Old Town, Dixie, FL.

5. **James Mills**, born 1842 in Madison, FL; died Dec 1863 in Rock Island, IL. Private James Mills Gornto enlisted on April 23, 1862 in Camp Lee, Florida. He fought in the Battle of Missionary Ridge on November 25, 1863 where he was captured. He was sent to Rock Island Barracks Military Prison in Illinois. It is possible that he died from his wounds but there was also a smallpox epidemic at the prison.

6. **Eliza Jane**, born about 1847 in Madison, FL. She married **George Washington McCollister** on June 24, 1872 in Lafayette, FL. Eliza died 1877 in Lafayette, FL.

7. **Joel Joseph**, born 1848 in Madison, FL; died 1849 in Madison, FL

8. **Francis Marion**, born April 12, 1849 in Madison, FL; died 1959 in Suwannee, FL. He married **Sallie C. Fry** on June 21, 1873 in Suwannee, FL. He was buried in the Antioch Cemetery, Suwannee, FL.

9. **Sarah Ann**, born 1852 in Madison, FL; died 1874 in Lafayette, FL

10. **Anna Amanda**, born 1853 in Madison, FL; died sometime between 1874 & 1880.

11. **David Mitchell**, born October 20, 1856 in Madison, FL; died January 27, 1907 in Madison, FL. He married first **Mary A. Delanye** in 1882 and later married **Movice A. Long** on February 27, 1889 in Taylor, FL. David was buried in Rocky Sink.

#### **Elijah D. Gornto (1817-1886)**

There was another Gornto family shown in Madison on the 1850 US Census. This was the family of **Elijah D. Gornto**. Elijah was born in September 1817 in Bulloch, Georgia, a son of **Nathan L. Gornto** and **Easter Burnett**. He married **Susan Ann Allen** on December 18, 1838 in Madison, FL. They were the parents of:

1. **James D.**, born 1841 in Lowndes, GA; died 1863 in TN.

2. **Mitchell C.**, born 1843 in Lowndes, GA. He served as a private in the War Between the States in Co. C, 4th Florida Infantry. According to the war records, he enrolled on May 11, 1862 at the age of 19 years, in Jacksonville, FL. He died January 2, 1863 of casualties of Preston's Brigade in the battles in front of Murfreesboro, TN, December 31, 1862 to January 2, 1863.

3. **William George Washington**, born April 1846, in Lowndes, GA; died January 17, 1935 in Putnam, FL. The 1860 US Census shows him living with his parents and siblings in Madison, FL. On July 5, 1863 in Madison, FL, William married **Vivenia Eugenia Patterson**, daughter of **John Patterson** and **Sarah Smith**. 1880 US Census shows him and his wife living in Precinct 9, Suwannee, FL. She was born October 1, 1847 and died June 13, 1929 in Grandin, FL. He had served during the Civil

War with the First Florida Light Artillery and was about 17 miles from General Lee's headquarters when he surrendered. At the time of William's death, he was the only surviving Confederate soldier of Putnam Co., FL. For more than 50 years, he was a railroad man, retiring in 1910 to enter the grocery business. Both of them are buried in Paran Baptist Church Cemetery, Putnam, FL along with a lot of other family members. They were the parents of: **Charles**, born 1869; **Arie**, born abt. 1870 in Albany, Daugherty, GA; **Allie**, born 1873; **Frances**, born February 14, 1874; **Ida**, born 1877; **William Dowman**, born October 2, 1879 in Columbia, FL and died August 15, 1967 in Grandin, FL.; **Drucilla**, born August 17, 1880 in Wellborn, FL and died November 18, 1960. She married **George Williamson; Molly Rebecca**, born January 28, 1883 and died September 29, 1971; and **Ada Summerfield**, born June 21, 1888, Wellborn, FL and died 1980. She married **Robert Brooks**.

4. **Francis Marion**, born in April 1849 in Madison, FL; died about 1959 in Suwannee, FL. On June 21, 1873 in Suwannee, FL, Francis married **Sallie C. Fry**. He was buried in the Antioch Baptist Church Cemetery, Live Oak, Suwannee, FL.

5. **Mary J.**, born 1853 in Madison, FL (twin sister of Martha P.)

6. **Martha P.**, born 1853 in Madison, FL (twin sister of Mary J.)

7. **John Mills**, born April 3, 1856 in Madison, FL, married **Ella Epperson**.

8. **Susan America**, born about 1860 in Madison, FL, married **William Luther Whitfield**, son of **John Whitfield** and **Rebecca Williams**, on January 30, 1883 in

Suwannee, FL. He was born June 7, 1857 in Thomas, GA and died December 19, 1911 in Suwannee, FL.

9. **Florida V.**, born about 1861 in Madison, FL

10. **Elijah D.**, born about 1863 in Madison, FL

#### **James Burnett Gornto (1824-1901)**

The last Gornto family shown in Madison, FL on the 1850 US Census was that of **James Burnett Gornto**. James was born May 17, 1824 in Irwin, GA, another son of **Nathan L. Gornto** and **Easter Burnett**, and he died April 15, 1901 in Quitman, Brooks, GA.

By the time of the 1860 & 1870 Censuses for Madison, Florida, there was only one Gornto family that remained in Madison—that of **Elijah D. Gornto** and his wife, **Susan**. They moved to Suwannee Co., FL before 1880. Elijah died in 1886 and Susan lived until 1913. They were both living in Suwannee Co. at their death and were buried in the Antioch Baptist Church Cemetery in Live Oak, Suwannee, FL. By the 1880 US Census, there were no Gorntos remaining in Madison, FL.

*The Madison County Genealogy Society welcomes your input and invites you to join our organization. We meet on the second Thursday monthly, except during summer months, in the Madison Public Library from 6 to 7 PM. Annual dues are \$25. To add comments to our articles or to submit your own sketch of your ancestor, contact us at Madison County Genealogy Society, P.O. Box 136, Madison, FL 32341. Or contact us by email at [mccgenealogysociety@live.com](mailto:mccgenealogysociety@live.com)*

<b>DEATH NOTICES/OBITUARIES</b>			
Extracted from Funeral Home Memorial Cards/Obituaries submitted by local funeral homes, websites, or Madison Co. Genealogical Society Members			
<b>Jack Tally Youmans</b>		<b>Beatrice Kennedy</b>	
Born:	2 Jan 1947	Born:	2 Oct 1917
Died:	27 Jan 2014, Thomasville, Thomas, GA	Died:	9 Feb 2015, Albany, GA
Internment:	Oak Hill Cem., Quitman, Brooks, GA	Internment:	Okapilco Church Cem., Brooks, GA
<b>Sophie E. Tuten</b>		<b>Annie Louise Smith Vickers</b>	
Born:	Unknown	Born:	27 Jan 1925, Madison, FL
Died:	15 Jan 2015, Madison, FL	Died:	15 Jan 2015, Tallahassee, Leon, FL
Internment:	Not Provided	Internment:	Oak Ridge Cem., Madison, FL
<b>Joseph Washington Thomas</b>		<b>Julian B. Thompson, Jr.</b>	
Born:	19 Jul 1924, Lee, Madison, FL	Born:	Abt. 1948
Died:	4 Mar 2015, Advent Christian Village	Died:	4 Feb 2015, Enterprise, AL
Internment:	Midway Cem., Madison, FL	Internment:	Not Provided
<b>Logan Paige Shelley</b>		<b>Annie Laura Bass Thomas</b>	
Born:	15 Jul 1992, Valdosta, Lowndes, GA	Born:	Abt. 1942, Madison, FL
Died:	25 Feb 2015, Pinetta, Madison, FL	Died:	23 Feb 2015, Dowling Park, FL
Internment:	Hilcrest Memorial, Quitman, Brooks, GA	Internment:	Macedonia Cem., Madison, FL
<b>Gladys Elizabeth Sapienza</b>		<b>Sue Scruggs</b>	
Born:	11 Jan 1917	Born:	9 Jun 1925, Broxton, GA
Died:	6 Mar 2015, Quitman, Brooks, GA	Died:	17 Feb 2015, Brooks, GA
Interment:	Oak Hill Cem., Quitman, Brooks, GA	Internment:	Mt. Zion Campground Cem., Morven, GA
<b>Myrtle B. Reagan</b>		<b>Katheryn Bickley</b>	
Born:	27 Oct 1926, Caswell, GA	Born:	
Died:	8 Mar 2015, Cherry Lake, Madison, FL	Died:	5 Mar 2015
Internment:	Cherry Lake Methodist, Madison, FL	Internment:	Roselawn Cem., Tallahassee, FL
<b>Clara Patrick</b>		<b>John H. Plant, Dr.</b>	
Born:	26 Jun 1928	Born:	XXXX, Madison, FL
Died:	8 Feb 2015, Quitman, Brooks, GA	Died:	1 Jan 2015, Jacksonville, Duval, FL
Internment:	Philadelphia Baptist, Brooks, GA	Internment:	Orange Park, FL
<b>Betty McCall Olive</b>		<b>Delores OSteen</b>	
Born:	6 Dec 1935, Live Oak, FL	Born:	Abt. 1937, Madison, FL
Died:	14 Mar 2015, Madison, FL	Died:	27 Feb 2015, Cross City, FL
Internment:	Oak Ridge Cem., Madison, FL	Internment:	Mt. Olive Cem., Cross City, FL
<b>Cynthia Tison Mullinax</b>		<b>Albert Raymond Mitchell, Jr.</b>	
Born:	6 Apr 1955	Born:	25 Mar 1056, Quitman, Brooks, GA
Died:	23 Jan 2015, Valdosta, Lowndes, GA	Died:	1 Mar 2015, Quitman, Brooks, GA
Internment:	Not Provided	Internment:	Oak Hill Cem., Quitman, Brooks, GA
<b>Louis Clemon McQuay, Sr., Rev.</b>		<b>Mary Ruth McGuffee</b>	
Born:	16 Jun 1936, Madison, FL	Born:	20 Aug 1943
Died:	14 Jan 2015, Tallahassee, Leon, FL	Died:	13 Feb 2015, Quitman, Brooks, GA
Internment:	Not Provided	Internment:	Not Provided

<b>DEATH NOTICES/OBITUARIES</b>			
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<b>John Clayton Mathis</b>		<b>LeRoy McAllister</b>	
Born:	Abt. 1928	Born:	16 Feb 1942
Died:	7 Jan 2015, Madison, FL	Died:	27 Feb 2015, Thomasville, Thomas, GA
Internment:	Live Oak City Cem., Suwannee, FL	Internment:	Pine Grove Cem., Madison, FL
<b>Ann McMullen Liddell</b>		<b>Edna Gloria Overton Martin</b>	
Born:	XXXX, Madison, FL	Born:	8 Oct 1925, Jackson, MS
Died:	14 Jan 2015, Scottsdale, AZ	Died:	17 Jan 2015, Quitman, Brooks, GA
Internment:	Scottsdale, AZ	Internment:	Lee Memorial Cem., Lee, FL
<b>Emma Deas Lammons</b>		<b>Janie Bellamy</b>	
Born:	29 Dec 1909, Hamilton, FL	Born:	25 Dec 2014
Died:	22 Feb 2015, Dowling Park, FL	Died:	25 Dec 2014, Philadelphia, PA
Internment:	Lee Memorial Cem., Madison, FL	Internment:	Not Provided
<b>Velma T. Meeler Bennett</b>		<b>Audrey Blanton</b>	
Born:	28 May 1945	Born:	15 Jan 1940, Madison, FL
Died:	13 Dec 2014, Cook Medical Ctr.	Died:	25 Dec 2014, Madison, FL
Internment:	Woodlawn Cem., Annex	Internment:	San Pedro Cem., Madison, FL
<b>Northwood Barrow</b>		<b>Andrew Becton, III</b>	
Born:	18 Jan 1961	Born:	14 Feb 2015, Valdosta, Lowndes, GA
Died:	11 Feb 2015, Phoebe Worth Medical Ctr.	Died:	14 Feb 2015, Valdosta, Lowndes, GA
Internment:	Rosewood Cem., Barwick, GA	Internment:	Oak Hill Cem., Quitman, Brooks, GA
<b>William Johnson Bibb</b>		<b>Marilyn Kinsey Bishop</b>	
Born:	Abt. 1933, Springfield, TN	Born:	Abt. 1940, Madison, FL
Died:	29 Jan 2015, Tallahassee, Leon, FL	Died:	9 Jan 2015, Tallahassee, Leon, FL
Internment:	Oak Ridge Cem., Madison, FL	Internment:	Oak Ridge Cem., Madison, FL
<b>Martha Davis McCormick Blevis</b>		<b>Richard Clem Brogdon</b>	
Born:	Abt. 1924, Fairmont, NC	Born:	7 Nov 1962, Winter Haven, FL
Died:	24 Feb 2015	Died:	3 Mar 2015, Ocala, FL
Internment:	Clearwater, FL	Internment:	Not Provided
<b>Wanda Brown</b>		<b>James Henry "Tank" Dowling</b>	
Born:	Abt. 1927, Hialeah, FL	Born:	15 Nov 1977, Live Oak, FL
Died:	11 Mar 2015, Madison, FL	Died:	23 Dec 2014, Jacksonville, Duval, FL
Internment:	Harmony Cem., Cherry Lake, Madison, FL	Internment:	Waycross, GA
<b>Eva Mae Diamond</b>		<b>Marvin L. Doud</b>	
Born:	Abt. 1933, Madison, FL	Born:	26 Mar 1954, Warsaw, NY
Died:	20 Jan 2015, Tallahassee, Leon, FL	Died:	7 Feb 2015, Valdosta, Lowndes, GA
Internment:	Oak Ridge Cem., Madison, FL	Internment:	Not Provided
<b>Jimmie Thelma Grant</b>		<b>James Randolph Grimes</b>	
Born:	21 Oct 1923, Madison, FL	Born:	30 Dec 1950, Augusta, GA
Died:	15 Jan 2015	Died:	6 Jan 2015, Tallahassee, Leon, FL
Internment:	Not Provided	Internment:	Sunset Hill Cem., Valdosta, GA
<b>Raymond Ganey</b>		<b>Mary Elizabeth Shealey</b>	
Born:	20 Oct 1925	Born:	
Died:	9 Dec 2014, Pensacola, FL	Died:	22 Dec 2013
Internment:	Riverside Memorial Park, Jacksonville, FL	Internment:	Roseland Cem., Monticello, FL

<b>DEATH NOTICES/OBITUARIES</b>			
Extracted from Funeral Home Memorial Cards/Obituaries submitted by local funeral homes, websites, or Madison Co. Genealogical Society Members			
<b>John Haskins</b>		<b>Alice E. Hammond</b>	
Born:		Born:	24 Apr 1937, Troy, NY
Died:	26 Dec 2014	Died:	2015
Internment:	Evergreen Cem., Greenville, FL	Internment:	Not Provided
<b>Faye Rich Harden</b>		<b>Jenny Lynn Hesters</b>	
Born:	28 Apr 1940	Born:	24 Jan 1961, Quitman, Brooks, GA
Died:	10 Feb 2015, Valdosta, Lowndes, GA	Died:	15 Jan 2015, Valdosta, Lowndes, GA
Internment:	Not Provided	Internment:	Oak Hill Cem., Quitman, Brooks, GA
<b>Goldie Albritton Howard</b>			
Born:	Abt. 1925, Madison, FL		
Died:	1 Mar 2015, Madison, FL		
Internment:	Pine Grove Cem., Madison, FL		

### What Causes Genealogy?

Note: this article was abstracted from the Winter 1988 Florida Genealogist and was attributed to many persons. Some items have been changed. Example: the word typewriter was changed to computer. Otherwise, although this article is 17 years old, it still fits. It was also included in the MadisonCounty Genealogy News, April-June 2000.

More people than ever before are painstakingly filling in pedigree charts. They are flooding libraries, overwhelming county officials, and chasing snakes out of tall grass and brambles in old family cemeteries. They lie awake nights, plotting further excursions, fearful that somehow they have missed a clue, overlooked a record, or not asked the right questions of Great Aunt Betty who suddenly appears frailer with each passing day.

What drives these otherwise sane individuals to sit at the computer until their shoulders scream for mercy? What fiendish obsession keeps them pawing through musty records in sweltering attics and damp cellars? What goads them to abstain from food until the librarian kicks them out, or to sit hunched over a microfilm reader, eyes aching, until she interrupts with the dreaded announcement that their time is up.

What is this disease called "genealogy?"

It is certainly not confined to any one age group, nor to one particular sex. Once an individual is stricken, there is a definite change in behavior patterns. Neat people take on pigpen symptoms, littering the house with papers and books, and screaming with indignation when someone disturbs their "just where I want them: disorder. Whole rooms are suddenly devoted to this litter.

It is not contagious, yet a person with this malady seems quite capable of passing it to another – in fact, victims seem eager to infect other unsuspecting victims.

If left alone, the patient shows distinct tendencies toward self-destruction. He will absolutely wallow in his illness, losing complete track of time, space, family, friends, and even his own creature comforts.

To people not inflicted with this infirmity, the sufferer may appear at times to have developed a verbal malfunction. He will sit for hours with his nose stuck deep into a book, his pencil-clutching hand making rapid, indecipherable scratches across a welter of papers. Attempts to carry on a discussion elicit naught but rude grunts and a vague "Mmmmm" or two.



Yet let one with a similar affliction appear, and our subject develops a most loose and eloquent tongue.

One tremendous stumbling block in the treatment of “Genealogy” is that the patient professes to be searching for one particular person, yet when that person is found, the patient suddenly goes off on a different tangent – searching for not one but two more people! This doubling of problems seems to occur immediately after an attack of wild jubilation. These “happy” attacks are rare; the subject is usually in a state of mind to deep depression which centers on his inability to double his problems!

All these compulsion neuroses appear to intensify as the years pass. There is no known cure – nor do these patients seek one. They seemingly delight in their suffering – yet thousands make the trip to various favorite libraries each year, always hoping for a miracle.

What causes folks to search for ancestors? I don’t know! Do you?

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**The Madison County Genealogical Society**  
**P. O. Box 136**  
**Madison, FL 32341-0136**

***The Madison County, Florida Genealogical News*** is published four times a year by the Madison County Genealogical Society. These indexed journals are included in the annual membership dues, with one copy to per family. Back issues are available at \$10.00 per copy. Send order requests to the above address.

**Queries** are free for members but as we have been receiving numerous requests, it may take a while to respond. If our volunteers have available time, they will try to help others, especially if their family lived in Madison at some time. In order for the organization to remain financially feasible, we must charge for things such as copies from the courthouse or newspapers; printing and mailing; etc.

**Mission:** The mission of the Madison County, Florida Genealogical Society is to:

- \*educate others interested in genealogy.
- \*encourage the research and preservation of family.
- \*aid in genealogy researching and encourage sharing of research information.
- \*foster solid genealogical research practices.
- \*procure, preserve, publish and distribute both genealogical and historical materials.

**Meetings** are held at the Treasures of Madison at 6:00 P. M. on the second Thursday of every month, except June, July and August, unless otherwise noted. Request you check the website at [www.MadisonGenealogy.com](http://www.MadisonGenealogy.com) to ensure you know where and when the meetings are being held.

**Annual Membership:** Family - \$25.00. The fiscal and membership year is 1 January to 31 December. The cost of mailing our newsletters is becoming a major challenge and could lead to an increase in membership dues by 2013. We request your input on how we might be able to maintain the membership fee at the current level.

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If you have any of the following and are willing to share them, we would be most grateful.

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Surnames I am researching:

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Comments:

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