

**Ancestors of  
Albert Edward DORR**



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# Ancestors of Albert Edward Dorr

## First Generation

**1. Albert Edward DORR**, son of **Albert Ernest DORR** and **Laura Estelle BOSWELL**, was born on 3 Sep 1918 in Macon, Fayette Co., TN, died on 13 Jul 1995 in Oklahoma City, OK, at age 76, and was buried in Memorial Park Cemetery, Oklahoma City, OK.



Albert Edward Dorr

The following was written by Dad in 1988.

My father was killed at the 2nd Street hill in McAlester six months before I was born.

My mother moved to Macon, Tennessee where I was born on September 3, 1918. When

I was three months old we moved back to McAlester. My brother, Ernest B., was ten years older than me, and my sister Dorothy was six years older.

Mother bought a nineteen-room house and took in roomers and boarders. We were across the street from the fire station and I was the mascot of the fire department in my younger years. I went to McAlester elementary, junior high and high schools. I worked for four years during high school at Dixieana Creamery and Bender Drug as a soda jerk. I graduated from McAlester High School in 1936.

Mother and I moved to Stillwater, rented a house and took in roomers and boarders. I worked my first year at Kennicutt Drug and enrolled in Electrical Engineering. The second year I was flunking in twelve hours of EE and was kicked out for the semester. Electrical Engineering was just not for me so I enrolled in Mechanical Engineering and made the Dean's Honor Roll. I pledged Acacia Fraternity, where I became social chairman, vice president and in my fourth year, president of my fraternity and also president of the Inter-Fraternity Council. During these years, I worked as fountain manager of the Midwest Creamery.

At the 1938 Acacia Christmas party I met Maxyne Zerby, who was dating my best friend Bus Walker. During the summer of 1939 I began dating Maxyne and we had a wonderful courtship. On June 1, 1940 at 9:00 PM we were married in Mr. and Mrs. Zerby's home by a blind Methodist preacher. Thirza Murphy, Ernest B. Dorr and Maxyne's brother Don Perry were present. We drove to

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Oklahoma City in my brother's car and arrived at the Biltmore Hotel. We spent two days at \$4 .00 per day in Room 1707. We continued working and going to school and in January 1942 I graduated.

Maxyne was pregnant at the time and didn't get to graduate. On February 15, 1942 Edward Max was born at Stillwater Hospital with brain damage that caused cerebral palsy, although it took two years before a doctor told us what was wrong.

I started to work with Phillips Petroleum Company and we moved to Oklahoma City on September 23, 1943. Dana Michael was born and a month later we moved to Wichita, where I worked as a power plant engineer for Beech Aircraft. After eleven months of this, I enlisted in the U.S. Navy with the rank of Ensign and went to Officer's Candidate School for two months at Hollywood Beach, Florida. Maxyne, Ed and Dana moved in with her folks at Perry. I was assigned to LST 817 for duty in the Pacific.

Before I left my ship pulled in to New Orleans where Maxyne came down and spent a week with me. My ship then went through the Panama Canal and up the West Coast to Seattle. Maxyne came out and spent about a month with me as I went through firefighter and navigation schools. The next eighteen months were spent in action, where I was a navigator on the 817.

All through college, Phillips and Beech I was a 35mm photographer where I made pretty good extra money. So when my ship left Seattle, I bought all the development and enlarging needs and set up in my stateroom. My only major encounter was Okinawa, where 1400 ships and troops stormed the island. I was discharged in March 1946 with the rank of Lt. (jg).

While I was away Maxyne got her degree in Art. I came back to Oklahoma City and went to work as a mechanical engineer with OG&E. We bought our first house at 2401 NE 27th. It was a two-bedroom with built-in garage, which we later turned into a den and still later built a double garage. Later we built a 20"x16" den on the back.

On May 20, 1947 our third son Patrick B. was born. During this time I continued my photo business as well as a company called Cleaning Contractors, Inc., which specialized in washing walls and ceilings and cleaning kitchen grease ducts for restaurants.

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In March 1948 I left OG&E and took a job as engineer with an air conditioning distributor and contractor named C. Robert Ingram Inc. The second year I was made sales manager and had a pleasant life until November 1953, when Lewis H. Carter, Sr. and I left Ingram and started Comfort Inc. We subleased from Ingram the first year and the second year had a 10,000 square foot building built at 1808 West Main, where we stayed for ten years. At the end of this period we build a 20,000 square foot building at 100 NE 34th and later added another 15,000 square feet. We worked hard and put in many long days and weeks. Our business was very successful and we had a very good reputation. We were both distributors for Chrysler Airtemp air conditioning and mechanical contractors.

On April 25, 1952 our fourth son, Jon Real Dorr, was born and on November 5, 1954 our fifth son, Kent Anthony Dorr, was born. In November 1958 we moved into our custom-built home in Wildewood, where we had six bedrooms, a swimming pool and paddle tennis court. We lived here happily until March 1970, when we moved into our custom-built 3500 square foot house in Lansbrook.

I always loved the water and boats, so in 1964 I bought a Lightning 19-foot centerboard sailboat. Maxyne didn't like jumping over the centerboard so the second year I traded it for an Aurora, a 21-foot keelboat, and joined the Oklahoma City Boat Club on Lake Hefner. I loved racing and won many trophies. As the Boat Club members began getting younger and I became older, I sold my boat to Ed and retired from sailing after about seventeen years.

At the end of 1979 I sold my Comfort Inc. interest to Carter. Although I retired, I kept my office in our building at 100 NE 34th where I come each day from 11:00 until 4:00, mainly to get away from the house, be around people and keep books on C&D Investments Company, which Carter and I started about 1961. During this time we owned two post offices in small towns, a 40-unit apartment house and about eight oil and gas wells. We still have the Comfort building, which pays Carter and me about \$25,000 a year each. This also gives me time to read the Wall Street Journal and several trade and investment magazines.

It is now 1988 and I am seventy years old and have enjoyed a very full family life and have a wonderful wife and a bunch of kids and grandkids.

# Ancestors of Albert Edward Dorr

For more information see "Tales of the Al Dorr Family."

Albert married **Maxyne C. ZERBY**, daughter of **Percy Brandon ZERBY** and **Ora Cecilia MILLION**, on 1 Jun 1940 in Stillwater, OK.

Children from this marriage were:

- i. **Edward Max DORR** was born on 15 Feb 1942 in Stillwater, OK.
- ii. **Dana Michael DORR** was born on 23 Sep 1943 in Oklahoma City, OK.
- iii. **Patrick B. DORR** was born on 20 May 1947 in Oklahoma City, OK.
- iv. **Jon Real DORR** was born on 25 Apr 1952 in Oklahoma City, OK.
- v. **Kent Anthony DORR** was born on 5 Nov 1954 in Oklahoma City, OK.

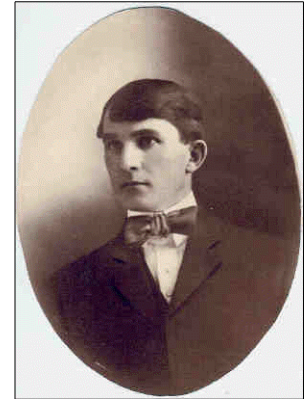


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## Second Generation

**2. Albert Ernest DORR**, son of **Narcisse "Narcissus" Louis DORR** and **Sara Jane WILKINS**, was born on 17 Feb 1879 in Sardis, Panola Co., MS, died on 20 Feb 1918 in McAlster, OK, at age 39, and was buried in Rose Hill Cemetery, Sardis, Panola Co., MS.

Ernest met Estelle while she was on a visit to her Aunt Lucy Trotter in Mississippi. They were married in a double ceremony with Estelle's sister Lettie in 1907 by Rev. G. B. Baskerville. They moved to McAlester, Oklahoma where Albert Ernest owned a barbershop. He was killed in 1918 in an automobile accident in McAlster, OK.



Albert married **Laura Estelle BOSWELL** on 19 Nov 1907 in Memphis, TN.

Children from this marriage were:

- 1 i. **Albert Edward DORR**
- ii. **Ernest Boswell DORR** was born on 13 Sep 1908 in McAlster, OK and died on 13 Apr 1998 in Norman, OK, at age 89.
- iii. **Dorothy May DORR** was born on 6 Sep 1912 in McAlster, OK and died on 18 Jul 1988 in Oklahoma City, OK, at age 75.

**3. Laura Estelle BOSWELL**, daughter of **Thomas Jones BOSWELL** and **Laura Ellie PARKS**, was born on 30 Oct 1882 in Macon, Fayette Co., TN, died on 12 Jan 1972 in Edmond, OK, at age 89, and was buried in Rose Hill Cemetery, Sardis, Panola Co., MS.

Estelle was the oldest daughter of ten children. She meets Ernest while on a visit to her Aunt Lucy Trotter in Mississippi. She and her sister Lettie are married in a double ceremony in 1907. Estelle and Ernest move to McAlester, Oklahoma where he owns a barbershop. Six months before Al Dorr was born his father is killed in an automobile accident and Mrs. Dorr returns to Macon, Tennessee for his birth. Three months after he is born, she moves back to McAlester and buys a nineteen-room house where she takes in boarders. In 1936 Estelle moves to Stillwater where she again runs a boarding house. This enables her son, Albert, to go to college. After Al Dorr marries Maxyne Zerby, Estelle moves back to Macon, TN to live with Dewitt Boswell and his wife Ola. She also teaches in a country school. She and the Boswells travel every summer and she spends summers with Al Dorr's family. She dies in a nursing home in Edmond, OK.



Laura married **Albert Ernest DORR** on 19 Nov 1907 in Memphis, TN.



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## Third Generation

**4. Narcisse "Narcissus" Louis DORR**, son of **Louis Adolphe DORR** and **Francoise "Fannie" BENAL**, was born on 2 Dec 1844 in Mobile, AL, died on 5 Mar 1916 in Panola Co., MS, at age 71, and was buried in Davis Chapel Cemetery, Panola Co., MS.



Narcissus' parents, Louis and Frances Dorr, arrive in America at Mobile, AL in 1840 and marry in 1841. He is born on February 2, 1844. At the time he has a two-year old sister Sylvia and a one-year old brother. Sometime after Narcissus is born but before 1847, the family moves to Kemper County, MS. We know this because the record of his brother Norman's birth shows him as being born in Kemper County.

Very little is known of Narcissus' younger days. He has four sisters and seven brothers. He marries an Englishwoman named Sara Jane Wilkins on February 2, 1849 in Sumter, AL. Sumter is on the Alabama-Mississippi border next to Kemper County. Sara Jane is a daughter of one of Louis' neighbors.

From Louis' letters:

Narcissus has his own place two miles from his father and is working for him in return for part of the crop. His father Louis is never quite happy with where he is at the time and tries to convince Narcissus to move to Arkansas or Texas, but Narcissus refuses to go.

In early 1871 Louis and all of his children that were in Kemper County moves to Panola County, MS which is in the northern part of the state. Louis moves to a bluff that overlooks swamp country and that year they are all in poor health. Martin and Narcissus rent 30 acres of bottomland two miles from their father. They pay 50 pounds lint cotton per acre, but the land is creek bottom and never fails to make less than a bale an acre. Around August Narcissus' oldest boy Edwin dies of the flu and in October Narcissus himself becomes very ill. Martin returns from Arkansas and joins Narcissus on the farm. Evidently, due to the poor health conditions, Narcissus is ready to return to Kemper County in the fall of 1871.

In the fall of 1872 Louis sells his land on the bluff and moves eight miles to the east. For a time Narcissus and Norman rent land in the neighborhood and work together. Later Narcissus is able to buy 80 acres of land adjacent to his father's

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place for \$900. His father writes, "he built a very good house on it. Part of it is creek bottom and made a bale (and made 18 bales of cotton the first year) to the acre besides plenty of corn and potatoes." Norman is working with Narcissus at this time.

In 1875 Norman rents land from Narcissus and is working on his own house. Henry is staying with Narcissus.

In 1876 Louis writes, "Narcisse and Shug [?] are well and are making money like Jews. He has paid for his place and has besides no less than 1000 dollars on interests. Henry is still working with him. All three made nearly 30 bales of cotton last year." In 1877 Narcissus and Edward buy another farm in the neighborhood, 160 acres for about \$10 an acre. Martin lives with Louis but is working for Narcissus.

Narcissus and Sara have a total of nine children, five boys, and four girls. In November 1906 Sara dies. In March 1908 Narcissus marries Lucinda "Cindy" Jackson. In 1916 Narcissus passes away and Cindy dies in 1920.

Narcisse married **Sara Jane WILKINS** on 2 Feb 1869 in Sumter Co., AL.<sup>1</sup>

Children from this marriage were:

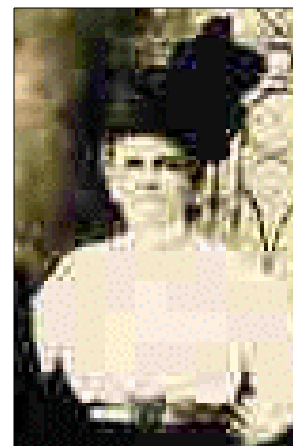
- i. **William Edwin DORR** was born on 26 Dec 1869, died on 11 Jul 1871, at age 1, and was buried in Star Place - Shiloh Cemetery, Panola Co., MS.
- ii. **Caroline "Carrie" Belle DORR** was born on 13 Sep 1872 and died on 4 Mar 1930, at age 57.
- iii. **Marietta (Mary Etta) DORR** was born on 25 Jan 1875 in Kemper Co., MS and died on 3 May 1962 in Panola Co., MS, at age 87.
- iv. **Jennie (Jenny) DORR** was born in 1878, died in 1932 in Panola Co., MS, at age 54, and was buried in Davis Chapel Cemetery, Panola Co., MS.
- 2 v. **Albert Ernest DORR**
- vi. **Louis Henry DORR** was born on 1 Jan 1881, died on 27 Jul 1939 in Panola Co., MS, at age 58, and was buried in Davis Chapel Cemetery, Panola Co., MS. He had no known marriage and no known children.
- vii. **Wilma Louise DORR** was born on 26 Oct 1884 in Sardis, Panola Co., MS, died on 5 Feb 1945 in Sardis, Panola Co., MS, at age 60, and was buried in Rose Hill Cemetery, Sardis, Panola Co., MS.
- viii. **Weir L. DORR** was born on 10 Jun 1888 in Panola Co., MS, died on 8 Jan 1950 in Memphis, TN, at age 61, and was buried in Rose Hill Cemetery, Sardis, Panola Co., MS.
- ix. **Ella Lorine Lorena DORR** was born on 8 Feb 1890 in Panola Co., MS, died on 16 Sep 1946 in Panola Co., MS, at age 56, and was buried in Davis Chapel Cemetery, Panola Co., MS.

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1. Sumter Country Marriage Records, Book 3 Page 158.

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Narcisse next married **Lucinda "Cindy" JACKSON**, daughter of **Robert JACKSON** and **Sara SECOR**, on 25 Mar 1908 in Panola Co., MS. They had no children.



**5. Sara Jane WILKINS**, daughter of **Josiah Richard WILKINS** and **Mary BURTON**, was born on 15 May 1848 in Halifax Co., VA, died on 3 Nov 1906 in Panola Co., MS, at age 58, and was buried in Davis Chapel Cemetery, Panola Co., MS.



Sara Jane is from a very established English family who ancestors came to America in 1618 and settle in Virginia. Sara Jane is born in Halifax Co., VA in 1848. Her father, Josiah Richard Wilkins dies of the measles when Sara is only five years old. When she is about 13, her widowed mother moves the family to Kemper County, Mississippi, near the border with Sumter County, AL. Sara marries Narcissus Dorr in 1869. Sometime after 1869 most of the Wilkins family move to Jackson County, Arkansas. Sara and her sister, Elizabeth, who is also married stay in Mississippi.

From Paul Dorr's Letter:

"Aunt Sarah was unlettered but a very fine woman who, I think, was generally loved. I used sometimes to go to this home for Sunday dinner; there was always a table full of company and the "board groaned" with food. Aunt Sarah had many hospitable expressions with a strong "Arkansas flavor"; if you sat near her end of the table when the plates were being loaded and passed to the consumers, and you offered your plate, as was the custom, to the hostess, Aunt Sarah would smile and say, "Just keep that if it suits you." Or if, as she watched from her end of the long table the rapid disappearance of the food from the row of plates, and

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observed with a keen eye, for example, that you had devoured all of the chicken, three or four pieces, to which you had been helped, she would catch your eye and say with insistent urgency: "Now, Brother Hargrove (or Paul, or any other guest), "You haven't had anything hardly to eat; just help yo'self to chicken and gravy and more mashed potatoes. You set handy." In conversation with her, if you were making a statement about some simple event that had taken place, Aunt Sarah would interject feelingly, from time to time, "I say! I say!" She used to take a vacation from her manifold household duties of one full week every spring. She would spend the first day visiting Aunt Jodie (at Uncle Norman's house) and sit in a rocking chair all day and talk, if anybody was near with whom she could talk. Next day Ira and Clinton would hitch up the buggy and haul her down to Davis Chapel, where she would spend the day (in exactly the same manner) with Aunt Alice (at Uncle Eugene's house). From thence, Uncle Gene would transport her to our house (Uncle Rufus), where she would exactly duplicate the former 24-hour visits, rocking amiably and peacefully, dear soul, talking and "I saying" with my mother, Lillie. Then to Grandma's, to Uncle Ed's and on to the end of the list. Peace to that good woman's ashes."

The above information provided by Jo Dixon Helmers.

Sara married **Narcisse "Narcissus" Louis DORR** on 2 Feb 1869 in Sumter Co., AL.<sup>2</sup>

**6. Thomas Jones BOSWELL**, son of **Thomas Leachman BOSWELL** and **Charlotte JONES**, was born on 13 Jan 1860 in Macon, Fayette Co., TN, died on 1 Apr 1951 in Oakland, TN, at age 91, and was buried in Macon Cemetery, Macon, Fayette Co., TN.

Thomas Jones was a brick mason, but he also raised peanuts, corn, cotton and watermelons as well as hogs, cows and chickens. On his home property he had a corn mill, smokehouse, barn and water well. He left most of the farming to the tenants and concentrated on his chimney building. He specialized in building chimneys and had a reputation that any chimney he built was sure to "draw".

He was the Sunday school superintendent of the local Methodist church and always had even prayer with his family. They were down to earth people, quite and gentle, always friendly. He had a fierce temper, but usually lost it only at the horses, and even then never said a bad word.

The story is on the night before the PARKS family moved from Williston, TN to Texas, Thomas rode his horse from Macon to get Laura. He brought her back and that night his father married them. All she brought was what could be

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2. Sumter Country Marriage Records, Book 3 Page 158.

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carried on horseback. However, it is recorded in the family Bible that they were married by the Rev. S. B. Adams.

In 1937 Thomas bought a two story schoolhouse and converted it into a comfortable colonial type home with white pillars in the front. It was next door to the Methodist church.

Thomas married **Laura Ellie PARKS** on 9 Dec 1879 in Fayette Co., TN.

Children from this marriage were:

- 3 i. **Laura Estelle BOSWELL**
- ii. **Thomas Dewitt BOSWELL** was born on 1 Feb 1881, died in 1967 in Macon, Fayette Co., TN, at age 86, and was buried in Memorial Park, Memphis, Shelby Co., TN.
- iii. **Charlotte Letitia BOSWELL** was born on 11 Oct 1884 and died on 21 Feb 1940 in Oakland, TN, at age 55.
- iv. **John Collins BOSWELL** was born on 6 Nov 1886.
- v. **Walter Lee BOSWELL** was born on 17 Feb 1889 in Macon, Fayette Co., TN and died on 16 Mar 1948 in Memphis, TN, at age 59.
- vi. **Russell Norman BOSWELL** was born on 29 Nov 1891 in Macon, Fayette Co., TN and died on 14 Jun 1961 in Arlington, VA, at age 69.
- vii. **Mary Otie BOSWELL** was born on 12 Feb 1894.
- viii. **Lucy Ellen Zibiah BOSWELL** was born on 21 Dec 1857 in Macon, Fayette Co., TN, died on 25 Jan 1930, at age 72, and was buried in Davis Chapel Cemetery, Panola Co., MS.
- ix. **Wilbur Parks BOSWELL** was born on 7 Aug 1889 in Macon, Fayette Co., TN and died on 8 Jan 1954 in East Point, GA, at age 64.
- x. **Annie Ernestine BOSWELL** was born on 27 Jul 1903.

**7. Laura Ellie PARKS** was born on 26 Jan 1862 in Iredell County, NC, died on 28 Jan 1945 in Macon, Fayette Co., TN, at age 83, and was buried in Macon Cemetery, Macon, Fayette Co., TN.

Laura married **Thomas Jones BOSWELL** on 9 Dec 1879 in Fayette Co., TN.

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## Fourth Generation

**8. Louis Adolphe DORR**, son of **Mathias DORR**<sup>1</sup> and **Marie-Marguerite CLOSSET**, was born on 12 Sep 1816 in Morhange, France, died on 6 Jun 1883 in Panola Co., MS, at age 66, and was buried in Davis Chapel Cemetery, Panola Co., MS.

Louis Dorr was born in Morhange, Mosele, France on 12 September 1816 in the area of Alsoues, Lorraine. His father was a draper and quite wealthy and there are stories that Louis was educated at the University of Paris. There is no documentation for this fact. He was somewhat of a scholar and speaks not only French, German and English with excellence, but can also make his way in two or three other European idioms. Before he moves to America, his mother dies and his father marries a younger woman with children. His stepmother also dies before his father's estate is settled, which complicats the estate. Evidently her children contest the original will.

There are two different versions of why Louis comes to America. First is that he is a court gentleman and is required to serve five years in the king's army. He decides to come to America instead of serving in the army. He meets Frances on the boat to America and they are married when they arrive in Mobile, Alabama.

The other version is that his stepmother's children contest his father's estate. It appears that it could be contested for a long period of time, and Louis decides that he could do better by coming to America instead of waiting for his inheritance.

The is no documentation for either version.

Upon arriving in Mobile, Alabama, Louis Dorr and Frances Benal are married on 7 June 1841. Based on the ages of Louis' children in the 1850 census, it appears that he and the family move to Kemper County between 1844-847. Louis' first three children, Selvy, Albert, and Narcissus, are born in Alabama. Lands records exist showing that Louis obtained 40 acres in Kemper County, Mississippi on 1 April 1856. Of the 12 children that Louis and Frances had, all are born except Eugene by this time.

Apparently Louis serves in the Confederate Army in 1861 and 1862.  
Source: [www.rootsweb.com/~mskemper/military/5thcoi.htm](http://www.rootsweb.com/~mskemper/military/5thcoi.htm)

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Louis corresponds with his brother Victor in France regularly. His main interest in these letters is the status of their inheritance, and he is always interested in how the family was. Another common subject is that he is unhappy where he was and plans to move. He also writes regularly to a Madame Heric in New Orleans. It is not clear who she was, but in a letter dated 27 March 1871 he refers to her as "Sister." Also Frances writes to her so she may have been Frances' sister. Madame Heric is married and has children. She sends Louis newspapers from New Orleans, which are his only source of information about what was happening in France. He especially wants news when the Prussians invade France. The fall of France and Napoleon seems to upset him. Copies of the letters written from 1868 to 1879 exist and are the basis of the following information about Louis and his family.

Victor sends Louis money during 1866-1868. It is unclear if this is from their father's estate or personal loans from Victor. In one of the letters Louis comments that his stepmother had been very generous to the children of Fanfare. Was Fanfare Louis' mother?

It appears that in 1868 Louis writes that he is interested in obtaining an additional 160 acres in Kemper County, but at the same time he is writing to friends that he might move to Florida or Arkansas. He evidently has a poor crop and says that sickness was rampant there. Also he is not happy with the Negro situation after emancipation. In general he always wants to be somewhere else. By March 1870, Martin is in Arkansas; Norman, Albert and "the widow" (?) are in Texas. Narcissus has his own place 2 miles away and works with his father for part of the crop. Louis tries to get Narcissus to move to Arkansas, but he will not move.

In late 1870 or early 1871 Louis moves to Panola County, Mississippi and buys 120 acres on top of the bluff overlooking the Mississippi swamp for \$2,200. This is approximately 15 miles west of Sardis, Mississippi. He writes Victor that his mailing address was Star Place, Panola County, United States. At the time he moved he was living 3 miles northeast of Tamola Station in Kemper County. Narcissus rents 30 acres of bottomland 2 miles from his father. Martin returns from Arkansas and is working with Narcissus. Norman also returns from Texas with his wife.

Louis tells Victor that his crop was excellent that year, but there was much sickness being so close to the swamp. Ed and Narcissus get the mumps;

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Norman's wife dies and Narcissus loses his boy. Due to all of the illness after just one year at the bluff, he decides to buy 200 acres approximately 8 miles from where he is for \$3,000. He mentions that he was tired of paying the doctor half of his profits. Martin stays with Louis and rents 20 acres of his father's land. Ed works for Louis and receives \$20 a month. Narcissus and Norman rent "a good little place near here." At this time he writes, "our family of 12 children are all living and four are married and live with or near us, except for Albert, who has been in Texas 5 years." In October 1873 he writes Victor, "we have made an excellent crop. Our cotton crop brought \$4,000 and we are doing very well, but I am getting old and I do not think I will last long." In every letter he asks for information on the family in France. He has become a trustee for the school at Bishop.

In March 1874 he writes that "I am getting too old for the work of the farm, and I have rented it to three of my sons for 300 piastres a year." He reserves 3 acres for his flower garden to have something to keep him busy. Jenny Ruth says, "He planted his yard as the castle gardens in moons, crescents, and stars and his people in France sent Seeds and Bulbs." He says that his eyesight is becoming very bad and Françoise is as fat as a little pig. Narcissus buys 80 acres adjoining his father's place for \$900. In 1875 he writes Madame Héric that they have been able to save 3,000 piastres since moving to the current farm. He also tells her, "We are doing well at the moment. Our crops this year are excellent, better than I have seen in 15 or 20 years." Norman now rents land from Narcissus and is working on his own house. Henry now stays with Narcissus.

In 1876 Martin becomes ill and Louis writes, "There is no improvement with him yet and I fear that there is no cure for him. His brain is badly affected and unless there is a change for the better soon, I am afraid he will lose his mind." Narcissus and Ed are doing very well and they buy another 160 acres. Also in 1876 Louis learns that the major portion of his father's estate has been lost to an unscrupulous lawyer.

In October 1877 he writes, "I am too old to have anything to do with the farm, and I have concluded for the boys to divide the farm among themselves by paying a small rent to defray the expenses on the place." By now both Ed and Norman have been able to buy land. Rufus and Henry have rented a plantation of 120 acres. Martin lives with Louis but works for Narcissus. Eugene is the only one home with his parents at this time. In 1879 Albert asks his father to send



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him money so he can return home.

The 1880 census shows that all of Louis' children are living in Panola County. Narcissus has married and has five children, Norman is married with three children, Edward is married with three children, Henry is married and Sylvia is married and has three children. The other children are farming/living with Louis. Louis is now 64 years old and has 14 grandchildren.

His letters end in 1879.

### Paul Dorr's Comments

Grandpa headed out for (let us hope) a better clime about 1883. I never knew him. His epitaph says (with which my father seemed to agree) that he was a loving husband and an indulgent father. He was somewhat of a scholar and spoke not only French, German and English with excellence, but could also make his way in two or three other European idioms. I have been informed that he was more-or-less a Freethinker, having little regard for the dogmatism of religion, taking the Life of Jesus as an example, and considering the essence of true religion to be morality and kindness. I get the im-pression that this is about the view of my correspondent (Raoul) in France. Grandma was a very fine character, with a wide-embracing love for, and a universal interest in, ALL of the grandchildren. She stored in the cellar barrels of apples every year, and whenever we went to see her Aunt Lilly would go down - often taking us with her - and fetch up apples for us. The two maiden aunts and Uncle Martin lived with Grandma. Your father and mine, and their other brothers, had for their mother almost a reverence.<sup>2</sup>

Louis married **Francoise "Fannie" BENAL** on 7 Jun 1841 in Mobile Co., AL.<sup>3</sup>

Children from this marriage were:

- i. **Sylvia Marcellia DORR**<sup>4</sup> was born on 6 Mar 1842 in AL and died on 25 Mar 1882, at age 40.
- ii. **Albert Jacob DORR Rev.** was born on 29 Apr 1843 in Mobile Co., AL, died on 20 Dec 1912 in Ptocowa Springs, MS, at age 69, and was buried in Davis Chapel Cemetery, Panola Co., MS.
- 4 iii. **Narcisse "Narcissus" Louis DORR**
- iv. **Norman Franklin DORR** was born on 27 Mar 1847 in Kemper Co., MS and died on 13 Feb 1922 in Panola Co., MS, at age 74.

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2. Rowland.

3. Mobile County Marriage Records, Book 5, Page 136, Entry 70.

4. *Batch Number:7905192, Sheet: 23. Source Call Number:1260532, Type:ilm .*

## Ancestors of Albert Edward Dorr

- v. **Martin Cullen DORR** was born in 1849, died in 1918, at age 69, and was buried in Davis Chapel Cemetery, Panola Co., MS. He had no known marriage and no known children.
- vi. **Edward Charles DORR** was born on 16 Mar 1851 in Kemper Co., MS, died on 16 Jan 1934 in Panola Co., MS, at age 82, and was buried in Rose Hill Cemetery, Sardis, Panola Co., MS.
- vii. **Henry James DORR** was born in 1854 in Kemper Co., MS.
- viii. **Rufus Marion DORR** was born on 24 Dec 1855 in Kemper Co., MS, died on 14 Jul 1950 in Parchman [MS?] Home Of Grdtr Mrs. Andy Anderson, at age 94, and was buried in Davis Chapel Cemetery, Panola Co., MS.
- ix. **Frances "Fannie" (S. F.) DORR** was born about 1857.
- x. **Eugene Emile DORR** was born on 14 Mar 1859, died on 28 Sep 1942 in Panola Co., MS, at age 83, and was buried in Davis Chapel Cemetery, Panola Co., MS.
- xi. **Mary Louisa "Ninny" DORR** was born on 13 Sep 1861 in Kemper Co., MS, died on 30 Apr 1919 in Panola Co., MS, at age 57, and was buried in Davis Chapel Cemetery, Panola Co., MS. She had no known marriage and no known children.
- xii. **Susan Lilla "Lillie" DORR** was born about 1865, died in 1924 in Panola Co., MS, about age 59, and was buried in Davis Chapel Cemetery, Panola Co., MS. She had no known marriage and no known children.

9. **Francoise "Fannie" BENAL**, daughter of ? **BENAL**, was born on 5 Jun 1821 in France, died on 10 Jan 1901 in Panola Co., MS, at age 79, and was buried in Davis Chapel Cemetery, Panola Co., MS.

The following is a copy of obituary of Frances [Francoise] Benal Dorr

Frances [Francoise] Benal Dorr died at her home near Sardis on January 11, 1901, in the 80th year of her life. After a long and useful life, the aged pilgrim is at rest. The hands always so busy in good works and tender ministrations are folded; the gentle, kindly voice is still.

The old home can never be the same any more; we listen in vain for the quiet footfall. We wait for the words of sympathy and encouragement. We miss the feeling of security her serene presence always seemed to impart; but her mission is finished, her lifework is done and the Master has called her home.

Of her life-long devotion to duty, her unfaltering loyalty to truth, her self-forgetting sacrifice, I will not speak. In the discharge of her obligations as wife, mother, counselor, and friend, she met every demand; of her ministrations to the destitute and forgotten; the history of her daily life bears witness.

Born and raised in France, she grew up a devout Roman Catholic, but later in life, she embraced Protestantism and became an ardent Methodist, yet still clinging to all that was best and purest in her early faith. After the lapse of more than half a century, I have heard her tell the joyous experience of her first communion, and the aged face would beam with a light that was not of this

## Ancestors of Albert Edward Dorr

world. Thus in the morning of her life God had spoken to her, and ever afterwards she walked with him gladly. Herein lay the secret of her abiding faith, her sublime unselfishness, her practical piety. She was actuated by the spirit of Him who "went about doing good".

Such a life can end but one way. When the final summons came, it found her waiting on the pleasure of her Lord. In the old churchyard at Davis Chapel, by the side of other loved ones who had preceded her, we put her away for the resurrection. Farewell, Mother, When we meet again, it will be among the bloodwashed millions in the city of God.

A Son

Francoise married **Louis Adolphe DORR** on 7 Jun 1841 in Mobile Co., AL.<sup>5</sup>

10. **Josiah Richard WILKINS** died in 1853.

### WILKINS ANCESTRY

By Joyce Dixon Helmers (c) 2003

A description of the Wilkins' coat of arms in *Pioneers and Patriots* signed by Mary Martin Potter includes this note on the origin of the Wilkins' name:

"The family is of Norman-Welsh origin, descended from John Wilcolyne, or Wilkyn, who was living in the reign of Edward III. He was descended from Robert de Winton, Lord of the Manor of Languian, who went into Glamorganshire, Walkes, with Robert Fitzhamon. Numerous lines of Wilkins descended from the above mentioned John. The main line of the Wilkins of Glamorganshire and Brecknockshire, with some of the branches, resumed the name De Winton in 1839 by "sign manual," the lesser branches retaining the name Wilkins. There are several later arms recorded for branches of the Wilkins."

Mary Martin Potter, of the firm of Martin & Allardyce, San Antonio, Texas

According to James Richard Wilkins, in *Pioneers and Patriots*, the first Wilkins to come to America was JOHN WILKINS, who was born in 1599 in England. John came to Jamestown in 1618 on the ship Marygould. He acquired 1,300 acres of land in what is now Nansemond and Northampton counties. He married BRIDGET CRAFT, one of a group of volunteer prospective brides who arrived in Jamestown in 1621. John sold some of his land and apparently gave

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5. Mobile County Marriage Records, Book 5, Page 136, Entry 70.

## Ancestors of Albert Edward Dorr

land to children he had with Bridget Craft. James Richard Wilkins stated that he believes that Bridget died at an early age and that John remarried and had children by his second wife, whose name is unknown. Then, in the mid-1600s, he returned to England and seems to have disappeared. Before he left, he transferred all his remaining land and property to his oldest son, John Wilkins, and his second wife.

Other Wilkins came to Jamestown in 1635 aboard the Assurance. Early Wilkins in Virginia were: John, James, Joseph, William, Richard, Thomas, Josiah, Robert and Nathaniel."

Jane Wade (a descendant of Julia Ann Wilkins, sister of Josiah Richard Wilkins - Sara Jane's father) states, "Our line has not been firmly connected to the Wilkins who came on the Assurance. There is still much research/speculation as to how our John Wilkins fits to earlier Wilkins families."

Although it has not been proven that the first John Wilkins was an ancestor of Robert Wilkins, earliest proven ancestor of the John Wilkins who married Mildred Parish, I have inserted him in my database as Robert's father in order to keep the connection in my file.

If my calculations are correct, ROBERT WILKINS was the great-great grandfather of Sara Jane Wilkins. According to James Richard Wilkins in *Pioneers and Patriots*:

ROBERT WILKINS was named in court records in 1750s.

His son was THOMAS HENRY WILKINS, born about 1740.

His children were: John W. Wilkins, James H. Wilkins, William Wilkins, Henry Wilkins, Mary Jane Wilkins and Thomas Wilkins II (he moved to Cleveland Co., NC in late 1770s; was a Revolutionary War soldier in Humphrey's Virginia Regiment; and sold his land and farms in Halifax Co. to his brother, John.).

JOHN W. WILKINS was born November 5, 1760 and died July 30, 1838. He married MILDRED PARRISH, who was born May 26, 1785 in Mecklenburg or Halifax, Virginia.

Their son, JOSIAH RICHARD WILKINS, married MARY JANE TUCK, who died soon after giving birth to a son, Richard Tuck Wilkins. Josiah then married MARY BOLEN BURTON, who gave him eight children: Josiah William Wilkins, James Edward Wilkins, Mary Mildred Wilkins, Sara Jane Wilkins, Elizabeth Wilkins, Lucy Wilkins, Mary Wilkins, and Anna Maria Wilkins. Josiah Richard died of measles before their last child, Anna Maria, was born.

SARA JANE WILKINS was a girl of 13 when her mother, by then "the Widow

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Burton," moved the family to Mississippi. Her uncles -- Mary Bolen's two older brothers -- had relocated to Sumter County, Alabama and Kemper County, Mississippi, before the Civil War. Following a visit to Virginia for a family wedding, they brought their parents, WILLIAM BURTON and MARY "POLLY" WADE, back to the deep south. Mary Bolen and her children came with them. Richard Tuck Wilkins remained in Virginia with his Tuck grandparents.

In 1869, Sara Jane married NARCISSUS/NARCISSE DORR in Sumter County, Alabama. Narcissus was the son of LOUIS ADOLPHE DORR and FRANCOIS BENAL, who had immigrated from the Alsace Lorraine area of France. The two generations of Dorrs lived for a while in Kemper County, Mississippi, before relocating to Panola County, Mississippi, in 1870.

The Dorr's settled in an area west of Sardis, Mississippi, near Davis Chapel Church. Sara Jane is buried in the cemetery behind the church beside Narcissus and other Dorr family members.

Sara Jane and Narcissus had nine children, including my grandmother, WILMA LOUISE DORR.

WILMA LOUISE DORR married JAMES ROBERT "BOB" TROTTER, and they made their home in an area just north of the home of her parents. Wilma Louise and Bob Trotter had five children: Milton, Sara, Robert "Snooks", my mother, Annie Louise "May," and Bennie Belle Trotter.

ANNIE LOUISE TROTTER married THOMAS VENSON "DICK" DIXON in 1931. I am the oldest of their five children. My siblings are James Robert "Bud," Carolyn Marie, Thomas Venson Jr. "Dickie" and Henry Wayne "Hal" Dixon.

Josiah married **Mary BURTON** on 4 Jan 1841.

The child from this marriage was:

5 i. **Sara Jane WILKINS**

11. **Mary BURTON**, daughter of **William BURTON**, was born on 16 Mar 1817 in Halifax Co., VA.

### Chapter Three

#### MARY BOLEN'S STORY

Mary Bolen Burton Wilkins: 1817-after 1875

By Joyce Dixon Helmers (c) 2003

MARY BOLEN BURTON was born March 16, 1817, in Halifax County, Virginia, the daughter of WILLIAM BURTON and MARY "POLLY" WADE. She married JOSIAH RICHARD WILKINS, a widower, on January 4, 1841,

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when she was 24 years old.. Josiah's first wife, MARY JANE TUCK, apparently died soon after giving birth to a son, RICHARD TUCK WILKINS, who was then raised by her father, Richard Tuck.

Richard Tuck Wilkins was born in 1840 near Virgilia, Virginia, and died May 24, 1884. He married ELIZABETH CATHERINE WALL July 07, 1863, daughter of GEORGE WALL and ELIZABETH TUCK.

Together, Mary Bolen and Josiah had eight children, but lost two daughters in 1853 when Josiah also died of measles. The girls, apparently twins, were two years old. Lucy, born in 1851, died June 01, 1853, of measles. Mary, also born in 1851 died in June, 1853, of flue. Mary Bolen and Josiah's last child, another daughter, was born after Josiah died of measles in 1853. It is sad even to contemplate the misery in that household that summer.

Nothing more is known of Mary's activities until 1861, when she moved with her parents and other family members to the Kemper County/Sumter County area of Mississippi/Alabama, apparently to escape the ravages of the Civil War. Even then, both of her sons, Josiah William and James Edward, died in the war.

Then, around 1869, Mary joined a large group of people, described by Mary Olson as "all more or less related through intermarriage," who moved to Jackson County, Arkansas, "by wagons and rivers." Mary Bolen "left her two, by then married, daughters Sara Jane and Elizabeth J., in Mississippi. Her two remaining children, Mary Mildred and Anna Maria, came with her to Arkansas."

Over the years, Mary Bolen would return to Mississippi for extended visits with Sara Jane and her husband, Narcissus, according to Louis Dorr's letters. I do not know when or where she died, although it would be after 18xx, likely in Jackson County, Arkansas.

Children of Josiah Wilkins and Mary Burton were:

- i. Josiah William Wilkins, born about 1843; died between 1861-1865, in the Civil War.
- ii. James Edward Wilkins, born about 1845; died between 1861-1865, in the Civil War.
- iii. Mary Mildred Wilkins, born about 1846; married. Benjamin W. Murphy.
- iv. Sara Jane Wilkins, born May 15, 1848, Halifax Co., Virginia; died November 03, 1906, Panola Co Ms; married Narcissus Louis Dorr, February 1869, Sumter Co., Al.
- v. Elizabeth J. "Bettie" Wilkins, born about 1850, married Robert E. Selby who lived in Yazoo County, Mississippi. Their Son, R. E. Selby, was

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Mayor of Vicksburg when he died in 1945.

vi. Lucy Wilkins, born 1851; died. June 02, 1853, of measles.

vii Mary Wilkins, born 1851; died June 1853, of flue.

viii. Anna Maria Wilkins, born February 14, 1854, died about 1948 at age 95. She married John H. Murphy in Jackson County, Arkansas. He was the younger brother by 18 years of Benjamin Murphy who married Mary Mildred Wilkins. Their daughter, Minnie Murphy, married a Shoffner in Shoffner, Arkansas. Jane Wade states that Minnie Murphy Shoffner, Anna Maria's daughter, wrote "my Aunt Margaret" about some of this, stating that her mother had a half-brother who stayed in Virginia. That half brother was Richard Tuck Wilkins, the ancestor of the author of *Pioneers & Patriots*. Their son Walter Murphy lived in Batesville, Arkansas.

The information I have on Mary Bolen Burton comes from the book *Pioneers and Patriots*, published in 1980 by James Richard Wilkins, from references in the letters of Louis A. Dorr, and from e-mail correspondence with Jane Wade and Mary Seamster, and copies of Mary Olson's letters.

Jane Wade sent the following message:

" Josiah's family is shown in the 1850 census in Halifax Co., VA:

Josiah Wilkins, 36, planter b VA

Mary, 36

William, 9

James E., 8

Mildred, 6

Sarah, 4

Elizabeth, 2

Ditron Overby, 16, laborer

John Clyborn, 16, laborer

"Richard Tuck Wilkins, age 11, son of Josiah and Mary Jane Tuck, is living in the household of his grandfather, Richard Tuck, age 75. There is a marriage in Halifax Co., for Josiah Wilkins and Mary Burton, 04 January 1841. Because of this, Mary Jane Tuck must have died soon after her son was born and Josiah remarried. This would make your Sarah the daughter of Josiah and Mary Burton Wilkins."

E-mail from Jane Wade July 20, 2001 to David Bishop: "This came from Mary Olson, 209 McGee St. Apt D, Bamberg, SC 29003-1152 in 1997:

"Mary Bolen Burton was the 2nd wife of Josiah Wilkins and a

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daughter of Wm. Burton and Mary "Polly" Wade. Mary's sister, Lucy Burton, was the wife of David Whitt (Mary Olson's gg grandparents). Josiah and Mary Bolen Burton Wilkins' last child was Anna Maria Wilkins, born after Josiah died of the measles (1853). She (Anna Maria) married John H. Murphy in Jackson Co., AR, where they went ca 1869/70 after Mary Bolen's two brothers, Hutchens and Thomas Farrar Burton brought her and her children and their parents, William Burton and Polly Wade, to MS in 1861. Anna Maria's daughter, Minnie Murphy Shoffner, wrote my Aunt Margaret about some of this, stating that her mother had a half-brother who stayed in VA. That half-brother was Richard Tuck Wilkins, the ancestor of the author of *Pioneers & Patriots*.

In another letter, Mary gives this information: Josiah Wilkins m1 Mary Jane Tuck. They had one son, Richard Tuck Wilkins. Mary Jane died, either in childbirth or shortly thereafter. This son was taken from her Tuck family and raised from infancy. Josiah Wilkins then m2 Mary Bolen Burton, daughter of William Burton and Polly Wade. Josiah and Mary Bolen Burton had 8 children. Their first two children were Josiah William and James Edward, both of whom died in the Civil War. They then had Mary Mildred (m Benjamin W. Murphy), Sarah Jane, Elizabeth J., Lucy (died of measles, age 2, on 29 June 1853, never in a census), Mary (died of flu, age 2, June 1853, so never in a census) and Anna Maria (m John H. Murphy, younger brother by 18 years of age above Benjamin) who was born 14 Feb 1854, seven months after her father, Josiah Wilkins, died of the measles on 11 June 1853, Halifax, VA.

". . . William Burton and Polly Wade's two oldest sons, Hutchens and Thomas Farr Burton, married and went to Sumter Co., AL and Kemper Co., MS prior to the Civil War. On a trip back to NC and VA for a family wedding, they brought William, Polly and their daughter, Mary Bolen Burton Wilkins, and her family back with them to AL/MS. This was in 1861 and we think one of the reasons was to get them out of harms way due to the Civil War. I have copies of letters from Thomas Farrar Burton to his brother-in-law in NC in which he refers to "Ma and Pa" and sister, the "widow Wilkins" as "doing fine". After the war, 65 people from this area, all more or less related through intermarriage, came from AL/MS to Jackson Co., AR by wagons and rivers.

". . . Mary Bolen Burton Wilkins left her two, by then married, daughters Sarah Jane and Elizabeth J., in MS. Her two remaining children, Mary Mildred and Anna Maria, came with her to AR."

In the Letters of Louis Dorr, there are two mentions of "Mrs. Wilkins," who must have been Mary Bolen Burton Wilkins. I do not know who the "Mr.



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Burton" to whom the letters were addressed might have been. He earlier had stated that "I guess you'll never leave Kemper County," and so I had thought it might have been Mary's father, William Burton. However, he died in 1865 in Kemper County, if my facts are correct:

April 1874

Dear Mr. Burton,

Mr. Hutchins Burton passed here about 2 months ago with Mrs. Wilkins, who is going to stay with Narcisse until next spring.

Mr. Burton spoke of coming back on his return from Kemper, but I expect he is in Arkansas long since. Narcisse bought 80 acres of land adjoining my place for \$900. He has built a very good house on it. Part of it is creek bottom which made last year a bale to the acre.

July 25, 1875

Dear Mr. Burton,

Mrs. Wilkins, who has been staying here for over a year, has returned to Arkansas 2 weeks ago.

**TO DO: TRY TO FIND OUT WHERE THE BOYS LIVED WHEN THEY ENLISTED, WHAT THEIR SERVICE WAS AND WHERE THEY DIED.**

Mary married **Josiah Richard WILKINS** on 4 Jan 1841.

**12. Thomas Leachman BOSWELL**, son of **Thomas BOSWELL** and **Mary SIMS**, was born on 9 May 1816 in Orange County, NC and died on 12 Apr 1898 in Macon, Fayette Co., TN, at age 81.

Thomas Leachman was born in North Carolina, but his family moved to Henderson County, KY in 1818 and then to Henderson County, TN about 1820. His father, Thomas, died soon after they arrived. He joined the Methodist church in 1831 was license to exhort at the age of fifteen. In 1833 he joined the Methodist conference as a preacher. When he married at age eighteen the Conference "discontinued" him. In 1836 thomas Joyner encouraged him to join the conference again. His wife died in 1837 and he remarried on October of that year, Charlotte Jones, and again the conference "dropped" him. He return home to work on the farm and study law. However, in 1839 he was readmitted to the Tennessee Conference.

His wife was the daughter of a distinguished Methodist minister and their marriage of sixty years was a time of service and sacrifice to each community they lived in as they raised fourteen of their seventeen children to maturity, as

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well as several grandchildren.

He served in many churches in West Tennessee and Northern Mississippi. His places of service can be traced by noting the birthplaces of his children. He was a very respected Methodist minister for sixty-five years.

Thomas was a self-taught man, spending only three months in school. He had a fine singing voice. He was a timid person but a forceful preacher. He was a constant reader and became a profound theologian. The honorary degree of Doctor of Divinity was conferred upon him by LaGrange College of Alabama in 1854.

He kept a large Family Genealogy Bible, which has been preserved and passed down through the family. He also kept, noted and passed on the worn Bible of his father, Thomas.

Thomas married **Charlotte JONES** on 6 Oct 1837 in Gibson County, TN.

The child from this marriage was:

6 i. **Thomas Jones BOSWELL**

**13. Charlotte JONES** was born on 19 Jul 1821 in Maury, TN and died on 30 Jul 1904 in Macon, Fayette Co., TN, at age 83.

Charlotte married **Thomas Leachman BOSWELL** on 6 Oct 1837 in Gibson County, TN.

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## Fifth Generation

**16. Mathias DORR**,<sup>1</sup> son of **Jean Pierre DORR** and **Catherine Elizabeth WEBER**, was born on 7 Jul 1782 in Varsberg (57, Moselle), France and died on 30 Aug 1814 in Morhange (57 Moselle), France, at age 32.

Mathias Dorr hid his origins in the town of Morhange (Moselle). The Municipal records list his occupation as cloth maker and apparently he was a wealthy man. It is not clear at this time how many children Mathias had. According to the municipal records he had three children, Victor, Rosine, and Louis, all by his first wife Marie-Marguerite. After she died he married a younger woman with children of her own. A French genealogy web site shows him with seven children by his first wife. When he died there was a dispute over his inheritance which continued until 1876. The settlement was delayed due to Napoleon's defeat. It ended up that most of the inheritance was lost to an unscrupulous lawyer.

Mathias married **Marie-Marguerite CLOSSET** on 31 Aug 1801 in Morhange, France.

Children from this marriage were:

- 8 i. **Louis Adolphe DORR**
- ii. **Victor DORR** was born on 2 Mar 1808 in Morhange, France.
- iii. **Rosine DORR** was born on 9 Mar 1806 in Morhange, France.
- iv. **Cecile DORR** was born on 4 Jan 1804 in Morhange (57 Moselle), France.
- v. **Marie Anne DORR** was born in 1810 and died in 1810.
- vi. **Jean Michile DORR** was born in 1811.
- vii. **Mathias DORR** was born on 24 Feb 1814 in Morhange (57 Moselle), France and died on 8 Apr 1866 in Morhange (57 Moselle), France, at age 52.

Mathias next married **Catherine HUMBERT** on 20 Oct 1830 in DIEUZE (Moselle).

**17. Marie-Marguerite CLOSSET** was born on 26 Sep 1773 in Morhange (57 Moselle), France and died on 20 Jun 1828 in Morhange (57 Moselle), France, at age 54.

Marie-Marguerite married **Mathias DORR**<sup>1</sup> on 31 Aug 1801 in Morhange, France.

**18. ? BENAL.**

? married someone.

His children were:

- 9 i. **Francoise "Fannie" BENAL**
- ii. **Marie BENAL** died on 23 Dec 1887 in New Orleans, LA.

**22. William BURTON**, son of **Hutchins BURTON**.

William married someone.

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His child was:

11 i. **Mary BURTON**

**24. Thomas BOSWELL**, son of **Edward BOSWELL** and **CRAVEN ?**, was born on 27 Sep 1779 in Prince William County, VA and died on 6 Oct 1822 in Hend. County, TN, at age 43.

Thomas Boswell was born in Prince William County, Virginia. He was married to Mary Sims, daughter of Edward Sims, in 1802 in Caswell County, North Carolina. He bought 100 acres of land there from his father, Edward Boswell, in 1809.

He left North Carolina and traveled to Henderson County, Kentucky, where his brother Craven had settled. His daughter Susannah was born while they were there. The Chickasaw Cession with the Chickasaw Indians, signed in 1818, allowed settlers to legally settle in West Tennessee and spared them wars with the Indians. By 1819 and 1820 settlers were entering the Henderson County area regularly. Thomas moved to Henderson County, Tennessee about 1820 and died there in October of 1822. There were a number of other family members who came to Henderson County, Tennessee about this same time, possibly with Thomas and his family - his brothers Matthew and Edward Boswell, his nephews Brown Boswell and James Iverson Boswell and most likely the Graves and Fielder families.

The early settlers of Henderson County, Tennessee taught their children at home until schools were established. The first schools were subscription schools, financed by payments made monthly by parents. They operated from sixty days to six months a year. In 1822 there were schools at Mifflin and Jack's Creek. In 1823 a school was started in Lexington.

Life in Henderson County was simple. They slept on crude beds of straw or bear hide on dirt floors. Cooking was done in a fireplace. The eating utensils were usually wood. The oxen, mules, horses and other livestock had to be guarded from wild beasts. The soil was rich and they grew corn, vegetables and some cotton. Wild honey was used as a sweetener. The first mill was built in 1821 and the first cotton gin in 1823.

Cumberland Presbyterians were the first to have ministers in Henderson County. The Methodists soon followed. Thomas' son, Craven Carlyle, became a Cumberland Presbyterian minister and his son, Thomas Leachman, became a Methodist minister.

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Thomas Leachman Boswell notes in the front of his father's Bible that "He was my father and was very kind to me, and though a little boy I remember seeing him reading in this blessed book."

The Henderson County court house burned so there are few records about this family available there.

After Thomas died his wife Mary continued to live there and was listed with their son Edward and his wife Barzilla in the 1850 census. She moved to Madison County, Tennessee sometime after this because that is where their three daughters had settled with their husbands. She died there in 1858. Her son, Reverend Thomas L. Boswell, wrote in his Bible:

"Mary Boswell, my mother, died in peace in Madison County, Tennessee on the 23rd of May, A.D. 1858 'Blessed are the dead that die in the Lord.'"

Thomas married **Mary SIMS** on 10 Dec 1802 in Caswell, County, NC.

Children from this marriage were:

- 12 i. **Thomas Leachman BOSWELL**
- ii. **Lillinda BOSWELL** was born in Jan 1810 in Orange County, NC and died on 27 Nov 1884 in Henderson County, TN, at age 74.

**25. Mary SIMS**, daughter of **Zebiah RICE**, was born on 9 Feb 1787 in NC and died on 23 May 1858 in Med. County, TN, at age 71.

Mary married **Thomas BOSWELL** on 10 Dec 1802 in Caswell, County, NC.

# Ancestors of Albert Edward Dorr

## Sixth Generation

**32. Jean Pierre DORR**, son of **Jean Jacques DORR** and **Marie Marguerite PAULUS**, was born on 4 Dec 1734 in Varsberg, Moselle, Lorraine, France and died on 29 Sep 1811 in Saint-Avold (57, Moselle), Lorraine, France, at age 76.

Jean Pierre married twice, the second time to Catherine Elisabeth Weber from Varsberg from whom we descend. During this time some of the Dorrs went into the cloth making field and evidently became well off. Jean became a tailor and an inn keeper. Jean Pierre's brother, Nicolas, became the mayor of Varsberg.

Jean married **Catherine Elizabeth WEBER** in 1763.

Children from this marriage were:

- 16 i. **Mathias DORR**<sup>1</sup>
- ii. **Anne Marie DORR** was born in 1766.
- iii. **Jean Adam DORR** was born in 1769 and died in 1859, at age 90.
- iv. **Ambroise DORR** was born in 1775 in 1864.
- v. **Catherine Elisabeth DORR** was born in 1779.

**33. Catherine Elizabeth WEBER** was born in 1736 and died on 10 Oct 1787 in Varsberg (57, Moselle), France, at age 51.

Catherine married **Jean Pierre DORR** in 1763.

**44. Hutchins BURTON.**

Hutchins married someone.

His child was:

- 22 i. **William BURTON**

**48. Edward BOSWELL** was born in 1750 and died in 1830 in Orange County, NC, at age 80.

The first record of Edward Boswell is in the 1782 Prince William County, Virginia Tax Roll. He had 6 horses and 4 cattle. However, several of his children were shown by the census records to have been born in Virginia before this - Craven in 1774, John in 1776 and Susannah in 1778. In 1789 there is a bill of sale for his purchase of one slave.

He lived on part of what was known as the "Bristow Tract." How or when he obtained this land has not been found. In 1686-87 King James II of England granted 30,000 acres to George Brent, Richard Foote and Robert Bristow. Mr. Bristow remained in England and the land was governed and leased out by Brent and Foote. An heir also named Robert Bristow owned the land prior to the Revolutionary War. After the war the land was taken by the Commonwealth of

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Virginia and the title to the land was tied up in the courts for many years. Edward sold one lot (100-200 acres) of the Bristow Tract on 19 September 1798 for 100 pounds to Benjamin Cooper. The original plat map has been lost. An 1823 map of the Bristow Tract is in the Prince William County Land Office in Manassas, Virginia. However, this map does not list a Cooper, so it must have been resold by that time. Also living on the Bristow Tract at about this time were John Sullivan and John, John T. and William Leachman, families who married into the Edward Boswell family.

Edward was probably a tobacco farmer. Between 1650 and 1776 tobacco was the major crop in Prince William County. During this time there were no towns, just plantations. The farmers of that day did not understand that they needed to rotate their crops, especially tobacco, as it depleted the soil of the necessary nutrients. Many times when the soil became poor they would just move on to new land. In 1797 the tobacco crop failed in Prince William County according to a letter from Thomas Lee, rent collector to the Governor, as recorded in the Calendar of Virginia State Papers.\*

The legal controversy over the land, as well as the crop failure, could have influenced Edward's decision to sell his lease and move his family to North Carolina.

The first settlers in Orange County, North Carolina made their homes on the many streams in the area. Because of the fertile land, some settlers made their homes on a ridge which rose between Stoney, Tom's and Jordan's Creeks. On 1 October 1798 Edward Boswell bought 363 acres from James Brackin in Orange County (now Alamance County) for 363 pounds. This land is located on Stoney Creek north of what is now Burlington, North Carolina.

According to the Centennial History of Alamance County, tobacco and grain were the major crops in Orange County by 1800. In winter the farmer would load his high-wheeled farm wagon with 1,000 pounds of tobacco and haul it over muddy roads and across treacherous creeks to Dan or Roanoke Rivers from which it could be shipped by water to markets in Petersburg and Richmond. Orange County grew to be the largest county in the state by 1800.

The children worked in the fields most of the year, going to school only in December, January and February. Stoney Creek Church was the location of one of the early schools started about 1800. The first church building was the Union

## Ancestors of Albert Edward Dorr

Meeting House on the Union Camp Grounds and was used by all denominations. Stoney Creek Presbyterian Church was built in 1775. Bethel Methodist Church dates back to 1800. Gilliam's Primitive Baptist Church was built in 1824 on the Haw River.

Edward's religious affiliation is not known. His grandson, Thomas Leachman Boswell, "professed religion" at a Cumberland Presbyterian camp meeting at age 13 in Henderson County, Tennessee. However, he became a Methodist minister. Thomas L.'s brother, Craven Carlyle, became a Cumberland Presbyterian Minister, and Edward's son, Craven, was also a member of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church and gave land to the Mount Zion Cumberland Presbyterian Church in Henderson County, Kentucky. Edward's grandson, James Iverson Boswell, was a member of the Primitive Baptist Church after he moved to Mississippi.

No record has been found of Edward's wife; however, there were twelve children. She apparently died between 1820, when she appears on the census record, and 1826, when Edward's will was written with no mention of his wife.

All of Edward's sons became farmers. Craven left North Carolina and moved to Henderson County, Kentucky about 1805. Thomas went to that same part of Kentucky for a short time around 1818 and then in 1820 went to Henderson County, Tennessee. Matthew went to Henderson County, Tennessee briefly and then to Missouri in 1837. John died in Caswell County, North Carolina in 1854 but his son James Iverson went to Fayette County, Tennessee about 1832 and then moved to Marshall County, Mississippi.

A grandson of Edward's (whose father is not known), Brown Boswell, went to Henderson County, Tennessee about 1830. Edward's daughter Charlotte, who never married, lived with Brown in Tennessee according to the 1850 census.

Susannah Boswell Leachman and her children moved to Polk County, Missouri sometime after 1820. Her husband, Thomas Leachman, had died in 1816. Edward's daughter Elizabeth (?) Sullivan died before 1830. Her children are named in Edward's will. His daughters Nancy Bracken Wilkerson and Catherine Graham apparently remained in North Carolina. His sons, Edward and Matthew, both served in the War of 1812. James was executor of his father's will in 1830, so apparently he also remained in North Carolina.



## Ancestors of Albert Edward Dorr

Edward's will was probated in Orange County, North Carolina in August 1830. It instructs that his plantation be sold and the proceeds divided among his children.

Edward married **CRAVEN ?**.

Children from this marriage were:

- 24 i. **Thomas BOSWELL**
- ii. **Craven BOSWELL** was born on 12 Nov 1774 in Prince William County, VA and died on 3 Feb 1847 in Henderson County, TN, at age 72.
- iii. **John BOSWELL** was born on 5 Mar 1776 in Prince William County, VA and died on 18 Jun 1854 in Casw. Co., NC, at age 78.
- iv. **William? BOSWELL** was born 1777 ? in VA and died before 1826 in Casw. Co., NC.
- v. **Susannah "Sukey" BOSWELL** was born on 5 May 1778 in Prince William County, VA and died after 1850 in MO.
- vi. **Charlotte BOSWELL** was born about 1783 in Prince William County, VA and died after 1850 in Henderson County, TN.
- vii. **Elizabeth ? BOSWELL** was born about 1784 in Prince William County, VA and died before 1826.
- viii. **Edward BOSWELL** was born on 8 Jul 1786 in Prince William County, VA and died about 1840, about age 54.
- ix. **Nancy BOSWELL** was born about 1790 in Prince William County, VA and died after 1842 in Orange County, NC.
- x. **Matthew BOSWELL** was born in 1792 in Prince William County, VA and died on 13 May 1852 in St. Clair County, MO, at age 60.
- xi. **James BOSWELL** was born about 1798 in VA? and died about 1843 in NC?, about age 45.
- xii. **Catherine "Kitty" BOSWELL** was born on 5 May 1797 in Prince William County, VA and died on 16 May 1892 in Alamance County, NC, at age 95.

### 49. Craven ?.

Craven ? married **Edward BOSWELL**.

### 51. Zebiah RICE, daughter of **Thomas RICE**.

Zebiah married someone.

Her child was:

- 25 i. **Mary SIMS**

# Ancestors of Albert Edward Dorr

## Seventh Generation

**64. Jean Jacques DORR**, son of **Nicolas DORR** and **Catherine DECKER**, was born on 5 Feb 1711 in Obervisse, France and died on 11 Dec 1771 in Varsberg, France, at age 60.

Jean Jacques married Marguerite Paulus from Varsberg, a town approximately 5 miles northeast of Obervisse. Today Obervisse has a population of 120 while Varsberg has a population of approximately 2,500. He became a tailor, innkeeper, and merchant. He evidently moved to Varsberg where the next three to four generations of Dorrs lived. They had six children, the first of whom, Jean Pierre, is in our lineage.

Jean married **Marie Marguerite PAULUS**.

The child from this marriage was:

32 i. **Jean Pierre DORR**

**65. Marie Marguerite PAULUS** was born on 10 May 1710 in Varsberg (57, Moselle), France and died in 1766, at age 56.

Marie married **Jean Jacques DORR**.

**102. Thomas RICE**.

Thomas married someone.

His child was:

51 i. **Zebiah RICE**

# Ancestors of Albert Edward Dorr

## Eighth Generation

**128. Nicolas DORR**, son of **Nicolas DORR**, was born about 1663 in Obervisse, France and died on 16 May 1755 in Obervisse, France, about age 92.

Nicolas Dorr was a master tailor in Obervisse, France. It's in the Lorraine region in northeastern France and borders both Belgium and Germany. Nicolas married Catherine Decker in Boucheporn in 1703. They had five children, the second being Jean Jacques, who is in our lineage.

The following email gave us the first solid information about the Dorr family in France:

*Hello*

*My name is Patrick NICOLAS, and I'm living in Nancy (Lorraine) and I'm fond of genealogy since many years. I found your site with google, because I'm interested by the Dorr family, since I've got some Dorr in my own tree.*

*I went to the Municipal archives and I didn't found the birth of Louis Dorr on the year 1816.*

*But I found a Louis Dorr, born on 9-12-1816, in MORHANGE, and he has got a brother Victor; born on 3-2-1808 in MORHANGE also and a sister Rosine, born on 3-9-1806, in MORHANGE too.*

*His brother Victor was married with Elisabeth SCHOUMERT, and had a daughter, named Victorine, born on 7-17-1838.*

*The father of Louis, Victor and Rosine and others, was named Mathias (instead of François) and was married with Marie-Marguerite CLOSSET on 8-31-1801 in MORHANGE.*

*Louis's mother died in 1828 and his father got married again with Catherine HUMBERT, on 10-20-1830 in DIEUZE (Moselle).*

*I noticed that on the passengers'list of the Hanover Ship, the line above the Louis'one is HUMBERT, like his stepmother. Maybe, This HUMBERT was a brother of his stepmother ?*

## Ancestors of Albert Edward Dorr

*About Victor, he lived after in NANCY and he was à cloth maker. He was rich, apparently.*

*Victor DORR and his wife, Elisabeth SCHOUMERT, are the ancestors of Ségolène ROYAL. Do you know her? She is an important political leader and was candidate to the recent presidential elections in France against Nicolas SARKOZY. Furthermore, she was living in the same village as me (CHAMAGNE). I wa looking for her genealogy when I found your site. Click on the link below to discover your famous cousin.*

*<http://www.geneastar.org/liste.php3?nom=royal&x=8&y=8>*

*I noticed that the families BENAL & HERIC are often from the same village: GUERMANGE (Moselle) but I din't found anything about Françoise BENAL.*

*I hope that the french informations will interest and help you.*

*Yours sincerely,*

Patrick NICOLAS

Nicolas married **Catherine DECKER**.

Children from this marriage were:

- 64 i. **Jean Jacques DORR**
- ii. **Anne Marie DORR** was born in 1707 and died in 1749, at age 42.
- iii. **Jean DORR** was born in 1708 and died in 1798, at age 90.
- iv. **Catherine DORR** was born in 1713 and died in 1779, at age 66.
- v. **Pierre DORR** was born in 1715 and died in 1772, at age 57.
- vi. **Suzanne DORR** was born in 1724 and died in 1774, at age 50.

### **129. Catherine DECKER.**

Catherine married **Nicolas DORR**.

# Ancestors of Albert Edward Dorr

## Ninth Generation

### **256. Nicolas DORR.**

Nicolas married someone.

His child was:

128 i. **Nicolas DORR**

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