

Stewart Line

The purpose of this note is to present data on a Stewart line in the ancestry of my wife, Betty (Poteat) Olds. The proposed descent is Wm. Stewart (d. 1816-1817) --> Isaiah (ca. 1774 - 1836) --> Jackson (1807 - 1864) --> Nancy (1837 - 1922). Collateral lines are not emphasized.

1. WILLIAM STEWART. In his Stewart Clan Magazine, George Edson wrote that he had found the will of William Stewart, Sr., of Anson Co., NC, dated 25 Nov. 1816 and probated Jan. 1817, naming wife Priscilla and children Joseph, John, Isaiah, James, William, Phebe, Delilah, Frances, and Mary. On 17 May 1799, when William Stewart, planter, was selling 150 acres to William Jenkins, Isaiah Stewart was a witness. William Stewart was granted the land on 9 March 1799.¹

Children of William and Priscilla(?) Stewart

Joseph Stewart
John Stewart
(2) Isaiah Stewart
James Stewart
William Stewart
Phebe Stewart
Delilah Stewart
Frances Stewart
Mary Stewart

2. ISAIAH STEWART. Isaiah Stewart is linked to William Stewart by the facts that William's will named a son Isaiah, what is known of the ages seems reasonable, the other names in William's family are repeated in Isaiah's family, and that Isaiah of Yancey Co. came from Anson County. This evidence is suggestive, but not proof. Chandler Stewart has been told that Isaiah may have been a son of Nathaniel Stewart who lived in Buncombe County, but the name is merely a family tradition. He has also found the tradition that Isaiah was the father of John, Jackson, Joseph and Blackstone.² Lydia (widow of Samuel Stewart) left a will probated in Surry Co. in 1772 which named a son Isaiah and the name Jackson Stewart also appears in Surry Co. An Isaiah Stewart married Elizabeth Petit in Surry Co. in 1810.³ However, Elizabeth, widow of Isaiah, got her dower in 1844 and Jackson Stewart was in Ashe Co. in 1845, so the Surry County connection does not seem to be direct.

Isaiah Stewart first appears on 17 May 1799 as witness to the deed of William Stewart, mentioned

¹ Stewart Clan Magazine, Vol. 44, No. 10, April 1967

² Chandler Stewart of Alexandria, VA, has gathered data on the Stewart family of Yancey County for several years and has about 500 family group sheets.

³ Stewart Clan Magazine, Vol. 45, No. 2, Aug. 1967.

above.⁴ The 1800 census of Anson Co. shows Isaiah, age 16-26, with one son under 10.⁵

The 1820 census of Anson Co., NC, lists the families of Murdoch, William and Isaiah Stewart, all living south of Richardson's Creek. Isaiah's family shows 2 males under 10 [Joseph? and Blackstone?], 1 male 10-15 [Jackson?], 1 male between 16 and 18, 2 males 16-25 [John C.? and ??], a male over 44 [Isaiah?], 1 female under 10 [Frances?], and one female 26-44 [Barbara?]. He was living in Steagall's company. The 1810 and 1820 census records of Buncombe Co. show several Stuart families, including that of Nathaniel Stuart who was over 44 in 1810, but no Isaiah was found in either Buncombe or Burke.

On 18 March 1823, Isaiah Stewart sold 175 acres in Anson Co. (adjoining Jackson Stewart) to Charles Stewart.⁶ On 15 Nov. 1825, he sold 155 acres to William Stewart⁷ and must have soon left for the mountains. On 30 Aug. 1830, "Ice" Stewart and Zachariah Candler were witnesses to a deed in Buncombe County from Charles Stewart to Nathan Stewart. This land was later in Yancey Co.⁸ Isaiah Stewart does not appear in grantor or grantee indices in Buncombe or Yancey Co. deeds. (Yancey County was formed in 1833, partly from Burke and Buncombe counties.)

The 1830 census of Burke Co. lists the family of Isaiah Stewart. He and his wife were age 40-50, with 1 male 10-15, 2 males 15-20, 2 female 15-20. [Isaiah and Barbara should have been a decade older.] They are listed on the same page as James Howell, age 40-50, and Jackson Stewart, age 20-30.

Isaiah Stewart married Barbara _____, b. ca. 1778. Chandler Stewart lists her maiden name as Howell. Mrs. Barrier reports the tradition that "Isaiah, an Irishman, married Barbara Cook from Holland and came to America shortly after the Rev. War".⁹ The 1850 census of Yancey County shows Barbara, age 72, as born in Virginia.

Many of the clues to the ancestry of Jackson Stewart would have been lost except for the public interest in the case of Frances (Stewart) Silvers who was hung at Morganton, NC, 12 July 1833, for the axe murder of her husband, Charles Silvers. This story has been written many times. References include:

Avery, Clifton K., "Official Court Record of the Trial, Conviction and Execution of Francis Silvers, first woman hanged in North Carolina, from the minutes of the Burke County Superior Court". A booklet published by the Morganton News-Herald in 1953, taken from a 1944 newspaper column.

⁴ Stewart Clan Magazine, Vol. 44, No. 10, April, 1967.

⁵ Chandler Stewart

⁶ Stewart Clan Magazine, loc. cit.

⁷ Stewart Clan Magazine, loc. cit.

⁸ Stewart Clan Magazine, loc. cit.

⁹ Dorothy S. Barrier, letters to Dan Olds, March and Sept., 1975. She is a granddaughter of Charles D. Stewart., b. 1840.

Menzies, Robert and Smith, Edmond, Jr., "The Scarlet Enigma of Toe River", True Detective Mysteries, 1935.

Miner's and Farmer's Journal, Charlotte, N.C., Feb. 8, 1832.

Sheppard, Muriel Earley, Cabins in the Laurel (U.N.C. Press, 1935)

Turpin, James A., The Serpent Slips into a Modern Eden (Raleigh, 1923)

Wellman, Manly Wade, Dead and Gone (U.N.C. Press, 1954)

Young, Perry Deane, "Why Frankie Silver Swung", MS Magazine, May, 1976.

The best report appears to be the first mentioned since it is largely composed of court records. Some of the others are interesting reading, however, as they have been written to provide a particular dramatic effect. According to Wellman, the Stewarts had moved to the present Yancey County from Anson County. Isaiah Stewart was the father of Frances Stewart. After Frances was arrested, some of her family were arrested and charged with complicity. Her mother and her brother Blackstone were arrested in Jan. 1832. Isaiah Stewart obtained a lawyer and eventually the charges against Barbara and Blackstone were dropped. "Frankie's" trial was appealed and her father and her brother Jackson were sureties for the costs. Frankie escaped from jail and was found traveling in the company of an uncle from Anson County and her father and uncle were jailed.¹⁰ "In 1836, the Court of Common Pleas placed little orphaned Nancy Silver under guardianship of her grandmother, Barbara Stewart. The Stewarts themselves had not long to survive as a family. Isaiah Stewart was cutting down a tree for fence rails one day. It fell upon him, smashing his skull. Barbara Stewart died not long afterward, in agony from the bite of a huge mountain rattlesnake. Jackson Stewart, Frankie's brother, was killed during the Civil War. Joe Stewart also died suddenly and somewhat mysteriously. Blackston, once accused of having helped murder Charlie Silver, was hanged in Kentucky for horse stealing."¹¹ One can see that, in recounting these deaths, the people were emphasizing the justice (or vengeance) of nature.

This uncle, mentioned in the Carolina Watchman, above, was Jesse Barnet. A petition filed on his behalf states the relationship as well as his actions.¹² "The undersigned respectfully submit that one Jesse Barnet was convicted at last September Term of Burke Superior Court as an accessory after the fact to the Felony committed by Frances Sylvers in assisting her to escape after conviction. It did not appear that said Barnet had any agency in aiding her to break out of Jail, but it did appear that he received her in disguise some twelve miles from Morganton, and was overtaken in company with her travelling towards So. Carolina. He know of her conviction & was properly convicted in aiding

¹⁰ Carolina Watchman, 25 May 1833 and 1 June 1833 (taken from the N. C. Spectator)

¹¹ Manly Wade Wellman, Dead and Gone, (UNC Press, 1954), p. 170

¹² Patterson, Dan, Chapel Hill, NC, letter to Dan W. Olds, Sept. 27, 2000, taken from North Carolina State Archives, Governors' Papers [David L. Swain], 71, #904-905.

a Felon to escape. There are however circumstances in his case that ought to be heard in mitigation. He is the uncle of the deceased Felon in whose escape he was aiding: Her Father upon whose evidence (he having turned states evidence against said Barnet) he was convicted, went to the county of Anson where said Barnet lived & by making strong appeals to his sympathy induced him to leave home & come in to Burke to [receive?] & assist his daughter. Said Barnet appears to be a man of mild disposition & it is reasonable to suppose that his sympathy for a Brother in Law & niece prevailed over his integrity. He was imprisoned by the Judgement of the Court for ten months, six of which have expired. He has suffered severely during the past winter. The undersigned that [sic] the ballence of his imprisonment be [remited?]. March 25th 1835. (Signed) D. F. Caldwell, Robt. Benton, Isaac T. Avery, P. Ballee, Allen Connelly, Chs Mdownell, Chas Carson”

“Leaf 905 is a cover letter dated at Morganton, 25 March 1835. Dear Sir, I could procure a very full Petition if I had time to [hand?] around the Petition. The poor devil has no friends here to take any interest in his case. Please to direct any communication to R C Pearson. Yours Truly, D. F. Caldwell”. The letter is postmarked March 27 and the pardon is dated April 2. The further identification of Barnet and wife might provide clues to the Stewart line.

Mrs. Sheppard's account did not mention Jackson Stewart. Turpin quotes a printed interview with Alfred Silver, half brother of the murdered man. The account is similar to that quoted above, but states "Jake, one of the brothers was killed during the Civil War." True Detective Mysteries says: "Jackson Stewart, Frankie's brother, ..." and "Isaiah and Jackson Stewart, the defendants brothers ..." The booklet by Avery quotes records showing that Frankey, Barbara, and Blackston Stuart were arrested, that Isaiah Stewart filed a protest claiming they were held illegally and that eventually the latter two were discharged. Isaiah Stuart and Jackson Stuart were sureties on the appeal bond. The records do not state a relationship, of course.

These records, taken together with the census records quoted in the appendix, support the point of view that Isaiah and Barbara Stewart were the parents of Jackson, Blackstone, Frances, and apparently Joseph Stewart. I have abstracted only the portions bearing on this relationship. The evidence is not conclusive since the quality of the references is not high.

Walter Greene reports the family tradition that Blackstone Stewart was the father of Jackson Stewart. He also visited Mrs. Sallie Stewart Craigs miles. "She is 86 years of age, but her mind is still alert and she hears well." She had a family chart about 4 ft. square.¹³ "I gathered from what Mrs. Craigs miles told me that Blackstone Stewart Sr. came to this section from Anson County, N.C. He had three sons that she knew of. Their names were: Jackson, Joseph and Blackstone Jr. This Blackstone Jr. was her grandfather. His son Berry was Mrs. Craigs miles' father." This report confirms what Mr. Greene had written earlier about the father of Jackson being named Blackstone. The conflict is essentially one between two traditions, but I have found no record of a Blackstone Stewart who could have been the father of Jackson.

¹³ Walter S. Greene, a great-grandson of Jackson Stewart, who provided stories and data on Jackson Stewart and his family

Isaiah Stewart's estate was settled 25 April 1836. Barbara Stuart was the widow and administrator. Joseph Stuart and Charles Steward were her bondsmen. Barbara survived until at least 1850 when she appears in the 1850 census of Yancey Co., NC, as Barbry Stewart, age 72, b. VA., listed in the household of Blackstone Stewart. The list of children below is from Chandler Stewart. He is a descendant of Joseph, b. 1813, and wrote that his father's Bible lists John, Jackson, Joseph, and Blackstone as brothers.

Children of Isaiah and Barbara Stewart

- i. John C. Stewart, b. 9 March 1800?, d. 22 Feb. 1893
He married Mahala Gurley (15 June 1810 - 15 June 1909). John Stewart, age 70 in 1870 and 78 in 1880, with wife Mahala, is listed in the census of Mitchell Co. He and his parents were born in NC according to the 1880 census. He is apparently listed in his father's family in 1800. "Johnie" and Mahala are buried at Mine Creek Cemetery, near Toecane.¹⁴
- (3)ii. Jackson Stewart, b. 18 Aug. 1807, d. 12 Nov. 1864
He married Elizabeth Howell (1808 - 1888)
- iii. Joseph Stewart, b. 12 Dec. 1813, d. 31 March 1863
He married Elizabeth Gibbs Finley. They are in the 1860 census of Yancey Co. Their son Joseph S. Stewart was the grandfather of Chandler Stewart.
- iv. Blackstone Stewart, b. 1817
He and his wife were 20-30 in the 1840 census of Yancey Co. He is not included in the 1860 listing of his family.
- v. Frances Stewart, d. 12 July 1833
She married Charles Silver or Silvers, probably about 1830.
- vi. Jacob?
(listed as possible son by Chandler Stewart.)
A Jacob Stewart is listed in the 1830 census of Buncombe Co., age 50-60. He would be too old.
- vii. Charles Stewart?
A Charles Stewart, age 20-30, is listed in the 1830 census of Burke Co., NC, and as age 40-50 in 1840.
- viii. a daughter, b. 1810-1815

¹⁴ Chandler Stewart

3. JACKSON STEWART. Jackson Stewart was born 18 Aug. 1807¹⁵ in Anson Co., NC. He appears as "Jackston Steward" in the 1830 census of Burke Co., age 20-30, with 1 male under 5, 1 female under 5, and 1 female age 15-20 in his family.

In 1833, Yancey County was formed and included this part of Burke. Stewart is recorded in the Yancey County census records from 1840 through 1860. From the census records, it appears that Jackson Stewart was born ca. 1806-07. Walter S. Greene, of Route 3, Bakersville, NC, a great-grandson who has been most helpful on family history, gives the dates as 1807-1864. William Crump, of Hickory, NC, sent (Sept. 1972) a chart giving the dates of Jackson Stewart as b. 18 Aug. 1807, d. 20 Nov. 1864. These dates are from a lengthy list of Stewart family dates recorded in a Bible Concordance owned by Mrs. Dorothy Barrier of Morganton, NC.

Apparently Jackson Stewart was a resolute man not easily turned from his path. Walter Greene has preserved the following stories exemplifying his character:

[Jan. 5, 1963] "Perhaps some stories and incidents about Jack Stewart --as told to me by my father years ago -- would be of some interest. Here are a few of them: Jack Stewart and his son Robert both served in the War with Mexico, 1847-48. At one time Jack S. owned and operated a hotel at Burnsville. A frequent guest at his hotel was Mr. Zeb Vance of Asheville. He became acquainted with all the Stewart family. About 1876, just after Zeb Vance was elected Governor the second time, two of the Stewart brothers, Charles and Isaac were in Charlotte. They met Zeb Vance while there and talked to him. He invited them to come to see him in the Governor's mansion in Raleigh.

"Jack was noted for being a brave and resolute man. The following incident is one example: It happened during the War between the States. One night Jack's horse was stolen by a band of horse thieves or robbers. One of his nearest neighbors also had his horse stolen. The next morning Jack resolved to follow the thieves and recover his own horse. He asked his neighbor to go along with him and try to recover his own horse, but the man didn't relish the idea. So Jack proceeded on alone. To make a long story short, he overtook the thieves near the N.C.-Tenn. state line. He not only recovered his own horse, but also the one belonging to his neighbor.

"Jack gave my father a book when he was a small boy. It was a rather odd book for a boy of his age. I think it is still here among our books. The title as I remember it was "Virgil's Aeneid".

[Feb. 19, 1963] "here is another item about Jack S.: When he was elected Sheriff, he served refreshments at Burnsville and invited everybody to participate. He was remembered as being generous and having many friends.

"once he sent 2 of his deputies to arrest a man but they returned saying he was such a 'bad man' they couldn't arrest him. Then Jack went all by himself and arrested the 'bad man'. He offered no resistance whatever when Jack arrived on the scene"

¹⁵ Stewart family dates sent by Wm. Crump, taken from a list recorded in an 1869 copy of Hickock's Bible Concordance belonging to Mrs. Dorothy S. Barrier of Morganton, NC. The list was probably begun by Charles D. Stewart, b. 1840.

[Walter Greene also gave me this story of Jack Stewart's death.]

Jack Stewart lost his life on Cub creek. He was shot by one of the outlaw bands that arose in the Civil War. Although he had been warned that this group was after him, he said he would not get off the road for anybody and that they would not dare harm a hair on Jack's head. He was too resolute on this occasion.

The place where Jackson Stewart was killed became known as Jack's Rock. Lloyd Bailey¹⁶ had not heard of Jack's Rock so he investigated further and reported¹⁷ "Also, I have laid eyes on Jack's rock. It is at the very end of Cub Creek, just where the Bakersville-Roan Mtn. road cuts across it. In fact, it is on the right of that road as one goes toward the Roan, just before the Cub Creek exit, within 50' of the paved road. The old road on which the rock (about 10' in diameter) is located is visible beginning about 500' before the Cub Creek intersection. The rock is beneath a tall tree in an overgrown area. ...".

Jackson Stewart is listed as sergeant on the final roll of Company D, 1st Regiment of Foot Volunteers, a company organized in Jan. 1847 by Capt. Tilman Blalock in Yancey Co., and called to U.S. Service 14 Feb. 1847. Wm. R. Stewart is also named in this company. (Roster of N.C. Troops in the War with Mexico) Stewart served as sheriff of Yancey County. See North Carolina Reports 49 (1857) August Term of North Carolina Supreme Court, for a case in which Jackson Stewart as sheriff of Yancey Co. in 1854 was convicted of purchasing land thru an agent at his own sheriff's sale -- in fact, purchasing land that was not to be sold. See also Public Laws of North Carolina, 1858-59, resolutions. This shows that Jackson Stewart, sheriff of Yancey County, resigned in the spring of 1858 and records a resolution for his relief from a judgment for not settling with the state controller for the taxes of 1857. The condition on the release was that Jackson Stewart, former sheriff, or Solomon Wray, present sheriff, shall make proper settlement of taxes in arrears due from said county of Yancey.

Jackson Stewart also served in the Civil War. He was 6 ft. 3 in. tall and age 50 when he enrolled 17 May 1862 and he gave his birthplace as Anson County. He resigned as 2nd Lt. of Co. B, 58th NC Volunteers because of ill health and old age (giving his age as 59) on April 25, 1863.¹⁸

Jackson Stewart appears in court records even after his death. On 3 Sept. 1866, in a Mitchell County bastardy case against Eliza Gibbs, she declared Jackson "Steward" to be the father of the child. The case was dismissed as Jackson Stewart was deceased. [Families of Yancey County, Vol. 8, #3 (Sept. 1991) p. 94]

The census records show Jackson Stewart's wife as Elizabeth. Their marriage, of which no record has been found, probably occurred in the late 1820's in the upper part of Burke County, a county

¹⁶ Bailey, Lloyd, letter to Dan Olds, 27 Aug. 1987

¹⁷ Lloyd Bailey, letter to Dan Olds, 20 Nov. 1987.

¹⁸ Mrs. Charles A. Hass, Annandale, VA, sent records from the National Archives. She is a descendant of Wm. R. Stewart, b. 1828.

which lost much of its early records during the Civil War. Walter Greene says that she was Elizabeth Howell and to verify this further, he visited members of the Howell family and wrote (10 Feb. 1963): "Mr. Troy Howell, Route 2, Burnsville, N.C, tells me they are related to Clark Howell, former editor of the Atlanta Constitution. Troy's grandfather Capt. John Howell, served under General Lee at Gettysburg." On April 11, 1963, Mr. Greene wrote: "I visited Mr. Troy Howell yesterday afternoon and had a talk with him. He gave me some information about the Howell Family so I am passing it on to you. Troy Howell's great-great grandfather was James A. Howell. His son Tom Howell had a sister named Betty who married Jack Stewart. Tom was the father of Troy's grandfather, John Howell." Death certificates of some of the Stewart children, as listed below, also give her name as Elizabeth Howell. Lloyd Bailey¹⁹, mentions Elizabeth Stewart's pension file (which I should get!) in which Martha Willis testifies that she is a Howell and Elizabeth's sister.

I have found no tombstone for Jackson Stewart. There are two tombstones for Elizabeth Stewarts of the correct age.

Elizabeth Stewart

b. July 20, 1809,

d. Mar. 2, 1889

Burleson Cemetery

Toecane, Mitchell Co., NC

Elizabeth Stewart

b. Sept. 18, 1810

d. June 6, 1895

Snow Hill Methodist Cemetery

Toecane, Mitchell Co., NC

Walter Greene feels that Jackson and Elizabeth are buried in the "Toecane Cemetery", not at Snow Hill. These dates agree exactly with those provided by Wm. Crump from the Bible Concordance. (The other Elizabeth was probably the wife of Jackson's brother, Joseph Stewart, b. ca. 1813, whose sons include a Jackson M. Stewart, b. ca. 1851.) The first dates given below for each child are those provided by William Crump.

Lloyd Bailey reports that there is a marker for Sgt. Jackson Stewart, Co. D, 1st NC Vols, Mexican War" at the Greene Cemetery near Bakersville.²⁰

THE CHILDREN OF JACKSON AND ELIZABETH (HOWELL) STEWART

i. William Robert Stewart, b. 23 Feb. 1828, d. 23 Dec. 1896

He is listed with the family in the 1850 census. He served in the Mexican War with his father. In the later census records, his wife is given as "Lackey". Lloyd Bailey reports that her name "was Lockey (a name common at the time, esp. among the Honeycutts and Streets) and she and he are bur. at the Burleson Cem., with her dates: died 2/3/1910; his is the military type: W. R. Stewart, Co. D 1st NC Vols, Mexican War."²¹ He is also listed as a veteran of the Mexican War in the 1890 special census of Mitchell Co., NC. His will, dated 20 March 1896, was probated in Mitchell Co.

¹⁹ Bailey, Lloyd, letter to Dan Olds, 20 Nov. 1987.

²⁰ Bailey, Lloyd, letter to Dan Olds, 27 Aug. 1987, from a cemetery survey of Mitchell Co., NC

²¹ Bailey, Lloyd, letter to Dan Olds, 27 Aug. 1987

- ii. Mary Stewart, b.27 Aug. 1829, d.
[ten years younger than in the census record??] She married Sam Sparks.
- iii. Susan Stewart, b. 18 Sept. 1831, d. 24 March 1887
Called Susannah in the census. She married Tom Greene.
- iv. Isabella Stewart, b. 7 May 1833, d. ca. 1915
This is probably the same as the Elizabeth in my copy of the 1850 census for the family. Isabella is Walter Greene's grandmother. She married (1) John Greene (1830-1863) and (2) Joseph Stewart (on 20 Jan. 1866, Mitchell Co. marriage records). According to my notes, her Mitchell Co. death record says "b. 9 May 1838, d. Nov. 1915, age 82 yr., 6 m. 9 d., dau. of Jack Stewart and Betty Howell", but this must be rechecked. A tombstone at Bear Creek says "Isabell Stewart, 1834-1916". The 1880 census of Mitchell Co. lists her in the family of Joseph Stewart, age 45, with Greene and Stewart children. Her death was probably 18 Nov. 1916²².
- v. Nancy Stewart, b. 9 Nov. 1837, d.
She married John Fortner and they are my wife's ancestors. Nancy's Mitchell Co. death record says that she was a daughter of Jack Stewart. She died 22 July 1922. John Fortner was born 25 Dec. 1832 and died 1 April 1900. John and Nancy are buried in a family cemetery in Mitchell Co. and the dates are from their tombstones.
- vi. Charles D. Stewart, b. 17 April 1840, d. 6 Feb. 1914
He married Mary Ann Burlison in Mitchell Co. on 17 Sept. 1865. They are the ancestors of Mrs. Dorothy S. Barrier and Wm. Crump.
- vii. Jasper Stewart, b. 17 April 1843, d. 22 June 1864
He was killed in the Civil War.
- viii. Isaac Stewart, b. 4 Feb. 1846, d. 26 April 1887
(from Walter Greene, 15 Nov. 1960) "I visited Mrs. Nellie Stewart Buchanon a few weeks ago. She tells me that she is the oldest one left now. She was the daughter of "Ike" Stewart (Isaac). He served in the War between the States when he was only 17 years of age. He was 6 ft. & 6 ins. tall, and was as straight as a soldier. He was considered very handsome. ... This Daughter, cousin Nellie, was very interesting to talk with. She is still very active and had a clear mind. She showed me a picture which was made at the Stewart Reunion on Bear Creek about the year 1930." Isaac Stewart married Martha Burlison on 3 May 1863 (Mitchell Co. marriage records). A tombstone at Bear Creek bears the notation "Martha Stewart, Jan. 1, 1856, Dec. 5, 1930" but unless there is an error, this was another Martha. Chandler Stewart

²² Chandler Stewart

reports the Mitchell Co. death record as 6 Mar. 1931.

ix. Cester E. Stewart, b. 23 Oct. 1850, d.

She married Luce Byrd. Her Mitchell Co. death record says "b. 23 Oct. 1845(1849), d. 30 June 1927, age 77 y., 8 m., 7d., daughter of Jack Stewart, b. in Anson Co., and Elizabeth Howell, b. in Mitchell Co." 1849 is probably the correct birth year since she was under 1 year old in the census of August, 1850. Lloyd Bailey commented that her name was short for Jocester and her husband was "Lace", short for Lazarus and common in the Byrd family. He also reports the following from the 1870 and 1880 census records of Bakersville twp, Mitchell co., NC.²³

	1870		1880		
62	Lazarus Byrd	32	148	Lace Byrd	40
	Jocester	19		Cester	29

x. James M. Stewart, b. 3 March 1852, d.

He is listed in the 1860 census with this family and with his mother in the 1870 census. He was called 'Dick' and was so listed by Walter Greene, who also called him Richard. He died in Linville township, Avery County, NC, on 27 Dec. 1936, at age 84.²⁴

²³ Bailey, Lloyd, letter to Dan Olds, 27 Aug. 1987

²⁴ Stewart, Neil, of Pineola, NC, called me 12 Aug. 1998 about the Stewart family. He said that his great-grandfather James M. or Richard "Dick" Stewart lived at Pineola in Avery County, NC, ("I'm looking at his house now") and is buried there as is Neil's grandfather Stewart. There is no doubt about James M. and Richard being names for the same person. Neil called him Grandpa Dick. I later added the corrected birthdate from the copy of the death record Neil Stewart sent me, Sept., 1988.