

COPY OF LEE GREEN LETTER OF 1895

Hallettsville, Lavaca Co.

January 15th 1895.

To Lee W. Green, San Antonio, Texas.

Dear Grandson:

In compliance with a request you made of me when I last saw you, I will proceed to give you what information I can about our ancestry.

My Grandfather was named Gideon Green; he lived in the southern part of North Carolina during the Revolutionary War and was, I think, in the battle of King's Mountain where the Whig Militia took in Col. Ferguson's Regiment of British and Royalists. I don't know if he was in any other fight. I think they lived in a very thinly settled section where the Whigs were all needed at home to keep the country from being overrun by the Tories.

I am not certain of my Grandma Green's maiden name, but think it was Austin. Her given name was Elizabeth [Martha Elizabeth Anderson, NOT Austin--Ron]. My grand- father died when my father was a small boy. He left 7 sons and 2 daughters, Elizabeth and Mary. They all married and raised families, My father's brothers were John, Jacob, Gideon, EINathan,, Jesse (my father), Leonard, and Nathan.[His father's (being Jesse) brothers are listed in Elizabeth Green's will of 1813 which is shown on George Thomas' web page.--Ron]

My grand-father on mother's side was named Richard Lee. He was raised an orphan, went into the Colonial Army soon after the war commenced and remained to the close. My grand mother on my mother's side was Patsy Little. They were married soon after the close of the Revolutionary War and lived in Anson County, North Carolina, until 1819 when they moved to Perry County, Alabama, where they both died a few years later. I remember to have seen my grand- father Lee once and to have heard him tell of some of his war experiences. My mother was named Jemima, Her sisters were Lydia, Elizabeth, Vacey, Nelly, and Patsy, - making with Mother 6 girls and 3 boys, named Solomon, David, and Daniel. My father and mother with 3 children, I the youngest, and one negro girl, moved from Anson County, North Carolina, to Perry County, Alabama, in 1819, and lived in the same neighborhood 16 miles north of Selma, until 1839, when we moved to Choctaw County, Mississippi. They raised 7 children, 4 boys and 3 girls. Elizabeth, the oldest girl, married W. M..McAdams, Their descendants are in Leon County, Texas. Cynthia married Wiley Cook. She died early and left one daughter, Elizabeth, who married a man named Moore and lived in Union Parish, Louisiana.

Jesse, next. younger than I, married Polly Spencer, died in Fayette County, Texas, in 1855; left 5 children, of which three yet live. Harris, near Weimar, Ananias near Runge, and Sallie Williams, near Schulenburg

David Harris Green, my next brother, died in Leon County, Texas, left several children, of whom I have not kept the names. His wife's maiden name was Tabitha Griffith.

Ananias Green, the 4th and youngest boy, married Sarah Griffith, an older sister of David Harris's wife. She died in Leon County 8 or 9 years ago. He is now in New Mexico, married a second time last year, He has 9 living children and a gang of grand-children. He is now Probate Judge of Eddy County, New Mexico. He and I are the only ones now living of the 7. I am now in my 77th year and he in his 71st year.

I was born in Anson County, North Carolina, on the 28th of August, 1818; married Lucretia Middleton in Choctaw County, Mississippi on the 20th day of February, 1842. Our children, you know, were Sarah Eleanor, born July 1843, Andrew Jesse (your pa) 1845, Jemima Matilda, 1847, Demaris Elizabeth,, 1849, Harris Holland, 1851, Alfred Hix Lee in 1853, Pleasant Howard in 1856, Lucretia Ann in 1858, and John Middleton in 1861. You know of their whereabouts and their children as well as I could tell you

I was a sickly, bad-tempered boy, never a favorite with anyone except my dear mother. My father believed I ate dirt and often punished me for it when the very reverse was what ailed me. I was too afraid of eating dirt to eat scarcely anything. My educational opportunities were poor and not as well improved as they might have been. Spelling, writing, and Common Arithmetic was all that I ever studied at school. My teachers, in the main, were very imperfect even in these. I was put to work on the farm early and kept at it close. My first wife, Lucretia Middleton, was about 18 when we were married. She was a noble and beautiful young lady, well accomplished for a common farmer's daughter of that day. Her ancestors, both Middleton and Childress, were of good English stock, and if there is anything good in our descendants they owe it as much or more to her than to me. My own ancestors on both sides were believed to be Welch. Our ancestors, on all sides and all known lines, from aw!

ay back have been Baptists, and some of them have claimed Apostolic Succession from the Welsh Baptist Churches planted in Apostolic times.

I was married a second time on Dec. 6th, 1885, to Mrs. Lavinia McDonald, whose maiden name was Scrivner, a second cousin to my first wife, with whom I am happily living and wondering at God's goodness to me in allowing me to be blessed with two such noble women for my wives.

I am healthy, active, and vigorous for my age and retain my mental faculties well. I was elected Justice of the Peace 3 times in Mississippi before I left, and have hold some little offices here. I was ordained to preach in 1851 and hold my Credentials yet though not preaching much now. I look hopefully and with some degree of pride upon my descendants generally and especially Jesse Hatchett and yourself. You are both very promising love and I pray God that your parents and friends may fully realize their most sanguine expectations in regard to you both. While none of our ancestors have been great men none of them have been disgraced as criminals.

Your grand-pa

To Lee W. Green Lee Green

A short sketch written by Rev. Lee Green, June 3, 1906.

He was 89 years old, yet still preached the word of gospel one or more times a month, filling appointments miles away from home.

"I, Lee Green, was born in Anson County, North Carolina, on the 28th day of August, 1818. My father, Jesse Green, was born in the same state and county in 1787. My grandfather, Gideon Green, lived in that state during the Revolutionary War. My mother's maiden name was Jemima Lee; her father, Richard Lee, was of Virginia stock, volunteered when quite young and served in the Continental Army during the war, without being captured or wounded. I remember seeing him once, and Oh, how I enjoyed hearing him tell about his adventures and hair-breadth escapes; I was about four or five years old. My ancestors on both sides were Welsh and Baptist as far back as I can trace them, though no preacher in the connection but (poor little) me."

"I was brought by my parents from North Carolina to Perry County, Alabama, in the autumn of 1819. I was sickly and crippled in one of my feet, from which I never entirely recovered. We settled on Valley Creek in the east end of Perry County, sixteen miles north of Selma in a wild, hilly section. Our neighbors were few and far between; mostly rich from South Carolina, old-school Presbyterians but strict Sabbath observers and good whiskey drinkers. Our schools were of a low grade, about 3 months in mid-summer. I first attended school in the winter of 1826 and 1827, six or seven weeks in all; was a good speller for my age, took the prize for standing the head of the class when school closed. We had three months school some time during the year every year, after that in reach of home I always went two or three months; was a good speller and fair in reading, writing, and arithmetic, which were all the branches taught in the school I attended. My father and mother became members of!"

"Shiloh Baptist Church on Little Okmulgee Creek when I was six or seven years old. I learned to read early, read the New Testament extensively and had serious religious impressions when not more than eight years old, and if I had been properly instructed would doubtless have become a Christian then and accomplished much more for God's glory than I have. At about 11 years of age I was attacked with indigestion and suffered tortures in body and mind for years, not caring much for anything most of the time except for my mother. She alone seemed to care for me. At about 18 my health improved and I removed to Choctaw County, Mississippi, to improve a place for my father and the family to move to later on. Here, I and a brother four years younger, three Negroes (two men and one woman) batched for two years., Here I felt the responsibility of being the head of a family if we could be called a family. Here during these years under the labors of Jesse Thomas and James Martin-my relig!

ious impressions returned and I tremblingly confessed Christ as my personal savior, and I was baptized into the fellowship of Antioch Church in my 20th year. Before leaving the old parental roof in Alabama my dear Godly mother had taken me into her room and advised, entreated and prayed God's blessing on her eldest son. That parting blessing does a soul good yet."

"Here, in Choctaw County, Mississippi, I was united in marriage to Lucretia Middleton, daughter of Deacon John Middleton and Sarah, his wife, whose maiden name was Childress. Lucretia was the belle of Belfontaine, the village in which she was raised. She was a noble, refined, intelligent, industrious young lady, beautiful and well educated for that time in that

country, and better than all, a devoted Christian and church member. We settled and lived a few years six miles east of Belfontaine where her parents resided, and three miles from my parents. Our family at the start consisted of us two and a negro boy my father gave me, and a negro girl my wife's father gave her. Our first child, Sarah E. was born here in 1843, others in 1845, 1847, 1849, and 1851. So, when we moved to Texas in the autumn of 1851, we were seven whites and six blacks. Here I served five years in the office of Justice of the Peace, which office I resigned to go into the Gospel Ministry to which I felt called and to which work the church called me in 1850. In November, 1851, one month before starting to move to Texas, I was ordained to the full work of the Gospel Ministry, by a Presbytery consisting of Wm. Harrod, John R. Golding, Alfred Hix, James T. Fox, and James C. Butte. I have my credentials in a good state of preservation yet I didn't perform any official work as a preacher in Mississippi. My first work in that line was in the neighborhood of Blackjack Springs, 13 miles west of LaGrange, in Fayette County in the spring of 1852. Here I was assisted by J. A. Kimbal, Associational Missionary, and James Powell of Gonzales County, whom I had known in Mississippi. We organized a Baptist Church which I was pastor of for several years, had some success. I bought land and settled in the southwest corner of Fayette County, near old Lyonsville, preached almost every Sunday in the little dirt floor school houses in the surrounding neighborhood. I received kind, respectful treatment and good attention and behavior at my services. At first I found only two Baptists in the community, one man and his wife. He was an illiterate renter and was keeping a barrel of whiskey on tap at his house. In the spring of 1853, assisted by J. A. Kimbal and T. B. Chandler of Fayetteville, we organized the Navidad Baptist Church with my wife and myself as constituent members. I was pastor of this church nearly all the time for fifteen years. Here my two children, Sarah and Jesse, were converted and baptized later under the pastorate preaching of Brother H. M. Burroughs, now of Galveston. While I was still pastor James and Denman were baptized. In 1877 I was succeeded by Elder Sledge; I having moved to Hallettsville and becoming engrossed in secular pursuits, though I never entirely gave up preaching. During my preaching I have labored in meetings with the following ministers that I remember: A. W. Elledge, J. A. Kimbal, T. B. Chandler, Dr. James Stribling, S. I. Caldwell, John H. Thurmond, W.P. Hatchett, Eugene Stevens, Peter Turner, James Head, and many others. Those old timers, all preachers, attended meetings, preached by turns and were followed by a brother or brothers in exhortation and prayers; that custom has passed and perhaps for the better. I have aided in the construction of a good many churches and the ordination of several preachers and deacons. I was present and took part in the organization of the First Baptist Association at Saltillo, Mexico, together with Brethren Tupper of Virginia, Garret, of Chappell Hill, and Dodson, of Seguin Brother W. D. Powell, then Missionary in Mexico, Pastor in Saltillo and Principal of the Madeira Institute, which was then a prosperous school for girls. I have baptized, married, and buried a great many during the 54 years of my ministry in Texas. But, oh, how much more good I could have done if I had been better equipped and trained.. I have been awkward and uncouth in manners, negligent of my person, and not as cautious and circumspect in conduct and conversation as a preacher ought to be."

"I have always taken an interest in public affairs and talked and voted my own convictions regardless of public clamor. I have thereby offended and alienated many former friends and good brethren, but, Thank God, the days of little narrow mindednesses in politics and religion have passed. My intercourse with other preachers has been pleasant, cordial, and, to me, profitable in the main. I have never tried to pull down or to supplant any preacher, though I have suffered some in that line by a few preachers (so called). I have been employed as Associated Missionary on two or three occasions for a part of the year, have been Clerk of the

Association several times and Moderator a few times. I have been a steadfast, unmoved Missionary Baptist of the late Jesse Mercer type. In this one thing I can say with Paul, "I have fought a good fight," and I can and do say by the Grace of God I am what I am, and I have a good hope that the same Grace will make me all that I desire to be, Amen!"

(Signed) Lee Green.