

## Some Descendants of William Dickens and Nancy Elizabeth (Turner) Dickens

By Nyla CREED DePauk



William Dickens, was born January 4, 1843, in Fayette County, Virginia. He died October 30, 1918, in Raleigh County. William was the son of John Dickens, Sr., and Nellie "Ellen" (Hendrix) Dickens. On January 25, 1866, in Raleigh County, William married Nancy Elizabeth Turner, daughter of John Burnett Turner, Sr., and Naomi Angeline Exoney (Via) Turner. The marriage ceremony was conducted by William Feazell. Nancy was born January 17, 1843, in Patrick County, Virginia. She died August 3, 1916, near Citie, Raleigh County. John was buried in the Dickens Cemetery near Naoma, Raleigh County, while Nancy was buried in the Turner Cemetery at Mattsville, Sandlick, Raleigh County. Children of William and Nancy are listed below.

- Naomi Angeline Dickens was born February 23, 1867, in Raleigh County. She died before 1916. Naomi married William E. Pettry who was born April 8, 1867, in Raleigh County, and died October 20, 1950. They were married on October 24, 1887, in Raleigh County by Samuel F. Wills. William's parents were William Pettry and Arena (Pettry) Pettry.

- George Sanford Dickens was born June 3, 1869, in Raleigh County. George died July 7, 1937.

- John Thomas Dickens, born October 22, 1870, in Raleigh County, died January 17, 1958. On April 12, 1894, he married Arena Evelyn Pettry who was born February 19, 1880, and died April 6, 1971. Her parents were James Alfred "Uncle Jim" Pettry and Nancy Elizabeth (Dickens) Pettry. John and Arena's son, Dennis Winford Dickens and his wife Ruby were favorite cousins of mine. I loved visiting them. Dennis was born July 1, 1909, in the Pine Knob area of Naomi, Raleigh County. Dennis died January 26, 1998, in Charleston, Kanawha County, West Virginia.

- Mary Ellen "Sis" Dickens, born March 10, 1872, in Raleigh County, died November 2, 1956, in Arnett, Raleigh County. "Sis" married Thomas Marion Wills on April 23, 1908. Thomas was born in August 1866 and died January 22, 1956. He was the son of Enoch Berry Wills and Nancy (Laxton) Wills.

- Loranza Rand Dickens, born October 14, 1873, died June 29, 1925. On March 21, 1899, he married Clara Workman who was born August 25, 1879, died September 29, 1931. Her parents were Robert Workman and Elizabeth Adeline (Dickens) Workman.

- William Andrew "Bill" Dickens was born August 11, 1875. On January 17, 1901, he married Melissa Angeline Canterbury who was born December 26, 1881. Her parents were Samuel Lewis Canterbury and Sarah Ann (Webb) Canterbury.

- Ulysses Sidney (U. S.) "Sid" Dickens was born January 30, 1877, and died July 6, 1972. "Sid" was married first to Myrtle Callaway Jarrell about 1923. He was married



second Virgie Oxley. Virgie was born December 27, 1887, and died September 1, 1988. They were married September 1, 1943. Virgie was the daughter of Daniel Oxley and Melissa Ruth (Bolin) Oxley. Sidney and Virgie lived at Athens, Mercer County, West Virginia. Sidney and my grandmother (Leota (Dickens) Williams) were double-first cousins. I fondly remember visiting Sidney and Virgie many times.

**U.S. Dickens and his cousin  
Leota (Dickens) Williams**

- Elmer E. Dickens was born February 20, 1879, in Raleigh County. Elmer married Almeda Workman who was born July 7, 1887. They were married on July 7, 1905. Almeda was the daughter of Robert Workman and Elizabeth Adeline (Dickens) Workman.

- Francis Marion Dickens, born May 15, 1881 in Raleigh County, died December 30, 1954. He never married.

- Leander Spurlock Dickens, born September 5, 1883, died June 4, 1957. Leander married first Cora Bailey, born December 5, 1895, and died November 8, 1939. They were married April 8, 1913. Her parents were Linford Bailey and Delila (Underwood) Bailey. Leander was married second to Gracie Peninthia Nicholas on May 31, 1955. She was the daughter of Lewis H. Nicholas and Emily Matura (Blankenship) Nicholas. Gracie was born October 19, 1896, in Tornado, Kanawha County, West Virginia. She died January 8, 1992, in Parkersburg, Wood County, West Virginia. Gracie was buried in Pineview Cemetery, Orgas, Boone County, West Virginia, next to her third husband, James Millard Turner. Gracie was married first to Linville Garrison "Tom" Stover. Gracie is the paternal grandmother of Gracie (Stover) Golden.



**Left to right: William Dickens, Nancy (Turner) Dickens,  
Mary Jane (Turner) Dickens, Elizabeth "Liz" (Dickens) Henderson,  
Mary Ellen "Sis" (Dickens) Wills and her husband Thomas Marion Wills**

Sources:

Raleigh County Marriage, Birth, and Death Records

Census records

Information from Marka Dickens Schrader