

Jacob and Sallie (McGhee) Stover

by Gracie Stover

Jacob Stover (born 1764) and Sallie McGhee were the progenitors of the Raleigh County, West Virginia, Stovers. At this time, there is no proof as to Jacob's parents. What we have are theories. One is that he was the son of Henry because Henry did leave a will in Orange County, and he did have a son named Jacob. However, Jacob can be seen in tax records in Franklin County before Henry Stover arrived. Henry doesn't show up in any Franklin County records until 1793 when he purchases land from John Campbell, and we can see by the Franklin County land records Henry's land being bought and sold through his family. A Jacob and Mary Stover from Roanoke County are involved in those transactions, so I believe that was Henry's son Jacob, not Jacob Stover from Raleigh County.

However, I do believe that Jacob was the grandson of Abraham, and Abraham was the son of Jacob Stover and Sarah Boone because Abraham was also in Franklin County. Jacob Stover does appear in Franklin Tax lists and other records. He married Sallie McGhee there in 1788. Their marriage bond was signed by Holden McGhee, who may have been Sallie's father or grandfather. There was a close relationship between Holden McGhee and Jeremiah Stover. They can be found close together in tax lists and census records, and Jeremiah Stover was part of the Jacob Stover and Sarah Boone family.

Franklin County, Patrick County, Henry County, and Pittsylvania County are today side by side. In the timeframe of these people, the lines were not so clear cut and have changed. At one time, it was all Pittsylvania County.

In 1774, in Pittsylvania County, Obediah Stover sold land to Solomon Davis. This Obediah Stover had to have been at least 21 years old to sell his land. If he were 21 years old, then he would have been born about 1753. He had probably owned that land many years before he sold it; so he was probably born well before 1753. According to the book, "An Old Virginia Court," in August of 1788, Holden McGhee and Jeremiah Stover were allowed two days' attendance to go to Franklin County and appear as witnesses in a trial between Jacob Stover "going and returning 20 miles as witness for Stover versus Davis." This is also recorded in the transcript of the Records of the First Court of Franklin County by Wingfield. In March 1788, on the motion of Jonathan Davis, a new trial was granted to Jonathan Davis and Jacob Stover. There are two big questions here. What was going on between Stover and Davis? And did this trial have anything to do with land that the elder Obediah Stover sold to Solomon Davis in 1774? There must be a connection between them. Jacob wasn't born until 1764, so this elder Obediah Stover (I have found no further record on him) is also a good theory for Jacob's father since Jacob did name one of his sons Obediah.

Jacob Stover went from Franklin County to Patrick County, where he purchased land in 1794 from Richard Tucker Maynor. The Maynors are another family that migrated to West Virginia, and this and other Patrick County land records show that the Stovers and Maynors knew each other before they moved to Raleigh County.

Jacob Stover shows up in the 1810 Census in Kanawha County. He also shows up in records from Giles County, Fayette County, Logan County, and Raleigh County censuses. County and state line changes account for this because he settled on Coal River and stayed on Coal River. He bought 127 acres of land in 1824 on Coal River, but the record is in Giles County, Virginia.

Jacob Stover was a farmer, and he was one of the first members of the Coal Marsh Baptist Church in Glen Daniel, Raleigh County, in 1836. His name is only listed in that year. It is thought that Jacob married a second time to Mary Carrow in Fayette County, but I haven't seen the record to prove this. However, in the 1830 Logan County Census, Jacob Stover's household is listed with one male, age 20-30; one male, 60-70; and a female, age 60-70. Jacob and Sallie seem to be living still as the age of 60-70 do fit them. Perhaps one of their unmarried sons still lived with them.

In the 1840 Fayette County Census, Jacob's household includes one male age 60-70, which is Jacob, but no female of that age; so Sallie seems to have died before that year. His household also includes one female under the age of five, one female between five and ten years of age, and a female between age 30 to 40. Since no names were given in the 1840 census, we can't know who this woman and children are that are living with him. Perhaps she is a daughter, or daughter-in-law with two daughters of her own. Or perhaps she is a much younger bride with children of her own.

According to William Turner, "The Stover family were originally natives from Franklin County, Virginia. They came West, probably ca 1815. The originals were large, strong, portly men. Seven brothers, their names were, according to the information I have, Obadiah, Jacob, John, Abraham, Sampson, Lewis, and Jubil." Aubrey Smith lists these same sons for Jacob plus two daughters, Frances and Susannah.

I believe they omitted two of Jacob's children. Elijah Stover is listed in the 1815 Giles County Tax List along with Jacob. He married Mary Scarboro and moved to Ohio before the 1820 census, so early historians didn't know about him. A marriage record was found in Giles County for Rachel Stover and Ezekial Canterbury, dated 13 January 1823. Jacob Stover is listed as her father on the marriage bond.

The children of Jacob Stover and Sallie McGhee were Elijah; Obadiah; Jacob, Jr.; John; Abraham; Sampson; Lewis; Jubal; Frances; Susannah; and Rachel. I will try to give a little information about each of them; but I will concentrate on the families that remained in Raleigh County between 1850 to 1930.

Obediah Stover and Masea Stanley

Obediah Stover was the son of Jacob Stover and Sallie McGhee. Masea Stanley was the daughter of William Stanley and Nancy Mullins. They were married on 12 January 1809 in Franklin County, Virginia. Jacob Stover and his other children had arrived on Coal River by 1810, but Obediah remained in Franklin County until at least 1820, as he is listed on the census there. He is also seen there in 1813 when he signs the marriage bond for John Bailey and Sarah Stanley.

The Giles County, Virginia, Survey Book, 1807-1845, page 219, land was surveyed for Obediah Stover. It was for 21 acres on 21 November 1814 on Coal River at the Mouth of Lick Creek. However, Obediah arrived on Coal River after 1820. It is known that he lived at Fulton and is buried at the Fulton Cemetery. He only shows up once in the census, and that is in the 1830 Logan County Census. He dies before the 1840 census; and his wife, Massea is listed in the Fayette County census with nine children: two were sons under the age of five, two sons were between five and ten, one son was between fifteen and twenty, one daughter was between five and ten, one daughter was between ten and fifteen, and two daughters were between twenty and thirty. In 1850 and in 1860, Massea is listed in the Raleigh County Census. She died before 1870.

I believe there were eleven children for Obediah and Massea. These were Naomi, William, Nancy, Lewis, Sarah, Daniel, Moses, George, John, Jane, and Frances Stover. These children's names are based on census records, marriage, and death records. Although Aubry Smith lists a son named Jacob for Obediah, I believe that was an error; and it was John, not Jacob.

Nancy Stover married John Wriston, and her story will continue in the Reason Wriston chapter.

Naomi "Amanda" Stover married Zachariah Wriston, and her story is continued in the chapter about the Reason Wriston family.

Sarah Stover never married. She is with her mother in the 1850 Raleigh County census, listed as a spinster (unmarried and childless). In the 1850 Raleigh County Census, she is in the household of Floyd Wriston and Dana Catherine Ewing. In the same household are two of William Stover and Elizabeth Wriston's children—Ashford and Linville, and Rachel Wriston who was the wife of Reason Wriston. Floyd Wriston died during the Civil War. In the 1870 census, Sarah is listed with her two nephews--Ashford and Linville.

Frances 'Fanny' Stover was born about 1813 and married Jacob Stover, III, on 3 June 1840 in Raleigh County. Jacob Stover, III, was the son of Jacob Stover, Jr., and Olive Dixon.

William Stover and Elizabeth Wriston

William Stover, a farmer, was born about 5 January 1810; and he was the son of Obediah and Massea. Elizabeth was the daughter of Reason Wriston and Rachel Scarboro. They were married on 2 April 1840 in Fayette County, Virginia. They show up on the Raleigh County census in 1850 only with five of their children: Julia Ann, Allen, Jane, Emily, and Patterson Stover. After 1850 there were four more children: Ashford, Linville, Araminta, and Daniel.

According to the death record for William Stover, he was shot and killed on 15 January 1857. The official verdict was a hunting accident. He had gone hunting with his brother-in-law Zachariah Wriston. Zachariah's gun accidentally fired, killing William Stover. I don't know what happened to Elizabeth. Her four younger children were raised by

others, possibly because with her husband deceased she could not afford to raise them. She is found again in the 1880 Raleigh County census, living with her daughter Jane. They had nine children.

Julia Ann Stover was born in 1842.

Allen Stover was born in 1843 and was in Company H of the Seventh West Virginia Calvary. He was 6'2" tall with fair complexion, blue eyes, and brown hair. He married Rachel P. Massey on 26 May 1876 in Raleigh County

Emily Stover was born in 1846; she married Fernandez Moles (son of Robert Moles and Elizabeth) on 15 May 1876. Emily already had a son named Hiram Stover when she was married. She and Fernandez had eight children.

Patterson Stover was born in January 1848 and married Nancy Wriston (daughter of Zachariah "Bill" Wriston and Naomi Amanda Stover) on 20 May 1870 in Raleigh County. They had two children. Nancy died on 4 December 1874 of consumption; and Patterson then married Susan Armstrong (daughter of Madison Armstrong and Susan Jarrell) on 8 April 1875. They had eight children.

I have found no record of a marriage for Jane Stover, but she had six children. In the 1880 Raleigh County Census her mother Elizabeth is living with her.

Linville Stover, Sr., married Margaret J. Kincaid (daughter of Levi L. Kincaid and Nancy Davis). The marriage is listed in the Fayette County marriages, but no date is given. The record says that Linville is a widower, but I have not been able to find his first wife's name. He and Margaret had six children.

Ashford Hall Stover was born 13 October 1852 and died 30 July 1927 at Acme in Kanawha County. He is buried at the Red Warrior Cemetery. He married Saba "Sabbie" Stover (daughter of Lewis Stover and Nancy Scott) on 25 November 1876 in Boone County. They had seven children.

Araminta Stover was born 15 August 1856 in Raleigh County and died on 18 February 1929 at Whitaker in Kanawha County. She is buried at the White Oak Cemetery at Artie. She died from burns. Her birth record gives her parents' names as William and Elizabeth Stover, and her death record says her father was Bill Stover. She married Lewis Wriston (son of John Wriston and Nancy Stover) on 8 April 1875 in Raleigh County. They had seven children.

Daniel Stover, born in 1856, married Rachel Elizabeth Wriston (daughter of John Wriston and Malinda Scarboro) on 11 March 1875 in Raleigh County. In 1870, he is listed in the Raleigh County Census, in the home of Zachariah Bill Wriston. Rachel Wriston is listed in the will of her father, John Wriston. Daniel and Rachel had eight children.

Lewis Stover and Nancy Scott

Lewis Stover, son of Obediah and Masea, was born in 1825 in Franklin County, Virginia. He died 12 May 1900 at Dunbar in Kanawha County, West Virginia. He married Nancy Scott on 27 April 1847 in Fayette County. No parents were listed. Nancy was born about 1830 according to the 1860 Boone County census. They are living in Jarrold's Valley. She died on 24 December 1872 in Clear Fork in Raleigh County. From "Early Deaths of Raleigh County, West Virginia (1853-1875)" by Pauline Haga: Nancy Stover, 35, died 24 Dec 1872 at Clear Fork of heart disease. Daughter of ____ and Elizabeth Allen. Lewis Stover was husband."

It states she was 35 years old, but I believe this to be an error. She would have had to have her first child at the age of ten to be 35 in 1872. Lewis Stover and Nancy Scott had nine children.

Saba "Sapie" Stover was born in 1856 and married Ashford Hall Stover (son of William Stover and Elizabeth Wriston) on 25 November 1876 in Boone County. They had seven children.

Burwell Stover was born 6 June 1861 at Acme in Kanawha County and died on 24 January 1943 at Red Warrior in Kanawha county. He married Leanzia Thompson (daughter of Squire Thompson and Martha Canterbury) on 10 September 1887 in Raleigh County. He also married Louise Ellen Scott on 5 November 1892 in Raleigh County. He and Louise had nine children.

Mary Stover.

John J Stover was born in 1855 and married Susan Short on 20 July 1877 in Raleigh County. They had seven children.

Ruthy Ann Stover was born 5 March 1859 in Boone County. She married Charles Cooper (son of Bailes Cooper, Jr., and Julia Toney).

George Stover.

Nancy Louisa Stover was born in 1867.

Elouise "Ella" Stover was born in 1871 and married Jackson Stanley (son of James Crockett Stanley and Delilah Stone) on 8 December 1885 in Raleigh County. They had nine children.

Sarah Elizabeth Stover, born in 1850 married George Washington Cooper on 29 December 1874 in Raleigh County.

Daniel Stover and Elizabeth Graley

Daniel Stover, son of Obediah and Masea, was born in 1829 and died 17 March 1868. He married Elizabeth Graley (daughter of Thomas Graley and Ruth Allen) on 19 March

1852 in Kanawha County. Their children were Elizabeth, Lenham, Ruth Ann, Mary Jane, Victoria, John, Roxie, and Ruhamy.

Daniel enlisted in Company H of the Seventh West Virginia Calvary on 25 December 1862 during the Civil War. He is described as being 5'5" tall with florid complexion, hazel eyes and light hair. His military records give his marriage information and the birthdates of their children which were born in Lincoln County. They moved to Lincoln County after they were married.

Moses Stover

Moses Stover, son of Obediah and Masea, was born in 1830, and died between the 1900 and 1910 census. He married Martha Jane Pettry (daughter of Martin Pettry and Sarah Davis) on 8 April 1858 in Raleigh County. In the 1870 Raleigh Census, they are living on adjoining farms to Henry Williams and Shelton Short. They had eleven children.

Andrew Stover was born on 1 March 1861 in Raleigh County and died 3 November 1945. He is buried in the Fulton Cemetery in Fulton, Raleigh County, West Virginia. He was married twice, first to Su Etta Reynolds (possibly Runyan) on 26 October 1881 in Raleigh County. They had 6 children, and then he married Vienna Jarrell and they had three children.

Clarissa Stover was born about 1864; she married Charles Hodge on 30 March 1886 in Raleigh County.

George Stover was born on 15 October 1865 in Raleigh County and died 7 January 1948. He is buried at the Fulton Cemetery in Raleigh County. He married twice; first to Sarah Frances Batten on 26 May 1892, and they had twelve children. Then he married Ocie Hodge on 24 May 1929, and they had five children.

Jacob "Jake" Stover was born in 1879 and died in 1955. He is buried in the Fulton Cemetery. He married Rebecca Perry on 17 September 1900 in Raleigh County. They had four children.

Susan Stover was born in 1868 and married Jackson Burgess on 15 July 1900 in Raleigh County.

Clark Stover was born 20 March 1870 and died 19 April 1950 in Raleigh County. He is buried at the Rinehart Cemetery. He first married Letha Fairbell Burnside. Her parents were Joseph Hampton Burnside and Sarah Jane Lafferty. She was born 18 January 1873, dying 30 March 1959 in Raleigh County. Letha is buried at the Rinehart Cemetery. They had twelve children. I do not know if Clark was married, but he had a son named Abe Stover who was married to Lou, and they had four children.

I have no further information on Louisa Stover.

Elphie Helen Stover married Rondie Williams. His parents were Henry Williams and Nancy (Williams) Williams. They had four children.

George Stover

George Stover was born about 1832, and he married Elizabeth Williams on 1 July 1854 in Raleigh County. They had two sons.

Preston Stover was born about 1854 and married Venila Jarrell (daughter of Anderson Jarrell and Jane Carrow) on 16 June 1875 in Raleigh County. Venila was born 2 May 1856 in Raleigh County. They had four children

Booker Stover had a son named Robert Lee. I do not know who Booker married.

George Stover also married Jane Short (daughter of Cornelius Short and Mourning Stanley) on 27 October 1865 in Raleigh County. They had five children.

Susan Stover.

Dink Stover.

Clementine Stover married Luther Howell on 10 December 1886 in Fayette County.

Margaret Stover.

Flemming Stover married Ellen Workman on 22 May 1883. They had seven children.

John Stover

John Stover was born in 1820 and died in 1852. He married Eliza Williams (daughter of John Williams, Sr., and Susanna Stover) on 19 September 1839 in Fayette County. They had six children.

Mary Jane Stover married Robertson Williams on 11 September 1856 in Raleigh County, and they had twenty three children.

Elicia Stover was born in 1850 and married William Pace on 12 December 1867 in Raleigh County.

Emily Stover was born 2 December 1840 in Raleigh County and married Joseph Phillips on 23 September 1855 in Raleigh County. They had twelve children.

Alethia Stover was born 10 March 1852 and died 12 January 1920 in Raleigh County. She is buried in the Treadway Cemetery. She married George Washington Treadway on 2 April 1869 in Raleigh County. They had fifteen children.

Ruamy Stover was not married.

Mahalia Stover had a daughter named Ida Stover.

Jane Stover

Jane Stover married Henry Franklin Hodge (son of Lemuel Hodge, Sr., and Nancy.) According to Aubrey Smith. they had eight children.

Christopher Creed Hodge married Nancy Elizabeth Burgess in March 1881 in Raleigh County. Nancy's parents were Meredith Burgess and America Clay. They had seven children.

Sarah Hodge, born in 1857, married Pleasant Allen Perry on 17 August 1876 in Raleigh County. They had five children

Nancy Hodge.

Creed Columbus Hodge, born 1859, married Nancy Cora Thompson (daughter of Gibson Thompson and Allis) on 30 October 1882 in Raleigh County. He also married Alice Jarrell (daughter of Harrison Jarrell and Flora Pettry) on 24 September 1895. Then he married Annie Williams on 30 October 1904.

Elvina Hodge.

Caroline Hodge.

Daniel Hodge.

Charles Hodge married Mary Jane Workman (daughter of Joseph H Workman and Lucinda Monk). They had one son named Ballard W. Hodge.

Sources:

1. Franklin County, Virginia, Land Records.
2. Patrick County, Virginia, Land Records.
3. 1815 Giles County, Virginia, Tax Lists.
4. "An Old Virginia Court."
5. Virginia Land Office Grants.
6. Pittsylvania County Land Records.
7. 1786, 1788, 1790, and 1799 Franklin County, Virginia, Tax Lists.
8. Franklin County, Virginia, Marriages.
9. Raleigh County, West Virginia, Marriages.

10. Fayette County, West Virginia, Marriages.
11. 1810 Kanawha, County, Virginia, Census.
12. 1830 Logan County, Virginia, Census.
13. 1840 Fayette County, Virginia, Census.
14. 1850 Raleigh County, Virginia, Census.
15. 1860 Raleigh County, Virginia, Census.
16. 1870 Raleigh County, Virginia, Census.
17. 1880 Raleigh County, West Virginia, Census.
18. 1860 Boone County, West Virginia, Census.
19. 1880 Boone County, West Virginia, Census.
20. "Early Deaths of Raleigh County, West Virginia, 1853-1875" by Pauline Haga
21. "Transcript of the Records of the First Court of Franklin County" by Wingfield.
22. Coal Marsh Baptist Church Minutes.
23. Giles County, Virginia, Marriages.
24. Smith-Riffe Collection.
25. 1920 Franklin County, Virginia, Census.
26. Giles County, Virginia, Survey Book, 1807-1845.
27. "Raleigh County, West Virginia," by Jim Woods.
28. "The Seventh West Virginia Cavalry" by Ronald R. Turner.
29. 1890 Special Census for Veterans.