

Descendants of Joseph Gray

Generation No. 1

1. JOSEPH¹ GRAY was born 08 Feb 1802 in North Carolina^{1,2,3,4}, and died 13 Feb 1882 in Alabama. He married MARY J. UNKNOWN. She was born 06 Jan 1812 in North Carolina^{5,6,7,8}, and died 11 Jan 1892 in Alabama.

Notes for JOSEPH GRAY:

Death date from tombstone. Birth date varies according to which census report.

It was thought that he may have been Joseph C. Gray from Guilford Co., N. C., son of Joseph, son of Wm. Gray who died there in 1794 and left a will. That Jos. C. Gray married Polly Whicker in 1828. It now appears that that Jos. C. Gray stayed in N.C., on west side of Deep River, in Stokes (later became Forsythe) Co. He signed deeds in those counties as Joseph C. Gray and lived next to other Whicker families.

Another speculation is that our Joseph may have come from Wayne Co., N.C., where the Elisha/Eli/Enos Hollands came from, although no evidence has been found in deeds or other sources to encourage this speculation. According to Tom Stillman, grandson of Joseph Jr's daughter Nancy Gray Chatwood, her death certificate gave her father's birthplace as Ft. Wayne, Ind. Where this idea came from, no one knows, as there is no reason to believe he was ever in Indiana.

John C Gray's repeated statements on his Confederate pension applications that he was born in Lee County, Georgia are completely reasonable, in view of the history of the area. According to Thorndale and Dollarhide's Map Guide to the US Federal Censuses, 1790-1920, the western part of today's northern neck of Worth County, Georgia was a part of Lee County at the time of the 1830 and 1840 censuses, but by 1850 (1846, according to GaGenWeb site) it had become part of Dooly County. By the 1860 census (1856, according to GaGenWeb site), the area was in Worth County, as it is today.

By a deed from David and Mary J Barclay dated 12 Aug 1861, page 726-7 of Deed Book #(?), Joseph Gray bought 280 acres of land in Coffee County, Alabama:

SE 1/4 and the west 1/2 of the NE 1/4 and SE 1/4 of the NE 1/4 of Sect. 9 in TWP 1 R21

Georgia Census, 1790-1890 by Ancestry Plus (ancestry.galegroup.com), noted 2/28/2002:

1840 US Census Dooly County, Georgia, no township listed, pg 7:

Gray, Joseph

Note: I have scanned the entire 1840 Dooly census name by name at least 3 times, and there is NO Joseph Gray listed there! There is no page 7, either.

I have also scanned the 1840 census of Lee County, where John C Gray said in his pension applications that he was born (in 1839 or 40), but there are no Grays at all listed there. See also reference below to Historical and Gen. Collections of Dooly. . . Confirms no Grays listed 1840.

Indexes to Seven State Census Reports for Counties in Georgia 1838-1845 by Brigid S Townsend, R J Taylor, Jr Foundation, Atlanta, 1975 (located in NC State Library 1994):
pg 62, Dooly County, 1845 (certified 30 Sep 1845):

Joseph Gray 8 free whites, 2 males 6-16 (Daniel & Andrew J), 2 fem 6-15 (Nancy & Susan)
(note: John C and Polly Ann's age groups were not tallied.)

Historical and Genealogical Collections of Dooly County Georgia, 3 Vols, compiled and edited by Nora Powell and Watts Powell, Vienna, Georgia, 1975 (Vols 1 & 3 have indexes. No Grays listed.)

Pg 310 has an item about someone's land in the 16th District which was cut off into Worth County in 1853. (Joseph Gray was in 24th District in 1850. Note: item at rootsweb.com/~ganews/im48no.htm has excerpt from 22 Nov 1848 newspaper referring to land in "old Pindertown possession, of the 15th district of Dooly Co, immediately on the Flint River".)

Vol II has no index:

Pg 98: 1830 Dooly County Census. No Grays. Lists Daniel G Holland, Jethro Holland, Miriah Holland.

Knight: Cofield, Thomas, Robert (2), Sarah. Kelly, Joel. Kelley, Jacob. (See 1880 Dale Co. census for Joseph and Mary J Gray - Joel Kelley family was next door. Coincidence? Also, the land Joseph Gray bought in Geneva Co touched on land owned by Jacob Kelly.)

Pg 102: 1840 Dooly County Census. No Grays listed. Lists Mariah Hollon, James Holland, Jethro Holland, F---- Knight.

(Jacob Kelley was adjacent Mariah Holland. He is speculated to be the father of Joel Kelley.)

1840: Lee County, Georgia (where John C Gray, on his pension application, said he was born): no Grays or Hollands listed.

1850 US Census Dooly County, Georgia, 24th District (no town or P.O.), 15 August, frame 232:

#77 Gray, Joseph 45 NC RE value=\$600
Mary J 36 NC
Nancy 19, Susan J 17, Daniel J 14, Andrew J 11 all born NC
John C 9, Polly A 5, Sally 3, Marthy 9/12 all born Ga

***Note: census was supposed to reflect status as of 1 June. Therefore, Nancy's age agrees with her grave marker that she was born in 1830, and would be 20 in the second half of the year 1850. However, 1860 census (also as of 1 June) shows her as already 30, so we don't know which is correct.

1860 US Census Worth County, Ga, 9 July 1860, Isabella P.O., pg 1046 (only 369 families listed in Worth Co. pg 1007 - 1061, all Isabella P.O.):

#308 Gray, Joseph 57 NC farmer, RE \$500, pers. prop. \$1500
Mary 47 NC
Susan 28 (NC), John 20, Mary 15, Sarah 13, Martha 10, Joseph 8,
Matilda 5, Thomas 5, Ellen 2 (last 8 born in Ga)

Adjacent to Jackson and Bethany Gray

Note: Indexes to 1850 and 1860 Census Georgia Slave Schedules do not list any Joseph Gray in Dooly or Worth counties.

1866 Alabama State Census Coffee County, TWP 1 R21, pg 33:

Gray, Joseph 1m (10-20); 1m (20+); 3f (10-20); 1f (20+)
(The male 10-20: Joseph, Jr. Three females 10-20 would be Sarah, Martha and Matilda.)
Adjacent entry is Mary Ann Cowan

1870 US Census Geneva County, Alabama, 1 June, TWP 2, pg 591A:

#298 Gray, Joseph, Sr 68, farmer NC
Mary J 57 NC
Martha A 20, Joseph, Jr 17, Matilda 13 born NC

(Note: the land bought by Joseph & Mary Gray in Aug 1861 was in TWP 1N R21E. Why were they enumerated in TWP 2? Did they sell and buy again? Many of their neighbors were also enumerated in TWP 2, as well.)

1880 US Census Dale County, Alabama, 9 June, Beat #3, Daleville, Page 590b (4 adjacent households):

#137 Joel Kelly 88 NC farmer NC NC cannot R/W
Betsy Kelly 90 NC keep h. NC NC cannot R/W

(This family is interesting. Are they relevant to Grays? Is it coincidence that James Kelly 28 (father born in Al) and Delilah Kelly 24 lived next entry to John C Gray in 1880 Santa Rosa, Fl?)

#138 Richard Melton 29 GA laborer NC NC
Martha Melton 35 GA k.h. NC NC
Lucy Ann 5 Al (Right age to be Mary Louise.)
Joseph R 2 Al
Andrew J. 1 mo. Al

#139 Joseph Gray 78 NC miller NC NC cannot W
Mary Gray 67 NC k.h. NC NC cannot R/W

#140: Jesse Spigner 61 (NC NC NC) (See Jesse Speigner FTM entry.)
Mary 49 (Al NC NC)
Jesse 18 son
Sarah J Burton 35 dau + 4 children.

Many Cotton families nearby. (Cottons were plentiful around Marl.)

Note: 1910 Beaver Dam pg 119B, a John Kelly 34 (Al Al Unk) lived next door to Dr W W Smith. On next page 120A is Dale Speigner 32, widowed sister-in-law in household of Henry Kennedy 30.

Geneva County, AL Tomb Records, Vols I & II, compiled by Mr and Mrs J R Phipps, Rt 6, Box 218, Dothan, Al 36301 (work done 1962-72). Vol II:

Shiloh Missionary Baptist Church

Gray, Mrs Mary Ann	2 Apr 1808 - 25 Dec 1896	Who is this?
Jernigan, Dr A B	9 Jan 1868 - 16 Jan 1904	
Jernigan, Ethel A	9 Oct 1895 - 15 Sep 1896	fa A B; mo L C
Leddon, Inf dau	31 Mar 1917 (b&d)	fa Oscar; mo TL
in same plot as Malissa E Hinson	20 Aug 1831 - 13 Aug 1928	

More About JOSEPH GRAY:

Burial: Traveler's Rest Cemetery, Samson, Geneva County, Alabama

Notes for MARY J. UNKNOWN:

Buried at Traveller's Rest in Samson.

It was once thought that she might be Polly Whicker from Guilford County, NC (see Joseph's notes) but I have never found anything to link her and Jos. to the Guilford/Forsythe Deep River Gray/Whicker people.

Rumor from Polly Ann Gray Leddon's family that her last name may have been Holland. No one has any evidence.

More About MARY J. UNKNOWN:

Burial: Traveler's Rest Cemetery, Samson, Geneva County, Alabama

Endnotes

1. Tombstone.
2. US Census 1850 Dooly County, Georgia.
3. US Census 1860 Worth County, Georgia.
4. US Census 1870 Geneva County, Alabama.
5. Tombstone.
6. US Census 1850 Dooly County, Georgia.
7. US Census 1860 Worth County, Georgia.
8. US Census 1870 Geneva County, Alabama.

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