

Transcript of letter given to me by Lavinia Helms in the mid 1980s:

677 Libbys Point
Mr. Pleasant, S.C., 29464

October 26, 1974

Mrs. Lavinia Helms
xxx
Enterprise, Alabama

Dear Mrs. Helms:

Your letter of October 13 relative to your research into family history.

My father, Abner Preston Leddon, did considerable family research and maintained records prior to his death in January 1968, at which time his records were passed to me. However, since then I have done no more than just merely keep them. I think he reached back into history just about as far as he could go and there is some information in the files which I am sure will be helpful to you.

Yes, Polly Ann Gray (Cowan) (Leddon) was my great grandmother. All the information I have of which you would be interested in is contained in the two memoranda attached, one dated June 15, 1941 and the other May 3, 1938, both prepared by my father, and which I believe is self-explanatory.

My mother, Bertie Leddon, is still living (77 years of age) and resides at 815 West Powell Street, Dothan, Alabama. My wife's parents, S. D. Parker, reside in Ozark, Alabama. Therefore, we do get over into the Alabama area several times during the year.

Polly Clark is a sister of my father and, of course, she was aware of his interest in family history and knew that his records were passed on to me.

I do not presently have any plans to publish a family history; however, you are welcome to any information that I may have. As stated, the two memoranda contain all the information I have on the Gray and Holland families and their connection with the Leddon history.

If you have any questions, I would be glad to hear from you.

Sincerely,
Marvin E. Leddon

P.S.

There is a Leddon community and cemetery just west of Geneva, Ala (out towards Samson). It may or may not contain information of interest to you.

(Note by Wilda Murphy: the two memoranda follow here)

Transcript of a document written on the letterhead of:

Alabama & Florida Railroad Company
(Incorporated)

OFFICE OF
A. P. LEDDON
(illegible word) General Manager

FILE NO.

RFD No 1, Box 143-C
Ashford, Alabama

May 3, 1938

A brief of family history as given to Abner Preston Leddon, son of George Washington Leddon, Jr., son of George Washington Leddon, Sr., son of Alfred Wright Leddon. This information imparted by Oscar Leddon in 1936. Oscar Leddon is a brother to George Washington Leddon, Jr.

Alfred Wright Leddon was born in 1801 in Ireland, and was married in Ireland to Piety Ganus. All their children, except George Washington Leddon, Sr., were born in Ireland. Piety (Ganus) Leddon was born in England. It is not known what year they moved to Wilmington, N.C. (U.S.A.), but they moved from Wilmington, N.C. to a place near Cuthbert, Georgia in 1842, lived there two years, and then moved to a place about five miles west of Geneva, Alabama. Piety (Ganus) Leddon, first wife of Alfred Wright Leddon, and mother of George Washington Leddon, Sr., died in 1860. In the year 1861, Alfred Wright Leddon married the second time – to Mary (some called her Martha) Clark. The names of the children to this first marriage were as follows: Girls: Jane, Lou, Sarah,; Boys, Jacob, John, and George. Only one child was born to second wife and his name was Tom.

George Washington Leddon, Sr. married Polly Ann Gray in 1866. She was a widow of her deceased husband, whose name was Cowan, and at the time of her marriage to George Washington Leddon, Sr. she had one son – Jesse Cowan – who was born June 22, 1862. Polly Ann (Gray) (Cowan) Leddon's parents were named Joseph Gray and Polly Ann (Holland) Gray. The parents of Polly Ann (Holland) Gray were Daniel Holland and Polly Ann (Gibbs) Holland, both of whom came from Holland. Samuel Cowan was the father of Jesse Cowan, and first husband of Polly Ann (Gray) (Cowan) Leddon. Samuel Cowan was killed in the Civil War.

Polly Ann Gibbs, great grandmother to George Washington, Jr., was 113 years old when she died in May, 1893. She died at Quincy, Florida and was buried there.

Joseph Gray, father of Polly Ann (Gray) (Cowan) Leddon came from Germany. He was born February 6, 1802, and died February 11, 1882 at 3:00 A.M. Polly Ann (Holland) Gray was born January 6, 1812, and died January 11, 1892 and was buried Jan. 13th, 1892.

Polly Ann (Gray) (Cowan) Leddon was 60 years old when she died in 1904. Cancer of the Stomach was the cause of her death. She had a stroke of Paralysis, and had the third stroke before she died, and her mind went weak before her death – about four years.

George Washington Leddon, Sr. in 1905 married Mary Chestnut. George Washington Leddon, Sr. died in **(note by w.m.: blanks here)**

Brothers and sisters of Polly Ann (Gray) (Cowan) Leddon were as follows:

(Notes added by Wilda Murphy)

GIRLS: Nancy Gray (Married John Williams)
Susan Gray (Married Tom Long)
Martha Gray (Married Mr. Melton)
Tilda Gray (Married Mr. Beamon)

**Person actually married:
Isaac Williams
David Long (Tom was son)
Richard Milton/Melton
William Miles Beeman**

(Left out only Sally Gray, who married James M Cumbie.)

BOYS: Daniel Gray (Married Miss Helion)
Jack Gray (Married Miss Bettie Mills)
Joe Gray (Married Miss Duncan)

**Helon Knight
Elizabeth Mills Smith (2nd wife)
Sarah Frances Duncan**

(Left out only John C Gray, who married Sarah C Leddon.)

Transcript of original document (Xeroxed so many times it has become blurred):

INFORMATION GIVEN TO A.P. LEDDON ON SUNDAY JUNE 15, 1941 BY OSCAR LEDDON AT BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION OF OSCAR LEDDON AT HIS HOME.

Alfred Right Leddon and Mary Piety (Ganus) Leddon were parents of George Washington Leddon Sr. Alfred Right Leddon was born and reared in Ireland. Mary Piety Ganus was born and reared in England. Alfred Right Leddon and Mary Piety Ganus were married in England, and afterwards came to America, settling in North Carolina.

A Mr. Holland, who was born and reared in Holland, and who was a carpenter, came to America unmarried. Polly Ann (Either Gibbs or Glider – don't know which for surname) was born and reared in Germany, having only one brother and no sisters. The family was wealthy. When she was about grown, she was misled along with several other girls in a walk to a boat landing, and into the boat, and the boat pulled out while they were on the boat, and they were all landed in America, and sold at auction. She was sold without being seen, or her name given, to Mr. Holland, who found that he had really bought his old sweetheart, and he did not know it when he bid her off. This Mr. Holland (Don't know his first name) and Polly Ann (Don't know her surname) were married in North Carolina. To them was born a daughter, who became the wife of Joseph Gray. The parents moved to Georgia. The wife of Mr. Holland died at Quincy, Fla., and buried close by at the age of 113 years. Oscar Leddon remembers her death, (handwritten in margin, almost illegible:) which was in (blank). Joseph Gray and Miss Holland were married.

Joseph Gray and Miss Holland were the parents of Polly Ann Gray.

Polly Ann Gray first became the wife of Samuel Cowan, who died in the Civil War, and she then married George Washington Leddon, Sr. in 1866 at Geneva, Alabama.

George Washington Leddon, Sr. and Polly Ann (Gray) (Cowan) Leddon were the parents of George Washington Leddon, Jr.

George Washington Leddon, Jr. and Effie Garrett were married, and became the parents of Abner Preston Leddon.

Abner Preston Leddon and Bertie Lee Dixon were married on December 25, 1917, and became the parents of Marvin Edward Leddon, Abner Wilburn Leddon, Edgar Bernel Leddon; these three boys being all their children.

Signed: A. P. Leddon

P.S. – Alfred Right Leddon was a cooper by trade, and he farmed some, and he made barrels, buckets, pails, etc. His son, George Washington Leddon, Sr. followed the same trade so long as he was able, and in the later years of his life, he operated a little store for a while. He was a civil war veteran.

Notes added by Wilda Murphy 7 January 2004:

From pg 2:

<Alfred Wright Leddon was born in 1801 in **Ireland**, and was married in **Ireland** to Piety Ganus. All their children, except George Washington Leddon, Sr., were born in **Ireland**. Piety (Ganus) Leddon was born in **England**. . . >

From pg 3:

< Alfred Right Leddon was born and reared in **Ireland**. Mary Piety Ganus was born and reared in **England**. Alfred Right Leddon and Mary Piety Ganus were married in **England**, and afterwards came to America, settling in North Carolina. . . >

(Note: 1850 Coffee Co. census: both Alfred & Piety Leddon born abt 1801 in **NC**, and all children born **NC**. All censuses 1870-1910 for son G W Leddon, Sr indicate that he and both parents were born **NC**. Censuses of 1880, FL 1885, 1900 and 1910 for dau Sarah C Leddon Gray indicate that she and both parents born **NC**.)

From pg 2:

<Piety (Ganus) Leddon, first wife of Alfred Wright Leddon, and mother of George Washington Leddon, Sr., died in 1860. . . . The names of the children to this first marriage were as follows: Girls: **Jane, Lou, Sarah**.; Boys, **Jacob, John, and George**. Only one child was born to second wife and his name was Tom. >

1850 US Census, Coffee County, Alabama, 12 Dec, pg 318B, #737:

| | | | |
|----------------|----|------------------------------|--|
| Leadon, Alfred | 49 | b. NC & all children born NC | |
| Piety | 49 | b. NC cannot R/W | |
| Sarah C | 20 | Buried in Bagdad, FL | ****Married a Cowan, then John C Gray. |
| John A | 18 | Buried at Leddon Church | |
| Catherine J | 16 | | ****This could be Jane. |
| Susan L | 14 | | ****This could be Lou (Louisa Leddon Barclay?) |
| Jacob W | 11 | Buried at Leddon Church | |
| Geo W | 8 | Buried at Leddon Church | ****Married Polly Ann Gray, John C's sister. |

From pg 2 (dated 1938):

< Polly Ann (Gray) (Cowan) Leddon's parents were named Joseph Gray and Polly Ann (actually **Mary J**) (Holland) Gray. The parents of Polly Ann (actually **Mary J**) (Holland) Gray were **Daniel Holland** and **Polly Ann (Gibbs)** Holland, both of whom came from **Holland**. >

1880 census says both **Mary J's** parents were born in **NC**. And Oscar seems to think that all the women were named **Polly Ann**. This creates doubt as to whether **Mary J's** mother was even named **Polly Ann**.)

<Polly Ann Gibbs, great grandmother to George Washington, Jr., was 113 years old when she died in May, 1893. She died at Quincy, Florida and was buried there.>

The only elderly **Holland** woman in 1880-85 Gadsden County, where Quincy is located, was widow Susan **Holland**, variously reported to have been born 1789 - 1796 and reported to have died in June 1888.

<Joseph Gray, father of Polly Ann (Gray) (Cowan) Leddon came from **Germany**. He was born February 6, 1802, and died February 11, 1882 at 3:00 A.M. >

Census records for 1850 - 1880 indicate that he was born in **NC**. Record for 1880 indicates that not only was he born in **NC**, but **both his parents** and **both Mary J's parents** were born in **NC**. Dates given do not match tombstone dates. Days 6 and 11 were **Mary J's** dates and may have been transposed to his.

From pg 3 (dated 1941): **Oscar seems to have forgotten some of the details reported earlier:**

<A **Mr. Holland**, who was born and reared in **Holland**, and who was a carpenter, came to America unmarried. Polly Ann (Either **Gibbs** or **Glider** – don't know which for surname) was born and reared in **Germany**, having only one brother and no sisters. . . >

<This **Mr. Holland (Don't know his first name)** and Polly Ann (**Don't know her surname**) were married in North Carolina. To them was born a daughter, who became the wife of Joseph Gray. . . >

I suspect Oscar may have been collapsing two or more generations in his story. If the names have any grain of truth, they may be for people generations back which were confused as they passed down in family legends.