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Document Title: Nancy Kirkland Blevans (1790 SC -1873 MO) and Stephen Ausborn Blevans (1787 NC - 1851 MO): Family History

Nancy Kirkland was born in Spartanburg Co., SC 1790, and died November 22, 1873 in Cass Co., MO, at 83 years of age. She and her husband are buried together in Cass Co., MO. She married Stephen Ausborn Blevans in Sequatchie Valley, Marion Co., TN, 1810. Stephen was born October 10, 1787 in Buncomb Co., NC. Stephen died December 14, 1851 in Cass Co., MO, at 64 years of age.

Bethany Blevans Curry provided copies of these materials to me. She descends from James Jefferson Delot Blevans, b 1829.

FAMILY HISTORIES WRITTEN BY CHILDREN

1. "A Short Sketch of the History of My Ancestors, and a Synopsis of My Own Life," signed Jonathan Blevans, eldest son of Nancy Kirkland and Stephen A. Blevans, from *Blevans-Burks History*, by Ruth Blevans Ping, 1932, published privately. Transcribed verbatim:

"My great grand-father, Daniel Blevans, was an Englishman. He and two brothers emigrated to America in an early day, and settled in Virginia when it was an infant colony. He raised a large family of boys, six in number, and one daughter, [sic] namely, Will, Dill, John, Jim, Jonathan and Richard, the last two twins. Richard was my grandfather. He was a tall, robust man, six feet three inches high; he was a raw-boned man, and weighed 190 pounds, and probably if not the stoutest, as stout a man as I ever saw. Best of all he was a Christian, died in the faith, and no doubt is now in Heaven.

"He married a woman by the name of Hannah Ausborn, by whom he had two sons, Stephen and Jonathan, and seven daughters. Polly married a man by the name of John Lay. Jane married Hezekiah Austin. Mary Ann married Henry Canatyn. Rebecca married Jesse Roberts. He had two Sallies, the first died in infancy, and second married a man by the name of Patrick Evans. He married a second time to a widow whose name I have forgotten. She was a Irish woman, and we called her Granny Molly Dick for short. One daughter was born to him by his second wife. She married a man by the name of Hiram Maxwell.

"My father, Stephen A. Blevans, was born in Buncomb Co., North Carolina, October 10, 1787, from whence he emigrated with his parents to the State of Ky., and settled in Wain County where he grew to manhood and was married to a Miss Francis by whom he had one son and a daughter, Richard and Mahala. Richard was Dr. Jim Blevans' father. My mother's name was Nancy Kirkland. Her father was a Scotchman. He came across the deep and settled in South Carolina while it was a colony. He was a soldier in the Revolution. Her mother's father was also a Scotchman. His name was Delot. My grandmother's name was Mary Delot.

"To my father and mother were born nine children, six girls and three boys. Sister Betsy was never married. She died in her twenty-third year. A better girl never lived nor died. Polly married H.O. Duncan. Louisa married T. H. Austin and Mary Ann

married William A. Austin. Orrena married Joseph Good. Jane married William S. Caton. My first wife's name was Julia Ann Allen, my second Julia Ann Coats. (My second wife was a niece of my first). Robert's first wife was Dorinda Gardner, his second Caroline Haskins. Jefferson's wife's name was Lizzie Small.

"I will now give a sketch of my own life. I was born in an Indian hut in Marian [sic] County, Tenn. on the 16th day of January 1815. Before I was a year old, my father moved to Jackson County, Ala., where he remained about seven years. He then moved back near where I was born, where he lived eight years. ...

"On March 24, 1830, my father pulled up stakes and set his face for the great northwest. After traveling for about six weeks he pitched his tent in Bond County, Ill. where he remained about eighteen months. Owing to the severe winter of 1830-31, he became dissatisfied, so Nov. 15, 1831 [sic, should be 1831], he broke up camp, and bent his course for the then territory of Arkansas. After traveling for about two weeks winter set in on us so that we could not travel, so he stopped on the Gasconade River in Polaski [sic, should be Pulaski] County [Missouri] to wait for the winter to moderate. Before spring came he decided to settle there. He remained there three years during which time Sister Betsy died, and the rest of us had liked to have died. From there he moved to Miller County where he remained seven years.

"By this time my convictions for sin had entirely worn off and I had gone into skepticism. I firmly believe that if it had not been for the prayers of a godly father and a pious mother I would today have been a confirmed infidel or else been in Hell. Bless God for such parents! From Miller County my father moved to the Platte Purchase, his business being unsettled in Miller, I went back to attend to it for him. While there I was married to my first wife, Julia Ann Allen, on April 12, 1843. She bore to me five sons, and died Aug. 5, 1854. On April 1, 1855, I married my present wife, Julia Ann Coats. (Grandmother was living in Kentucky at the time, I believe near Mammoth Cave, with her grandparents). This union was opposed almost to the shedding of blood, but we were not to be intimidated. I thought it was the best thing I could do under the circumstances. I think so yet. I have more that realized my fondest expectations.

"I would here say that my father died in Cass County MO. Dec. 14, 1851, of pneumonia, and was buried in the grave-yard near Nancy Reads to await the resurrection of the just. He was a good man, one who feared God and worked righteousness, hence 'his end was peace.'" On the slab that marks his resting place is inscribed this passage 'Write [sic] Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth, yea saith the Spirit, and that they may rest from their labors, and their works do follow them.' An Epitaph was never more appropriately written. I might here enlarge and say much in relation to my good father's many virtues, but I desist.

"My mother died within a mile and a half of where my father died on the 22nd day of November, 1873, shouting the praises of God to the top of her voice. She was in her eighty-third year when she died. We laid her by the side of my dear old father where their ashes will rest sweetly until the trumpet of God shall bid them to rise to meet him in the air. 'Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his Saints,' is carved in the marble which stands at the head of her grave.

"... Notwithstanding I am now old and gray-headed, and tottering on the staff of old age, 'still I am a soldier [of God]."

Jonathan Blevan's will was signed 3 December 1890 in Vernon County, Missouri, and probated 12 January 1893. His children listed are L.A. Blevans, John S. Blevans, R.B. Blevans, M.E.

Morris, G.D. Blevans, Lou Ann Blevans and R. S. Blevans. Wife: Julia A. Blevans. [Blevans misspelled in children's names.]

2. *Letter written by James Jefferson DeLot Blevans*, youngest son of Nancy Kirkland and Stephan A. Blevans from Quita, OR to his son's (Duroc Blevans) wife in 1905. Verbatim excerpts:

". . . I cannot think of any thing that will be more entertaining to you and Roc [Muroc Blevans] than the abridged autobiography of my life.

"I was born May 5, 1829, of Scotch-English parents, in Sequatchie Valley, Tenn. My blessed mother, to whom you and Roc are indebted for your precious little darling, was by birth a South Carolinian. Her maiden name was Kirkland. Her Christian name was Nancy. My big-hearted father an Alabaman [sic]. His Christian name was Stephen Ausman [sic: Ausborn]. I am the youngest of a family of eleven--four brothers and seven sisters. Our names are, unless nameless after death, Richard, Susannah, Elizabeth, Polly, Jonathan, Louisa E. Mary Ann, Hanna Arrena, Robert Kirkland, Melissa Jane, James Delot Jefferson.

"My father was twice married. To him by his first wife were born two children, Richard and Susannah. By his second, nine.

"In 1830 my parents, with all their children, except Susannah, who died in infancy, removed to Osage County in Central Missouri. Here cabins were built and a patch of ground cleared. Then this untamed country was full of bird and animal life. The rivers teemed with fishes, the woods with wild fruit, berries, and nuts. The maple tree gave us sugar, the wild bee honey. The soil was generous. Whatever we planted, that we harvested. From the textiles of flax, wool and cotton, mother and sisters made our clothing. From the skins of wild and domestic animals father made footwear and pants for himself and sons. The wilderness then was literally a land of milk and honey, but so sickly!

"After ten years sojourn in the Osage country where two of us died Elizabeth and Richard--Father moved up into the Platte Purchase. Here I grew up to early manhood, attending such schools as were being taught there. In these schools I learned to read a little, and cipher less. In the spring of '52 father having died, I left the old paternal home for Oregon. . . ."