

The Friday Family

Switzerland: Ancestors of the Fridays that settled in Itawamba's Mt. Pleasant Community came from Switzerland. In that country the name meant *peace*; was spelled *Fridig*, and pronounced *Fridee*. The spelling was changed to *Friday* some time after the family arrived in America, but pronunciation remained the same.

In Switzerland the Fridigs lived in the canton of Bern in such places as Adelboden, Frutigen, Muri Bei, and Stettlen. (A *canton* would be similar to what we refer to as a *state* in this country.) The ancestral family lived in Adelboden above the Engstligen River from 1500 to 1674. Peter Fridig (the second) moved to Frutigen around 1675.

South Carolina: Charleston was the capital of the state and one of the most important port cities in the *new world*. The landed gentry and colonial officials wanted a protective buffer from surrounding Indians, lawbreakers, and foreign enemies, so they devised a series of schemes to populate the backwoods interior of the state with loyal protestant citizens. A pamphlet by Hans Jacob Reimensperger which circulated in Switzerland advertising for settlers ended with the following words:

P.S. All who set out for this land should be of the Evangelical Reformed religion (although) all right-living persons, except those of the Roman Catholic religion, dwell on with us...

Albert Bernhardt Faust wrote in his book, List of Swiss Emigrants in the Eighteenth Century to the American Colonies, Vol II, that Martin Fridig sailed with his family and others to Charleston, South Carolina on the ship *William* guided by Capt. William Vitery. They arrived on or before 5 Feb 1735 bound for Saxe-Gotha Township which was settled largely by German and German-speaking Swiss. Saxe-Gotha was named after the German home town of Princess Augusta, mother of England's King George III who was the first of England's *Hanover* kings to use English as his first language. History has proven he was actually a good king and faithful husband and father to about 15 children.

Friday Ancestral Line

Gwer was born in 1535 in Adelboden, Switzerland in which place he married Anna Spillman in 1556. Their children were Anna, Johannes, Barbil, Anna, and **Gwer**.

Gwer (the second) was born and christened on 4 Jun 1564 in Canton Bern, Adelboden, Switzerland in which place he married Christina Daenzer 27 May 1582. They had one child named **Berchtold** on 5 May 1583.

Berchtold was born 5 May 1583 in Adelboden, Switzerland in which place he married Trini (Catherina) Bircher 8 Apr 1616. Their children were Anna, **Peter**, Madien

I, Madien II, Gwer, Steffan, Madien, Christian, Elsi, Catherina, and Trina. (Evidently, if a child died, they reused the name on later children.)

Peter was born in Adelboden, Switzerland 16 Dec 1618 in which place he married Anna Ameler in 1645. Their children were Hans, Barbli, **Peter**, and Anna.

Peter (the second) was born 25 Nov 1649 in Adelboden, Switzerland and married Christina Zuercher on 23 Jul 1672 in Frutigen, Switzerland. Their children were Gwer, Jacob, Elsbeth, Anna, Elsbeth, Melcher, Christina, and **Hans Martin**.

Hans Martin was born and christened on 23 Jun 1689 in Frutigen, Canton Bern, Switzerland at which place he married Maria Magdalena Dysli on 10 Mar 1715. Their children were John Jacob, Anna Maria, David, **Gabrial**, Elizabeth, Barbara, and John Martin. According to Orangeburg, SC probate records, Martin died on or before 25 Oct 1758 and was buried in Orangeburg. Since Martin was the first to migrate to America, he would seem the most likely to have begun spelling the name *Friday*; however, his name also appeared on South Carolina documents as *Fridig*.

Church Affiliation: In Switzerland, the Fridigs were probably Lutherans, Calvinists, or evangelical reform. In Saxe-Gotha, the early Friday settlers most likely attended St. John's Helvetic Reformed Church because it was on or near Friday land.

Helvetia was an ancient region of Central Europe between the Alps and the Jura Mountains thusly named by the Romans for its predominantly celtic inhabitants. *Helvetii* refers to a Swiss; most especially those inhabiting Western Switzerland during the time of Julius Caesar.

This congregation was founded by Rev. Christian Theus, a Calvinist from Switzerland who arrived at Saxe-Gotha in 1735 who may have come over with Martin Fridig. Jeremiah Theus, a brother to Christian, was evidently a friend of Martin's because he co-signed a note with him on 20 Jul 1754.

Land: On 22 Oct 1735 Martin was granted 200 acres of land in the Orangeburg Township; Lot Number 398. He also owned land in Granby, across the Broad River near Cedar Creek, and across the Saluda River. Multiple land plats were surveyed and purchased by Martin and his children, but some were never used. Most acreage was probably purchased for ferry crossings or land speculation.

Occupation: Martin was a tanner; owned a mill; and also owned and operated *Friday's Ferry*. Soon after arriving in Saxe-Gotha, he purchased from Patrick Brown a tract of 100 acres on the river near old Ft. Congaree and opened a ferry over the Congaree River. It became a public ferry by special act of Gov. Glen on 11 May 1754. Among other things, the act allowed Martin and his family permission to operate a public ferry for seven years. All Ministers of the Gospel, all persons going back and forth for divine

services, all Indians, and all persons on the public service were not charged; however they were allowed other charges; such as:

One person: 1 shilling/3 pence (75 cents in US currency in 2000)
Empty cart: 5 shillings
Loaded cart: 10 shillings
Empty wagon: 7 shillings/6 pence
Loaded wagon: 20 shillings
Hogs, sheep, and
calves (by the head): 6 pence

Martin was required to provide and keep in repair the necessary boat/boats and provide at least two men (one white) to attend the ferry day and night. In time, a settlement sprang up at both ends of the ferry. *Friday's Ferry* was probably a flat boat with a rope/pulley system similar to the one depicted in several scenes of *The Outlaw Josie Wales*, a Clint Eastwood movie. On 22 Mar 1786, the South Carolina General Assembly agreed to move the capital to land "...near Friday's Ferry on the Congaree River."

Gabrial was born and christened on 18 Apr 1728 in Canton Bern, Stettlen, Switzerland. His wife's name is unknown, though he may have been married twice. His children were John Garvin, **Henry**, Peggy, Catherine, and Godfrey.

Occupation: Gabrial was a miller and owned a plantation in upper Lexington County/Ninety-Six District, South Carolina.

Deadly Politics: On or about 1779, Gabrial was supposedly murdered by colonial patriots for being loyal to the Crown and was listed as South Carolina Casualty #77 of the 300 loyalists who were "...murdered by the rebellion." Most of the colonial leaders who supported the War for Independence had held official offices under the King and swore allegiance to him. To the loyalists, they had violated their oaths and committed high treason. Similarly, a hundred years later when the Confederate States rebelled, they were considered traitors by some and patriots by others.

Henry was born in 1760 in South Carolina and died after 1850 in Alabama. In 1801, he married Catherine Geiger who was born in 1762 in South Carolina. She was probably the daughter of Johannes/John, son of Abraham Geiger. Children of Henry and Catherine were Nancy, **Reuben H.**, John, Leroy, Lewis, and Sarah.

Roll Tide: Around 1820 (sometime after the Creek War ended), a number of families departed the Orangeburg, SC District and followed the Federal Road into the Alabama Territory. They traveled with an army escort by wagon train through an area near what is now Augusta, GA; on to Macon; and finally to an area south of Autaugaville, Alabama known as *Dutch Bend*. The exact time period Henry Friday moved his family to Alabama is unknown, but he died there in 1850.

Reuben was born in South Carolina in 1805 to Henry and Catherine Friday and was confirmed at St. Michael's Lutheran Church on 14 Apr 1816.

Occupation: Reuben was a fisherman and farmer in Lexington District, SC. In 1824 he petitioned the court not to make him remove fishnets from the Saluda River and also petitioned that a commissioner be appointed to superintend the opening of the river.

Alabama: Reuben married Elizabeth "Betsy" Green on 11 Dec 1834 in Perry County, AL, but they moved to Mississippi not long after their marriage.

Mississippi: On 31 Jul 1838 Reuben paid Thomas and Mary Harbor \$200 for land in Itawamba County in the Northeast Quarter of Section 9; Township 10; Range 10 (Itawamba County Deed Book I, p. 189).

Reuben and Betsy had the following children after settling in Itawamba County:

- 1) **William Henry** (1836-1916)
md. Malinda Caroline Martin on 16 Jul 1857
- 2) Sarah Ann (b. 1847)
md. William Jefferson Harris on 13 Dec 1859
- 3) Mary (b. 1839)
- 4) Nancy C. (b. 1840)
- 5) Jane (1841-1915)
md. Henry Clayburn Harris (1838-1917)
- 6) Margaret A. (1842-1917)
- 7) Tempa A. (b. 1845)
- 8) Alburn (b. 1846)
md. Susan Killinsworth on 20 Feb 1878
- 9) Mississippi M.J. "Doomy" (b. 1848)
- 10) James Proctor (b. 1849)
- 11) John T. (1851-1877)
md. Samantha Angeline Gilmore
- 12) Elizabeth L. (Zidima ?) (b. 1853)
- 13) Ann (b. 1855)
- 14) Francis L. (b. 1857)
- 15) Alice (b. 1860)

William Henry was born to Reuben and Betsy Green Friday on 24 Jan 1836 in Itawamba County, MS. On 16 Jul 1857, he married Malinda C. Martin, daughter of Jacob Floyd Martin, a Methodist minister, and Susan Caroline Clayton. Malinda was born 16 Sep 1838 in Georgia and died 25 Aug 1882 in Itawamba County where William Henry Friday also died on 15 Sep 1916. They were both buried at Mt. Pleasant Methodist Church where her father had preached the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

William Henry and Malinda Martin Friday had the following children:

- 1) Frances (b. 1857)

- md. George P. Plunkett (b. 1850)
- 2) **Mary Elizabeth** (1858-1940)
 - md. Andrew Miller on 26 Aug, 1875
 - md. James Cantrell on 17 Mar, 1886
 - md. Winston McKinsey Stone on 13 Nov, 1898
- 3) John Franklin (1860-1938)
- 4) Thomas Floyd (1866-1935)
 - md. Melissa Jane Wigginton
- 5) Henry (b. 1868)
- 6) Nancy Jane (1869-1951)
 - md. Marcus Dee Lafayette Wigginton

On 21 Dec 1887, William Henry married Sarah Angeline Burlison Howell, widow of Pinkney "Pink" Howell. The Howells had a son named Joseph Lee whose son, Rude, was the father of Elmo Howell, noted author from Itawamba County. In 1889, Sarah and William Henry had a son they named William Curtis whose son, William Curtis, Jr., was a physician for many years in Sylacauga, Alabama. On 1 Oct 1892, Sarah and William Henry had another son named Guy Houston who married Jewel Wheeler in 1920. He died 15 May 1959 and was buried at Mt. Pleasant Methodist Cemetery. Sarah Burlison Howell Friday died in 1932 and was also buried at Mt. Pleasant Methodist Church.

Mary Elizabeth, second daughter of William Henry and Malinda Martin Friday, was born in May of 1858. She married Andrew Miller on 26 Aug 1875 (Itawamba County Marriage Book 7, p. 554), and they had a daughter named *Callie* in 1876. Sometime before 1880 Andrew Miller abandoned his family, and Mary and Callie lived in a separate dwelling near Mary's father for about 10 years.

On 17 Mar 1886 Mary married James Cantrell. They had a daughter named *Cora Ann* on 26 Jan 1887 and a son named Juddie James, on 4 Oct 1888. In 1890 James Cantrell died, leaving Mary a widow with his two children and Callie by her first marriage. James was buried at Mt. Pleasant Methodist in an unmarked grave. A few years after his death, Callie died at a church picnic. She had, apparently, been chewing on a blade of grass as she laughed and talked with friends when she somehow inhaled it into her windpipe.

On 13 Nov 1898 Mary married Winston McKinsey "Mack" Stone, a widower with children of his own. Mack Stone, son of Tarply McKinsey and Nancy Emaline Stone, was born in Alabama on 6 Jun 1849. In 1900, Mack and Mary had a son they named *John* who died at the age of two. They had been married almost 20 years when Mack died in 1917. Both he and their son are buried in New Salem Methodist Cemetery. Mary died in January of 1940 and was buried in Union Grove Baptist Cemetery; as were two of her children, all of her grandchildren, and one great-grandson.

Mack Stone's children by first wife, Rebecca Adeline Lawson:

- 1) Cleburne (about 1874)
- 2) W. Bunyan (about 1875)

- md. Reba E. Reeves
- 3) Mary Rocha (22 Sep 1877-15 Nov 1960)
md. Edgar Tranny Bowen
- 4) Emma B. (about 1879)
- 5) Lucius V. (about 1881)
md. Minnie Lee Martin
- 6) Pearlie (13 Feb 1883-26 Mar 1973)
md. William Trannie Pierce
- 7) Arvella D. (1886)
md. William Nathaniel Webb
- 8) Seburn (22 Jul 1888-29 Dec 1967)
md. Ethel Thompson
- 9) Orville D. (about 1895)
md. Elsie O. Webb

Mary Friday Stone's Obituary

Funeral services were held Tuesday at Union Grove for Mrs. Mary E. Friday Stone of the Tilden Community who died of a heart attack Monday night following several days' illness. She was 81 years of age. Rev. Marlin McCormack of Fulton conducted the services, assisted by Rev. Zeltra Stevens of Amory, with Hawkins & Son in charge of burial. The deceased was a life-long devoted Christian and a member of Mt. Pleasant Methodist Church for nearly 70 years. She was previously married to James Cantrell, and two children of this union survive; namely J.J. Cantrell and Mrs. Cora Horn of Fulton. Also surviving are four stepsons: Bunyan and Cleburne Stone of Fulton; I.B. Stone of Mobile, AL, and O.D. Stone of Amory; three stepdaughters: Mrs. Trannie Bowen of Verona, Mrs. A.D. Webb of Arcola, MS, and Mrs. Trannie Pearce of Fulton; one brother, Henry Friday of Sweetwater, TX, and one sister, Mrs. N.J. Wigginton of Tremont. Many attended the funeral in last sad respect to a loved one who will be so greatly missed from our midst.

Grandma Stone: A picture indicates she was small and pretty with the dark eyes and olive skin of both surviving children. Her grandchildren referred to her as *Grandma Stone* and always spoke of her with great tenderness and respect. Elmo Howell remembers calling her *Aunt Mary*. Even after their father's death, Mary had a strong bond with the Stone children and alternated between living at their family home and with her son, Juddie Cantrell, until her death in 1940. Her children were close to their step-siblings; especially Juddie and Seburn Stone who were best friends for almost 70 years!

Patsy Adcock Kennedy
G-Granddaughter of Mary Friday

CREDITS: J. S. (Jeff) Friday's book entitled, The Genealogy and History of the Friday Families From Switzerland, Colonial and Southern America, published first in 2000 and again in 2003 (ISBN: 0-595-29896-6).