

THE PAYNE FAMILY

Over 30 years ago, I began my family history research. Since then, I stopped and started a number of times due to lack of results or the process being too time-consuming. But, about 7 years ago, I was unemployed with time on my hands.

I followed the line from my 3rd great grandfather, Lewis Payne (1828-1864), back to the 1600's. Lewis and his family lived near Tenleytown and he was the first of his line to be born in Washington, DC. His draft registration form says he was a Huckster. His daughter, Annie Elizabeth Skidmore Payne (1852-1932), married William Henry Clementson (1844-1916). Annie and William were buried in the Methodist Cemetery. Their headstones have been gone for some time, as is the gravestone of their grand-daughter Gladys Jeannette Rittue (1904-1918), known as Jeannette. Her sister, my grandmother, Katherine Kane Rittue *Nokes* (1909-1939) was also buried in the Cemetery, in an unmarked grave.

Lewis' wife, Mary Ann Mattingly (1831-1901) married Harrison Skidmore several years after Lewis' death. She is buried in the Methodist Cemetery in an unmarked grave. Her son, Ernest Skidmore is also buried in the Cemetery.

Many other relatives of Lewis Payne are buried in the Methodist Cemetery. Along with Oak Hill Cemetery and Congressional Cemetery in DC, Mount Olivet Methodist Cemetery in Arlington, some Payne relatives are buried in the Paynes Mill Cemetery in Goochland, Virginia. Lancaster County on the Northern Neck of Virginia and Goochland County, NW of Richmond seem to be origin of the Payne family. At least, as far as I have gotten so far. William Payne (1660-1700) is my earliest Payne and is my 8th great-grandfather. His son, George John Payne, Sr. (1680-1744) married Mary Jane Woodson (1678-1743). Mary Jane Woodson is the grand-daughter of Dr. John Woodson, my 9th great-grandfather.

Once I got started, I was able, very quickly, to follow the Paynes back to my 9th great-grandparents, who arrived in Jamestown on the HMS George in 1619. They settled on Governor Yeardley's plantation about 30 miles north of Jamestown. And, yes, they owned slaves. Lots of them, apparently. My 9th great grandfather, Dr. John Woodson (1586-1644) was killed in an Indian massacre during the Third Anglo-Powhatan War. Mary Jane Woodson is the grand-daughter of Dr. John Woodson.

Along the way in my Payne history is Dorothea (aka Dolley) Payne Madison (1768-1844), the wife of our 4th President, James Madison, her second husband. She was originally buried in Congressional Cemetery but was later moved to Montpelier.

Lt. Josias Payne Sr. (1705-1785) was born in Goochland County, Virginia. A son of George and Mary Jane Woodson Payne, he purchased a farm with wife Anne Fleming (b. 1705) in 1732 in Goochland County, Virginia and was a member of the Virginia House of Burgesses in 1761 and 1765.

Josias Payne Jr. (1735-1804) is grandfather of Mary Louisa Payne (1823-1883). She was married to Aquila Eld Jr. (1820-1878), whose father, Aquila Eld, Sr. who along with Phillip Brooke, was a long-time member of Eldbrooke Methodist Church and after whom the church was named.

But with the good, comes the bad. Besides having numerous slave owners on both sides of my family my 6th cousin, 3x removed, is Jesse James. We are connected through the Woodsons.