

## **Ruston Daily Leader date unknown "Out of Our Past" Series**

by  
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"Daniel Colvin's threat to get so far away from his brothers that they would never hear from him again may be fact or fancy. It is a matter of conjecture. But what we know to be true is that there was not another emigration of Colvin's from South Carolina until the 1850's.

"This second emigration was headed by a woman - Jemima (Petrie) Colvin (1785-1872), the widow of Andrew Feaster Colvin (1785-1849) who, in turn, was a nephew of Daniel Colvin, being the eldest son of Daniel's brother and sister-in-law, William and Martha (Feaster) Colvin. Jemima was 68 years old at the time of the move, and was a staunch old soul, overflowing with energy, in spite of her 200 pounds. This stamina and endurance were sorely needed to head a party of 10 sons and three daughters, together with their families, across sparsely settled country and over incredibly poor roads. I shall have more to say about one of these roads in my next article. According to Miss Noni Hedgepeth, great-grand daughter of Jemima, the delegation arrived in Louisiana on Christmas Day and were served Christmas dinner by Jephtha Colvin.

"The chances are that only Jemima and her immediate party were so entertained. The family did not travel in body, nor, for that matter, did they leave South Carolina together. Jemima moved out in 1853, while her second son, William Hardwick Colvin, 'Uncle Billy', did not leave until 1855, when overwhelmed by the double loss of his first wife (Rhoda Wright Colvin) and his eldest son (Dr. William H. Colvin, Jr.) he decided to sell alces along the way and living anew on the frontier. If they did as so many other emigrants did, they traveled in small groups, stopping at various places along the way and living for a longer or shorter period of time in their chosen temporary home. But sooner or later, after they had raised a crop or 2, rested somewhat, and recouped their fortunes sufficiently, and they would move on again taking up the long trek which eventually ended in North Louisiana. They drifted in, a few at a time, until 1858 when Susan (Colvin) Hedgepeth arrived.

"Susan (Colvin) Hedgepeth (1814-1898) was the 5th child and second daughter of Jemima and Andrew F. Colvin. She married William P. Hedgepeth (1809-1854) in 1834 before they left South Carolina. They left home in 1842, but presumably were not headed for any place in particular for, when they arrived in Chicaw County, Mississippi, they settled down and remained for sixteen years. William Hedgepeth died there in 1854, and was buried in the Halsted Cemetery. When the war clouds of the Civil War began to backen, Susan decided to settle up her affairs and join her mother, and brothers and sisters, in Louisiana. This she did arriving in a surrey and accompanied by her 5 sons. In 1860, the two eldest sons, John C. Hedgepeth (1815-1860) and Andrew F. Hedgepeth (1837-1860) died within three months of each other.

They are buried in Mt. Harmony Cemetery. Susan was almost as indomitable as her mother, Jemima, and lived out her 84 years with high courage and spirit.

"The sixth child and fourth son of Jemima and Andrew Colvin, Andrew Feaster Colvin, Jr. (1816-1911) 'Uncle Andy'. began his travels in 1853, presumably with his mother, arriving in Louisiana on December 24; Probably, this was the party entertained by Jeb Colvin at Christmas dinner. Like his brothers and sisters, Andrew was energetic & enterprising, hard-working and industrious, and very gentle and kind.

"And so it goes - the main party arrived in 1853, with the stragglers coming along as the spirit moved them. Had they caught the Texas fever and headed for that beckoning state? Some say so, and that they just happened to meet up with long forgotten, or unknown, relatives. Or had Daniel and Jephtha kept up a correspondence with the folks back home, and, when times began to get bad encouraged these distant cousins to join them? Distant in time and space, but not in spirit, for the Colvin Clan is a close-knit group, with a strong feeling for family ties and a deep sense of loyalty.

"One of Jemima's grandsons, Spencer Petrie Colvin (1846-1928), the fourth son and ninth child of William Hardwick Colvin and his first wife, Rhoda, was mayor of Ruston from 1890 to 1896, before that, 1873-1876, he was Clerk of Court, He made the long trip from South Carolina with his father and brothers and sisters, as a child of 9, and apparently enjoyed it to the fullest. When the family settled down, he attended school at White's Chapel, near St. Rest. In 1853, when only 17 years old, he enlisted in the Confederate Army and served in Mississippi as a sharp shooter. His eldest child, Rosa (Colvin) Barksdale, 'Miss Rosa", was for many years the official historian of the family,

"William H. Colvin (1819-1862) bought a house on the Old Wire Road, or the Traveller's Road as it was known, in the northern part of what is now Lincoln Parish. After the War, he built a new house which was remarkable because it was finished with hand-dressed lumber. This was a rare and expensive commodity in the backwoods, rainy-hilly country. Most homes were built of logs carefully fitted together and had wooden shutters at the windows instead of glass. As times became more prosperous and money more plentiful, many were boarded over on the outside and ceiled inside but, while they were comfortable and surprisingly roomy, they were not prime examples of plantation manor houses.

"When I first came to Ruston, everyone spoke of the sons and daughters of Jemima Colvin and Uncle or Aunt So-and So, Uncle Billy, Uncle Andy, or Aunt Polly. Not having any idea of the dimensions of the Clan, I thought I would never get them straight. And even today nearly 40 years later, I don't trust myself to go too far a-field without a guide - the invaluable 'Colvin and Allied Families'."