

## The Gregory Family

The name "Gregory" existed at least 1500 years before it became a surname. It is from a Greek word meaning "to be watchful." The surname Gregory has been used in Scotland and Ireland but its origin is English. The name Gregory is very rare. Only about one citizen for every quarter million Americans belongs to the Gregory family.

The Gregorys of Murray County are primarily of Scotch-Irish ancestry. The family originated in Scotland on the shores of Loch Lomond in the 9th century. The founder of the clan was Gregorius the Third, son of Alpine, King of Scotland from 832 to 836 A.D. The first Gregory to reach North America was Richard Gregory. Richard was originally from Scotland but at an early age emigrated to Northern Ireland. From Northern Ireland, he came to Jamestown, Virginia in 1625. He later moved from Jamestown to Hillsboro (Cheatham County), North Carolina. Although not yet verified, it is strongly believed that the Murray County Gregorys trace their origin on this continent to Richard. It is not known how many children Richard had or who his wife was, but one of his sons was named Thomas. A grandchild of this Thomas was named Thomas. From this grandchild forward, the Gregory line is documented.

Thomas Gregory was born in 1730. He had six children and his family lived in Cheatham County, North Carolina. He served as a patriot during the Revolutionary War and died in Smith County, Tennessee in 1811. One of his sons was named Bry (sometimes called Bryney, Bray, and Berry). Bry was born in 1761 in either Orange County or Cheatham County, North Carolina. Bry fought in the Revolutionary War as a patriot and saw military action in the Battle of Kings Mountain. Following the conclusion of the Revolutionary War, he removed his family to Smith County, Tennessee. He had 11 children. One of his children was Tapley Gregory.

Tapley was born in Smith County, Tennessee. He served in the War of 1812 and fought in the Battle of New Orleans. His wife was Sarah Piper. Tapley had

nine children and settled in McMinn County, Tennessee. At the time of his death he owned a 532-acre farm and had served as a justice of the peace. He was also a Methodist minister. He died in McMinn County in 1858.

One of Talpey's children was James Jathan Gregory. Born in McMinn County on October 8, 1817, he married Myra Bedford on February 5, 1838. Myra was born in North Carolina on August 14, 1820. In 1841, Jathan, the name he preferred, moved his family to Bradley County, Tennessee, where he received a 40-acre homestead in the Ocoee District. His farm was located approximately 6 miles north of the Georgia state line near the present site of the Fairview Church of God of Prophecy.

Jathan and Myra had 14 children. Following Myra's death in 1875, Jathan later married Miss Mary Lou Richardson. She was from Whitfield County, Georgia. They had no children.

During the War Between the States, Jathan and his family were active supporters of the Confederacy. Four of his sons, Tapley, Stephen E., James, and Alexander Seth, enlisted in Bradley County, Tennessee, in the Confederate Army of Tennessee and saw military action. In late 1863, following the Union Army victory at Chattanooga, Jathan moved his family to Murray County and purchased a farm from the Westfields that was located one mile east of Hassler's Mill near Holly Creek. After settling in Murray County, Jathan and his family became involved in local activities.

Jathan was a devout Methodist and named many of his children after Methodist ministers. One son, named after a Methodist minister, Heniger Henry, gained permission from his father to change his name to Hyden Henry. Many of Jathan's grandchildren were named after his children and sometimes when tracing names, one can easily become confused with which generation of Murray County Gregorys is being traced. Another problem one encounters in tracing the Murray County Gregory line is that many of the Gregorys preferred to use their middle name rather than their first name. For example, this author's grandfather was named Benjamin Addison and was known as "Add" Gregory. This author's name is Benjamin Conway and he prefers Conway.

Jathan Gregory's children settled all over Murray County. Some moved to Whitfield County. While many remained loyal to the Methodist church, several joined the Cumberland Presbyterian Church at Sumach. Most of the early Murray County Gregorys were devoted to the land and engaged in farming. Later generations turned to trucking, retail groceries, cotton ginning, lumbering, dentistry, medicine, sales, and ownership of a Ford dealership, gasoline service station, garage and bus station, pharmacy, and motel business for a livelihood. The first Ford dealership in Murray County was operated by Tom Gregory. James M. Gregory built the first hotel at Cohutta Springs. This hotel was later the home of E.C. Coffey.

Some Gregorys became politically active and served in various political offices as democrats. Jathan considered running for the state senate in 1874 but withdrew because of family illnesses. B.A. Gregory served two staggered terms as county treasurer in the 1890's and from 1900 until his death in February 1904. W. Daily Gregory served as county school commissioner from 1900 to 1913 and again from 1916 to 1919. He was the second man in Murray Coun-

ty to be elected to this position. S.C. Gregory served as tax collector from 1921 to 1929. J.P. Gregory served as tax collector from 1908 to 1912. George B. Gregory served as tax commissioner from 1941 to 1946. James R. Gregory is the present tax commissioner. He was elected to this position in 1960. W.J. Gregory served as a member of the County Board of Roads and Revenues from 1920 to 1928, and was chairman of the Board from 1924 to 1928. He ran unsuccessfully for state representative in 1928. B.A. Gregory served on the county board of education in 1933 and from 1940 to 1944. John B. Gregory and S.A. Gregory served on the Democratic Executive Committee from 1904 to 1906 and probably at various times as local school board trustees. R.H. Gregory ran unsuccessfully for the state senate in 1952.

Some of the more recent Murray County Gregorys have, like their ancestors, relocated to other parts of the nation where economic opportunities were better for them. Some have moved to Florida, Tennessee, Arizona, California, Texas, Arkansas, Oklahoma, Maryland, and other sections of Georgia. But just like their ancestors, they have been patriotic and home-loving citizens who are very proud of their Murray County heritage.

Children of James Jathan Gregory (b. 10-8-1817, d. 9-15-1885) and Myra Bedford Gregory (b. 8-14-1820, d. 12-12-1875) are: (1) John b. 12-6-1838, d. 12-17-1838. (2) Tapley b. 3-29-1840, d. no date; m. Susan L. Troup or Stroup. (3) Stephen E. b. 8-12-1841, d. 11-1-1891, m. Margaret Rorex Thompson. (4) James M. b. 3-30-1843, d. no date, m. Mary Lollar. (5) Sarah E. b. 7-26-1844, d. 11-10-1860, never married. (6) Alexander Seth b. 12-30-1845, d. 2-18-1915, m. Hulda Magnolia Rorex. (7) Nancy M. b. 8-18-1847, d. 6-24-1853. (8) Benjamin Addison b. 3-25-1849, d. 2-18-1904, m. Laura Hassler. (9) William Daily (Clinton) b. 2-27-1851, d. 10-7-1920, m. Martha Salome Summerhour. (10) John Phillip b. 10-28-1852, d. 6-21-1938, m. 1st Mary E. Petty, 2nd Eliza Henry. (11) Mira Eveline (Evelyn) b. 2-1-1854, d. 12-1885, m. Starling Peebles. (12) Heniger Henry (Hyden Henry) b. 1-4-1857, d. 2-1915, m. Nancy Keith. (13) Jathan Robert Pharis b. 1-1-1859, d. 1-1930, m. Lucinda Loughridge. (14) Joseph b. and d. 11-29-1862.

This author's great-grandfather was Stephen E. One of his sons was B.A. Gregory. B.A. Gregory, named after his uncle, married Mary Delia (often called Mamie) McCamy. They had two sons and one daughter, and six grandchildren. One of the six grandchildren is the author of this history.

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#### **Dr. Lorenzo Patton Gudger**

Lorenzo Patton Gudger was born April 19, 1828 in Buncombe County, N.C., the son of James Gudger and Anne Dillard Love Gudger. His grandfather, William Gudger, immigrated to the United States from Scotland and served with distinction in the Revolutionary War. The name Gudger is believed to be a derivative of the name McGoodyear.



As a young man, Lorenzo Patton Gudger moved to the area of Dalton, Georgia, where he married Frances Mathilda Loughridge. Frances was born in 1834, the daughter of Col. Benjamin Loughridge. Lorenzo and Frances Gudger had two children: James Benjamin and Robert Moultrie Gudger.

Lorenzo Patton Gudger studied medicine at Tennessee Medical College. In 1869 he was practicing medicine in Dalton and was also the proprietor of the Dr. L.P. Gudger & Co. Drug Store, in the Tibbs House on Hamilton Street. Some years later, he moved his family to Woodlawn, in Murray County.

Dr. Gudger was an active member of the Republican party in the early days of Reconstruction. In a letter, dated July 8, 1867, to Ohio Republican Senator Benjamin F. Wade, he advocated the removal of political disabilities imposed on former Confederate officeholders who promised to support the Republican party "in order to demonstrate that we are not a proscriptive party but are able and willing to be both generous and forgiving . . . ."

After the Civil War, a society known as the Union League Council spread south and gained popularity in the northern counties of Georgia. Dr. Gudger served as the president of the Union League in Dalton. He was also a voting registrar for the forty-third district, and postmaster for Dalton, in 1870.

Frances Loughridge Gudger died when she was only 48 years old of a pulmonary infection. She was reported to have "exhibited in all her domestic and social relations a goodness of nature and temperament that illustrated a Christian life in all its beauty."

Dr. L.P. Gudger died on October 3, 1900 in Fashion, Georgia.

#### **Robert Moultrie Gudger**

Robert Moultrie Gudger was born December 9, 1863, the son of Dr. L.P. and Frances Loughridge Gudger. He grew up in Murray County and on January 17, 1896 married Maude Edmondson, the daughter of John Leonidas Edmondson and Esther Mary Selleck Edmondson. Maude was born March 16, 1870. The children of Robert (Bob) and Maude Gudger were: Frances, John Patton, Lowry, Morris, Robert, Frank and Kathryn.

After his marriage, Bob Gudger lived in Fashion, Georgia, then moved to Spring Place. When Chatsworth became the county seat, the family settled in Chatsworth. During his many years of residency in Murray County, Bob Gudger served as an Internal Revenue officer, ordinary of Murray County, postmaster of Chatsworth, school board trustee, and two terms as mayor of Chatsworth. He was also a prominent farmer and farm machinery dealer.

Bob Gudger, like his father, Dr. L.P. Gudger, was a stalwart in the Republican party. He was county and district chairman of the Republican Committee. In 1916, the Republican party of Murray County split into two factions with Bob Gudger heading one wing and R.P. Hufstetler heading the other. The entire state of Georgia was split up along the same lines and held two separate state conventions. Four years later, in 1920, the factions were reunited at the state convention with Bob Gudger elected as chairman, and Hufstetler as secretary-treasurer.

Although a staunch republican all his life, Bob Gudger gave his support to Franklin D. Roosevelt and was selected county committee chairman of the

Agricultural Adjustment Act. The AAC sought to curtail the production of such staples as cotton, tobacco and rice by withdrawing them from the market when they were abundant, and releasing them when crops were scarce in order to obtain parity prices. The misfortunes of the Depression had caused many farmers in the South to become receptive to Federal intervention in agricultural enterprise in order to promote economic recovery.

On July 28, 1944, Bob Gudger died of cancer after several months illness. His wife, Maude Gudger, died September 26, 1955.

#### **John Patton Gudger**

John Patton Gudger was born July 28, 1902 in Fashion, Georgia, the son of Robert Moultrie Gudger and Maude Edmondson Gudger. He completed his high school education in Chatsworth then entered North Georgia Agricultural College in Dahlonega. In 1919, he received ROTC training at Camp Lee, Virginia. Pat attended Atlanta College of Law, and Cumberland University in Lebanon, Tenn.

After college, Pat Gudger engaged in several occupations. His first job was advertising and publicity agent for Coca-Cola in Chicago, Illinois. He worked for a time in Venice, Florida. During World War II, he was employed by the DuPont Company in the Chamber Works plant in N.J. and the Ordinance Works plant in Pryor, Oklahoma. In 1946, Pat received a certificate of appreciation from the War Department for his service in the production of the atomic bomb while employed by DuPont.

In 1939, Pat Gudger married Sarah Florence Turner, daughter of Middleton Turner and Mary Elizabeth Spraggins Turner. Sarah was born May 4, 1914 in Haleyville, Alabama. They had one daughter, Judith Patricia Gudger.

After a number of years in Pryor, Oklahoma, Pat returned to Georgia where he spent his remaining years. He died April 13, 1966.

#### **Judith Gudger Krueger**

Judith Patricia Gudger was born September 8, 1939 in Birmingham, Alabama, the daughter of John Patton Gudger and Sarah Florence Turner Gudger. She attended the first grade in Chatsworth, Georgia, then moved with her father to Pryor, Oklahoma. A year later, she returned to Birmingham, Alabama, where she completed her primary and secondary education. In 1961, Judy graduated from Auburn University where she was a member of Pi Beta Phi Sorority.

After graduation from college, Judy spent one year in Ft. Lewis, Washington, and one year in Mannheim, Germany, as a civil service employee. In 1964, she was employed by Delta Airlines in Atlanta, Georgia, then transferred to Los Angeles, California.

On April 15, 1967, Judy Gudger married Robert James Krueger. Her husband is an attorney in the firm of DeVany & Krueger in Vermillion, S.D. Their children are Michael James, twins John and Patton (died at birth), and Brandt Robert Krueger.

Judy has served on the Vermillion City Council, and the Library Board. She is a member of the Buncombe County Historical Society of N.C., the Whitfield-Murray Historical Society of Georgia, the Clay County Historical Society of



Vermillion, S.D., and a member of Historic South Dakota, which awarded her a grant to publish her book in 1983, entitled *The Forest Avenue Historical District 1873-1980, Vermillion, S.D.*

*Submitted by Judy Krueger, Vermillion, S.D.*

### The Drury R. Hall Family

The Halls are reported to be originally from County Down, Northern Ireland, according to Pynner's "Survey of the Plantations" made in 1618-19. Sometime in the late 18th century they emigrated to America via New York.

In the 1850 U.S. census, Drury R. Hall is shown as having been born in New York City in 1792. His wife, Martha, was born in South Carolina—probably in the Abbeville area. The South Carolina 1790 census records indicate that Fenton Hall was a large landowner in Abbeville, owned several slaves and was the father of six sons and three daughters. He possibly is the father of Drury R., but this has not been verified.

Drury and Martha were the parents of seven children, all born in S.C. They were: (1) Fenton J. (2) Robert. (3) Wm. A.F. (4) Thomas. (5) Martin Van Buren. (6) James L.W. and (7) Drury F. They moved to Murray County in the 1840's. Records show Drury R.'s will was recorded March 31, 1857 and he left L.L. No. 220 and No. 249 to his wife, Martha.

Their son, Thomas M., b. Mar. 4, 1837, was a graduate of the University of Ga. Medical School. He is said to have performed a hysterectomy on his daughter, Martha, in their Spring Place Home. Dr. Hall married four times: the Hooper twins; Amanda Stevens, and Martha Fortner. His children were (1) Alice. (2) Carridine. (3) Bardamon. (4) Talley. (5) Martha. (6) Henry. (7) Homer. (8) Business Eastman (an Atlanta dentist). (9) Clark. (10) Joe. (11) Will. (12) Mercy and (13) Fancy. Dr. Hall and his wife, Amanda, are buried in Sardis Cemetery.

Frances "Fanny" Hall Jones, born in the 1890's, currently lives in Rome.

Martha, daughter of Thomas and Amanda, was married to Bill Bramblett, who lost his life in a well accident July 4, 1896 at Varnell. Widowed with two children, Tom and Mary Elizabeth (Mamie), she married Charles Elrod of Murray County. They did not have any children and resided in the Casey Springs community. Martha was a midwife and was known to take care of the sick, setting bones, etc. She attended Casey Spring Methodist Church and is buried there.

Mary Elizabeth (Mamie) Bramblett married her third cousin, Albert Lee Hall, son of Tony and Martha Gallman Hall. Tony was the son of Wm. A.P. and Mary Ann Brock Hall, a German immigrant. Mamie and Lee left Murray County about 1925 to farm for the Maynards of Tilton. They moved to the Five Springs community about 1945 and remained there until their deaths in the early 1970's. They are buried in Whitfield Memorial Gardens, Dalton. They were the parents of Iva Dimple, Darcia Jeannette, and William Melvin (Jack).

Iva Dimple married Cola P. Adams of Tilton in 1931. Adams was the grandson of prominent Tilton pioneer and railroader, William D. Adams. They had two children, Richard P. and Martha Jeannette.

Darcia Jeannette married Ervin Black of Calhoun and they had three children, Juanita, Steve, and Greg.

William Melvin (Jack) married Catheryn Cox and they had four children, William Terry, Marvin Christopher, Barbara Ann and Pamela Ilene.

In 1961 Martha Jeannette Adams Ausmus married Thomas W. Greeson, a Murray native and Univ. of Georgia graduate. They moved from Dalton to Chatsworth in 1962 where he was employed by the Cohutta Banking Co. for 20 years. He served as president of the bank for 11 years, having succeeded his grandfather, R.E. Chambers. Both Greeson and Chambers were also mayors of Chatsworth. He currently serves as chairman of the board of the bank; Mrs. Greeson is a full-time homemaker, community and church leader—a fourth-generation Methodist. Daughter Rebecca Ausmus McEntire attended West Georgia College and is married to Dan McEntire, Cumberland Carpet exec. vice president and current mayor of Chatsworth. Thomas Lee Greeson is a graduate of the Baylor School in Chattanooga, the University of Georgia, and employed in a Decatur bank. Laura Ann Greeson received a University of Georgia basketball scholarship and was a part of the program for 2 years until knee problems ended her playing career. She is currently a student at West Georgia College and majoring in physical education.

Kelly Nicole McEntire, born Feb. 8, 1981, is the youngest member of the family tracing back to Drury R. Hall. Her parents are Dan and Rebacca Ausmus McEntire.

*Submitted by Jeannette Greeson, Chatsworth*

### The Thomas Hall Family

Thomas Hall, b. 1795, d. 1865, was married to Eliza Wilkerson in 1808. They were the first Halls to come to Murray County. Their ancestors were from Ireland and England. They came into Georgia through Kentucky and Tennessee with some of their children being born in Tennessee.

The children of Thomas and Eliza Hall were: William A.; Martha A. m. William Hicks 30 May 1848; Rufus L. m. Nancy Hammitt 27 Dec. 1858; Harriet B. m. Samuel Miller Tye 8 Oct. 1859; Horace F. m. Saffrona Harris 31 Nov. 1876; Susan A. m. Isaac McLain; Sarah E. m. John Adair 19 Sept. 1867; George W. m. G.A. Parks 26 Oct. 1876. Some of the descendants of these children live in Murray and Whitfield Counties while others migrated to Arkansas and Texas.

Thomas Hall bought a tract of land in the 10th District, 3rd Section in the northern part of Murray County from David G. Rogers recorded Nov. 1836. They built a log house near a spring north of the original Hall's Chapel Church. Thomas gave land for a Union church that was also used as a school. The church was on Hall's Chapel Road. It was a log structure with hand-made benches and desks. A more modern church was built later called Hall's Chapel Church. Later they built a house closer to the present Fairy Valley Church and Thomas is buried in the family plot at Fairy Valley Cemetery. Thomas gave his children land as they married but only two descendants still own any of the original land in the Hall name.