

### The William Beck Family

(I.) William Beck. Our first known Beck ancestor was William Beck who came from Scotland to Albermarle County, Virginia. Records indicate his wife was a Clark. Their children were Jesse, Reuben, William, Lawrence, Andrew and John..

(II.) John Beck. John Beck b. 4 Feb. 1762, Albermarle County, Virginia, d. 11 July 1824, Elbert County, Georgia. He m. Sarah Wansley, 5 June 1784, Albermarle County, Virginia. He was a Revolutionary soldier enlisting when he was 15 years of age. He retired with the rank of captain, Jan. 1, 1783. Before 1797 he sold his land in Virginia and moved to Elbert County, Georgia. Here he became a wealthy man. He owned thousands of acres of land and established one of the first cotton gins in the state. The Beck plantation was called "Woodlawn." Children born to John and Sarah Beck were: James, John, Sarah Lucy, Nancy, Reuben, Matilda and William Andrew.

(III.) William Andrew Beck. William Andrew Beck was b. May 2, 1800 in Elbert County, Georgia. He d. 19 Nov. 1877, Murray County, Georgia. He m. Ann Lucas Welch, b. Baltimore, Maryland. He was State Senator from Elbert County, 1837-1838. He served in the Georgia House of Representatives 1832-1833-1834. He was a major in the Seminole War.

William Beck moved with his family and his widowed mother to Murray County, Georgia, in 1854. Records show he bought lands there in 1838. He settled in a section of the county lying between Spring Place, Georgia, and the Tennessee line.

He named his plantation "Woodlawn" as he had done in Elbert County. He prospered, owning much land and many slaves. A great-great-grandson, Ronald Richardson, now lives on the last Beck land, which he owns.

The following children were born to William and Ann Beck:

1. Caroline Elizabeth Beck, b. Elbert Co., Ga., d. Murray Co., Ga., 1860. She m. Wiley Gaither who descended from a prominent Maryland family.

2. Patrick Henry Beck was a Confederate soldier and was killed in 1861 in Winchester, Virginia.

3. Eugenia Beck b. in Elbert Co., Ga., in 1821, d. 1855 Murray Co., Ga., m. Charles N. Carter, May 5, 1838. He was the first cousin of Farrish Carter who established the Carter Plantation.

4. Margaret Beck was b. in Elbert Co., Ga., in 1832, m. Thomas Whitfield.

5. William James Beck was b. 20 Jan. 1835, Elbert Co., Ga., m. Mary Jane McEntire 1866 in Murray Co., Ga. She died in 1930 in Texas. Her parents were James Leach and Mary Ann Hemphill McEntire.

6. Reuben Thomas Beck was b. Elbert Co., Ga., in 1843, d. Mar. 31, 1904 in Anson, Texas. He was a Confederate soldier. He served as sheriff of Murray Co., Ga. He m. Adeline Stanford, 1862, Sumach, Ga. She was the daughter of Nehe-miah and Elizabeth Wyatt Stanford.

7. John Welch Beck was b. Sept. 6, 1822 Elbert Co., Ga., m. Margery Linda Stuart b. Russellville, Tenn., dau. of Henry and Margery McConnell Stuart. Her father, reared in Virginia, was a cousin of General J.E.B. Stuart, the great Confederate Cavalry leader. John Welch Beck served in all major battles through Appomattox, as captain of Company E., 60th Georgia Regiment. John Welch

Beck served as commissioner of the circuit court of the U.S.A. Northern District of Georgia. He was a devout Christian. Almost single handedly, he built two Methodist churches, one in Murray and one in Whitfield County.

8. Lucy Aurelia Beck was b. June 9, 1829, Elbert Co., Ga. She was brought as a young girl to the Beck Plantation, Murray Co., Ga. Here on May 29, 1849, she m. John Wesley Evans. He was b. in Macon, Ga., the son of Rufus King Evans (b. in New Hampshire) and his wife Lucy Clara Ann Russell.

John Wesley Evans was a lawyer and was practicing law in Murray County when their first child was born in 1850. Between 1852-1854 he moved his family to Bainbridge, Georgia. He evidently was an able attorney because he was elected Solicitor General of the Superior Court in 1855 and served until 1861, when he resigned his office to enter the Civil War. He served as the captain of the first company in the state to offer service to Gov. Brown. He was commissioned a colonel in 1863. He was later assigned to the army of Northern Virginia. Three of his wife's brothers served in this regiment. He was killed at the Battle of The Crater near Petersburg, Virginia. There stands today a monument to his honor, in the city of Bainbridge, Georgia.

At the beginning of the war, Lucy Aurelia Beck Evans returned to her father's home in Murray Co., Ga. Thirteen months later she was dead, leaving seven children; the oldest was 12 years old and the youngest was three. The seven children were reared by their grandparents.

The following children were born to John and Lucy Beck Evans:

1. William Rufus Evans b. 21 Feb. 1850. As a young man he moved to Texas where he married and reared a family. He died in Comanche, Texas in 1915.

2. Elizabeth Caroline Evans was b. 22 Oct. 1855, Bainbridge, Ga., d. Sept. 6, 1939, bur. in the Harris Cemetery, Murray Co., m. John Daughtery Harris, 11 June 1874. It was an elopement. They were married in Spring Place, Ga., at the Temple House, by the Rev. John Oates. They were the parents of 12 children. (See Miniard Harris line.)

3. John Russell Evans b. July 19, 1859 Bainbridge, Ga., d. there Nov. 7, 1860.

4. Aurelia Mildred Evans b. 12 Oct. 1857 Bainbridge, Ga., m. Ross Bates 29 Dec. 1879. They lived in Murray Co. and were the parents of seven children.

5. Margaret Beck Evans b. 18 Mar. 1854, Bainbridge. She was always called Marco. She m. William Albert Goodyear, Nov. 16, 1871. They lived in Macon, Ga., where she d. in 1935. Four children were born to this marriage.

6. Lucy Ann Evans b. 22 Jan. 1852 Chattanooga, Tenn. She was named for her mother and her two grandmothers. She m. George Burnett. They were the parents of three children.

7. Sarah Henry Evans b. 5 May 1861, at the home of her Beck grandparents, Murray Co., Ga., was named for her maternal grandmother Beck and her father's favorite uncle, Henry Russell of Bainbridge, Ga. She never knew her mother or father. Her mother died when she was an infant and her father was killed in the Civil War when she was 3 years old. She was reared by her grandparents, William and Ann Lucas Beck.

When Sarah Evans married, she had a home wedding and her grandmother Beck bought her wedding dress at Rich's, in Atlanta, Ga. The now famous store was then 16 years old.