



THOMAS, A. B., OLIVER, MARTIN & EVA CROSBY



MARSHALL W. CROSBY

CROSBY FAMILY RECORDS
Prepared by: Letha Bryars
November 26, 1946

Samuel Crosby was married to Letha Anne Smith in the year
of our Lord August 12, 1847
Roland Crosby was married to Mary Hays December 24, 1866
Samuel Crosby was born March 29, 1827
Letha Anne Crosby was born June 4, 1831
Thomas Crosby was born July 22, 1860
Roland B. Crosby was born May 23, 1848
William Warren Crosby was born June 6, 1850
Albert Brown Crosby was born January 8, 1852
John Floyd Crosby was born March 14, 1854
Perry Welch Crosby was born April 6, 1856
Matilda E. Crosby was born February 13, 1858
Letha Anne Crosby died October 10, 1862
Samuel Crosby died February 12, 1863
John Floyd Crosby died August 11, 1874
Roland Crosby died August 18, 1902, at Shawnee, Oklahoma,
buried at Missions Cemetery, Shawnee
Mary Hays Crosby died December 27, 1929
Samuel Crosby's mother on 2nd Marriage, married Governor
Covington. Of this marriage came Mamma's aunts who partly
raised her. Aunts Amelia, Caroline and Susan. The boys
were Lark and Jerry Covington.
On Letha Ann Smith's side Mamma remembers nothing, except
that there was a large family of brothers and sisters.
One married Stalings and one a Welch. Her father kept
a livery stable in Quitman when he had to go to the army.
Mamma was in orphan home in Lauderdale, Mississippi,
9 months; Uncle Perry 3 months.
Mr. Hays lived at Quitman. Roland Crosby first met Mary
Hays in school at Quitman. Her sister Fanny was teaching.
She (Fanny) married Vaughn from Stockton, Alabama. That
is how the Crosbys moved to this part of the country.
I, Letha Bryars wrote the above dates and facts of the
Crosby family in the year 1946, One Thousand Nine Hundred
Forty-Six, as my mother Matilda Crosby Bryars dictated
to me.

Letha Bryars 11/26/46

THE CROSBY FAMILY

Prepared by: Eugenia Olive Crosby Thomley

Aletha Ann Smith Crosby and Samuel Crosby, Jr., had six sons, Roland ("Boss"), William Warren, Albert Brown, John Floyd, Perry Welsh, Thomas Wilberton, and daughter, Matilda. "Boss" was the oldest married Mollie Hays--a Methodist preacher's daughter. As Rev. Hays moved to his Stockton home, Roland or "Boss" and Mollie moved too. Boss had made a solemn promise to his father Sam Crosby, to keep the family together on the farm at Quitman. Warren, the next oldest stayed on the place--married Mollie--had two sons, Lonnie and Willie. After Mollie's death, Warren took a second wife--and had one son by her--Floyd. Lonnie was very highly respected as a teacher and a politician at Waynesboro, Mississippi.

"Boss" or Roland and Mollie built a one large room and porch (Lillie still uses this one room as her bedroom.) A log kitchen was in back. As his family grew, three sons and one girl, Luther, Arthur, Manley and Mary, Boss moved across the branch to a larger house, then he sent for his brothers, now big enough to work and make a living for themselves. Brown came first, then Perry and Tillie. Tom came last, and lived with Perry and Genie. Boss decided the boys could do without him and moved to Texas, bought large tracks of land, struck oil and became quite well off. A county and county seat is named Crosby. Arthur was blown to bits, because his servant lighted a match for his cigarette at the oil field. Manley was a bishop in the Methodist Church in Fort Worth. Gene, my Gene, visited him when he was in training during World War II. Luther was or is a rich rancher in Deming, New Mexico. I went to see him when I visited my brother in El Paso in 1946.

Aunt Tillie had three sons, Dr. John Floyd Bryars, Albert Brown and Henry and daughter Letha or Aletha Ann. Perry Welsh was named for a doctor, his Aunt Rebecca's husband, Dr. Perry Welsh.

Albert Brown, born January 8, 1852, was named for a friend of Sam Crosby's who lent him some slaves to clear the way for the survey of a railroad.

Perry's son was named Samuel Eugene. He was Chaplain in the United States Army during World War I and afterwards with the Army of occupations in Germany for one year. Afterwards, Chaplain at Fort Sam Houston till he was stricken with a lung ailment brought about by being gassed (not T. B.) at Beldow Woods. His son Col. Sam E. Crosby, Jr., is in Cambodia now. Air Force Col. Charles Perry Crosby is also in Vietnam, instructor in navigation in Air Force.

Are you on the level about Letha being the granddaughter of Pushmataha? If so, does Tishmingo come into the picture. My father used to speak of a very smart good Indian named "Tishmingo" being a good friend of theirs. He, my dad, of course, never read James Streets "Oh Promised Land". But Street has his hero, Sam Dabney, doing some of the same things we connect with Sam Dale and James Smith. Even the Canoe Fight, and Sam Dabney riding "Paddy" down to New Orleans and helping Ole Hickory. (Sam Dale's horse was "Paddy")

Pushmataha's son or nephew was Tishmingo - had been educated in some schools in New Orleans. After the Choctaw Indians were driven out of Alabama, they founded a college or school for men and a school for girls in Oklahoma.

Tom had four sons and one daughter, Brown, William Oliver, Martin and Marshall and daughter Eloise. Brown was accidentally shot and killed outside his drug store in Tuscaloosa. He caught a stray bullet from two men fighting. Ollie was an officer in American National Bank, married Louise Patrick, Dr. Patrick's daughter from Monroe County, kin to the McMillans.

EXCERPTS OF A DECEMBER 3, 1980, LETTER FROM
SAMUEL E. CROSBY, JR., TO SAMUEL N. CROSBY

Sam sent me the following minor corrections with respect to the otherwise excellent information contained in his Aunt Olive Thomley's research. "Luther Crosby was wealthy but did not live in Deming, New Mexico. She lived about twenty miles south of Las Cruces. She inferred that Crosby County, Texas, was named for one of our Crosbys maybe Uncle Boss. As far as I know, Uncle Boss never came to Texas, but was in Arkansas and Oklahoma - I understand. I can see no connection between the man for whom Crosby County was named and any of our early Crosbys. Also she stated that I was in Cambodia - well I think I might have been in there on two occasions - actually I was stationed in S. Vietnam and North East Thailand. I commanded the 56th Special Operations Wing from August 1969 to August 1970. Since you are a naval officer you may be interested in knowing that 3 of our squadrons were equipped with Fighter-Bombers from the U. S. Navy. We called them the A-1 Skywaiver. Will tell you about it some time.

Here is an interesting tid bit - my Grandfather Perry is shown in the 1880 Census as residing with your great grandfather. You can find it on microfilm, Alabama Census 1880, Baldwin County, Stockton Precinct, Page 17 and they are listed as follows - Crosby, Albert, age 28
Martha J., age 23
Lillie, age 10 mos.
Crosby, Perry, age 24

By strange coincidence (my grandmother) Eugenia Killcreas appears with her favorite brothers and sisters on the next page. Perry Crosby and Eugenia Killcreas were married the following year.

Regarding the 1790 Census of Mass. note the seven Samuel Crosbys. Right now its kinda hard to 'jump to there from here'. But I may get us there yet. My Dad always said that Samuel Crosby's family was in Massachusetts. During World War I, my Dad's Division stopped in Massachusetts before going to France. He said he visited and made some contacts with some Crosbys who appeared to be related but when he returned home a couple of years later, he did not have the opportunity to re-establish contact. It may just be 'blue smoke', but I will check it out - this will go very slowly though. . ."

November 24, 1857, Deed of Gift from Samuel Crosby to Letha Ann Crosby - Prepared from Research done by Warren Blair, Clarke County Courthouse

The State of Mississippi X

Clarke County X

Know all men by these presents that I, Samuel Crosby, of said county desiring to secure to my wife Letha Ann Crosby a competency for a support, in the event of my death, and there being no judgment against me, and for the consideration of the sum of Five Dollars to me in hand paid by the said Letha Ann Crosby, I have this day given, granted and delivered, and by these presents do give, grant and deliver unto the said Letha Ann Crosby 1 Road Wagon, 3 Oxen and my entire stock of hogs and cattle, marked crop and split in the left and crop and underbit in the right, the cattle branded "99", all my household and kitchen furniture, farming utensils, 2 sorrel horses, one mare and one colt.

To have and to hold unto her and her heirs and assigns forever.

Given under my hand and seal the 24th day of November, A.D. 1857.

Samuel Crosby (SEAL)

The State of Mississippi X

Clarke County X

This day before me C. W. Moody of said county came and appeared Samuel Crosby who acknowledged that he signed, sealed and delivered the within deed on the day and year therein written as his act and deed.

Given under my hand and seal of office affixed the 24th day of November, 1857.

C. W. Moody, Clerk

Recorded November 26, 1857

C. W. Moody, Clerk

July 14, 1848, Excerpts from Testimony of Samuel Crosby regarding the Estate of John Crosby, Sr. Prepared from research done by Warren Blair - Clarke County Courthouse

Samuel Crosby says he lived several months with R. B. Crosby and assisted him in marking 5 calves belonging to John Crosby worth about \$3.00 per head. That he assisted him (R. B. Crosby) to butcher a Barren Cow worth \$8.00 and a steer worth \$8.00 belonging to John Crosby, Sr. . . . That William Crosby had a Horse from John Crosby, Sr. worth about \$75.00. That he William Crosby said that he had collected money in notes of about one thousand dollars belonging to John Crosby, Sr. . . . That William Crosby told him this about two years ago, and since the death of John Crosby, Sr. That R. B. Crosby had from his father's (John Crosby Sr.'s) Estate a Horse pony worth about \$30.00 and also a Horse worth \$70.00. . . That he is acquainted with a Negro Girl "Lucy", that she has 5 children and that she and the children are worth about \$2,400.00. That said girl went to John Crosby's about 13 years ago. That John Crosby came to William Covington's and took the girl from them about 13 years ago to assist in taking care of John Crosby, Sr.'s stock of cattle. That he (witness) heard John Crosby say that there was a stock of cattle belonging to John Crosby, Sr., of about 240 head while he, John Crosby, was living in Jones County. That John Crosby told him (witness) this some time in the years 1843 or 1844. That stock cattle was worth about \$5.00 per head at that time. That William Crosby was riding about attending to business for John Crosby for some 10 years collecting money and selling Beef. That said William Crosby was absent to Smith and Simpson Counties for about 4 years time of the said ten years. . . .

Cross Examination: That Mary Covington wife of William Covington is his (witness') mother. That he (witness) does not know by what authority John Crosby carried off the Negro girl "Lucy" from William Covington's. . . That said girl "Lucy" has been in the possession of John Crosby during the said 12 or 13 years and that he never saw said Girl "Lucy" in the possession of John Crosby, Sr., since that time. That John Crosby exercised ownership over said Girl "Lucy" and treated her as the rest of his slaves. . . That he (witness) is not in the habit of dealing in slaves but judged from the prices that he heard Negroes were selling at that John Crosby, Sr., never had possession of any of the 5 children of

said Girl "Lucy". That he heard John Crosby, Sr., say that he had sold his stock of cattle to John Crosby and that he (witness) saw cattle at John Crosby's in John Crosby, Sr.'s Mark & Brand. . .

That John Crosby, Sr., then lived in Clarke County and that he John Crosby, Sr., died in Clarke County. That John Crosby, Sr., resided in Wayne County for many years and removed to Clarke County some ten years previous to his (John Crosby, Sr.'s) death. That John Crosby has resided in Jasper County some 6 or 7 years and that he John Crosby removed from Jones County to Jasper County where he now resides. . . That he (witness) saw a note of \$200.00 in the possession of John Crosby, Sr., against John Crosby and Elizabeth his wife some two or three years previous to John Crosby, Sr.'s death. . . That in the year 1843 or 4 he (witness) assisted Roland B. Crosby to mark some 5 calves alluded to in his (witness') direct examination. That the sons and sons-in-law of John Crosby, Sr., were in the habit of marking calves belonging to John Crosby, Sr. . . That John Crosby, Sr., told him (witness) that R. B. Crosby was marking his (John Crosby, Sr.'s) calves and killing his cows and seemed to dislike it, and said it was wrong. That he (John Crosby, Sr.). . . said Rowland B. Crosby would soon have a larger stock than he (John Crosby, Sr.). . . That William Covington had killed about 30 head of beef belonging to John Crosby, Sr., worth \$5 or \$6 per head. . .

Re Examination In Chief. That John Crosby, Sr., told him (witness) that he had authorized William Covington to . . . attend to his stock of cattle and that he also said he had authorized William Covington to mark some of his (John Crosby, Sr.'s) calves in his Covington's own mark so as to raise a little stock for himself (Covington) and also to kill beef and further he saith not.

Sworn to and subscribed in Open Court July 4, 1848.

Signed - Samuel Crosby
Clerk - Charles W. Moody

Samuel Crosby says that he is acquainted with John Crosby's mark and brand and has been acquainted with it for some 18 or 20 years. That John Crosby, Sr., never had but the one mark and brand to his knowledge. That he has been acquainted with John Crosby, Sr.'s stock of cattle some 12 or 13 years. . . That the cattle sold by the administrators at the sale after John Crosby, Sr.'s death were of the original stock he had previously owned. . .

Cross-Examination. That he (witness) is not quite 22 years of age and further saith not.

Sworn to and subscribed in Open Court the 4th day of July, 1848.

Signed - Samuel Crosby
Clerk - Charles W. Moody

REGISTER OF BAPTISMS AND BAPTISED PERSONS
OF STOCKTON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

<u>Names</u>	<u>Parents' Names</u>	<u>When Baptised</u>
Samuel Eugene	Perry & Eugenia Crosby	February 25, 1883
Joseph Raymond	Brown & Martha Crosby	March 16, 1884
Samuel Neal	Brown & Martha Crosby	March 19, 1898

EXCERPTS FROM LETTER FROM WARREN BLAIR
TO DAVID P. MASON

July 1st 1978

Dear David

Here is the information I have on William Warren Crosby. He was the 2nd child of Samuel Crosby and Letha Ann Smith Crosby born 6th June, 1850.

William Warren Crosby married Mary Ann Smith 14th October 1867. On the 1870 Clarke County Census

William Warren Crosby	19	M	b. Miss.
Mary A	24	F	b. Ala.
William	1	M	b. Miss.

They were living in the household headed by Susan Sellers, a widow, her husband had died in Civil War at Connity, Miss. (named Howard Lawson Sellers) She had ridden on horseback 220 miles to claim his body even though she was expecting a child. He was buried in a common grave. She came back to Clarke County when she had her last child, George Lawson Sellers. (he later married a relative of mine) she had 9 children.

This above family were next door neighbors to Mary Crosby Covington - the mother of Samuel Crosby - Her husband William Covington had died 1855. (Mary was daughter of John Crosby, Sr.)

1880 Census Clarke County, Miss.

Stonewall

William Crosby	32	M	Miss.
M. A.	39	F	Ala.
W. E.	11	Son	Miss.
Susan	10	Daughter	"
* Al	9	Son	"
L. A.	7	Daughter	"
M. O.	1	Daughter	"

* Waynesboro Cem. - Wayne County, Miss.

Crosby

Beatrice Owen

May 28, 1883

July 15, 1949

*Albert Lonzo

December 21, 1872

August 6, 1939

Virgil K. Crosby

Sept. 1, 1906 -- June 7, 1963

Lon was a school teacher at Oak Ridge later Oak Grove School - This school joined my grandfather's property. He was president of the board of trustees for many years and chairman of the board of deacons of Oak Grove Church.

Lon moved to Wayne County where he was elected Sheriff and lived out his life. Lon was a good man and well liked by my grandfather. He would always visit my grandfather when he went to see his father William Warren Crosby (called Will) who lived North of Quitman. Mary Ann Crosby died 23rd May 1910 and is burried North of Quitman in Moore Cem.

William Warren Crosby married Mattie Ivy in Oct. 1910. They had two children one girl name unknown, and a son Floyd Crosby married Louise Martin in 1935 that same week William Warren died. Floyd had one child Danny - Floyd has been dead several years.

This is all I know of Will Crosby and his family.

Sincerely,

Warren

P. S. William Warren Crosby is buried in Quitman.

*Author's Note: The additional information obtained on the family of William Warren Crosby which is shown in the family Chart (page 18) was given to me by Danny Crosby.

Author's Note: Mary Crosby (see page i) is referred to as "Polly", her nickname throughout this writing by Mildred Sossaman.

THE CROSBY FAMILY

Prepared by: Mildred Sossaman, November, 1971

From a Covington (Granddaughter of Uncle Jerry--November 1971--"all I know is what I heard"--parents and grandparents.

Samuel Crosby was grandpa Jerry's half-brother--son by Polly before she married Judge Bill Covington. He was raised by his grandparents and never lived with his mother. Papa said grandpa Jerry told him Samuel was about three months old when Judge Bill and Polly Crosby married. He was a grown man when grandpa Jerry was born and his boys and grandpa Jerry played together as children.

Some question about Samuel being illegitimate as Polly's father paid Judge Bill to marry her. . .all arranged before Samuel was born. The payment was land and a house on it before he would take her from parents' home. Judge Bill was the teacher hired by Polly's father so he stayed there and taught the children and studied law until he had the house on the land. They moved in it before the county was formed and their neighbors were mostly Indians. Grandpa Jerry said their first child was born just before the treaty was signed. Polly's father had to give up a lot of his land when the treaty was made. His children began to marry off and when he died he was about to become a poor man.

(2) After Polly's father died, her mother bought a harness shop and stable for Samuel. That was his trade until he had to go to war. He married Leatha Ann Smith. They had several children and two of their boys were soldiers in the Civil War. One of them the same time as grandpa Jerry. Will Crosby went when he was about 14 and he is the one I remember. Leatha Ann died of consumption when Aunt Tillie was about four year old. The children then lived with Polly and her girls until after the war. There was something about them getting orphans benefits so some of the Smiths took them over into Alabama. Grandpa Jerry talked about Floyd, Brown and Tillie. Tillie was named for Aunt Tillie who was grandpa Jerry's oldest sister and for her mother's sister, Eveline that married Floyd Stallings. Your grandmother was named for

Samuel Crosby's wife, Leatha Ann. She had a brother who I think was a James Smith and he had a son called (Alonzo)-- Lon Smith. (What about the children of Samuel Crosby) Papa was real fond of Uncle Brown and (Page 3 of letter) Aunt Tillie. He even worked in the store for Aunt Tillie's husband when he was a boy just starting out. Then Papa and Mama lived in Stockton for a long time. Some of the children were born there. Papa said he remembered Uncle Brown loved all of the Covingtons and came back on visits. . .for many years. He was there when Polly died. Papa said he really loved her and Aunt Susie but he didn't like Uncle John. You know Uncle John tried to tell everybody what to do and wanted all of them to move to Simpson County. Grandpa Jerry tried it but came back home and built the place where he lived and died. Uncle Jack stayed with Uncle John until he died--his wife and boys had a time getting their money back from Uncle John--Papa said they were under 15 when Uncle Jack died and the only reason they ever got a thing was because of it. Uncle John was in deep trouble because he sold the land for the balance of what Uncle Jack owed. The three oldest boys went back and were suing the man that bought the land. The man sued Uncle John so it was settled out of court. The boys divided the money (Page 4) with Aunt Molly and the other children and they went to Texas to live. Uncle Al stayed in Meridian (This was old story to me)

What happened to Brown Crosby? (my question)
Uncle Brown was a prominent man around Stockton. I heard Papa say he dealt in land and timber and had something to do with turpentine. He used to come to see Papa and they would talk mostly about when they were boys (Uncle Brown and grandpa Jerry) about things that happened--you know about Samuel's children being orphans--Being an orphan then was a bad thing--If a family tie didn't claim such children they became wards of the county. After the Civil War the Government had a confederate orphans home above Meridian. The Smiths put Uncle Brown and Aunt Tillie in it. Somehow Uncle Jack and grandpa Jerry and I think Uncle Floyd got them out. Uncle Brown went back and stayed with the Covingtons. I don't know how long but he was living with them when grandpa Jerry married--so were Mitt and her two boys, Jud and Louie--Aunt Brownie and her three girls.

During the war it was just them--women and (Page 5) children. Some of the tales Uncle Brown told when he and papa were talking sounded impossible but they must have been true. It's a wonder that any of those children ever lived to talk about it. Aunt Susie and Aunt Calvie managed the kitchen which was back of the house. Polly and Aunt Mitt ran the house. Aunt Bonnie or Aunt Dick as some called her took the children and they cared for the stock and garden. They had one slave and his young boy. Mat stayed until after the war. They farmed a little--corn and beans and cane. Grandpa Jerry said they were never slaves in the sense that people think now even though they had been bought like cattle or horses. They could have gone away any time for they never were in chains or anything like that. Tony never left the Covington land and his boy that everybody called Uncle Jake stayed close by long after Tony died. I know you remember him as I do. What about Will Crosby that lived here in Quitman? (my question) Will didn't live in Quitman but above the town--had a place out in the country. (Page 6) I never knew much about him except he used to come to see papa. Sometimes Papa would take him and grandpa Jerry to the Confederate Veterans Conventions. Once when I was about grown they went to one of the old battlefields close to Chattanooga--must have been about 20 vets and some of their sons went on the train and picked up more in Meridian. Most all of them had long white beards but not grandpa Jerry and Will Crosby. Old man Helton died a day or two after they came back and old Mr. Sikes was dead before the next meeting. Some of these men came from Jones, Wayne and Green City--and some from Jasper. I think all of them had been in a battle at the place where the convention was held. I think the last meeting grandpa Jerry and Will Crosby went to was at Biloxi--when was the last time you saw Brown Crosby? (my question) I don't know. After I married I lived away from Papa and Mama and had my own family to think about. We came back to Quitman and most all of the old people had died. Aunt Caline died not long after Aunt Susie, maybe 3 or 4 years. One of her girls lived close by me and we kept up with our kinfolks through each other and Mama and Papa. My brothers left and lived in Texas. Uncle Lon was here and Uncle Tom lived with grandpa Jerry because he was youngest and needed somebody. Uncle Tom had some kind of ? that started when he was in France during W. W. I. He had a big family and that was good as the boys farmed and all of them together took care of grandpa Jerry and grandma Jennie--everybody used to go one day every summer to grandpa Jerry's house and spend the day. . . .

As for Crosby Plantation--I have to see plat map to verify. It was at East Enterprise and if the old brick kiln was located at the place given by my dad--much work to be done. Carrie Bryars and I went to Quitman Courthouse and the records are there on John Crosby and Susan, his wife--also, that Susan named Samuel Crosby to inherit--"out of love and (12) affection for". . . .

THE CANOE FIGHT

James Smith, who was probably the grandfather of Aletha Ann Smith (the wife of Samuel Crosby), was a member of the company of Captain Sam Dale. As a member of this company, he became a hero in the legendary "canoe fight" which took place during the early morning hours of November 12, 1813, at a place on the Alabama River near the mouth of Randon Creek.

James Smith, Jeremiah Austill, Captain Dale and a man named Caesar were in a canoe on the Alabama River and met a Creek Indian war party in another canoe. After firing from a distance at the Indians, Captain Dale's small band attacked the entire Creek war party. When the canoes came together, there was furious and bloody hand-to-hand combat in which eleven Creeks were reputed to have been killed.

As Mrs. Dunbar Rowland wrote in her article, Mississippi Territory in War of 1812, "the combatants fought with a fury known only to border warfare. When the close and deadly struggle came to an end, the hero Dale found himself in the enemy's boat while eleven of the best warriors of the proud Muscogee tribe had paid the price of liberty. Both living and the dead were covered with wounds. . . This hand-to-hand combat, fierce and daring as any known to history remains undimmed in comparison with the feat of the dauntless three who held the bridge in the days of ancient Rome."

Dale, Austill, Smith and Caesar became famous as Indian fighters as a result of their participation in this skirmish.