

WILLIAM GRAY AND CAROLINE SARAH KERSH GRAY FAMILY

William Gray

b. 11 Nov 1831 Montgomery Co., Alabama
 m. 11 July 1855 Rankin Co Miss by
 Rev. Jacob Carr
 d. 13 Aug 1899 Rankin Co. Miss - buried at
 Shiloh Methodist Church
 Occupation: Farmer
 Military : Civil War Co G 39th Miss Inf CSA
 Father : Richard Gray (b. 1806 South Carolina)
 Mother : Sabra (b. 1815 Georgia)

Caroline Sarah Kersh

b. 27 Feb 1839 Rankin Co Miss
 d. 9 Dec 1924 " " "
 Buried at Shiloh
 Father: Allen David Kersh
 Mother: Sarah Regina Rhodes

----- CHILDREN -----

1. RICHARD MILES GRAY
 1. Benjamin 2. Whittle
 2. Ed. 3. Ruth
 3. John 4. Anna
 4. Charles 5. Bert
 5. George 6. Bert
 6. Willie
- b. 11 May 1856 Rankin Co
 m.
 Celia Elizabeth Jane STEGALL
 d. 18 Aug 1909 Rankin Co Miss
 Buried in Shiloh
2. JAMES A. MONROE GRAY
 1. James Monroe 2. Anna
 2. Carter 3. Anna
 3. John 4. Anna
 4. Willie (age 5) 5. Bert
 5. Bert 6. Bert
- b. 9 Sept 1858 Rankin Co
 m. 24 May 1883 " "
 Ella Evan PURVIS
 d. 1932 Rankin Co
 Buried at Concord Cemetery
3. WILLIAM ANDREW JACKSON GRAY
 1. Wesley 2. Lydia
 2. Carrie 3. Edie
 3. Lena 4. Patti
 4. Addie
- b. 22 May 1861 Rankin Co
 m. 5 Apr 1882 " "
 Leida Ada MYERS
 d.
4. BENJAMIN BURTON GRAY
 1. Houston 2. Carrie
 2. Carrie 3. Minnie
 3. Minnie 4. Diana
 4. Diana 5. Woodrow
- b. 2 July 1864 Rankin Co
 m. 5 Apr 1891 " "
 Ida M. MOORE
 d. 10 June 1953 (Canton Ms?)
 Buried at Shiloh
5. SUSAN R. GRAY
 1. Leonard
 2. Ollie
 3. Willie Ray
- b. 27 Jan 1867 Rankin Co.
 m.
 John Wesley EVERITT
 d. 18 Aug 1909 Rankin Co
 Buried at Shiloh
6. GEORGE WEBSTER GRAY
 1. Herman 2. Susie
 2. Susie 3. Estelle
 3. Estelle 4. Ina
 4. Ina 5. ~~Estelle~~ 6. ~~Estelle~~
- b. 17 Oct 1869 Rankin Co
 m. 8 Mar 1891 " "
 Nettie MOORE
 d.
 b. (TEXAS ??)

7. ALBERT EDWARD GRAY	b. 12 Sept 1872	Rankin Co
1. Zora Mae (Huffman) 6 Myrtle Mae (Winstead)	m. 4 Apr 1908	" "
2. William 5		Nancy Elizabeth GATES
3. Eugene	d. 14 Sept 1957	Jackson, Ms
4. Etie	b. Concord Cemetery	Rankin Co
5. Eunice 2		
8. JOHN ROBERT LITTLE GRAY	b. 27 July 1875	Rankin Co
1. Lina Mae 7 Carla Mae	m. 14 Dec 1899	" "
2. Robert Carl 6 Robert Clinton		(1) Justina Mae HUFFMAN
3. Agnes		(2) Melinda Corine TILL
4. Mary 2	d. 30 Aug 1960	Rankin Co
5. Wm Gray		Buried at Shiloh
6. Berta 2		
9. DAVID HOUSTON GRAY	b. 1879	Rankin Co
	m. 10 Jan 1900	" "
		(1) Ethel E. LANCASTER
		(2) Julie Vardin MOORE
		Vicksburg, Ms.
		Buried at City Cemetery, VKS

Caroline Sarah Kersh Gray

The following is from information supplied by Mrs. Jeanne Kersh Johnston, 727 Hillmont, Jackson, Ms. Much of it was submitted by W. Clyde Everett, Mr & Mrs Clyde E. Huffman, and other children and grandchildren of William and Caroline Gray.

Notes to the original material supplied by Glen E. Deas, 1987, from additional research on the Gray line.

The oldest child of Allen David Kersh and Sarah Regene (Rhodes) Kersh was Caroline Sarah Kersh, born in Rankin Co. 27 Feb 1839. She and William M. Gray were married 11 July 1855 by Rev. Jacob Carr. (From Rankin Co. marriage records Book 3, page 76). William was born in Alabama 11 Nov 1831 (1). He put off his marriage for a time because he had his mother to care for (2). In the 1870 Census her name appears to be Labra Gray (name not clear) (3), and she and two children, Milly (4) and Robert M. are listed with William's family so we know Robert M. was brother of Wm M. Gray. * Mr. & Mrs. Clyde E. Huffman say William had a brother named George (killed by a Negro) who married a Russell. No children. (5). Another brother was Benager who married a Roberts. (6). They (Will and Caroline) lived in the Crossroads Community near the present Crossroads Church. When the house burned, a smaller house was built across the road and is still there. When William died the property passed into the hands of his son, John Robert Little Gray. The following is a list of their children and their birthdates. All these children lived to be adults which was unusual for that time. *SMITH*

Richard Miles Gray	--	11 May 1856
James A. Monroe "	--	9 Sept 1858
Wm Andrew Jackson "	--	22 May 1861
Benjamin Burton "	--	2 July 1864
Susan R.	" --	27 Feb 1867
George Webster	" --	17 Oct 1869
Albert Edward	" --	12 Sept 1872
John Robert Little "	--	27 July 1875
David Houston Gray	--	1879

William M. Gray was a farmer. He served in the Civil War and fought at Vicksburg. (From Dept of Archives and History, Jackson, Miss) (7)

Caroline Sarah used to tell her grandchildren how frightened she was during the Civil War of robbers and Union soldiers while William was away. One time before he entered the service, William had gone to town for supplies and was late getting home. Caroline Sarah had turned the lamp down low and set it in the fireplace. The dogs started barking furiously at some soldiers who threw sticks of stove wood at them and ran them away, then came into the house. Caroline had young children and was afraid they would be hurt, but the soldiers just went into the kitchen and took all the food.

William died 13 Aug 1899, and is buried in Shiloh Cemetery. Caroline Sarah lived for 25 years after her husband's death. She was slender, not very tall, had blue-grey eyes and wore glasses in her later years. She was a person who did not like to be idle. She loved to piece quilts, and taught her grandchildren how to do this, and to make doll dresses. She would card the cotton bolts for the quilts.

Whenever the men had a log rolling, the women had a quilting. They would put a quilt into the frame and quilt it that day. Caroline lived with the family of her son, John Robert Little Gray after her husband died. John had promised his father that he would take care of her. She died 9 Dec. 1924, (8), and is buried in Shiloh cemetery beside her husband, but does not have a tombstone. Both were members of Shiloh Methodist Church.

Her obituary is copied from a newspaper clipping owned by Mrs. Linnie Etta (Gray) Stegall, a grand-daughter, now living in Jackson, Miss. (1972).

A TRIBUTE TO MRS. CAROLINE GRAY

This community was grieved to learn of the death of Mrs. Caroline Gray. She passed quietly to her reward Sunday, Dec. 9th in the Crossroads community. She has been ill for sometime, and a more patient or kind person never bore their illness as she did. She never complained. Her going has cast a gloom over the entire community, for everyone loved her. We extend our heartfelt sympathy to the bereaved ones left here. Our loss is Heaven's gain.

Mrs. Gray was a kind and loving mother of 8 boys and one girl. Her oldest son and daughter have preceded her to glory and welcome her to them. Her husband, too, had gone many years before, and her going was only to be united with him again in the land that knows no sorrow.

She leaves seven sons and a host of friends and relatives to mourn her loss. We extend to them our sympathy and commend them into God's hands, who knoweth what is best.

Mrs. Gray was a member of the Methodist church at Shiloh, and her going will leave an empty space, but her spirit will live on there. Her good influence will never die. She was 85 years, 10 months and a few days of age when death came. She was born Feb. 27, 1839, and married to Mr. William Gray 11 July 1855 by Rev. Jacob Carr.

Her life has been spent doing loving deeds for all. Everyone who knew her loved her. Again we express our sympathy and ask those grieved ones to listen as we seem to hear her say -

"Weep not, children, for me, for I'm waiting in Glory for thee."

(1) William Gray was born in Montgomery County, Alabama.

(2) Not correct. He married shortly after the Grays first moved to Rankin County around 1854, when his uncle William F. Gray obtained a land patent under a military warrant. His mother was widowed in 1863, and died in 1870. After her husband's death, she and her two youngest children did live with Will and Caroline.

Williams

- (3) Her given name was Sabra, found in probate and land records in the Rankin County Courthouse. She was born in Georgia.
- (4) Actually, her name was Nelly Ann (or Nellyann) Semantha. The census taker's handwriting made it look like Milly. She married E.M. Walters in 1870.
- (5) His brother was George H. Gray, who was married to a woman named Martha C. (last name unknown). Believed to be the *Smith* Martha Gray buried in Antioch Cemetery, Rankin County. He was a merchant and the Postmaster of Ralaigh, Smith Co., Miss. He was living as late as 1900 (Census). No confirmation on the report of having been killed. They did in fact have quite a few children. At least 4 are buried in the Lower Ralaigh cemetery. Their sister Mary Gray Hobson also lived in Smith County (Rankin County Probate records). He was the executor of his father's estate (Richard Gray).
- (6) His brother was Benjamin Andrew Gray, who served in Co. D, 6th Miss. Inf., CSA, and fought at the Battle of Shiloh, Tenn. He was married to Renvy C. Rhodes. He owned a good bit of property on both sides of the Rankin/Scott county line east of the Crossroads church.
- (7) William was in Co. G, 39th Miss Inf., CSA.
- (8) Actually, 1923 according to the death certificate. She was buried on Dec. 10, 1923. For some reason the doctor who filled out her death certificate gave her sex as MALE.
Oh, well.....

William Gray and Anna 1831

FAMILY RECORD

MARRIAGES

William Gray and Anna
Gray were married
the 27th day of February 1831
William Gray and Anna
Gray were married
the 27th day of February 1831

FAMILY RECORD

SHRINE

Richard Wilt, son of Richard
Wilt, D.D. born and born the
10th day of June 1830

Richard Wilt, son of Richard
Wilt, D.D. born and born the
10th day of June 1830

Richard Wilt, son of Richard
Wilt, D.D. born and born the
10th day of June 1830

1943

1856

99

FAMILY RECORD

BIRTHS

George Whistler was born
Oct. 11, 1849 - 1862.
Albert E. Whistler
died October the 11th 1872.
John Whistler was born
July 22, 1875.

Carried over

1945
1869 1870
76 70
73

1945
1881 1882
76 70
74

1945
1881 1882
76 70
78

July

1870 W. T. W. C.

FAMILY RECORD.

DEATHS

Died January the 15th 1863
our father Richard Gray &
Died Dec. the 16, 1870 our Mother
Julia Gray
John W. Gray of 73
years

Will of Allen David Kersh

Found in Record of Wills, Book 1, page 74, in office of Chancery Clerk, Rankin Co., Miss. courthouse, Brandon, Miss.

Will of Allen D. Kersh, Dec'd.

The State of Miss. } In the name of God. Amen. I, Allen D. Kersh, Rankin Co. } of the state and county aforesaid, and being of a lawful age and in my sane mind and considering the uncertainty of life and the certainty of death, do make, ordain, and declar this to be my last will and testament. First I want all of my just debts paid. Second I give and bequeath to my daughter, Caroline S. Gray (40) forty acres of land in the south west corner of my tract of land, and is known as the Gray place. Third I give and bequeath all my property, real and personal to my beloved wife, Sarah R. Kersh during her lifetime and I want her to pay all of my just debts and have no public sale and after her death I want the residue divided equal between the balance of my children— David, Webster, Laura, Richard, Mary, Enos. They are to shear and shear alike.

Sept. 2, 1865.

A. D. Kersh

Witness:

Henry Rhodes
I. O. J. Wimberly
E. M. Myers

Proof of Will

The State of Miss. } In probate court of said county Oct. term Rankin Co. } 1865. In the matter of a certain instrument of writing Perporting to be the last will and testament of Allen D. Kersh. Dec'd. This day personally appeared in open court Ellis M. Myers and I. O. J. Wimberly, two of subscribing witnesses to a certain instrument perporting to be the last will and testament of Allen D. Kersh late of said county, dec'd. bearing date the 2nd Sept. 1865 who having first duly sworn depose and say severally that said Kersh signed, sealed, published and declared said instrument as his last will and testament in the presence of these deponents (and Henry Rhodes another subscribing witness) on the day of the date thereof that said testator was then of sound mind and memory and more than 21 years of age and that these deponents (and said Henry Rhodes) subscribed said instrument as witnesses thereto at the instance and request and in the presence of said teatator and also in the presence of each other on the day and year aforesaid. Sworn to and subscribed in open court . E. M. Myers

Oct. 9, 1865.

I. O. J. Wimberly

H. S. Cole, Clerk

The foregoing will and proof were filed in my office on 9th day of October, and duly recorded on the 3rd day of November A. D. 1865.

H. S. Cole, Clerk.

Allen D. Kersh Bible

Original Owner - Allen David & Sarah Regene (Rhodes) Kersh
Address - Rankin Co., Miss.

Present owner - Mrs. Ella Kersh
Address - Route 2, Brandon, Miss.

Bible published by - B. Waugh & L. Mason
Address - New York
Date published - Not given

Copied from original Bible by - Mrs. Sidney S. Howell
Address - 732 Lindsey Dr., Jackson, Miss. 39209

Note - Allen David Kersh was the second child of ~~Allen David~~ Kersh and ~~Sarah Regene (Rhodes)~~ Kersh. He was born in S.C. and came to Miss. with his parents in 1833, where they settled in Rankin Co. When he was 20 years old, he married Sarah Regene Rhodes, age 15. The ceremony was performed by John M. Sims, J. P. This record is found in Book 2, page 7 in Circuit clerks office in Rankin Co. courthouse, Brandon, Miss. *Ch 6*

Allen was a farmer and lived in the Crossroads Community in Rankin Co. Both he and his wife were members of Shiloh Methodist Church. They reared a large family - 11 children. Little is known about most of these children. Mildred Elizabeth married Little R. Gray 24 Dec. 1857. She died 8 Sept. 1859 and is probably buried in Shiloh Cemetery, although her grave has no marker. No further record has been found of Little R. Gray. Martha Ann Renvy died 17 Sept. 1848 at age 5. We know nothing of Samuel Lewis except his birth and death dates. Mary Catherine (Mollie C.) married Wm. F. Buckalew 26 Nov. 1879. In 1880 they were living with Mary's mother. No further trace has been found. Enos Ezrer was a bachelor. He lived somewhere in the Miss. Delta, died, and is buried there.

Allen David was the administrator of the estate of his brother, Richard C. Kersh, who died in 1854 from yellow fever, and is buried in Brandon Cemetery, Rankin Co., Miss.

Allen David and two of his sons were in the Civil War. The following is from Civil War records at the Dep't. of Archives and History, Jackson, Miss.:

KERSH, A. D. Pvt., Co. A, 3rd Bn. (Cooper's) Miss. State Cav. CSA.
(RMCS)

KERSH, D. A. (son of A.D.) Pvt., Co. A, Yerger's Regt. Miss. Cav.
CSA. (RMCS)

KERSH, D. A. Pvt., Co. L, 12 Miss. Cav. CSA. (RMCS)

KERSH, J. D. Pvt. Co. G, Miss. Inf. CSA. (RMCS)

(Full name- Jacob Daniel Wesley Kersh. Captured and sent to Fort Douglas, Ill. where he died from typhoid fever. He is buried near Fort Douglas.)

Allen David and his wife are buried in Shiloh Methodist Cemetery, although Sarah Regene does not have a marker on her grave. The will of Allen David can be found in the office of the Chancery Clerk of Rankin Co., Brandon, Miss. in Record of Wills, Book 1, page 74.

By Alma Doris (Kersh) Howell
(Mrs. Sidney S.)

Bible of Allen David Kersh

Family Record

(Children of Washington Webster (Webb) and Harriet Lanora (Myers)
Kersh & grandchildren of Allen David & Sarah Regene Kersh.)

Births

Robert Allen Kersh was born December 15th 1873.
Bradley (Brantley) was born March 4th 1876.
Fred Ira Kersh was born December 10th 1877.
Lennis Harden Kersh was born October 15th 1879
Emmett Ezra Kersh was born July 25, 1882.
Walter Rankin Kersh was born December 2nd 1886.
James Larkin Kersh was born April 12th 1888.
Minnie Lee Kersh was born May 25, 1890.
Edwin Bishop Kersh was born April 5, 1894.
Harriet Lanora Myers was born September 25th 1851.

Deths (Children of Allen & Sarah Kersh)

Martha Ann Renvy Kersh died 17th September 1848.
Samuel Lewis Kersh died 24 March 1852.

Page 2- Deths con't.

Allen D. Kersh departed this life September the 17 day 1865. Aged 48 yrs. 11 mos. and 6 days.

Meldrit Elizabeth Kersh, wife of L. R. Gray, departed this life Sept. the 8th day 1959. Aged 18 yrs. 6 mos. 21 days.

Emmitt Ezra Kersh died June 5th 1909.

Lennis Harden Kersh died May 29th 1932.

Harriet Lenora Kersh died Jan. 17, 1931.

W. Webster Kersh died Jan. 15th 1942.

Robert Allen Kersh died November , 1946. (Note- Wife still living in La. Two children- Webb & Vada.)

Page 3- Marriages

A. D. Kersh Express to have religion July the 19th 1845.

Allen D. Kersh and Sarah Regain Rhodes was married the 14th of July the year 1836. was married by John M. Sims, esquire, 1836.

Allen D. Kersh was born the 11th of Oct. 1816. Jacob Kersh my father and ~~my~~ Rachel my mother, and departed this life September the 17th day 1865. Age 48 yrs. 11 mos. and 6 days.

William Gray and C. S. Kersh was married the 11 day of July 1855 by Rev. Jacob Carr.

Page 4- Births (Children of Allen D. & Sarah R. Kersh)

Caroline Sarah Kersh was born the 27th of February the year 1839.

Meldred Elizabeth Kersh was born the 29th March 1841.

Martha Ann Renvy Kersh was born the 28th February 1843.

Jacob Daniel Wesley Kersh was born the 15th February 1845.

David Abraham Kersh, Jr. was born the 29 December 1846.

Washington Webb Kersh was born the 15 April 1848.

Neva Ruth Kersh was born April 18th 1953. (Grandchild)

Samuel Lewis Kersh was born the 29th June 1851.

Lora, (Laurs ?) Ann Semanth Kersh was born the 18 February 1852.

Richard Kersh was born the 17 September 1855.

Bible of Allen D. Kersh, con't.

Mary Catherine Kersh was borne the 18 January 1860.

Enus Ezry Kersh was born 13 Sept. 1863

Enos Ezra Kersh was born Sep. the 13th the year 1863. { Sic

Dixie Lee Kersh was born Feb. 26th 1947.

Ronald Edwin Kersh was born Oct. 24th 1948. { Grandchildren

(Note- In back of Bible are written names of Washington Webster
Kersh's children.)

Mrs. W. W. Kersh

Mrs. W. L. Kersh

Robert A. Kersh

Brantley W. Kersh

Fred (M.J.?) Kersh

Lennis H. Kersh

Emmet E. Kersh

Walter R. Kersh

James L. Kersh

Minnie Lee Kersh

Edwin B. Kersh

Note- This Bible was copied just as it was written. The information
in parentheses are in explanation and are not in the Bible).