

2009 - October - Forsyth Scout Newsletter

Welcome to another edition of the Forsyth Scout and Beecher Island Newsletter.

It has been busy with a lot of research. We have several new readers lately. We have added Kirk Healy. While Scout John Haley wasn't married and had no direct descendants he had many nephews, nieces and cousins from the Haley-Healy, King and Kyne branches of his family. Kirk is from one of these branches and is a former resident of Lincoln County, Kansas, his ancestors settling there pre-Beecher Island. Tracee Hamilton, a longtime reader is also descended from one of these branches.

Another new reader is Tommy Cleveland. Tommy is the only great grandchild of Scout Thomas Murphy.

We also have two new contacts in the Stilwell family and one of Eli Zigler's last living descendants.

“FOUND” Scout John Lyden's burial site,

In July, at Fort Harker Days in Kanopolis, Kansas, I gave a presentation on the Forsyth Scouts and what was known of each scout.

We knew that Scout John Lyden, who was murdered near the Ellsworth -Lincoln County line in February of 1875 was buried somewhere in northern Ellsworth County, according to old reports. I had thought that he was buried about 200 yards northwest of the intersection of I-70 and K-156, northeast of Fort Harker.

After my talk, I was approached by reader Alfred Aufdemberge. Alfred is a life long resident of Lincoln County, growing up a couple of miles south of the famous Schermerhorn ranch. He is also a neighbor of the author's parents, and has been active with the Lincoln County Historical Society.

Alfred explained that he had heard that the cemetery where I had previously thought Scout Lyden was buried, was a cholera cemetery and that he thought I should look a few miles further southwest in what he called the Eutsler cemetery.

This was intriguing. Eutsler is not a common name and I knew that Scout Eutsler had worked at Fort Harker after Beecher Island, so I was definitely interested to learn if there was a connection.

On the way to Beecher Island reunion in September I finally had time to do some exploring and with the excellent instructions Alfred had given me we easily found this small burial plot. One stone is standing up and is visible. It is the marker of Lettie Eutsler, Scout Eutsler's third oldest daughter.

The location did better fit some of the old descriptions of Lyden's burial place. I inquired of Jim Gray, The Cowboy, from Ellsworth, if he was familiar with this small burial plot. He knew of it but had never been there. Jim did some investigating around Ellsworth and talked to a local resident, Mark McCoy. It turns out that Mark McCoy is descended from Thomas B. McCoy, who originally owned the farm adjacent to the burial plot. Mark said that the property is still in the McCoy family, and he knew that a former school superintendent who had been found dead in a well was buried there. This description fits what is known about Scout John Lyden. **So it would appear that we have indeed found the burial plot of the elusive Scout John Lyden, with much thanks to Alfred, Jim and Mark.**

Now, it seems that if Scout Lyden's burial site has been found, that it should be appropriately marked. I believe he is entitled to a marker both as a Civil War veteran and under a special Congressional act that provided the Forsyth Scouts with pensions and other privileges afforded regular military troops of the time. Maybe, if proper permissions can be obtained, this would be a project for the Lincoln and/ or Ellsworth County Historical Societies?

Interestingly, Thomas B. McCoy's oldest son, Fred, married Scout John Lyden's widowed sister-in-law, Mary, after John's brother, Pat, died in 1894.

Pat Lyden had a son, also named John Lyden. He died very young. He along with his little sister, Kate, are buried in the small St. John's Catholic Cemetery, south of Vesper, Kansas, where **Scout John Haley** is buried. Isn't it neat how all this connects? So, on to the newsletter for this month.

Scout Thomas Murphy

Thomas Benton Murphy was the last living Forsyth scout that had taken part in the battle when he died December 4, 1929.

Jack Peate did out live Tom Murphy, but Peate was with the relief column, having been left behind at Fort Harker and never catching up.

On September 16, 1868 Scouts Murphy and John Hurst stood the first watch of the evening, preceding the attack of the 17th. At this time the command was camped on the north side of the Arickaree river.

Following the battle, Murphy and Scout Hurst returned to Fort Harker by way of Forts Wallace and Hays, to return to teaming with a government wagon. They had declined to transfer to Pepon's Scouts. Later that fall they went with Custer on the Washita or Winter campaign. They went at least as far southwest as Camp (later Fort) Supply. They later teamed out of Fort Hays to Camp Supply.

Apparently while in south central Kansas, Thomas discovered a property with a large cold, ever flowing spring on it. He does state that he and Philip McCusker, the interpreter for the Comanche Indians, spent time in what would become Sumner County, Kansas.

By 1872 Thomas was back in Missouri, where he married Nancy Jane Thompson. Soon after being married, he left his bride in Missouri and went to the area of what would become Corbin, Kansas, and filed a claim on the property where earlier he had discovered the spring. He built a house and soon after returned to Missouri. In October of 1872, he and Nancy started what would become a 17 day journey to their new home at Spring Creek Ranch. They took along a herd of Red Durham cattle, hogs and chickens.

Within a week of arriving, the Murphy's experienced a large prairie fire. Just one of the many events that would include, droughts and grasshopper plagues.

In 1873 a stray Texas steer brought a fever that killed all their cattle but two. As time went on, things improved and the Murphy's ranch became a model farm with new and experimental crops and breeds of registered livestock.

Their improvements included a large apple orchard and later one of the first alfalfa fields in Kansas.

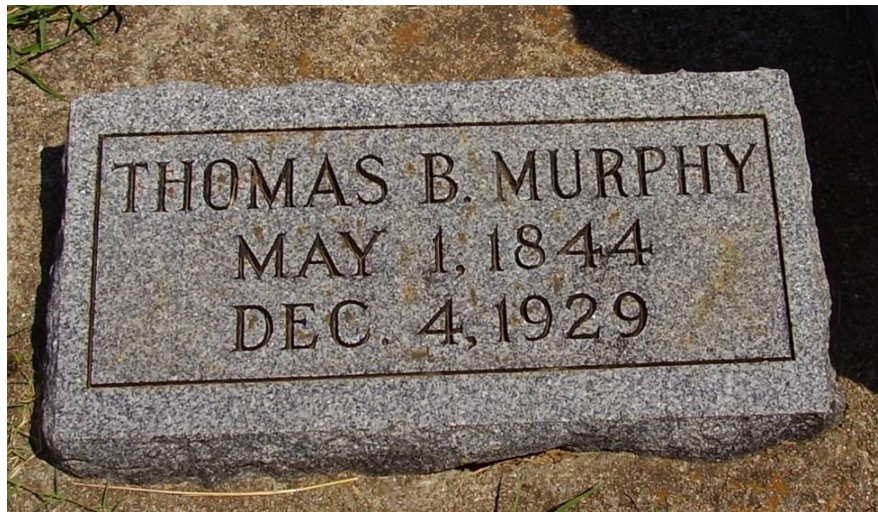
The farm and family grew. Eventually there were 12 children born, 8 living to be at least young adults. Of the Murphy children, only 2 married, Jerie and Alice and only Alice had descendants.

By the end of World War I, the Murphy's had built a large modern 12 room, two story home, complete with their own Delco electric plant.

During the Civil War, Thomas had served in the 13th Infantry Volunteers, Company C. Later he served with 22nd Infantry C Volunteers.

Thomas Murphy is known to have attended at least one reunion at Beecher Island.

When Tom Murphy died, he was buried in the Corizine Cemetery, near his ranch. Eventually, his wife and all of his children were also buried near him.



Generation One

1. Thomas Benton Murphy was born MAY-01-1844 near Pattonsburg, Daviess County, Missouri, (son of Cornelius Murphy and Delila Place) and died DEC-04-1929 near Corbin, Sumner County, Kansas and is buried in Corzine Cemetery, Falls Township, Sumner County, Kansas.

He married Nancy Jane Thompson, MAY-02-1872 in Bethany, Harrison County, Missouri, born MAY-11-1849 in Harrison County, Missouri, (daughter of Asaph Thompson and Polly _____) and died MAY-09-1936 in _____, Sumner County, Kansas and is buried in Corzine Cemetery, Falls Township, Sumner County, Kansas.

Children:

2. i. Alice Murphy born AUG-30-1873.
- ii. Anna Murphy was born FEB-26-1875 in Falls Township, Sumner County, Kansas, and died OCT-27-1902 in _____, Sumner County, Kansas and is buried in Corzine Cemetery, Falls Township, Sumner County, Kansas.
- iii. Baby Boy Murphy was born JUL-16-1876 in Falls Township, Sumner County, Kansas, and died AUG-20-1877 in Falls Township, Sumner County, Kansas and is buried in Corzine Cemetery, Falls Township, Sumner County, Kansas.
- iv. Dorothy "Dollie" Murphy was born MAY-07-1878 in Falls Township, Sumner County, Kansas, and died MAR-31-1962 in _____, Sumner County, Kansas and is buried in Corzine Cemetery, Falls Township, Sumner County, Kansas.
- v. Samantha Viola Murphy was born MAR-08-1880 in Falls Township, Sumner County, Kansas, and died MAR-23-1883 in Falls Township, Sumner County, Kansas.
- vi. Jettye Murphy was born JAN-22-1882 in Falls Township, Sumner County, Kansas, and died APR-12-1964 in _____, Sumner County, Kansas and is buried in Corzine Cemetery, Falls Township, Sumner County, Kansas.
- vii. Grover Cleveland Murphy was born AUG-16-1884 in Falls Township, Sumner County, Kansas, and died JUL-21-1969 in _____, Sumner County, Kansas and is buried in Corzine Cemetery, Falls Township, Sumner County, Kansas.
- viii. Thomas "Grider" Murphy was born SEP-09-1886 in Falls Township, Sumner County, Kansas, and died JUL-09-1963 in _____, Sumner County, Kansas and is buried in Corzine Cemetery, Falls Township, Sumner County, Kansas.
- ix. Katie Murphy was born AUG-30-1888 in Falls Township, Sumner County, Kansas, and died FEB-26-1967 in _____, Sumner County, Kansas and is buried in Corzine Cemetery, Falls Township, Sumner County, Kansas.
- x. Baby Girl Murphy was born NOV-17-1890 in Falls Township, Sumner County, Kansas, and died FEB-09-1891 in Falls Township,

- Sumner County, Kansas and is buried in Corzine Cemetery, Falls Township, Sumner County, Kansas.
- xi. Jerie Murphy was born MAY-30-1892 in Falls Township, Sumner County, Kansas, and died MAY-23-1981 in _____, Sumner County, Kansas and is buried in Corzine Cemetery, Falls Township, Sumner County, Kansas. He served in the Army in WWI.
- He married Beatrice W. _____, ___-__-192_ in _____, _____ County, Kansas. She was born JAN-26-1903 in _____, _____ County, Kansas, and died JAN-30-1999 in Caldwell, Sumner County, Kansas and is buried in Corzine Cemetery, Falls Township, Sumner County, Kansas.
- xii. Baby Boy Murphy was born JUN-16-1895 in Falls Township, Sumner County, Kansas, and died JUL-22-1895 in Falls Township, Sumner County, Kansas and is buried in Corzine Cemetery, Falls Township, Sumner County, Kansas.

Generation Two

2. Alice Murphy was born AUG-30-1873 in Falls Township, Sumner County, Kansas, and died at the age of 100 on NOV-11-1973 in Madisonville, Madison County, Texas and is buried in Corzine Cemetery, Falls Township, Sumner County, Kansas.

She married William L. Cleveland, ___-__-190_ in _____, _____ County, Kansas. He was born JAN-__-1843 in _____, _____ County, Tennessee, and died APR-26-1907 in Anadarko, Caddo County, Oklahoma and is buried in Caldwell City Cemetery, Caldwell, Kansas, with his first wife and one of their children.

Children:

3. i. Francis "Marion" Cleveland was born NOV-03-1903.
- ii. Horace Murphy Cleveland was born AUG-21-1905 in Stillwater, Payne County, Oklahoma, and died SEP-08-1992 in San Antonio, Bexar County, Texas and is buried in Ft. Sam Houston National Cemetery, San Antonio, Texas.

He married (1) Norma Koch, AUG-10-1935 in _____, _____ County, Texas. She was born JUN-20-1904 in Wetmore, Bexar County, Texas, (daughter of Heinrich "Henry" George Koch and Bertha Reinarz) and died JUL-14-1960 in Corpus Christi, Nueces County, Texas and is buried in San Geronimo Cemetery, Seguin, Texas.

He married (2) Norma V. Stickles, ___-__-196_ in _____, _____ County, Texas. She was born MAY-27-1915 in Odon, Daviess County, Indiana, (daughter of Absalom Manning Stickles and Alma Loretta McCullough) and died DEC-31-2003 in San Antonio, Bexar County, Texas and is buried in Ft. Sam Houston National Cemetery, San Antonio, Texas.

Generation Three

3. Francis "Marion" Cleveland was born NOV-03-1903 in Stillwater, Payne County, Oklahoma and died NOV-10-1985 in Madisonville, Madison County, Texas and is buried in Greer Cemetery, Madisonville, Texas.

He married Flora Pauline Jacobs, ___-__-193_ in _____, _____ County, Ohio. She was born JUL-13-1905 in Kent, Portage County, Ohio, (daughter of Charles Jacobs and Clara _____) and died AUG-17-1980 in Pasadena, Harris County, Texas and is buried in Greer Cemetery, Madisonville, Texas.

Children:

- i. Patrick Marion Cleveland was born JUN-29-1942 in San Antonio, Bexar County, Texas, died SEP-14-1945 in San Antonio, Bexar County, Texas and is buried in San Jose Burial Park, San Antonio, Texas.
4. ii. Jon Thomas "Tommy" Cleveland.

He has a daughter and a grandson.

The End

All for this month.

Happy Trails.

Mike