

# THE HOOD FAMILY OF RALEIGH COUNTY

By Beverly Thomas

Stephen Hood was born about 1796 in Virginia and died in March 1891 in Raleigh County, West Virginia. I believe Stephen to be the son of Abraham Hood who is found in Caswell County, North Carolina, in the 1820 Caswell County census.

An Abraham Hood was listed in Dinwiddie County, Virginia, in the 1810 census with four young males and three females, matching the Abraham Hood family in the 1820 Caswell County, North Carolina, census.

In the later Caswell County censuses of 1830, 1840, and 1850, the four young Hood males were listed as Martin, Pleasant, Stephen, and Wiley Hood. Abraham Hood is listed in the 1830 and 1840 censuses as being elderly.

The Dinwiddie Hoods were descended from Thomas Hood of Amelia County, Virginia. The given name of Abraham is a name that was given by Thomas Hood to one of his sons. I also believe that Abraham of Dinwiddie County, Virginia, and Caswell County, North Carolina, is a descendant of this Thomas Hood, most likely a grandson.

All of the younger Hood men of Caswell County listed in later censuses that they were born in Virginia. Wiley Hood listed in a later census that he was born in Dinwiddie County, Virginia. Wiley Hood was also listed, along with Stephen Hood as, being present at the estate sale of Stephen's father-in-law, John Bowers, in 1828 in Caswell County, North Carolina.

Stephen Hood married Henrietta Bowers, daughter of John and Lucy Bowers, in Caswell County, North Carolina, on September 10, 1823. Their children were:

1. Will Hood was born before 1829.
2. George Washington Hood, born about 1829, died October 31, 1909.
3. Elizabeth Hood, born about 1832, died about 1869 to 1870.

Stephen left Caswell County, North Carolina, and is found in Surry County, North Carolina, in 1842, where he purchased land. He is listed in the 1850 Surry County census along with George and Elizabeth. Henrietta is presumed to be deceased as she was not in the household. Son Will has moved on. He is not deceased, according to his nephew, George. W. Hood, Jr., related to his children in later years that the last time his father, George.W. Hood, Sr., saw his brother Will, was at the end of the Civil War.

The search for Will Hood has been quite difficult and, with very little to go on, I have been unable to locate Will Hood in the records.

George Washington Hood, Sr., was married first to Ivanona Webb, daughter of Martin and Frances Webb. Date of the marriage is unknown. Ivanona Webb was born about 1831 in Grayson County, Virginia; she died September 17, 1857, in Raleigh County. There were no children from this marriage. George, Sr., married a second time to Arminta Bailey, daughter of Booker Bailey and Sarah Stover.

Elizabeth Hood married Jeremiah "Jesse" Payne, son of Martin Payne and Ann Holder, in Surry County, North Carolina, in December 1850. Elizabeth and Jesse's children were:

- Micky Payne was born about 1852
- Martha Payne was born about 1854
- William Payne was born about 1858
- Lydia Ann Payne was born about 1860 and died April 12, 1925. She married John Morgan Todd.
- Martin Payne was born about 1868

Stephen Hood married a second time, wife unknown.

-A daughter, Nancy Hood, was born about 1856. Nancy is found in the Martin Webb household in the 1860 Raleigh County Census. She was listed as being born in Carroll County, Virginia.

Nancy Hood married Francis Marion Dickens, son of John Dickens and Nellie Hendricks, on December 16, 1874, in Raleigh County. Nancy died April 3, 1882, in Raleigh County. Stephen Hood was listed as her father on her death record. Nancy was the second wife of Francis M. Dickens. Their children were;

-Almira Frances Dickens, born in 1877, died in 1908. Almira married Ballard Preston Ballard on May 23 1897.

-Rutherford Buren Dickens, born January 26, 1878, married Fannie Walker on January 18, 1901.

-Elias Christopher Dickens, born August 31, 1880, married Dora Alice Workman on February 6, 1901.

Stephen's third wife was Caroline Allen, daughter of John Allen and Elizabeth Lafferty. They were married between 1860 and 1862. Stephen was about 35-40 years older than Caroline when they were married. Stephen and Caroline's children were:

- Jefferson Hood was born about 1862.
- Hetty E. Hood was born about 1865.
- Mary J. Hood was born July 15, 1866. She married William Jackson Lafferty on July 27, 1882.
- Nancy E. Hood was born about 1869.
- Sarah M. Hood was born about 1871.
- Etta F. Hood was born about 1877.



**Caroline Allen Hood**

-Almeda Hood was born about 1879. She married Sidney Massey on April 5, 1898.

-Frances Maud Hood was born about 1880. She married first Samuel Underwood, on November 2, 1893. Frances married second Columbus Combs on July 18, 1902.

-William Stephen Hood was born about 1882. He died January 29, 1914.

-John W. Hood was born about 1885.

Stephen Hood died in March 1891 in Raleigh County.

George Washington Hood, Sr., was born in Caswell County, North Carolina, in 1829, he married first to Ivanona Webb, daughter of Martin and Frances Webb. Ivanona Webb Hood died in 1857; her death record stated her cause of death was hemorrhage of the womb. Where Ivanona and George were married is unknown. However, they were in Raleigh County, Virginia, in 1857, when Ivanona died. George, Sr., and his father, Stephen Hood are found on the 1860 Raleigh County Census.

George Washington Hood, Sr., enlisted in the 8th Virginia Infantry, later to become the 7th West Virginia Cavalry during the Civil War. After the war, he was approved to receive a pension for his service in the Federal Army.

George W. Hood, Sr., married Arminta Bailey, daughter of Booker Bailey and Sarah Stover, on January 10, 1867, in Raleigh County. George and Sarah's children were:

-Sarah Almeda Hood, born January 29, 1868, died October 31, 1909. Sarah never married.

-Aletha Hood, born December 9, 1869, died September 23, 1870.

-Joel Hansford Hood, born July 16, 1871, died between 1880 and 1890.

-George Washington, Jr., was born July 18, 1874. George's twin died at birth.

-Lucy May Hood was born July 5, 1876; she died August 22, 1950. Lucy married Jim Perdue.

-Royal J. Hood, born November 5, 1880; he died October 31, 1909. Royal never married.

-Winfield Hezekiah Hood, born May 31, 1885, died September 25, 1972. He married Elsie Nary.

Arminta Bailey Hood, born about 1846, died February 14, 1894. She is buried in the Mount Tabor Cemetery in Beckley, Raleigh County.

On the eve of October 31, 1909, George W. Hood, Sr., and his son Royal were murdered, while daughter, Sarah Almeda and her young daughter, Emma, were at a church revival. Upon returning home, Sarah and Emma were also murdered; and the Hood home was set afire to cover up the murders. Their murders were never solved and remains to this day as one of Raleigh County's unsolved murders.

George W. Hood, Sr., Royal, Sarah Almeda, and Emma were buried in Mount Tabor Cemetery, beside Arminta Bailey Hood.

George Washington Hood, Jr., married Launa Grace Wikle, daughter of William Pembroke “Pem” Wikle and Mary Alice Harper. George met Launa when his sister, Lucy, was recovering from scarlet fever. William “Pem” Wikle became acquainted with the Hood family while he drove a freight wagon on the old Logan Turnpike. When it came to his attention that the Hood family was looking for someone to help with the care of Lucy during her recovery, “Pem” suggested his daughter, Launa, for the job. George married Launa Grace Wikle on June 3, 1908, in Raleigh County.

George and Launa lived in Raleigh County. Their home was located on Harper Road. In the spring of 1931, George and Launa sold their home in Raleigh County and moved to Monroe County, West Virginia. Winfield Hood also sold his home in Raleigh County and joined his brother in Monroe County. George and Launa bought a farm above Alderson on what is know as Flat Mountain, where George lived until his death on November 7, 1956.

George and Launa’s children were:

-Robert Hascal Hood, born May 27, 1910, died April 25, 1975.

-Grethel Snow Hood, born December 14, 1912, died July 5, 1970.

-Roy Homer Hood was born about 1916 and died about 1917.

-Olligia Marie Hood born October 12, 1921.

-George Talmadge Hood, born July 5, 1924 died August 22, 1976.



**George W. Hood and Launa G. Wikle  
February 1955**



**Winfield H. Hood and Elsie Nary  
Wedding picture taken about 1910-1911**

-Velma Hood was born October 14, 1912.

-Janis H. Hood was born about 1913 and died 1988.

Winfield H. Hood married Elsie Nary, daughter of John and Blana E. Nary. Elsie was born August 26, 1896, and died April 19, 1981. Winfield and Elsie Nary Hood are buried in the Orchard Hills Cemetery, Ballard, Monroe County, West Virginia. Winfield and Elsie’s children were:

- Opal Hood was born about 1916.
- John Hood was born about 1923.

Sources:

Caswell County, North Carolina, Archive records  
Surry County, North Carolina, Archive records  
Census records For Virginia, North Carolina, and West Virginia  
Raleigh County, West Virginia, Marriages by Pauline Haga  
Raleigh County, West Virginia, Death Records by Pauline Haga  
Marriages of Surry County, North Carolina by Brent H. Holcomb  
Amelia County, Virginia Tax Records  
Hood Overview by David A. Bell  
Boone County, West Virginia, Archive West Virginia, Records  
Lincoln County, West Virginia, Archive, West Virginia, Records  
Monroe County, West Virginia, Archive Records  
Nyla Creed DePauk  
Gracie Stover  
Marie Hood Williams  
Kirk Dickens  
Tony Bartley  
Robert Payne  
Civil War Records  
7th West Virginia Cavalry by Ronald R. Turner  
Beckley Post Herald-Raleigh Register Archives