

The Diamond Family Ancestry

Santa Rosa County, Florida

The first known Diamond in Santa Rosa was John Diamond. He was born June 16, 1814 and his wife Mary Johnson was born on December 20, 1820. They were living in Alabama where seven of their fourteen children were born before moving to northeast Escambia County, Florida. John Diamond and his family are listed in the 1850 census of Escambia, moving to Santa Rosa in the mid-1850s where John owned a sawmill with a commissary in the Coon Hill community.

During the Civil War, John and two of his sons joined the Home Guard, with three sons joining the Confederacy. It is believed that his sawmill was burned during the war.

Mary Johnson Diamond died October 3, 1871, buried at Coon Hill Cemetery. After Mary's death, John was married two more times: Matilda Johnson (1831-1888, buried at Coon Hill Cemetery and to widow Eliza Wells Ezell (1837-1924), buried at Cora Cemetery.

John Diamond died August 19, 1908, buried at Coon Hill Cemetery with two of his wives.

The fourteen known children born to John and Mary Diamond were: William, John, Martha, Sarah, George, James, Peter, Mary, Matilda, Walker, Benjamin, Samuel, Young and Cordelia Diamond.

William M. Diamond (1838-1916, buried at Coon Hill Cemetery) married Sarah Middleton (1843-1894). When William put in for a CSA pension, he claimed he was born in Conecuh County, Alabama. Their seven known children: 1. William (b.ca 1865); 2. Infant daughter (b&d 1867); 3. John (1870-1941) married Rebecca Morris (1873-1953); 4. Elizabeth (b.ca 1872); 5. James Daniel (b. June 6, 1875); 6. Wright Wiley (b.ca 1879); and 7. Sarah Viola Diamond (b.1881).

John C. Diamond (b. 1839) married Elizabeth (1834-1897, buried at Coon Hill Cemetery). In 1903 in Escambia County, Florida, John put in for a CSA pension saying he was born in Conecuh County, Alabama. John moved to Texas where he died.

Martha E. Diamond (1840-1902, buried at Coon Hill Cemetery) was the mother of nine children born in Santa Rosa: 1. John Allen (1862-1934) married Cordelia Penton (1873-1900); 2. Henrietta Jane (1862-1898) married John Ezell; 3. Cornelius (b.ca 1865); 4. William (b.ca 1867); 5. Lazarus Battle (1869-1945) married Lelia Penton (1875-1941); 6. Thomas J. (1872-1930) married Ella F. Penton (1876-1964); 7. Marietta (1875-1901) married

James Cartwright (1870-1936); 8. Ada E. (1876-1955) married James A. Cobb (1872-1947); 9. Nellie (1879-1909) married Fred Grimes; and 10. James Edward Diamond (1885-1961) married Allie Carnley (1890-1975)

Sarah L. Diamond (1843-1894) married Frederick B. Mayo (b.ca 1833, CSA). They were the parents of four known children: 1. James (b.ca 1873); 2. Benjamin (1875-1922) married Lillie (1878-1929); 3. Margaret (b.ca 1877) married John C. Barron; and 4. John Allen Mayo (b. 1880).

George Sloman Diamond (1845-1927, buried at Cora Cemetery) was first married to Julia McCurdy (1848-1874), daughter of Elijah and Barbara McCurdy. George and Julia were the parents of four known children: 1. Nancy (b.ca 1867-died young); 2. Peter Lazarus (1868-1940) married Harriet Elizabeth Holland (1877-1960); 3. Walker Harvey (1871-1956) married Mary Ann Melissa Morris (1869-1954), daughter of Wm J. and Matilda Morris; 4. Elizabeth (b. 1873) married Alonzo Carnley (b.ca 1855), son of Milton and Sara Carnley; 5. Ella (1877-1949) married Clyde "Jessie" Vaughn (1907-1975); 6. George Washington (1881-1922) married Florence L. Dixon (1884-1912) and next to Bertha Hobbs; 7. Minnie Mary (1883-1896); 8. William Andrew (b. 1887) married Nancy Elizabeth Freeman; 9. Benjamin Elbert (1891-1952) married Mary Alice Parker (1894-1962); 10. Stella (died before 1900 census); 11. Clara E. Diamond (b ca 1895}.

James Hardy Diamond (1848-1928, buried at Coon Hill Cemetery) married Margaret M. McDavid (1853-1937), daughter of Joel and Sabra McDavid. They were the parents of ten known children born in Santa Rosa: 1. James (b&d 1872); 2. Cora (b&d 1874); 3. Lillie (b.ca 1875) married Charles Monroe Penton; 4. Mary (b.ca 1877); 5. Joel (b.ca 1879); 6. Leroy (b.ca 1880); 7. Francis (b.ca 1881) married Joseph L. Brewton; 8. Ida Dell (1883-1961) married Hugh P. Campbell (1881-1957); 9. Bessie Nora (1886-1969) married Albert Enfinger (1886-1968); and 10. Marion Chipley Diamond (1889-1976) married Cora Ward (1901-1993).

Peter Lazarus Diamond (1849-1929, buried at Cora Cemetery) married Mary Etta Ezell (1863-1934), daughter of Jesse Ezell and Eliza Wells. Peter was in the Home Guards with his father. To Peter and Mary eight children were born in Santa Rosa; one daughter and seven sons known as the "Seven Little Diamonds in the Rough": 1. John Thomas (1878-1963) married Essie Godfrey (1880-1933); 2. Henry Van (1880-1944) married Corine Bankster (1884-1953); 3. Mamie Etta (1882-1938) married John Grandville Hudson (1882-1978); 4. Samuel Ingram (b.ca 1885); 5. Charles Peter (b. Jan. I, 1887); 6. Emory Gayle (1892-1967); 7. Irl Eden (1894-1985); and 8. Walter Dewitt Diamond (1896-1972).

Mary Ann Diamond (1852-1951, buried at Cora Cemetery) married James W. Nelson (1852-1931). They were the parents of nine known children born in Santa Rosa: 1. William Riley (1870-1945) married Roxie Emmett (1873-1947); 2. Mary (b.ca 1874) married W.P. Elliott; 3. James William (b. Aug. 19, 1875) married Laura Jackson (1875-1915); 4. Sabra Ann (1878-1954) married Henry Magaha (1872-1948); 5. Orra Buck (1883-1967) married Elizabeth Emmett (1883-1958); 6. Lora (1886-1964) married James H. Emmett (1880-1956); 7. Charles E. (1888-1929) married Martha Jane Kemp (1898-1968); 8. Alice (1890-1984)

married Hubert Bray (1885-1967); and 9. Roxie (1893-1965) married Herbert Dykes (1890-1963).

Matilda Diamond (1853-1932, buried at Jordon Cemetery, Pensacola) married Thomas J. Coker (1853-1914). They were the parents of eight known children: 1. John (1874-1933); 2. Alice (1876-1939) married Horace H. Fleming (1877-1925); 3. Benjamin Franklin (b. 1879); 4. Mayme C. (1881-1915), buried at Jordon Cemetery as Mayme Boyett); 5. Bertha (1883-1971) married William Henry Crawford (1879-1965); 6. William Henry (b. 1886); 7. Claudia (1892-1973, buried at McCurdy Cemetery as Claudia McCurdy); Omer Hudson Coker (b. 1894)

Walker Anderson Diamond (1855-1933) married Eliza Ann Padgett and they had five children. After her death, Walker married Mary Elizabeth Tidall and they had twelve children. Walker operated a sawmill and dairy farm in Pine Forest, Escambia County, Florida until his death.

Benjamin W. Diamond was born July 23, 1857 and died October 22, 1879, buried at Coon Hill Cemetery.

Samuel J. Diamond was born December 18, 1859 and died December 1863, buried at Coon Hill Cemetery.

Young W. Diamond (b. 1862) married Emma Jane Savell (b. 1867), daughter of Morton Savell and Elizabeth Parker. They were the parents of seven known children: 1. Ralph (1889-1964) married Geneva Gurganus; 2. Morton Ross (b.1891 Mobile) married Elsie Hubbard; 3. Aubry Frederick (1897-1963) married Ellen Cullen; 4 .Mary Beatrice (b. 1897) married James Monroe Jackson; 5. Lester Young (1903-1975) married Gladys Waller; 6. Myrtle Irene (twin: b.1906) married Benjamin Richard Akridge; and 7. Miles Dewitt Diamond (twin: b&d 1906).

Cordelia Diamond (b.ca 1864) married Mr. Pearson. They were the parents of two sons: 1. Rufus Biron (1881-1933) married Nannie Magaha (1873-1947); 2.Hugh Pearson (b.ca 1886).

Researched and written by: Marla Drake Dooley - 2002