

## FIFTH GENERATION (GREAT GREAT-GRANDPARENTS)

<b>Albert's parents</b> <b>REV. WILLIAM THOMAS GRIFFIN, JR.</b> <b>"LIZZIE" ELIZABETH MARGARET ATKINS</b>	<b>Maude's Parents</b> <b>HENRY C. BELCHER</b> <b>NANCY C. MILNER</b>
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Starting with this generation, there are no memories to draw from to create a story. We are left with whatever facts we can find in property and census records along with a few periodicals along the historic journey of our ancestors. It is a time now of sharing since the internet has made that possible. Many people contribute to the information gathered from genealogy sites – some from family stories, others from a family Bible if they can find it.

As I get older and interested in who my ancestors were and the lives they lived, I am ashamed that I did not find time to sit at my great grandmother Maude's knee and beg for story after story of the things she knew and had seen as she grew up. Now it is too late.

From this point, most of the information will be in chronological format insomuch as possible. I don't want to embellish and destroy any feelings for the times and the way they lived, I just want to remember the best I can and try to put it into a story format for those who follow me.

**REV. WILLIAM THOMAS GRIFFIN, JR.**  
**"LIZZIE" ELIZABETH MARGARET ATKINS**

**Rev. William Thomas GRIFFIN, Jr.**, son of **William Thomas GRIFFIN, Sr.** and **Mary Booker BARNETT**, was born on 16 Apr 1827 in Henry County, GA, and died on 2 Oct 1901 in Clayton County, GA at age 74. He is buried in the old Berea Church Cemetery, Henry County, GA.

1813 – 1817 -Sometime between 1813 and 1817 , William's father and family had left Hancock County, GA and moved into Madison County, AL. William's sister Martha was born in GA and his brother John was then born in AL in April of 1823. In November 1823, William Sr. picked his family up and moved back into GA, this time to Henry County.

1830 Census - Henry County, GA, - 3 year old William is on the census with his father, William Sr. and family. [1 male under 5] There were no names listed on census reports until 1850 so any census records before that time have to be studied and compared to family members and ages to make sure we have the right one.

1840 Census - Henry County, GA, District 641, - William was 13 years old and there is 1 male 10-15 listed in the household of his father William Sr. This fits the family information.

1850 Census - Henry County, GA, 42nd District Page 213 - 23 year old William is living in his father's house.

1851 – William married **UNKNOWN** sometime between the 1850 census and about 1851.

1852 -- This marriage apparently produced a child, **William GRIFFIN**, born in 1852. This William married **Mary**.

I can find no documented proof of this marriage but evidence points to a son William born in 1852 who lived next door later in years.

1857 - William next married "**Lizzie**" **Elizabeth Margaret ATKINS** on 17 Sep 1857 in Henry County, GA. Margaret Atkins is reported to be the second wife of William per the book: "First Families of Henry County Georgia". (I have found no record of the first marriage.)

"**Lizzie**" **Elizabeth Margaret ATKINS**, daughter of **Joseph ATKINS** and **Margaret ADAMS**, was born on 26 Apr 1838 in Oak Lawn Plantation, Henry County, GA, and died on 23 Jan 1919 in Henry County, GA at age 80. Lizzie is buried in the old Berea Church Cemetery, Henry County, GA next to her husband William.

Other sources show her birth-year as 1836 but the 1870 census lists her as 32 years old.

1860 -- According to the book: "First Families of Henry County", William was reported to be in Albany, GA, Dougherty County, living close to his sister Almeda who married Perry Cocke of Lee County.

[I have looked the census over for both Dougherty and Lee counties to see if I could find a record of this. I could find neither William nor his brother-in-law Perry Cocke.] [FWG 7-9-03]

1860 - A son **Clyde C. GRIFFIN** was born to William and Lizzie.

1862 – A second son **James GRIFFIN** was born to William and Lizzie.

1863 - William had evidently returned from Albany, GA to Henry County to live near Bear Creek Station per the book: "First Families of Henry County".

(Musing: could the return be due to the death of his father? William Sr. appears to have died during this time period of the Civil War. William Sr. was on the 1860 census but is not shown with his wife Mary in 1870)

1866 – November 10 – Lizzie's father, **Joseph ATKINS**, died on the Oaklawn Plantation. He was buried in the Adams-Atkins cemetery on the property. Today the cemetery is on private property and in a wooded area.

1868 – March 1, a third son **Joseph W. GRIFFIN** is born to William and Lizzie.

1869 – June 5, a fourth son **Albert Thomas GRIFFIN** is born to William and Lizzie.

1870 – William Jr. has had to face the death of his father **William GRIFFIN, Sr.** This area of history is a turbulent time in the south. Between the 1860 census and the 1870 census, war turned brother against brother and neighbor against neighbor. The Civil War raged for four years and culminated in Sherman marching to the sea, Savannah. In his travels across Georgia, he basically burned everything as he left town – after the Union troops had taken everything edible and of value along the way. Many families took meager possessions and food and fled further into the south to get out of the way and wait out the war. William's father may not have been able to get away. Even if he had survived Sherman, the carpetbaggers were right on the army's heels bringing their own brand of destruction and chaos.

1870 Census - Henry County, GA, Militia District 723 - Bear Creek - 43 year old William is listed in residence # 148, a farmer - 1000 - 500 - born in Georgia. 32 year old Lizzie is shown as 'Housekeeping' on the census.

This farm may or may not have been his father's plantation.

Between 1870 and 1880, William has to contend with the death of his mother, Mary Booker Barnett Griffin, who died in Henry County. Mary probably died at home on the family property.

1874 – A fifth son **Jesse GRIFFIN** is born to William and Lizzie

1877 – Finally, a daughter, **Maggie GRIFFIN** is born to William and Lizzie

1880 – May 26, Lizzie's mother, **Margaret Adams ATKINS**, died on the Oaklawn Plantation and was

buried in the Adams-Atkins cemetery.

1880 Census – Henry County, GA, 641st Lowe's District, Page 5, Last entry - 53 year old William - farmer - with wife Margaret listed on the next page. No children are listed on this census but there is a William, 28 years old, three houses away with Joseph, Albert, Jesse, and Maggie. These appear to be the children of William, Jr. living with a William Griffin, born in 1852, possibly a son from a previous marriage. To try to reason why the children are living with a half brother would be pure speculation at this point. Usually poor health might cause this but William does not die until 1901, twenty one years later.

1901 - October 2, brings to a close the life of **William Thomas GRIFFIN, Jr.** William Thomas is buried in Row 12 Lot 392 Set 1-A Old Berea Cemetery next to his wife Lizzie.



1919 – January 23 – Eighteen years after the death of her husband William, Lizzie joins him in death. **Elizabeth Margaret Atkins GRIFFIN** is buried in Row 12, Lot 391, Set 1-A Old Berea Cemetery.

There is no headstone marking the grave of Lizzie but there is a stone for William next to her.

William Thomas and Margaret Elizabeth had six children:

**Clyde C. Griffin** was born in 1860.

10 year old Clyde appeared on the Federal census in 1870 in Henry County, GA. in the household of his father William Jr.

**James Griffin** was born in 1862.

8 year old James appeared on the Federal census in 1870 in Henry County, GA. in the household of his father William Jr.

**Joseph W. Griffin** was born on 1 Mar 1868, died on 14 Mar 1954 at age 86. He was buried in the old Berea Church Cemetery, Henry County, GA. [Joe W. Griffin, born 3-1-1868 died 3-14-1954 is buried in the Old Berea Cemetery, Row 13, Lot 400, Set 1-A near his father and mother, W. T. and Lizzie.]

2 year old Joseph appeared on the Federal census in 1870 in Henry County, GA. in the household of his father William Jr.

**Albert Thomas Griffin, Sr.** was born on 5 Jun 1869 in Clayton County, GA, and died on 5 Sep 1947 in Ellijay, Gilmer County, GA age 78. He was buried in the Ellijay Cemetery. The cause of his death was Endocarditic Chronic. Albert married **Mary Maude Belcher**, daughter of **Henry C. Belcher** and **Nancy C. Milner**, on 5 Jun 1896 in Clayton County, GA. Mary was born in Dec 1879 in Clayton County, GA, and died on 16 Sep 1968 in Douglasville, GA at age 88. Maude was buried in the Ellijay Cemetery. [SEE GENERATION FOUR]

**Jess GRIFFIN** was born in 1874.

**Maggie GRIFFIN** was born in 1877.

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**HENRY C. BELCHER**  
**NANCY C. MILNER**

My sincere thanks go to Jennie Zuccarini and Charles Brooks Jr., Belcher descendants and researchers for their input with the Belcher family tree.



Henry Belcher  
and Nannie Griffin his granddaughter



Nancy Milner Belcher

1843 - **Henry C. BELCHER**, son of **Joseph Newton BELCHER** and **Martha Louisa PEACOCK**, was born in Jul 1843 in Henry County, GA and died on 29 Jul 1920 in Crawford County, GA at age 77.

1848 - **Nancy C. MILNER**, daughter of **Joshua A. MILNER** and **Mary Ann ALLS**, was born in May 1848 in Henry County, GA and died between 1910 and 1920 in Clayton County, GA about age 62.

1850 - Federal Census, Fayette County, GA - 7 Year

old Henry is listed in the household of J. N. Belcher, his father, along with mother and siblings  
 1850 - Federal Census, Henry County, GA – 1 year old Nancy is listed in the 42<sup>nd</sup> District with parents and siblings



1860 - June 30 - Federal Census, Clayton County, GA - 17 year old Henry is listed with parents and siblings  
 1860 – June 10 – Federal Census, Clayton County, GA – 11 year old Nancy is listed with parents and siblings

1861 - Civil War - 18 year old Henry enlisted in the GA Infantry, Confederate Army.

Belchers in Georgia Civil War  
<http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.com/~genbel/june/geocwbel.htm>  
[www.civilwardata.com](http://www.civilwardata.com)  
<http://www.geocities.com/ggbelcher/Belcherefghij.html>

Henry C. Belcher  
 Residence Clayton County GA; Enlisted on 9/25/1861 as a Private. On

9/25/1861 he mustered into "I" Co. GA 30th Infantry (date and method of discharge not given) He was listed as: \* On rolls 12/31/1862 (place not stated) (No further record) Source: Roster of Confederate Soldiers of Georgia 1861-1865

Belcher Henry C. GA 30 Inf I C 9/25/61 P

Note: Clayton Co... (Clayton Invincibles). Enl. 25 Sept. 1861 and on roll 31 Dec. 1862. No other record. Not on Broadfoot or CW in GA, but in HDS and muster roll for Henry L. of box 226, extraction 62. William T. Belcher was in Co. K.

Army of Tennessee, CSA, Clayton Co., Georgia Invincibles, or Clayton Sharpshooters  
 [Source: Jennie Zuccarini, descendant and researcher, January 2005]

1863-1870 – Nancy's father, **Joshua A. MILNER** died during this period. He was listed on the 1860 census but Mary is alone on the 1870 census

1866 - November 27 - Clayton County, GA, Marriage Book A – **Henry BELCHER** married **Nancy "Annie" A. C. MILNER** in Clayton County, GA

1868 - September 12 – A son, **William (Bud) Arnold Seals BELCHER** was born to Henry and Nancy

1870 - July 29 - Federal Census, Clayton County, GA, Jonesboro District - 27 year old Henry is listed with 21 year old wife Nancy and son William A. S., living next door to his mother-in-law, Mary A. Milner.

1870 - -- A second child, **Maggie BELCHER** was born to Henry and Nancy

1873 - September – Nancy gave birth to their third child, a girl, **Mattie E. BELCHER**

1879 - December – A fourth and last child, **Mary Maude BELCHER** was born to Henry and Nancy

1880 - June 8 - Federal Census, Clayton County, GA, Chambers District #538 Pg 14 - Roll: T9\_140; Page: 530B; Enumeration District: 36 -- 37 year old Henry is listed with 33 year old wife Nancy and children William, Maggie, Mattie, and Maude.

1893 – Henry and Nancy faces one of the most dreaded moments in the life of parents, the loss of a child. 23 year old **Maggie BELCHER** either dies or is killed in Clayton County, GA

1900 - June 8 - Federal Census, Fulton County, GA, - 56 year old Henry is with 33 year old Nancy, his wife, son William A., daughter Mattie Smith, and grandson Watson Smith in Ward 1 Atlanta, living on Larkin Drive. The census indicates Henry has been married 33 years. The census also indicates that Henry is a farmer and that he could read and write.

The census indicates that Nancy had been married 33 years, had 4 children of which 3 are still living (Maggie can not be accounted for in 1900). The census also indicated that Nancy could read and write.

1906 - Henry C. Beecher (Belcher - Co. E. - 30th Reg. - enlisted in 1861 at Jonesboro, Georgia - Discharged in 1864 in Calhoun Georgia - now residing in Lovejoy Georgia (1906)

[SOURCE: List of Ex-Confederate Soldiers living in Clayton County, GA, Jan. 1st (Various years)]

NOTE: This list is shown at the end of the Clayton Co. Tax Digest for the years 1906-1938

{Received from Jennie Zuccarini, January 2005}

1907 – Feb 27 - Henry was living in Lovejoy, Clayton County, GA, when his father, **Joseph N. BELCHER** died {SOURCE: Obit for father Joseph N. Belcher} [Info received from Jennie Zuccarini, 1/2005]

1910 - Federal Census - Clayton County, GA - 66 year old Henry is listed with 60 year old wife Nancy and son William - a widower, and grandson Leo, in the Lovejoy District. Also in the house are Smith, Thomas W., a grandson, and William Corley - 30 - a servant.

1910 - The following story appeared in the Atlanta Constitution, Friday, Dec. 30, 1910.

There is no absolute proof this is this Henry but why would Atlanta carry a story from Meridian, MS, if it were not associated with local folks? And what, may I ask, is 66 year old Henry doing in Mississippi? Interesting reading no matter who the Henry is.

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WOMAN HORSEWHIPS MAN ON STREETS OF MERIDIAN

Meridian, Miss., December 29 -- A sensation was created here on a prominent business street when Matilda Barnes publicly horsewhipped Henry

Belcher.

The woman was accompanied by her brother, Fred Warner, who stopped the horse drawing the buggy in which Belcher was riding, while his sister commanded the man to alight, at the same time slashing him across the face and shoulders with the whip.

She then ordered Belcher to accompany her to police headquarters, where she declared he had to apologize to her in the presence of Chief of Police Lyon for having caused her arrest on a charge of theft.

When the woman ushered Belcher into the presence of the chief and he learned the particulars, he ordered Mrs. Barnes locked up on a charge of assault and battery. The two brothers of Mrs. Barnes, Fred and Peter Warner, as well as her father, were arrested on the same charge.

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1910 – 1920 - **NANCY** died between the 1910 and the 1920 census. Her husband Henry is shown as a widower living with his son William in 1920.

1920 - June 11 - Federal Census, Crawford County, GA - 77 year old Henry is living with his son, William, and his family. Henry is a widower at this time.

1920 – July 29 - NOTE: **HENRY** died in Crawford County, GA, right after the census was taken on July 29, 1920 according to Certificate#200057-B. [SOURCE: Georgia Death Index 1919-1998]

STORY RECEIVED FROM JENNIE ZUCCARINE, JANUARY 2005

"Grandpa Belcher (Henry C.) died in Crawford Co., Georgia and my Daddy (William A. C. Belcher) did too. Daddy died right over there where that big oak tree is standing, the house is torn down now, both of them died in Crawford Co., GA. We carried Grandpa back up to Riverdale, we got Hart's (Mortuary Macon) to come out and embalm him. They carried him in the mail car, on the train." [SOURCE: Interview by Joy Lacey 1994 of Willis Roan Belcher, Crawford Co., Georgia, (Grandson).

Henry and Nancy had 4 children:

**William (Bud) Arnold Seals BELCHER** was born on 12 Sep 1868 in GA, died on 3 Jan 1955 in Crawford County, GA 25 at age 86, and was buried in the Conkle Family Cemetery, Henry County, GA. William married **Inez SPEAR** about 1893. William next married **Anna C. CONKLE**.

**Maggie BELCHER** was born in 1870 in Clayton County, GA, died in 1893 in Clayton County, GA at age 23, and was buried in Lovejoy Lutheran Church Cemetery. NOTE: Maggie's mother is listed on the 1900 census as having given birth to 4 children with only 3 of those children living. William, Mattie, and Maude can be accounted for in 1900 but Maggie can not. (Maggie died in 1893 - cause unknown)

**Mattie E. BELCHER** was born in Sep 1873 in GA 26 and died after 1910. Mattie married **Henry W. SMITH** on 20 Sep 1896 in Clayton County, GA.

**Mary Maude BELCHER.** Mary married **Albert Thomas GRIFFIN, Sr.** on 5 Jun 1896 in Clayton County, GA. [See Fourth Generation - Great Grand Parents]

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