

The following narrative, information, and charts on the extended family of Thomas Coleman (1800-1861), Louisville steamboat captain and founder and first President of the Louisville Rolling Mill, were developed in the course of my background research for Jaybird; A.J. Moxham and the Manufacture of the Johnson Rail (Johnstown Area Heritage Association, 1991). This material is provided to the Filson Club in the hope it may prove helpful for future researchers who need what partial and incomplete information I have been able to accumulate on the Coleman family.

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May 1991

THE FAMILY LINEAGE OF THOMAS COLEMAN OF LOUISVILLE

The Coleman family lineage can be traced back to the marriage of Thomas Coleman, a prosperous coal merchant in Cork, Ireland, and Nano Barry. According to the biography of John Coleman (1817-1876) in J. Stoddard Johnston's Memorial History of Louisville (1896), the Colemans had eight children, of which John was the youngest. The most prominent of the children in Louisville history was Thomas Coleman (1800-1861) who, upon entry at New Orleans with his family and sister in 1835, was said to have adopted the middle name Cooper after James Fenimore Cooper. John Coleman emigrated to the United States in 1837, also through New Orleans, and joined his brother in Louisville.

In Cork, Thomas Coleman had married (October 18, 1821) Catherine Clare Dwyer (?-June 22, 1830), who bore him four children: Thomas Anthony Coleman (1824-1901), who adopted his father's name Thomas Cooper Coleman after his father's death in 1861; Margaret Coleman (1825-1904), who married Peter Donigan of Louisville in 1850; John Coleman (1826-?); and Nanno Coleman (1827-1914). On November 26, 1833, Thomas Coleman married Deborah (Dora) Morgan (August 10, 1810-February 28, 1898), daughter of John Morgan and Elizabeth Pritchard of Collena, Glamorganshire, South Wales, and left Ireland in 1834 for the United States. En route, their first child John Morgan Coleman (1834-1886) was born in France. The remainder of Coleman's nine children by Dora were born in Louisville, except Evan James, born in Ohio. The entire Thomas (Cooper) Coleman family is listed in Chart I below.

Thomas Coleman's brother John (1817-1876) married Margaret Bannon of New York in 1847 and had twelve children. He captained one of Coleman's steamboats until 1851, resided in Canada for two years, and returned to Louisville in 1853 to become sales manager of his brother's rolling mill company, until his retirement in 1875.

Thomas Cooper Coleman (March 17, 1824-December 17, 1901c) married (May 3, 1849) Dulcena (Dullie) Payne Johnson (February 9, 1833-October 5, 1911c) of Great Crossing, Scott County, Kentucky, whose brother Jilson P. Johnson had property near Louisville. She bore him thirteen children, listed in Chart II. The Johnson family can be cross-referenced with the Johnson genealogy commissioned by Tom Johnson in 1910, which is in the Filson Club Library.

Note: Many of the Coleman family are buried in Cave Hill Cemetery in Louisville. Those buried in the main Coleman plots, the Moxham plot, and the du Pont plot are indicated by the letter <c> next to date of death. A listing of these is appended.

CHART I

Children of
Thomas (Cooper) Coleman (1800-1861c)
and
Deborah (Dora) Morgan (1810-1898c)

Thomas Cooper (nay Anthony) Coleman (1824-1901c) by Catherine Dwyer, married
Dulcenia Payne Johnson [see chart II].

Margaret Coleman (1825-1904c) by Catherine Dwyer, married Peter Donigan in 1850.

John Coleman (1826-?) by Catherine Dwyer.

Nanno Coleman (1827-1914) by Catherine Dwyer.

John Morgan Coleman (1834-1886).

Eliza Ann (Bessie) Coleman (1836-1914c), n.m.

Ellen Susan Coleman (January 17, 1838-May 10, 1876c) married (April 18, 1861) Antoine
Bidermann du Pont (October 13, 1837-October 22, 1923c) and bore eight children, listed in
Chart III.

Michael Barry Coleman (1840-1907).

Evan James Coleman (1841-1902c).

William Pritchard (Will) Coleman (1844-1901).

Edward Randall Coleman (1847-1886).

Dora Catherine Coleman (1849-1869c).

Richard Llewellyn Coleman (1851-1901).

CHART II

Children of
Thomas Cooper Coleman (1824-1901c)
and
Dulcena Payne Johnson (1833-1911c)

Ann Mary Coleman (1850-1891), n.m.

Catherine Clara Coleman (1852-1853c), died in infancy.

Margaret Dwyer (Maggie) Coleman (1854-1940c) who married Edgar C. Moxham in 1891.

Helen Johnson Coleman (1856-1932c) who married Arthur James Moxham in 1876 [see Chart IV].

Dora Morgan Coleman (1858-1933), who married Thomas Ward in 1878 and had three children: Thomas Coleman Ward (born 1879 at the Meadows, Coleman's country home near Sheppardsville), Edith Ward (born 1881 Birmingham, Alabama), and Richard Donigan Ward (born 1886 Birmingham).

Jilson Johnson Coleman (1859-1927c) who married Mary Rice of New Albany, Indiana in 1882 and had three children: William J. Coleman (born 1883 New Albany), Mary Helen Coleman (born 1885 Central City, KY), and Marguerite Coleman (born 1888 in Cleveland).

Bessie Coleman (1861-1886c) who married Edgar C. Moxham in 1882 [see Chart V].

Dulcena Coleman (1863-1954) who married Charles Alfred Marshall (1855-1889) of Louisville at the Meadows in 1886. Marshall was killed in the Great Johnstown Flood on May 31, 1889, and Dulcena bore his only child, a daughter named (after her father) Charles Alfred (Charlie) Marshall (1889-1987) in December 1889. Charlie married G. Edgar Straeffer (1888-1970) in 1911 and had four children: Dulcena Straeffer (1913-), G. Edgar Straeffer (1917-), Carolyn Straeffer (1914-1984), and Charles Alfred Straeffer (1920-).

Jennie Coleman (1866-1938c) who married Thomas J. Johnson and had two children.

Thomas Cooper Coleman (1868-1926) who married Lilly Belle Zazio and had three children.

Ophelia (Pellie) Coleman (1870-1966c), n.m.

Alberta (Bertie) Johnson Coleman (1873-1950c), n.m.

Caddie J. Coleman (1875-1876c), died in infancy.

CHART III

Children of
Ellen Susan Coleman (1838-1876c)
and
Antoine Bidermann du Pont (1837-1923c)

Margaretta Elizabeth du Pont (1862-1938) married Michael Bannen Coleman (1856-1898) in 1888 and had three children: Arthur Moxham Coleman (1890-1931), Greta Clare Coleman (1891-1952); and Alfred Victor Coleman (1893-1967).

Thomas Coleman du Pont (1863-1930) who married his cousin Alice du Pont (1863-1937) in 1889 and had no children.

Antoine Bidermann du Pont (Jr.) (1865-1919), who married Mary Ethel Clark (1870-1909) in 1892 and had three children: Aileen Madelon du Pont (b.1893); Ethel Bidermann du Pont (1896-1980); and Victorine du Pont (b.1890) who married Samuel Eldon Homsey in 1929. A.B. Jr. married a second time in 1913 to Elizabeth Hibbs (1883-1978) with no children.

Dora du Pont (1867-1891) who married Henry Rodney Phillips in 1886 and had one child: Dora Coleman Phillips. She married Egbert Moxham (1881-1956), son of Helen Coleman and Arthur Moxham [see Chart IV].

Zara du Pont (1869-1946c), n.m.

Pauline du Pont (1871-1949) who married Henry Furlong Baldwin in 1895.

Evan Morgan du Pont (1872-1941) who married Helen Augusta Quinn (1876-1917) of Johnstown, PA in 1901 and had six children: James Quinn du Pont (1902-1973); Bidermann Thomas du Pont (1904-); Rosina du Pont (1907-); Ellen Coleman du Pont (1909-); Dora Prichard du Pont (1911-); and William Bayard du Pont (1914-1945). Evan married a second time in 1924 to Mabel Campbell Entwisle (1880-1963).

An infant born and died May 10, 1876 (on the same day as mother Ellen Susan Coleman du Pont died).

Note: Ellen Susan Coleman and A. Bidermann du Pont and two of their children are buried in Cave Hill Cemetery in Section A, plot 217. Bidermann had relocated to Wilmington, Delaware at the turn of the century, but was buried in Cave Hill rather than the du Pont cemetery at Sand Hole Woods.

CHART IV

The Children of
Helen Johnson Coleman (1856-1932c)
and
Arthur James Moxham (1854-1931c)

Thomas Coleman Moxham (1877-1901c), born in Louisville, married in July 1900 to Ellen Huston (?-1901c). One son (Thomas) was stillborn in 1901 shortly after Thomas Coleman Moxham was killed in a mill accident in Nova Scotia. Ellen died in childbirth.

Egbert Moxham (1881-1956), born in Birmingham, Alabama, married May 30, 1906 to Dora Coleman Phillips (1887-1962), granddaughter of Ellen Susan Coleman and A. Bidermann du Pont [see Chart III], with three children: Zara du Pont Moxham (1907-), married in 1930 to Joseph Rowan (1911-1933) and in 1935 to Richard Small (1911-); Egbert Moxham, Jr. (1912-) married in 1934 to Virginia Hunter; and Arthur James Moxham (1914-), married in 1940 to Sidney Mitchell Todd, and having three children: Michael Leeds Moxham, Deborah Morgan Moxham, and Arthur James Moxham, III.

Florence E. Moxham, born on April 18, 1883 in Johnstown, PA and died one week later (c).

Dulcena Coleman Moxham (1885-1956c), born in Johnstown, PA and married (about 1901) to Phillip Pryor Huston, Jr. (1877-1948c) of Louisville, brother of Ellen Huston [above], and having four children: Phillip, Dulcena, Katherine, and Alice.

Evangeline Morgan Moxham (1887-?), born in Brigend, South Wales and married in 1912 to George Lobdell.

CHART V

Children of

Bessie Coleman (1861-1886c)

and

Edgar Coleman Moxham (1858-1913c)

Katedulwe (nay Katherine Dulcena WeeWee) Moxham (1883-1931), born at the Meadows, married to Eugene E. du Pont (1882-1966) in 1908, and having four children: Dulcena Ophelia (nay Deo) du Pont (1909-) married to George Tyler Weymouth in 1930; Phyllis Moxham du Pont (1915-) married in 1935 to Charles Porter Schutt; Elizabeth Murton du Pont (1917-) married in 1938 to Walter Samuel Carpenter III (1915-1973); and Nancy Bradford du Pont (1919-) married in 1940 to William Glasgow (Scotty) Reynolds (1911-1986).

Robert Coleman (nay Margat) Moxham (1885-1912c), n.m.

Bessie C. Moxham (1886-?), married to Charles Ingersol (Pete) Gause.

Note: After Bessie Coleman Moxham died giving birth to her third child in 1886, her older sister Margaret (Maggie) became nanny to the three children. Edgar Moxham ultimately married Maggie in 1891, a marriage that failed almost immediately. Both Bessie and Maggie, and son Robert, are buried in the Coleman vault; Edgar Moxham is buried in the Moxham plot.

**COLEMAN, MOXHAM AND DU PONT PLOTS IN CAVE HILL CEMETERY,
LOUISVILLE**

The Coleman Vault: [Section F, plot 229]

Notes: * indicates children buried in same vault space
x indicates cremated and in urn on vault floor
[1] removed to lot 14-M in 1904
[2] removed to Moxham plot 36-1 in 1901
[3] removed to lot 5-F in 1902

Thomas Coleman (1800-1861).

Dora Morgan Coleman (1810-1898) wife of Thomas Coleman.

Thomas C. Coleman (1824-1901) son of Thomas Coleman and Dora Morgan.

Dulcena Johnson Coleman (1833-1911) wife of Thomas C. Coleman.

Bessie Coleman Moxham (1861-1886) daughter of Thomas C. Coleman and wife of Edgar Coleman Moxham.

Dora Catherine Coleman (1849-1869) daughter of Thomas C. Coleman.

Margaret Coleman Donigan (1825-1904) sister of Thomas C. Coleman [1].

Jennie Coleman Johnson (1866-1938) daughter of Thomas C. Coleman.

Catherine C. Coleman (1852-1853) daughter of Thomas C. Coleman.*

Caddie J. Coleman (1875-1876) daughter of Thomas C. Coleman.*

Florence E. Moxham (1883-1883) daughter of Helen Coleman and Arthur J. Moxham [2].*

Annie Coleman (1902) -- ?? possibly Ann Mary Coleman, daughter of Thomas C. Coleman (1850-1891).

Mrs. Georgia H. Coleman (1902) -- ??

Mrs. Marie Louise Coleman (1872) -- ?? possibly the wife of one of the sons of Thomas Coleman.

Robert Coleman Moxham (1885-1912) son of Bessie Coleman and Edgar Coleman Moxham.

Elizabeth Ann Coleman (1836-1876) daughter of Thomas Coleman and Dora Morgan.

Margaret Dwyer Coleman Moxham (1854-1940x) daughter of Thomas C. Coleman and second wife of Edgar Moxham.

Evan James Coleman (1841-1902x) son of Thomas Coleman and Dora Morgan.

John M. Coleman (1921x) -- ??

Barry Coleman, Jr. (1892) -- ?? [3]

Coleman Plots 228, 229 1/2 (behind vault):

Jilson J. Coleman (1859-1927?), son of Thomas C. Coleman.

Mary Rice Coleman (?-?) wife of Jilson J. Coleman.

Bertie Johnson Coleman (Alberta 1873-1950) daughter of Thomas C. Coleman.

Ophelia Smith Coleman (Pelie 1870-1966) daughter of Thomas C. Coleman.

Ophelia Smith -- ??

Helen J. Lewis (1836-1874) sister of Dulcenia Johnson Coleman and wife of Stephen Lewis.

Coleman Plot: (Section I, plot 149)

Thomas C. Coleman (1868-1926) son of Thomas C. Coleman

Lily Z. Coleman (1870-1961) wife

Thomas C. Coleman, Jr. (1898-1975)

Edith Coleman (1898-1971)

William Z. Coleman (1902-1935)

The Moxham Plot: (Section 1, plot 36)

Arthur James Moxham

Helen Coleman Moxham, wife

Thomas Coleman Moxham, son

Ellen Huston Moxham and child, wife of Thomas Coleman Moxham

Edgar Coleman Moxham, brother of Arthur Moxham

Dulcenia Moxham Huston, daughter of Arthur Moxham

Phillip Huston, husband of Dulcenia Moxham Huston and brother of Ellen Huston Moxham

The du Pont Plot: (Section A, plot 217)

A. Bidermann du Pont

Ellen Susan Coleman du Pont, wife

Zara du Pont, daughter

One other child