



NEVILLE'S MATERNAL GRANDFATHER

STANLEY NEVILLE PURIFOY

b. 12/8/1879 *Union Church, Jefferson Co., MS*

d. 6/27/1942 *Jonesboro, Craighead Co., AR*



STANLEY NEVILLE PURIFOY'S PARENTS & GRANDPARENTS

JOHN WHITFIELD PURIFOY

b. 10/27/1829 *Upton Co., GA*
d. 1/7/1900 *Crystal Springs, Copleah Co., MS*

m. 1/21/1871 *Barnesville, Lamar Co., GA*

ESTHER ANN MADDUX *(2nd wife)*

b. 9/28/1839 *Warrenton, Warren Co., GA*
d. 12/21/1909 *Hazelhurst, Copleah Co., MS*

REV. STANLEY PEURIFOY

b. 9/3/1800 *Warfield, Putnam Co., GA*
d. 5/4/1864 *Yatesville, Upton Co., GA*

m. 6/14/1827 *Upton Co., GA*

MARTHA NEAL PERSONS

b. 2/17/1809 *Warren or Putnam Co., GA*
d. 4/16/1889 *Yatesville, Upton Co., GA*

REV. PATRICK NEAL MADDUX

b. 1/25/1801 *Warren Co., GA*
d. 7/4/1870 *Zebulon, Pike Co., GA*

m. 11/21/1826 *Charleston, Charleston Co., SC*

MARTHA NEVILLE

b. 8/25/1807 *Charleston, Charleston Co., SC*
d. 7/28/1873 *Atlanta, Fulton Co., GA*

STANLEY NEVILLE PURIFOY'S ANCESTORS

The ancestral lineage of Neville's grandfather **Stanley Neville Purifoy (1879–1942)** is the deepest of any of Neville's ancestors. We have records that trace his lineage for many centuries into Continental Europe and medieval England.

The American patriarch of Neville's Purifoy forefathers is **Captain Thomas Purefoy Sr. (1578–1639)**, who came to colonial Virginia in 1621. Later generations of Purifoy—Baptist and Methodist ministers—migrated to New Bern, North Carolina, and then to Hancock County, Georgia.

Stanley's grandparents, **Rev. Stanley Peurifoy (1800–1864)** and **Martha Neal Persons (1809–1889)**, were from large landholding families in Upson County, Georgia, before the Civil War. Martha Persons's antecedents were early colonial Virginia settlers who came to Jamestown, Virginia, in 1648. The Persons family moved to North Carolina in the eighteenth century and then to Georgia after the American Revolutionary War (1775–83). They migrated to Upson County, Georgia, in about 1822.

After the Civil War, in 1871, Rev. Stanley Peurifoy's son **John Whitfield Purifoy (1829–1900)** and his second wife, **Esther Ann Maddux (1839–1909)**, migrated to Jefferson County in southwestern Mississippi. Their youngest child, Stanley Neville Purifoy, moved as a teenager from Crystal Springs, Mississippi, to Jonesboro, Arkansas, in 1896.

Stanley Neville Purifoy's maternal grandparents were **Rev. Patrick Neal Maddux (1801–1870)** and **Martha Neville (1807–1873)**, who lived in both Warren and Pike Counties in Georgia. The Maddux line probably originated in Wales, but it is only documented back to Warren County, Georgia, in the late eighteenth century. Martha Neville was born and married in Charleston, South Carolina. She was the daughter of an Irish Quaker cabinetmaker, **Joshua Neville (1765–1851)**, who immigrated to the United States in 1781.

MIGRATION | PURIFOY/PERSONS AND MADDUX/NEVILLE



BLUE is maternal
RED is paternal
arr. = arrived
rec. = recorded



STANLEY NEVILLE PURIFOY'S LIFE

Neville's first and only forename comes from the middle name of her maternal grandfather, **Stanley Neville Purifoy (1879–1942)**. Originally a family surname, the name Neville¹ has been passed down for many generations. In my wife's American ancestry, the name first appears with her third great-grandfather **Joshua Neville (1765–1851)**, and it extends to our granddaughter, Augusta Neville Bryan (b. 2000).



*Stanley Neville Purifoy
in Crystal Springs, c. 1888, at
about age nine.*

Neville recalls her grandfather quite fondly, though she had just turned six years old in the month before his death. It is notable that Neville was among the last people to whom Stanley Neville Purifoy spoke.

Stanley Neville Purifoy was born on December 8, 1879, in a small town called Union Church in Jefferson County, Mississippi, a poor agricultural county with a predominately African American populace. The county is near Natchez in southwestern Mississippi. Stanley Purifoy's parents, **John Whitfield Purifoy (1829–1900)** and **Esther Ann Maddux (1839–1909)**, were devout Methodists who had migrated to Jefferson County from Georgia in 1871.

Stanley Neville Purifoy was the youngest of ten children. He had four half siblings and five full siblings.² The first four children were sired by his father, John Whitfield Purifoy, with his first wife, Mary Lucinda Greene (1835–c. 1863). Those children, all born in Alabama between 1854 and 1861, were eighteen to twenty-five years older than Stanley. The youngest of Stanley's half siblings was **Julia Purifoy (1861–1949)**,³ who lived in Jonesboro, Arkansas, for fifty-three years. Stanley Neville Purifoy first came to Jonesboro with his half sister's family in 1896.

Stanley Neville Purifoy's five full siblings were all born in Mississippi in the 1870s. His sister **Martha Elizabeth Purifoy (1876–1962)**⁴ was born in Jefferson County but later moved to Crystal Springs, a small town (population 5,000) in Copiah County, Mississippi. Crystal Springs is about twenty-four miles south of Jackson, the capital of Mississippi. Martha Elizabeth (called Mattie) had four daughters, first cousins of Neville's mother, **Margaret Alice Purifoy (1908–1973)**. One of



Stanley Neville Purifoy at age eighteen in Jonesboro, 1898.



Stanley's brothers, **Linfield "Linn" Purifoy (1878–1949)**,⁵ who was one year older than Stanley, also lived in Crystal Springs. Linn Purifoy sired thirteen children,⁶ all first cousins of Neville's mother. Linn also had thirty-three grandchildren, Neville's second cousins.

In about 1882, John Whitfield and Esther Ann Maddux Purifoy and their five surviving children moved from Union Church to Crystal Springs in Copiah County, Mississippi. Then in 1896 at age sixteen, after two years of high school, Stanley Neville Purifoy dropped out and moved to Jonesboro, Arkansas, with the family of his thirty-five-year-old half sister, Julia Purifoy McDonald.

Stanley Neville Purifoy was born in 1879 in Union Church. After 1880 he moved to Crystal Springs, and in 1896, at age sixteen, he moved with his thirty-five-year-old half sister, Julia Purifoy McDonald, and her family to Jonesboro.

In the 1900 U.S. Census, Stanley Neville Purifoy is recorded as a twenty-year-old day laborer boarding in the household of **John Cornelius Gillespie (1843–1907)**, a brick contractor and Stanley’s future father-in-law. In that same census, we also learned that the Gillespie house on McClure street in Jonesboro was next door to the home of Stanley N. Purifoy’s sister, Julia Purifoy McDonald. Thus, Stanley N. Purifoy, at age sixteen, met fifteen-year-old **Ola Frank Gillespie (1881–1934)**. It is quite likely that they were teenage sweethearts.

Sometime between 1900 and 1904, Stanley Neville Purifoy began to work for the Singer Sewing Machine Company, a major American enterprise of that time.⁷ His employment with the company lasted for about thirty-five years. In the newspaper account of his wedding in 1904, Stanley is referred to as “*an excellent young businessman with the Singer Sewing Machine Company.*”



Stanley Neville Purifoy (around age twenty-four), early 1904.



Stanley Neville Purifoy (age twenty-four), Ola Frank Gillespie (age twenty-two), and John Wesley Mackey (age thirty-eight), Ola Frank’s uncle. This photograph was taken in February 1904, about six weeks before Ola Frank Gillespie and Stanley Neville’s wedding on March 30.



Neville's grandparents Stanley Neville and Ola Frank Gillespie Purifoy in a pair of photographic portraits taken around the time of their wedding, 1904.

Stanley Neville Purifoy and Ola Frank Gillespie's wedding in 1904 was a grand event held on Wednesday, March 30, at the First Baptist Church, where the Gillespies were members. The newlyweds were said to be among Jonesboro's most popular young people.

Stanley Neville Purifoy's religious heritage was deeply Methodist, for his father and mother were both devout Methodists and were children of Methodist ministers. For this reason, even following their marriage, Stanley remained a Methodist and Ola continued as a Baptist. It is said that for Sunday services, they alternated between attending Ola's and Stanley's churches. However, they did decide to raise their daughter, Margaret Alice Purifoy, as a Baptist.



Stanley Neville and Ola Frank Gillespie Purifoy with their daughter, Margaret Alice Purifoy, c. 1914.

Neville's mother, Margaret Alice Purifoy, was born four years after Stanley and Ola Gillespie Purifoy married. She was their only child. In May 1910, Stanley, Ola, and two-year-old Margaret Alice were living at 821 Washington Avenue in a house that they would own for over twenty-five years. With them was Stanley's fifty-two-year-old mother-in-law, **Sarah Alice Mackey (1857–1911)**, who was ill and would pass away eighteen months later.

On September 12, 1918, Stanley Neville Purifoy registered for the draft for World War I (1914–1918).* He was not called into service. On his registration card, he was described as short in height, with a

medium build, gray eyes, and light brown hair. From his pictures, Stanley appears to be 5'6" tall, about two inches taller than his wife.

Also in 1918, Stanley Neville Purifoy was promoted to district manager for the Singer Sewing Machine Company. In the 1920 census, his occupation is listed as "State Supervisor Sewing Machine Co. Exec." In the 1930 census, his title is "District Manager—Singer S. Machine."

Stanley Neville Purifoy's daughter, Margaret Alice Purifoy, married **Charles Davis Frierson Jr. (1907–1970)** in 1931, and in mid-1932, Stanley's first grandchild, Charles Davis Frierson III, was born.

* Stanley Neville Purifoy, at age thirty-eight, registered during the third World War I registration period, on September 18, 1918. The registration was for men between ages eighteen and twenty-one, and ages thirty-one and forty-five. Men between ages twenty-one and thirty-one had previously registered. About twenty-five million men registered for the World War I draft.



Stanley Neville Purifoy's Singer Sewing Machine office in Jonesboro, 1929. The two women are Ola Frank Gillespie Purifoy's nieces—Kathleen Jackson on the left, and Maurine Jackson on the right. The man at center has not been identified.



Stanley Neville and Ola Frank Gillespie Purifoy, 1920s.



Charles Davis Frierson Jr. (age twenty-seven), Charles Davis Frierson III (age eighteen months), and Stanley Neville Purifoy (age fifty-four), probably in early 1934.



Neville Frierson (about age nine months) with her grandfather Stanley Neville Purifoy, February 1937.

Stanley Purifoy's wife, Ola Gillespie Purifoy, died in mid-1934, at age fifty-three, after a multiyear battle with cancer. Two years later, in 1936, his second grandchild, Neville, was born.

Sometime in the late 1930s, Stanley Purifoy retired after about thirty-five years with the Singer Sewing Machine Company. In 1940, at age sixty, his occupation was listed in the census as collector. After Stanley's retirement, he reportedly went into the real-estate business and was said to have been very successful. He accumulated rental houses and apartments. When he died in 1942, he left his daughter, Margaret Purifoy Frierson, twenty-three rental properties, some with outstanding mortgages. We also know that an estate tax return was filed and a modest estate tax was paid. Stanley Purifoy's estate would, thus, have exceeded \$60,000, which was the estate tax exemption in 1942.

Ola Virginia "Jin" Jackson Faulkner (b. 1926), Stanley Purifoy's niece, remembers that her uncle often came to Sunday dinner (held at lunchtime) at her home after his wife died. She recalls that he was very jolly and often teased the young girls.

Neville remembers that her grandfather came by their house on Park Avenue in Jonesboro every morning, dressed in a suit, and brought her chewing gum. He lived about ten blocks from Neville and her parents.

In 1940 Stanley Purifoy was renting his house to Irene Spears (1894–after 1956) and her daughter for eighteen dollars a month; he was recorded as a lodger in the house. When Stanley died in 1942, he was residing at the J. H. Watts Boarding House at 318 West Washington.

Stanley Purifoy's obituary in *The Jonesboro Evening Sun*, the local newspaper, states that he "*had been suffering from high blood pressure for several years.*"

In the 1930s and 1940s, high blood pressure (hypertension) was noted as a condition but not treated. In fact, three years after Stanley's own death, when his contemporary President Franklin Delano Roosevelt (1882–1945) died, doctors did not relate the president's stroke to his history of high blood pressure.

Stanley Purifoy's fatal stroke occurred on the front porch of his boarding house at 12:45 p.m., just after lunch, on Monday, July 27, 1942. Shortly before he died, he spoke on the telephone with his six-year-old granddaughter and namesake, Neville. They were arranging to have dinner with each other that evening. Stanley Neville Purifoy died at the age of sixty-two. He was the last of Neville's seven antecedents to be buried at the old City Cemetery in Jonesboro. His obituary and funeral announcements refer to him as a prominent and well-known Jonesboro businessman.⁸



*Neville's grandfather
Stanley Neville Purifoy.*



STANLEY NEVILLE PURIFOY'S LIFE

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1. THE NAME NEVILLE

The name Neville was the middle name of my wife's maternal grandfather, **Stanley Neville Purifoy (1879–1942)**. My wife, Neville, was given no second (or middle) name, for her mother, **Margaret Alice Purifoy (1908–1973)**, thought it was useless for a girl to have a middle name.

The name Neville, used as a girl's first and only name, was suggested to my wife's parents by her paternal grandmother, **Charlotte Gallaway Frierson (1878–1968)**, who was a contemporary of Stanley Neville Purifoy in Jonesboro, Arkansas, for over forty years.

The pronunciation of Neville's name ("Nuh-VILLE") rhymes with the word *Seville*, a sub-brand name of a Cadillac automobile and the English pronunciation of a city in Spain. The usual pronunciation of the name Neville ("NEH-vel"), both as a boy's name and as a surname, places the accent on the first syllable so that name rhymes with the words *revel* and *level*.

We simply do not know how Stanley pronounced his middle name. The family believes he used the softer, more feminine pronunciation, which may or may not have been used by his ancestors. Another possibility, of course, is that Neville's grandmother suggested that the pronunciation of Neville's name be adjusted to the more feminine sound.

Incidentally, the name Neville means "new town." It is derived from the French words for new (*neuf*) and town (*ville*). The Neville family probably had origins in France.

The name Neville exists amongst my wife's relatives for seven generations in America. It begins with **Joshua Neville (1765–1851)**, an Irish Quaker who came to South Carolina in 1781. His daughter **Martha Neville (1807–1873)** married **Reverend Patrick Neal Maddux (1801–1870)** in 1826. Martha had a son named **Wesley Neville Maddux (1834–1905)** and two grandsons named Neville Neal Maddux (1876–) and Neville Watts Maddux (1876–after 1940), who were first cousins of Stanley Neville Purifoy. They all lived in Jefferson County, Mississippi.

Martha Neville Maddux's daughter, **Esther Ann Maddux (1839–1909)**, gave her youngest son Stanley Neville Purifoy, the middle name Neville. My wife, Neville, has a niece, Catherine Neville Hester Averitt (b. 1974), and our granddaughter is named Augusta Neville Bryan (b. 2000).

2. THE HALF SIBLINGS AND FULL SIBLINGS OF STANLEY NEVILLE PURIFOY

Neville's grandfather **Stanley Neville Purifoy (1879–1942)** was the youngest of ten recorded children of **John Whitfield Purifoy (1829–1900)**, who was fifty years old when Stanley Neville Purifoy was born. John Whitfield Purifoy's first four children are Stanley Neville Purifoy's half siblings.

THE FOUR HALF SIBLINGS

John Whitfield Purifoy first married Mary Lucinda Greene (1835–c. 1863) in about 1853. In the 1860 census, they are recorded as living in Russell County, Alabama, with three children. That census record is for John W. Purafy, a thirty-year-old farmer and M. L. Purafy, the twenty-five-year-old wife of John W. Purafy. Their three children are recorded as R. S. Purafy, a six-year-old male; E. E. Purafy, a four-year-old female; and M. L. Purafy, a one-year-old female. The census states that the parents were born in Georgia, and the three children were born in Alabama.

- **R. S. PURIFOY (1854–)** and **E. E. PURIFOY (1856–)** are the oldest of Stanley Neville Purifoy's half siblings, and the 1860 census is the only information we have about them. When their mother, Mary Lucinda Greene Purifoy, died during the Civil War in about 1863, these two children most likely went to live with a relative in their mother's family. It is possible that Stanley Neville Purifoy never knew his two oldest half siblings.

The two youngest children from the marriage of John Whitfield Purifoy and Lucinda Greene Purifoy, were Mary Lucinda, who was one year old in the 1860 census, and Julia, who was born one year after the 1860 census. When their mother died, these two youngest children, ages four and two, went to live with their grandmother **Martha Neal Persons Peurifoy (1809–1889)** at the Peurifoy plantation in Upson County, Georgia. They then lived with their father's family from about 1863 until 1871.

John Whitfield Purifoy married his second wife, **Esther Ann "Hettie" Maddux (1839–1909)**, in early 1871, and later that year they migrated to Mississippi. They were accompanied by John Whitfield Purifoy's youngest two daughters.

- **MARY LUCINDA PURIFOY (1859–1927)** traveled with her father and stepmother to Union Church in Jefferson County, Mississippi, in the latter part of 1871. Mary Lucinda Purifoy was twelve years old when she came to Mississippi, and she lived in Jefferson County for the rest of her life.

On January 19, 1876, sixteen-year-old Mary Lucinda Purifoy married Daniel Cameron Newman (1854–1933) in Union Church, Mississippi. Census data and other records suggest they had at least three boys and four girls between 1879 and 1901. Those children are half first cousins of Neville's mother, **Margaret Alice Purifoy (1908–1973)**.

Mary Lucinda Purifoy Newman died in Union Church at age sixty-eight, in 1927. Daniel Cameron Newman, who was a farmer in Jefferson County throughout his life, died at age seventy-eight, in 1933. They are both buried in the Union Church Cemetery.



The double tombstone of Daniel Cameron Newman and his wife, Mary Lucinda Purifoy Newman, Stanley Neville Purifoy's half sister, in the Union Church Cemetery in Jefferson County, Mississippi.

- **JULIA PURIFOY (1861–1949)**, John Whitfield Purifoy's fourth child from his first marriage, was born in June 1861 in Russell County, Alabama. In 1871 she migrated with her father and stepmother to Union Church in Jefferson County, Mississippi. In 1880 she married William D. McDonald (1857–1935) in Union Church. In 1896, sixteen years later, they moved with five children from Mississippi to Jonesboro, Arkansas, where they had two more children. William D. McDonald—who is recorded in Jonesboro as a retail dry-goods store manager, a collector, and a farmer—died at age seventy-seven. Julia Purifoy McDonald, Stanley Neville Purifoy's half sister, lived for fifty-three years in Jonesboro and died at age eighty-eight, in 1949. Julia and William McDonald are buried in the City Cemetery in Jonesboro.



The double tombstone of William D. McDonald and his wife, Julia Purifoy McDonald, Stanley Neville Purifoy's half sister, in the City Cemetery in Jonesboro, Arkansas.

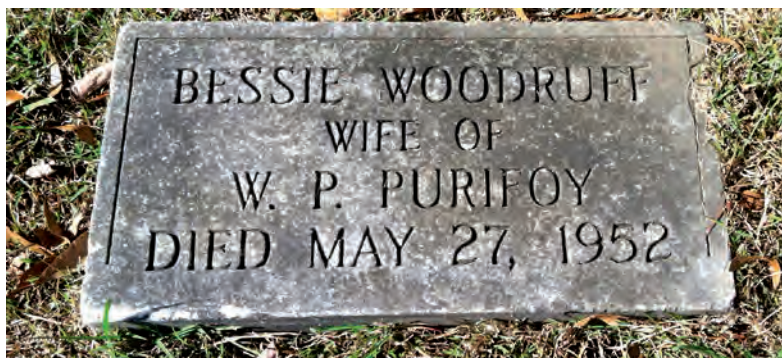
THE FIVE FULL SIBLINGS

Neville's great-grandparents John Whitfield Purifoy and Esther Ann "Hettie" Maddux married in Barnesville, Georgia, on January 21, 1871. Later that year, they moved to Union Church in Jefferson County, Mississippi. They had six children, the last of whom was Neville's grandfather Stanley Neville Purifoy. They were all born in Jefferson County, Mississippi.

- **JOHN MADDUX PURIFOY (1871–1876)** was born on October 16, 1871, and died at age four, on July 25, 1876.
- **WILLIAM "WILL" PATRICK PURIFOY (1873–1945)** was born on January 15, 1873, and married Bessie Woodruff Dickson (1875–1952) on November 17, 1908. She was a thirty-three-year-old who had been previously married and had two boys and two girls, ages two to fifteen. Records state that Will Purifoy, a watch jeweler and repairman in Atlanta, Georgia, educated his four stepchildren. He and Bessie had no children together. Will Purifoy died at age seventy-two. He and his wife are buried in East View Cemetery in Atlanta.



The tombstone of William Patrick Purifoy at East View Cemetery in Atlanta, Georgia. The 1874 birthyear on his tombstone conflicts with family records, which record his birth as 1873.



The tombstone of Bessie Woodruff Dickson Purifoy at East View Cemetery in Atlanta, Georgia.

- **LEILA “LELA” ARLONE PURIFOY (1874–1907)** was born on June 16, 1874, and died on September 20, 1907. She was a schoolteacher who died unmarried and without children at age thirty-three. Her tombstone in the Crystal Springs Cemetery uses the name Lela, not Leila.

The tombstone of Leila “Lela” Arlone Purifoy, Stanley Neville Purifoy’s sister, in the Crystal Springs Cemetery in Crystal Springs, Mississippi.



Her obituary included this statement:

More beautiful than the morning dawn of September 20, 1907, was the soul of the saintly Miss Leila Arlone Purifoy, that took its flight from earth to heaven. She was born in Jefferson County, Miss., June 16, 1874, of pious parents, J. W. and E. A. Purifoy. They were staunch Methodists, and taught their children the precepts of God and brought them up in the “nurture and admonition of the Lord”.

- **MARTHA “MATTIE” ELIZABETH PURIFOY (1876–1962)** was born on July 26, 1876. She married Robert Albert McPherson (1875–1964) in 1900, and she lived in Crystal Springs, Covich County, Mississippi. Mattie Purifoy McPherson had four daughters who were first cousins of Neville’s mother, Margaret Alice Purifoy. Mattie Purifoy McPherson died at age eighty-five, on July 3, 1962, and her husband died at age eighty-eight, in 1964.



The tombstones of Robert Albert McPherson and Martha Elizabeth Purifoy McPherson, Stanley Neville Purifoy’s sister, in the Crystal Springs Cemetery in Crystal Springs, Mississippi.

- **LINFIELD “LINN” W. PURIFOY SR. (1878–1949)** was born on December 3, 1878, and died on April 11, 1949, at age seventy. Linn Purifoy Sr. had thirteen children, who are first cousins of Neville’s mother, Margaret Alice Purifoy. He lived in Crystal Springs, Mississippi.



Tombstone of Linfield Purifoy, the brother of Stanley Neville Purifoy, in the Crystal Springs Cemetery in Crystal Springs, Mississippi. Oddly, the tombstone does not appear to have an inscription. The bronze marker in front of the gravestone reads: “Linfield Purifoy/1878–1949.”

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3. JULIA PURIFOY MCDONALD—STANLEY NEVILLE PURIFOY'S SISTER IN JONESBORO, ARKANSAS

The obituary of **Stanley Neville Purifoy (1879–1942)** in *The Jonesboro Evening Sun* states that he was survived by a sister named Mrs. W. D. McDonald of Jonesboro, Arkansas. Neither Neville nor her siblings recalled that their grandfather had a sister living in Jonesboro, so we presumed that the newspaper had made a mistake. But, in fact, the newspaper account was quite correct.

During all the years that Stanley Neville Purifoy lived in Jonesboro, from 1896 to his death in 1942, his half sister **Julia Purifoy (1861–1949)** also lived there. She was eighteen years older than Stanley Neville Purifoy, and she outlived him by seven years. She died at age eighty-eight and is buried with her husband in the City Cemetery in Jonesboro.

Julia Purifoy was the youngest of four children of **John Whitfield Purifoy (1829–1900)** and his first wife, Mary Lucinda Greene (1835–c. 1863). She was born in Russell County, Alabama, in June 1861, just a month or so before her father joined the Confederate Army. Her mother died during the Civil War (1861–65), when Julia was two or three years old, and Julia went to live with her grandmother **Martha Neal Persons Peurifoy (1809–1889)** at the Peurifoy plantation in Upson County, Georgia.

In early 1871, Julia Purifoy's father married **Esther Ann "Hettie" Maddux (1839–1909)**. Later that year, the newly married couple migrated to Jefferson County, Mississippi. They took with them ten-year-old Julia and her twelve-year-old sister, **Mary Lucinda Purifoy (1859–1927)**.

In 1880, at about age nineteen, Julia Purifoy married William D. McDonald (1857–1935) in Union Church, Mississippi. They had seven children.

Their oldest child was Everett McDonald (1882–1955), who was born in Union Church and moved to Arkansas at around age fourteen. He was a half first cousin of **Margaret Alice Purifoy (1908–1973)**, and was about twenty-six years older than she was. Everett McDonald married Bertha Lillian Smith (1884–1933) of Jonesboro in about 1904. They had two daughters and lived at 1020 Jefferson Street in Jonesboro. Everett was a carpenter. His wife died in 1933 and is buried in the City Cemetery. Everett continued to reside in Jonesboro at least until 1942, when he was living at 312 Walnut Street. He died at age seventy-three in Los Angeles, California.

Julia Purifoy and William D. McDonald next had five daughters: Nettie (1884–), Myrtie (1886–), Julia A. (1891–), Rosa (1895–), and Ruth (1897–). The first four were born in Mississippi and the last, Ruth, was born in Arkansas, after the family moved to Jonesboro in 1896. A sixth child, William D. McDonald Jr. (1900–), was born in Jonesboro in 1900, but like his older sisters, we have not been able to trace him.

Sixteen-year-old Stanley Neville Purifoy accompanied his sister Julia Purifoy McDonald and her family when they moved to Jonesboro in 1896. In the 1900 census, the McDonalds and their six children are recorded as living on McClure Street, next door to the family of **John Cornelius Gillespie (1843–1907)** and **Sarah Alice “Sallie” Mackey (1857–1911)**, with their four children and three boarders, including Julia’s younger half brother Stanley Neville Purifoy.

William D. and Julia Purifoy McDonald are enumerated in the 1900, 1910, 1920, and 1930 censuses in Jonesboro. In 1900 William McDonald’s occupation is recorded as a foreman in a box factory, and in 1910 he is listed as the manager of a retail dry-goods store. In 1920 he is called a collector in the furniture industry, residing at 828 West Oak Avenue. In 1930 the McDonalds were living on a farm outside Jonesboro. In 1940 the widowed Julia Purifoy McDonald is enumerated in the household of her son Everett McDonald, a roofer living at 737 West Oak Avenue.

It is somewhat puzzling that Julia Purifoy McDonald is not remembered by any of the grandchildren of Stanley Neville Purifoy. After all, she was his sister, and Stanley lived quite near to her for his entire life in Jonesboro.

Perhaps they simply drifted apart during his lifetime. Whatever the reason, it does appear that Stanley Purifoy chose not to engage his daughter’s family with their Aunt Julia.

STANLEY NEVILLE PURIFOY'S LIFE**PAGES 88–95****4. MARTHA ELIZABETH PURIFOY, STANLEY NEVILLE PURIFOY'S OLDER SISTER**

Martha Elizabeth Purifoy (1876–1962) was an older sister of Neville's grandfather **Stanley Neville Purifoy (1879–1942)**. She was known in the family as Mattie or Mattie Lizzie, and she was raised in a devoutly religious family.



A photograph of an early photocopy of a nineteenth-century image of Martha Elizabeth Purifoy at age sixteen, 1892.

In 1900, shortly after her father's death on January 7, Martha Elizabeth Purifoy married a Baptist, Robert Albert McPherson (1875–1964), who was a Mississippian of Scottish ancestry. They lived in Covich County, Mississippi, and were married for sixty-two years.

In a letter written by Martha Elizabeth Purifoy McPherson's daughter Ruth McPherson (1903–1996), she explained: *"The pretty 16 year old girl in the picture, my mother, Martha Elizabeth Purifoy, . . . waited for years to marry my father because her father was a Methodist and didn't want her to marry a Baptist! Later she joined his church [the Baptist Church] and taught Sunday School for 36 years."*



Martha Elizabeth Purifoy McPherson at about age thirty-six with her two youngest daughters, Virginia Dare McPherson, about age seven, and Miriam McPherson, about age four, c. 1912.

Robert Albert McPherson was a substantial property holder, and in 1910 he owned and operated two furniture stores in Copiah County. In 1920 and 1930, he is listed in the censuses as a truck farmer. In the 1940 census, Robert Albert McPherson is defined as an overseer at a tomato-canning factory, which was adjacent to his home in Crystal Springs, Mississippi. Crystal Springs is known as the “Tomato Capital of the World” because, for a few years in the 1930s, more tomatoes were canned and shipped from there than from any other locale. Even today Crystal Springs has an annual Tomato Festival and a tomato-growing contest.

Sometime in 1942, around age sixty-five, Martha Elizabeth Purifoy McPherson had a sudden retinal hemorrhage that caused her to lose her vision. She was totally blind for the rest of her life, about twenty years, and was tended to by her oldest daughter, Annie Mary McPherson (1901–2006). It is interesting to note that Neville’s mother, **Margaret Alice Purifoy (1908–1973)**, became blind at almost the same age as her aunt Martha Elizabeth Purifoy McPherson. Margaret Purifoy Frierson’s blindness was caused by a stroke and adult-onset type 1 diabetes.



Robert Albert McPherson and his wife, Martha Elizabeth Purifoy McPherson, in a newspaper photograph on the occasion of their fifty-fifth wedding anniversary in 1955. He was eighty years old, and she was seventy-nine.

Martha Elizabeth Purifoy McPherson died in 1962, at age eighty-five; her husband, Robert Albert McPherson, died two years later, at age eighty-eight. They are both buried in the Crystal Springs Cemetery.

Martha Elizabeth Purifoy and Robert Albert McPherson had four daughters, first cousins of Neville's mother, Margaret Purifoy Frierson.

- ANNIE MARY MCPHERSON (1901–2006), born December 11, 1901, first married a man named Marshall Kennedy, whom she divorced after discovering that he was having an affair with another woman. At age thirty-two, on December 22, 1933, she married John Arrington “Piff” Smith (1892–1968). They were married for over thirty-four years. After his death, Annie Mary was a widow for the last thirty-eight years of her life.

Annie Mary McPherson Smith was an organist who played at movie theaters during the silent movie era, which ended in 1929. She also played the organ at the Baptist Church. She had no children and lived to the remarkable age of 104, outliving all three of her younger sisters. She died on March 13, 2006.

• RUTH MCPHERSON (1903–1996), born May 25, 1903, was the second daughter of Martha Elizabeth Purifoy and Robert Albert McPherson. She was the McPherson cousin that Margaret Alice Purifoy knew best. Ruth also communicated about family history with Neville and with my mother over a number of years.



Ruth McPherson at age sixteen, c. 1919.



Ruth McPherson Thompson was the manager of the office of her husband, Dr. Wildridge Clark Thompson.

In 1926, at age twenty-three, Ruth McPherson secretly married Wildridge Clark “Tommy” Thompson (1903–1985) in Jackson, Mississippi. Their marriage was secret because their employer had a prohibition against employee relationships. The Thompsons lived in Baltimore, Maryland, while Tommy Thompson was studying internal medicine at Johns Hopkins University. In the early 1930s, they lived in Japan, where in 1933 their first child, Frances Elizabeth “Pip” Thompson (b. 1933), was born. Frances married Irwin W. Coleman II (1934–2012), a United States attorney. She lives today in Mobile, Alabama, and is Neville’s second cousin.

Ruth McPherson Thompson next lived with her husband in Stillwater, Oklahoma, where Dr. Tommy Thompson was a college physician. Their second daughter, Marianne (named, using a variation on the name of her aunt Annie Mary McPherson Smith), was born in 1939 in Oklahoma. Marianne first married David M. McMullan (1938–2005) in 1961 and had two sons.* They divorced in 1976, and in 1982 she married William Randall “Randy” Neal (b. 1949), from whom she was divorced in 1989. Today Marianne lives in Jackson, Mississippi.

After a long and successful career as a physician in Jackson, Dr. Tommy Thompson died of Hodgkins lymphoma in 1985. Ruth McPherson Thompson, his wife of almost sixty years and his longtime office manager, died in Jackson at age ninety-two in 1996.

Ruth McPherson Thompson corresponded with her uncle Stanley Neville Purifoy. We have several letters that she wrote to him in 1941. One is dated October 17, 1941, and addressed to Uncle Stanley. The letter closes with these words:

Give my love to Margaret [Margaret Purifoy Frierson] and tell her we are going to drive up from Memphis sometime and give our kiddies a chance to mix it a bit. We are so pleased to have seen Mr. Frierson on their honeymoon trip [1931]. A lot of water has gone over the mill since those days! Very best wishes to you for continued low B. P.! [Blood Pressure]
Lovingly, Ruth
Maybe I can find an interesting old maid for you if you'll come out!

Neville remembers meeting and corresponding with Ruth Thompson, her first cousin once removed, and recalls being informed of Ruth’s death on March 29, 1996 by one of Ruth’s daughters.

*Their oldest son is David Malcolm McMullan Jr. (b. 1963), an attorney who lives and works near Jackson, Mississippi. David attended Rhodes College in Memphis, Tennessee, where he was a classmate of Neville’s and my daughter, Margaret Purifoy Bryan (b. 1963). They did not know they were third cousins. Coincidentally, while David McMullan attended Rhodes College, he was a recipient of a scholarship endowment fund that bears my name.

- VIRGINIA DARE MCPHERSON (1905–1997) is the third daughter of Robert Albert and Martha Elizabeth Purifoy McPherson. She was born on September 14, 1905. She never married and worked for the Federal government for many years in Jackson. She retired in Crystal Springs and lived with her sister Annie Mary McPherson Smith. She died at age ninety-one, on April 5, 1997, and is buried in Crystal Springs.

- MIRIAM MCPHERSON (1908–1994), Robert Albert and Martha Elizabeth Purifoy McPherson's fourth daughter was born on July 14, 1908. She married Charles C. Bright (1905–1989), a Mississippian who had a career in the grocery business in Memphis, Tennessee. They had two sons, Neville's second cousins, Charles Barrie Bright (1937–2013) and John Bright, who lives in Texas with his daughter.

Miriam McPherson developed Alzheimer's disease in her seventies and went to a nursing home in 1988, at about age eighty. She died on December 20, 1994, when she was eighty-six years old.

Her sister Ruth McPherson Thompson said of her in a letter: *"And she was the smartest of the four McPhersons, you know. She was offered a job as Dean of M. S. C. W."*^{*}

^{*}M.S.C.W., or Mississippi State College for Women, is the former name of MUW or "The W," a coeducational four-year public university located in Columbus, Mississippi. All of the four McPherson sisters went to school there, as did my mother, Catherine Wilkerson Bryan (1909–2002), who was a classmate of Miriam McPherson in the late 1920s.

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5. LINFIELD PURIFOY, STANLEY NEVILLE PURIFOY'S OLDER BROTHER

Linfield “Linn” W. Purifoy Sr. (1878–1949) was an older brother of Neville’s grandfather **Stanley Neville Purifoy (1879–1942)**. He was born on December 3, 1878, one year and five days before Stanley Neville, who was born on December 8, 1879. Like all of Stanley Neville’s siblings, Linn Purifoy was born in Union Church, Jefferson County, Mississippi, and moved as an infant to Crystal Springs, Mississippi. He was called Linn throughout his life.



*Neville's great-uncle
Linfield W. Purifoy Sr. of
Crystal Springs, Mississippi.*

On June 2, 1907, at age twenty-eight, Linn Purifoy married Tenie McGehee Lea (1889–1935). She was born on June 26, 1889, and was the daughter of Alfred H. Lea (1857–1919) and Zilphia McGehee (1855–1923), who had married in Pike County in southern Mississippi on December 30, 1882.

Between 1908 and 1931, a period of twenty-three years, Linn and Tenie Lea Purifoy had thirteen children. Tenie Purifoy died on October 7, 1935, at forty-six years old, four years after her last child was born. She is buried in Crystal Springs.

Linn Purifoy was a salesman in the lumber business in Crystal Springs, and later in nearby Hazelhurst, where he worked for the Graves Lumber Company. He was also a bookkeeper. Like his younger brother, Stanley Neville Purifoy, he was a lifelong member of the Methodist Church and was 5'6" tall.

Linfield W. Purifoy Sr. died on April 11, 1949, at age seventy, at the home of his oldest daughter, Leila "Lela" Arlone Purifoy (1908–1976), in Vicksburg, Mississippi. He is buried in the Crystal Springs Cemetery.

Out-of-town relatives and friends called here due to the death of Mr. Linfield Purifoy were Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Tarver of Brookhaven, Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Hawks of Memphis, Tenn., Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence Allen, Mr. and Mrs. C. T. Matthews and daughter, Mrs. R. A. McPherson, Mrs. Lillian Millsaps, Mrs. Jesse Millsaps and Mr. and Mrs. Bernard Lewis of Crystal Springs, Mr. and Mrs. M. R. Duncan of Vicksburg, Mr. and Mrs. Lorie Cook of Raymond, Private Bobby Frank Purifoy, who is stationed in Hawaii, Sgt. Jack G. Purifoy of Alaska, Mr. and Mrs. John S. Purifoy of Brookhaven, Mr. and Mrs. Henry Purifoy of Memphis, Tenn., Mr. and Mrs. Linfield Purifoy and son of Greenwood, Miss., Mrs. J. B. Taylor of Boise, Idaho, Mrs. Charles Frierson of Jonesboro, Arkansas, Miss Virginia McPherson and Dr. and Mrs. Thompson of Jackson and Mrs. Charles Bright of Memphis Tenn.

Neville's mother, Margaret Alice Purifoy Frierson, was among the out-of-town guests at the funeral of her uncle Linfield W. Purifoy Sr. in 1949.



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6. THE THIRTEEN CHILDREN OF LINFIELD PURIFOY, MARGARET ALICE PURIFOY'S FIRST COUSINS

Linfield W. "Linn" Purifoy Sr. (1878–1949) and Tenie Lea Purifoy's (1889–1935) thirteen children, seven boys and six girls, were first cousins of Neville's mother, **Margaret Alice Purifoy (1908–1973)**. It appears that all of the children were born in Crystal Springs, Mississippi. Linfield and Tennie Lea Purifoy also had thirty-three grandchildren, who are Neville's second cousins.

- **LEILA "LELA" ARLONE PURIFOY (1908–1976)** was born on December 27, 1908, and named for her father's sister **Leila Arlone Purifoy (1874–1907)**, who died the year before Lela was born. Lela Purifoy first married R. G. Lott on March 27, 1925. They had one daughter. Lela's second marriage was to M. R. Duncan on May 4, 1932. Lela Purifoy Duncan died in Vicksburg, Mississippi, on June 16, 1976, at age sixty-seven.
- **LINFIELD PURIFOY JR. (1911–1987)** was born on March 3, 1911. He married Margaret Gilbert (1911–1999) on June 26, 1932. Linfield Purifoy Jr. died on February 7, 1987, at age seventy-five; his wife died at age eighty-seven. They had only one child, Dr. Charles G. Purifoy (b. 1936), of Greenwood, Mississippi. He is a retired dentist who has two daughters.
- **JESSE LEA PURIFOY (1915–1992)** was born on April 27, 1915. She married W. B. Berryhill on March 25, 1933; they had two daughters. She married C. T. Matthews on December 22, 1941. Jessie died on October 6, 1992, in Jackson, Mississippi, at age seventy-seven.
- **HENRY BORDEN PURIFOY (1916–2001)** was born on April 17, 1916. He married Hilda Bernice Bousson (1918–2001) on May 22, 1937. They had five children, the oldest of whom was Betty Lou Purifoy (1938–2003), who lived in Memphis, Tennessee. The couple's four other children are Henry, Robert, Ronnie, and Darlene Purifoy, who all live in the Memphis area. Henry Borden Purifoy was a mechanic in Memphis. He died there on August 26, 2001, at age eighty-five. His wife, Hilda Bernice Purifoy, died one month earlier, at age eighty-three.
- **JOHN STANLEY PURIFOY SR. (1917–1994)** was born on March 7, 1917. He married Maxine Lingle (1918–2013) on October 17, 1936. In the 1940 census, Stanley Purifoy Sr. is enumerated as a twenty-three-year-old auto mechanic living in Crystal Springs.

In 1977, at age sixty, Ruth McPherson Thompson (1903–1996), wrote this about Stanley Purifoy Sr., her first cousin: *“Stanley Purifoy resides in Crystal Springs but he is in terrible health, fading gradually with multiple sclerosis. He has a beautiful and successful daughter, Gloria, living in Texas.”*

John Stanley Purifoy Sr. spent the last seventeen years of his life in a nursing home, where he died on April 23, 1994, at age seventy-seven. His wife, Maxine Lingle Purifoy, died in Crystal Springs on January 11, 2013, at age ninety-four.

The oldest child of Stanley and Maxine Purifoy is Gloria Purifoy (b. 1939), who lives in Houston, Texas. She had two daughters and a son, David P. Garrett (1972–2008), a Houston television reporter who died at age thirty-six in a helicopter crash while on assignment. Stanley and Maxine Purifoy’s second child, John Stanley Purifoy Jr. (b. 1942), is a retired bookkeeper living in Crystal Springs. He is the father of two sons.

- WILLIAM “BILL” HUNTER PURIFOY (1918–1991) was born on October 6, 1918. He married Gloria Nardino in April 1942 and had three children. He lived for some time in New Jersey and was rarely seen by the family. Bill Purifoy died in Lake Charles, Louisiana, on October 10, 1991, at age seventy-three.
- MARY HELEN PURIFOY (1919–1928), was born on December 5, 1919. She died in Crystal Springs at age eight.
- GRACE LORRAINE PURIFOY (1921–1957) was born on May 25, 1921. She married Jesse C. Hawks (1921–1998) and had three children. She died in 1957, at age thirty-five, and is buried in Memphis.
- LETTIE LANE PURIFOY (1922–1979) was born on May 12, 1922. She married Lawrence L. Allen on May 9, 1941; they had five children. Lettie Lane Allen died in Gulfport, Mississippi, at age fifty-six.
- JACK GIBSON PURIFOY (1924–2000) was born on March 31, 1924. He married but had no children. He died in Savannah, Georgia, on March 3, 2000, as a result of a head injury suffered in a motorcycle accident a few years earlier. Jack Purifoy was seventy-five years old at his death.
- DOROTHY NELL PURIFOY (b. 1928) was born on December 18, 1928. She married Grady Green; they had five children and lived in Brookhaven, Mississippi. Nell Purifoy Green lives in a retirement home near Jackson, Mississippi.
- BOBBY FRANK PURIFOY (b. 1930), was born on May 18, 1930, had four children and lives in Savannah, Georgia.
- BETTY JEWELL PURIFOY (1931–2014) was born on May 16, 1931. She married J. C. Tarver (1926–1999) on November 6, 1948, and they had two daughters. Jewell Purifoy Tarver died on January 20, 2014, in Brookhaven, Mississippi, at age eighty-two.

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7. THE SINGER SEWING MACHINE COMPANY

For over thirty-five years, **Stanley Neville Purifoy (1879–1942)** was an employee and manager for the Singer Sewing Machine Company in Jonesboro, Arkansas. His tenure at the company was from around 1902 to around 1938.

The sewing machine was the world's first home appliance and certainly one of the great inventions of the nineteenth century. In fact, the Indian ascetic Mahatma Gandhi (1869–1948) once said that the sewing machine was “*one of the few useful things ever invented.*”



A Singer sewing machine from the early 1900s, when Stanley Neville Purifoy joined the company.



The Singer Building in New York City was the world's tallest building in 1908 and 1909.

The building was razed in 1968.

The sewing machine was invented in 1851 by Isaac M. Singer (1811–1875), a New Yorker of German-Jewish heritage. Singer was a flamboyant character who has the distinction of having fathered at least twenty-four children with several wives and mistresses. In 1857 he joined in a partnership with Edward C. Clark (1811–1882), and together they founded the Singer Sewing

Machine Company. Clark and his descendants are called the “Clarks of Cooperstown.” They became very wealthy, collected art, and founded the Clark Museum in Williamstown, Massachusetts.

At the time Stanley Neville Purifoy went to work for the Singer Sewing Machine Company, it was a vast international company with an eighty percent share of the world market for sewing machines. In 1908 Singer built the first skyscraper and the tallest building in the world on Broadway in New York City; it had 47 stories and was 612 feet tall. In a move incomprehensible in today's preservation-sensitive world, the Singer Building was demolished in 1968.

During Stanley Neville Purifoy's years with the company, Singer's domination of the market continued, even though it faced the threats of ready-made clothes and, of course, the Great Depression (1929–39). Today the company is called the Singer Corporation, and it is a part of SVP Worldwide, which is owned by Kohlberg & Company, a private equity firm that specializes in leveraged buyouts.

8. OBITUARY, 1942

Neville's grandfather **Stanley Neville Purifoy (1879–1942)** died on Monday, July 27, 1942. Neville was six years old. His obituary appeared in *The Jonesboro Evening Sun*. It states that one of his survivors was a sister, Mrs. W. D. McDonald, who lived in Jonesboro. This statement led us to discover **Julia Purifoy McDonald (1861–1949)**, Stanley's older half sister, who lived in Jonesboro for over fifty years.

Rites At 10 Wednesday For Stanley N. Purifoy

Funeral services for Stanley N. Purifoy, 62, well known Jonesboro business man, will be conducted by the Rev. A. W. Martin, pastor, at the First Methodist Church at 10 o'clock Wednesday morning. Burial will be in the City Cemetery with the Gregg Funeral Home in charge.

Assisting the Rev. Mr. Martin in the services will be the Rev. Rudolph S. Schuster.

Mr. Purifoy died suddenly Monday afternoon after suffering a stroke as he sat on the front porch of the J. H. Watts Boarding House, 318 W. Washington, following the noon meal.

He had been suffering from high blood pressure for several years and had suffered several light strokes in recent months.

After a slight illness earlier this year, he resumed his business activity as a real estate dealer.

He finished his noon meal Monday and after talking over the telephone to his young granddaughter, Neville Frierson, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Charles D. Frierson, Jr., he returned to his seat on the front porch.

A few minutes later he was found lying back in his chair and breathing deeply. An ambulance was called and he was taken to St. Bernard's Hospital but an attending physician said that death had occurred before he arrived.

Mr. Purifoy came to Jonesboro about 40 years ago from Crystal Springs, Miss., as manager of the Singer Sewing Machine Co., a position he resigned several years ago to enter the real estate business.

He leaves a daughter, Mrs. Charles Frierson, Jr.; two brothers, Linfield Purifoy of Hazelhurst, Miss., and Will Purifoy of

Atlanta, Ga.; two sisters, Mrs. P. A. McPherson of Crystal Springs, Miss., and Mrs. W. D. McDonald of this city; and three grandchildren, Charles D. Frierson III, Neville Frierson, and James Frierson.

Palbearers will be Herbert Sanderson, Dr. R. C. Shanlever, James S. Patrick, Lloyd Rebsamen, Dr. Ralph M. Sloan, and Robert Patrick.



STANLEY N. PURIFOY