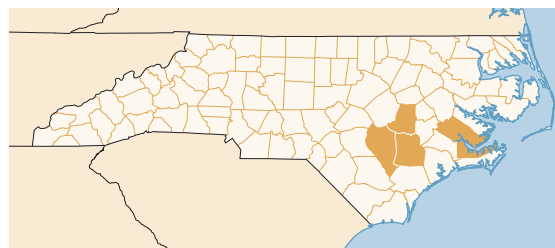


### STEPHEN K. BRYAN | POLLY MARIAH KORNEGAY

On January 6, 1831, **Stephen K. Bryan (1807–1855)** married 17-year-old **Polly Mariah Kornegay (1813–1901)** in Duplin County, North Carolina. Stephen K. Bryan was at least a third-generation North Carolinian. My mother did extensive research on our Bryan heritage,<sup>1</sup> and I have attempted to deepen and amend that research.

Our Bryan ancestors of the 18th and early 19th century lived in three counties: Wayne, Duplin, and Sampson, in the southeastern part of North Carolina. Stephen's grandfather **William Bryan (1747–1801)** was from Wayne County and Stephen's father, **Hardy Bryan (1771–1840)**, lived in both Wayne and Duplin counties.



Stephen K. Bryan was born in 1807 and married in 1831 in Duplin County. Sometime in the 1830s, Stephen and his wife moved to neighboring Sampson County in North Carolina.

*My earliest known Bryan ancestors lived in three contiguous counties in North Carolina in the late 18th and early 19th centuries. They are Wayne, Duplin, and Sampson counties. My Kornegay ancestors came from Craven County on the east coast of North Carolina.*



From 1829 to 1834, Stephen K. Bryan appears in records of Duplin County. From 1836 to 1848, he bought, mortgaged, and sold property in Sampson County, North Carolina.<sup>2</sup> In 1848 Stephen K. Bryan migrated to Mississippi with his wife and their six surviving children, ages two to seventeen.<sup>3</sup> They settled in Oktibbeha County, in an area that is now part of Clay County, Mississippi.

Polly Mariah Kornegay was a fourth-generation North Carolinian whose Kornegay heritage<sup>4</sup> dates back to the early 18th century. Her great-grandfather **George Kornegay (1700–1773)** emigrated from current-day Germany in 1710. George Kornegay was a founder of the town of New Bern in eastern North Carolina.

Mariah Kornegay was the oldest of six children of **Henry Kornegay (1782–after 1834)** and **Nancy Carraway (1793–1835)**. Mariah's younger brother, **Wyatt Kornegay (1821–1882)**, who was 26 years old in 1848, probably traveled with Stephen and Mariah Bryan on their trek to Mississippi. Wyatt Kornegay is the great-grandfather of Dr. Henry Jackson (Jackie) Williams (b. 1936), a high-school classmate of mine, who is my third cousin once removed.

Mariah Kornegay Bryan was 42 when her husband, Stephen K. Bryan, died in 1855. The next year, she married George Washington Justice (1801–1882), and they had one child.<sup>5</sup>



Mariah Kornegay Bryan Justice died in West Point at age 87. She is buried along with her youngest son, **George Washington Bryan (1846–1937)**, in Greenwood Cemetery in West Point. We do not know where Stephen K. Bryan is buried.

*The tombstone of my great-great-grandmother Mariah Kornegay Bryan Justice. (Note: This marker states that her birth year is 1814; all other family records say she was born in 1813.)*

## STEPHEN K. BRYAN | POLLY MARIAH KORNEGAY

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### 1. OUR BRYAN HERITAGE

<b>William Bryan (1747–1801)</b>	m.	
<b>Hardy Bryan (1771–1840)</b>	m. 1802	<b>Elva Jones (1780–1850)</b>
<b>Stephen K. Bryan (1807–1855)</b>	m. 1831	<b>Polly Mariah Kornegay (1813–1901)</b>
<b>James M. Bryan (1837–1867)</b>	m. 1862	<b>Sarah E. Burnett (1838–1915)</b>
<b>J. C. Bryan (1866–1930)</b>	m. 1897	<b>Jonnie Mae Parker (1871–1946)</b>
<b>John H. Bryan Sr. (1908–1989)</b>	m. 1935	<b>Catherine C. Wilkerson (1909–2002)</b>

My mother's greatest genealogical challenge was to extend our Bryan ancestry prior to **Stephen K. Bryan (1807–1855)**, my great-great-grandfather. He came from North Carolina to Mississippi in 1848 and was the first of our Bryan family to come to Mississippi. Mother scoured courthouse records and trekked through countless cemeteries searching to find the parents of Stephen K. Bryan. She never succeeded.

In the records that Mother left us, she made a presumption (clearly stated as unproven) that Stephen K. Bryan was the son of a Hardy Bryan, born in 1781 in Johnston County, North Carolina. This enabled her to link our family into a larger Bryan genealogy, one that named five generations of a Bryan family that had come from Northern Ireland to Virginia in the 17th century. That Bryan lineage was taken from a book titled *Whitfield Bryan Smith and Related Families, Vol. 2, Bryan Smith*, written by Theodore Whitfield in 1950. After considerable professional research on this matter, it has been concluded that Mother's linkage to that Bryan family is likely incorrect.

Rather, our new research has determined, with substantial genealogical proof, that Stephen K. Bryan was the son of another **Hardy Bryan (1771–1840)**, born in Wayne or Duplin County, North Carolina. This Hardy Bryan, 10 years older than the other, was the son of **William Bryan (1747–1801)** of Wayne County, North Carolina. The evidence for this Hardy Bryan's parentage comes from the estate papers of William Bryan recorded in 1801 in Wayne County, North Carolina. We do not know the name of William Bryan's wife or his ancestry. And so we shall leave it to future generations to further extend the Bryan heritage.

We know that a Hardy Bryan married **Elva Jones (1780–1850)** in 1802.

They had at least four children.

**Stephen K. Bryan (1807–1855)** married **Polly Mariah Kornegay (1813–1901)** in Duplin County, North Carolina, in 1831. They are my great-great-grandparents.

**Nancy Bryan (1812–1867)** was born in Duplin or Wayne County, North Carolina, and married Bryan Sollis (1798–1855) in the late 1840s. They both died in Duplin County, North Carolina.

**Chelly Ann Bryan (1815–1878)** was born in Duplin County and married Jacob Lane (1812–after 1880). She is buried in the Center Grove Cemetery in Independence, Arkansas.

**Elvy Minerva Bryan (1817–1885)** was born in Duplin County, North Carolina, and married Tennessean Moses Martin (1820–1907) sometime after 1840. Elvy and Moses are reported to be buried in the Eoff Cemetery in Boone County, Arkansas.

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### 2. STEPHEN K. BRYAN IN NORTH CAROLINA

Through public records in North Carolina, we have attempted to learn about **Stephen K. Bryan (1807–1855)** in North Carolina before he came to Mississippi. The following are some facts we have learned:

Between 1829 and 1834, Stephen K. Bryan appears four times in the court records of Duplin County. On December 29, 1829, he purchased a lantern and a jug for 45 cents at the sale of the estate of Ziflia Kornegay. On December 9, 1830, he witnessed a deed between Bryan Carraway and Bryan Sollis in Duplin County. On May 29, 1832, Alfred Kornegay replaced him as a road overseer in Duplin County. In May 1834, in Duplin County, Stephen Bryan signed to secure a bond posted by his father-in-law, **Henry Kornegay (1782–after 1834)**, on the estate of Nancy Kornegay.

On August 5, 1836, Stephen Bryan purchased a tract of land in Sampson County for \$1,100. It is reasonably certain that he did not move to Sampson County until he bought this property. One of the witnesses on the deed was Henry Kornegay, his father-in-law. In 1838 Stephen sold the land at a profit of \$200.

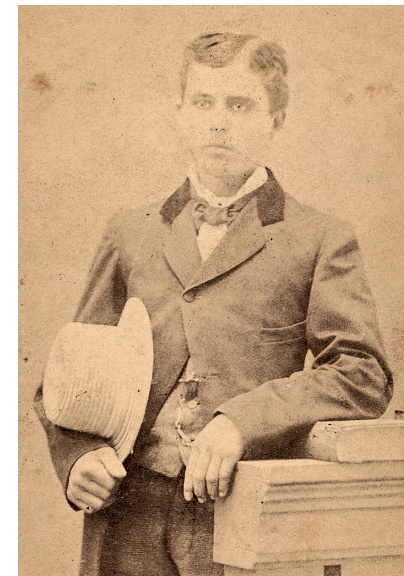
Stephen waited five years to buy land again. The 1840 census indicates that he remained in Sampson County. In 1843 he purchased 275 acres in the northeast corner of Sampson County for \$250.

It seems likely that Stephen ran into severe financial difficulties about a year later, for in 1844 he mortgaged his land, three slaves, his livestock, his crops, and his household and kitchen furniture. Four months later, he mortgaged two more slaves. These mortgages went to Samuel Ireland and were witnessed by Isaac W. Lane.

Stephen managed to keep his mortgaged property for three more years. On January 14, 1848, he sold the land to William Boyette, and did so with the blessing of his creditors. On March 16, the slaves were sold. We surmise that Stephen moved to Mississippi shortly after March 1848. In the 1850 census, he is enumerated with his wife and family in Oktibbeha County, Mississippi.

### 3. THE SEVEN CHILDREN OF STEPHEN K. AND POLLY MARIAH KORNEGAY BRYAN

**Cullen Daniel Bryan (1831–before 1870)** was born in either Duplin or Sampson County, North Carolina. At 17 years old, he was the oldest child during the migration of his family from North Carolina to Mississippi in 1848. In 1858, he married



*A photograph of my great-great-uncle Cullen Daniel Bryan in the 1850s.*

Mary Eliza Brannon (1841–\_\_\_\_\_) from Anniston, Alabama.

In the early 1860s, Cullen Daniel Bryan joined the Confederate Army. While serving as a private in an independent company of partisan rangers, he was captured in Hernando, Mississippi, on November 10, 1863. In March 1865, he is shown in the 18th Regiment Mississippi Cavalry.

Cullen Daniel Bryan and Mary Brannon had four children, who were first cousins of my grandfather, **James Charles Bryan (1866–1930)**.

The oldest child of Cullen Daniel and Mary Eliza Brannon Bryan was Louella Bryan (1858–after 1954), who married Thaddeus Jenkins (1860–1937) in 1881 and raised five children in Aberdeen, Mississippi. In 1954 Louella was living in Aberdeen at age 96 when she corresponded with my mother about her family. Their second child was Cullen Oscar Bryan (1862–1941), who married Jennie Ball and lived in Aberdeen, Mississippi. Two other daughters, Mada and Eugenia, were born in 1864 and 1866. They also married and lived in Aberdeen.

**STEPHEN K. BRYAN | POLLY MARIAH KORNEGAY****PAGES 24–25**

**Mary Eliza Bryan (1833–1884)** was born in either Duplin or Sampson County, North Carolina. In 1850 she married Enoch Dickson (1833–1873), who died in Mississippi at age 39. Among their descendants, who moved to Texas, was a granddaughter, Dr. Mary Lou Logan (1882–1977), my father’s second cousin, who lived in Dallas and maintained connections with the Bryan family.

**Nancy Melviny Bryan (1835–1926)** was probably born in Sampson County, North Carolina. She married Joseph C. Simons (1814–1901) in 1854. They moved to Texas and had four children.

**James Mordicae Bryan (1837–1867)** married **Sarah Elizabeth Burnett (1838–1915)**. They had one son, my grandfather James Charles Bryan.

**Stephen K. Bryan Jr. (1840–1861)** was born in Sampson County, North Carolina. He died without issue at age 20, shortly after the onset of the Civil War.

**Susan Kathryn Bryan (1843–1843)** was born in Sampson County. She lived for seven months and thus was the only child who did not accompany the family on their trek to Mississippi in 1848.

**George Washington Bryan (1846–1937)** was born in Sampson County, North Carolina.



*My great-great-uncle George Washington Bryan, at age 84, with my first cousin Dorothy Ann Bryan in 1930.*

George Washington Bryan enlisted in January 16, 1864, as a private in Company B, 2nd Regiment Mississippi State Cavalry. He was appointed 3rd colonel on April 20, 1864. A muster roll labeled April 25, 1864, Tupelo, Mississippi, states that he was 18 years old, 5'6" tall, had black eyes and hair, and was born in Oktibbeha County, Mississippi. He was captured at the Post of Tuscaloosa, Alabama, on April 3, 1865, and paroled at Macon, Georgia, on May 2, 1865.

George Washington Bryan married Lenora Ann Hartsfield (1848–1885) in 1866 in Oktibbeha County, Mississippi. With her, he had seven children, two daughters and five sons. His daughters, Lenora Alice (1867–1896) and Lula J. (1875–1941), never married. His oldest son, Edward N. (1869–1875), and his youngest son, Clyde Vernon (1882–1884), both died young. A son, James Ross (1876–after 1954), married and moved to Los Angeles, but had no children. Another son, Ralph Adolphus (1878–1965), married Mamie Pearl Dukemenier (1884–\_\_\_\_) and lived in West Point, Mississippi. They also had no children.

It was only the fourth son, George Casey Bryan (1880–1965), who had offspring. He had one son, George Casey Bryan Jr. (1911–1981), who moved from West Point to Moss Point, Mississippi, and had three sons, including a contemporary third cousin of mine, George Michael Bryan (b. 1936).

In the 1880 census, George Washington Bryan is listed as a Clay County farmer with four children, ages two to 12. In the 1900 census, he is listed as the owner of a meat market.

George Washington Bryan married for the second time in 1886 to Fanny Henry (1848–1943), who lived to be 95 years old. George Washington Bryan died at age 91. He and both of his wives are buried in the Greenwood Cemetery in West Point.

George Washington Bryan was the uncle of my grandfather, James Charles Bryan, and is my great-great-uncle. My grandfather, who never knew his own father, James Mordicae Bryan, may have lived with his Uncle George Washington Bryan during his teenage years. We know that it was to work for this Uncle George that my grandfather arrived in West Point, Mississippi, in 1889.

## STEPHEN K. BRYAN | POLLY MARIAH KORNEGAY

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### 4. OUR KORNEGAY HERITAGE

**John George Kornegay (1671–1711)**

**George Kornegay (1700–1773)** m. Susannah Stevens

**Jacob Kornegay (1735–1796)** m. 1777 Mary Ward (1750–1826)\*

**Henry Kornegay (1782–aft. 1834)** m. 1812 Nancy Carraway (1793–1835)

**Polly Mariah Kornegay (1813–1901)** m. 1831 Stephen K. Bryan (1807–1855)

**James M. Bryan (1837–1867)** m. 1862 Sarah E. Burnett (1838–1915)

**James C. Bryan (1866–1930)** m. 1897 Jonnie Mae Parker (1871–1946)

**John H. Bryan Sr. (1908–1989)** m. 1935 Catherine C. Wilkerson (1909–2002)

**George Kornegay (1700–1773)**, my fifth great-grandfather, is the progenitor of all the Kornegay family in America. His great-great-granddaughter Francis Elvira Kornegay Williams (1908–2001), a second cousin of my grandfather **James Charles Bryan (1866–1930)**, wrote an account of George Kornegay’s dramatic arrival in America in 1710.

*In the fall of the year 1709, six hundred and fifty people, from an area in southwest Germany were transported under the auspices of Christian De Graffenreid and Ludwig Michell, natives of Switzerland, to the area known to us today as New Bern, North Carolina. This German homeland from which they came included the wine regions of the Moselle and Rhine River valleys, known as German Palatines. These people were fleeing the ravages of the armies of Louis XIV and the persecutions being inflicted upon those of Protestant faith.*

*The first of their hardships occurred prior to their landing, when their ship was stopped and robbed by a boarding party from one of Louis XIV’s [1643–1715] warships. Everything they owned was taken from them, including the ship’s warboats—even clothes from their backs.*

*The ship of immigrants landed in March of the year 1710. With this group, there was a small, nine year old boy, who waded ashore, naked and shivering. From that little boy, the Kornegays of Clay County, Mississippi, and elsewhere in the United States, are descended.*

*Because of stormy weather, their ship had been carried off course and they landed at the mouth of the James River, in Virginia. The people of Jamestown were kind to them and provided them with food and shelter, clothing and blankets. Later, with guides provided by their new found friends, they set out overland for the Neuse River area where they settled.*

*Just as their first crop was ready for harvest in September of the year 1711, the colony was attacked, and dozens of families were massacred by the Tuscarora Indians. The Kornegay family, with the exception of George, the nine year old boy, was wiped out. The county court of Craven County, North Carolina gave the orphan boy, George Kornegay, into the keeping of Jacob Miller Esquire, and instructed Jacob Miller to teach him to read and write.*

George Kornegay later married, had 10 children (nine boys and one girl), and accumulated over 3,000 acres of land, mostly by securing land grants from King George II (1683–1760) of England, who reigned from 1727 to 1760. George Kornegay was a founder of the town of New Bern in Craven County, North Carolina, and lived for a while in Duplin County, North Carolina, where he was a member of the militia in 1754 and 1755.

George Kornegay died in November 1773. Excerpts from his will appear below:

*I give to my beloved wife, Susannah, one Negro wench named Hannah and six cows and calves and three sows and a young mare with the increase to be her property forever.*

*I lend my wife the use of the third part of my plantation during her natural life not to be rented or leased nor hired nor sold for any term of time to any person out of my family. I also give to my wife the third part of my crop now standing for her support of my two children. I give to my wife one linnen [?] wheel and all the household goods which was her own to be and remain her property. Also my riding horse named Cromwell to be hers and her heirs and assigns forever.*

*I give to my son Jacob Kornegay all the land adjoining his line on the southwest side of the northeast branch in Duplin County. It being the land for which I have given him a deed containing 640 acres, and two negroes named Pompey and York now in his possession and all the cattle and horses that is in his mark or brand to him the said Jacob, his heirs and assigns forever.*

\*second wife

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**Jacob Kornegay (1735–1796)**, named for his father's benefactor, Jacob Miller (1694–1752), was the fourth son of George Kornegay. Jacob Kornegay was a captain in the North Carolina Militia during the American Revolutionary War. He married twice and had 12 children.

Jacob Kornegay's second wife was **Mary Ward (1750–1826)**. She was a widow for the last 30 years of her life. In the census of 1810, Mary Ward Kornegay is listed as owning 22 slaves.

Jacob and Mary Ward Kornegay's son, **Henry Kornegay (1782–after 1834)**, married **Nancy Carraway (1793–1835)** in 1812. Their oldest child was **Polly Mariah Kornegay (1813–1901)**, my great-great-grandmother.

The fourth child of Henry and Nancy Kornegay was Polly Mariah's younger brother, **Wyatt Kornegay (1821–1882)**, who died in Meridian, Mississippi, at age 61. Wyatt Kornegay, at age 26, likely traveled with his six children along with the Bryan family on their 1848 trek from North Carolina to Mississippi.

**5. THE WIDOW MARIAH MARRIES**

In 1855 **Mariah Kornegay Bryan (1813–1901)** became a 42-year-old widow when her 48-year-old husband, **Stephen K. Bryan (1807–1855)**, died. In 1856, one year later, Mariah Kornegay Bryan married George Washington Justice (1801–1882).

In the 1860 census, George W. Justice, a farmer, and Mariah Justice are enumerated in Oktibbeha County with three children:

Stephen Justice, age 19 [**Stephen K. Bryan Jr. (1840–1861)**]

George Justice, age 14 [**George Washington Bryan (1846–1937)**]

Richard Justice, age 3

Their son, **Richard Henry Justice (1857–1886)**, who died at age 29, had one son, Charles R. Justice (1885–1977), who owned a wholesale grocery business called the Justice Company in West Point, Mississippi. I remember Mr. Justice quite well from my youth. He was my grandfather's half first cousin. He had three daughters, who are half second cousins of my father. They are Caroline Evans Justice Cooper (b. 1918), Frances Thomas Justice Furr (b. 1920), and Grace Evans Justice Millard (b. 1925).

In the 1900 census, Mariah Kornegay Bryan Justice, an 86-year-old, is recorded as living with her son George Washington Bryan.