

1-7-08

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Bob:

This is the copy of James Brooks' article in April, '07.

I don't know who the Clara Lee Lane mentioned here could be. Magdalena's 4<sup>th</sup> child Mary Ann who was born in 1846, met her future husband when he was a patient in their home during the war. His name was James Lane from N.C. He had 2 children from a former marriage, as Mother relates in her history & genealogy of the family - part of which I'm enclosing to you. I did not copy all of it as this is only one particular line of the Sherfy ~~line~~ family line - Mary Ann & James had 2 children, Rutha & Samuel. I knew Rutha & her husband & family very well since I was a little girl.

She married John Snodgrass from Sullivan Co. & they later moved to Troutville, Virginia; a small town north of Roanoke on Hwy 11 - now I-81 runs nearby. Their son Paul worked in Roanoke at the Steel works, making bridge sections, etc. His wife only died a couple of years ago at age 104. Their son lives in Roanoke - I did not know their (Rutha & John's) children as well - they lived mostly in N. Virginia & Wash., D.C.

I'm ~~also~~ also enclosing a copy of all the pages of her lists of the babies she delivered around - I don't know all the addresses - some maybe as far away as Sullivan Co. - Mother said she would take her bags & ride her horse to the home & stay until the baby was delivered & both Mother & baby were stable & then would return home.

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I'm also enclosing a few samples of Rebecca's copybook - One shows the teacher's sample at the top, then her following - The others just show other letters & sentences, plus one of her name. As you can see, they still spelled Sherfey without the last 'e' - There were several spellings -

I wanted to tell you a little more about Magdalena in general. She was a small woman - 4'10" & weighed 120# unless she was pregnant, until she became elderly with arthritis & decreased in her activity level. She & Abraham had 8 children - My grand mother was the youngest - <sup>Magdalena</sup> ~~she~~ buried 6 of them. 3 of them in one month - August of 1854. Rebecca was only 6 when the war began, so even in 1865, she was only 10, a fact I find

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Unusual, that her handwriting was so fine & clear, since they used goose quills & ink, which was homemade.

I do not know the date when Abraham had the accident while cutting trees, which caused an injury to the back of his head. This left him blind - He was this way during the war as far as I know - Rebecca was this 'seeing-eye' as Mather writes about.

Magdalena did not date the 1st page of her deliveries - only how many babies for that man's wife. Some I + High as 7 - First dated one was 1866 & she delivered her last one May 23, 1873.

She was 43 when she became a widow, but lived until she was 90 - In 1880, Rebecca & James moved into the house with her bringing

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With them their children, which finally fattened 9 - 2 died in childhood from diphtheria -

Bob, when going thru a box, I found a small very hard used book about  $3\frac{1}{2} \times 4\frac{1}{2}$  inches - It is in German. This was not Magdalena's Medical Book dated 1860 - which my daughter Rebecca (Becky) found from their fire-used - It is older - Ramona will get out her grammar books of German & try to translate it because, what she could read, she said it seemed to be some sort of medicine book, which her parents had given her many years earlier - Well see & I'll let you know. This may explain how she gained her knowledge about herbs & plants plus midwifery skills.

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As you look at the list of names you will see she delivered nearly ~~325~~ babies - where she "attended" 20 & 20 - that meant the baby had arrived before she got there, so she finished up - cleaned everyone up & made sure Mother & Baby were OK before she would leave the home. She delivered 3 I think for D. W. St. John's wife - You may need a magnifying glass to read her writing - <sup>Ha</sup>

Oh yes! in the article by Brooks, he mentioned that she had been paid \$55 & an invoice was presented - I'd like to see that or a copy of it to compare handwriting - After reading these pages I'm sure you'd recognize hers too - Mother never mentioned any payment other than "Supplies" brought by the R.R. from the Union, I concluded to be flour, dried beans,

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Coffee, or such -

~~But~~ Right now, I can't think of anything more - I can just say the women who survived the Civil War, especially in E. TN where families were torn apart were strong, hardy women physically & strong in their faith & beliefs in God spiritually to have lost so much - I can't imagine burying 3 babies in one month - babies & toddlers - That boggles my mind - Could young women today in America do that?

I'll get this in the mail - Becky will get me a picture of the book as soon as she can -

Then we will go about copying the 3 annuals -

Have a Happy New Year,  
Sincerely,  
Laurie