

Ourfamily

Family Lineage, traced backward from Rosa Duncan Massey

*Massey &
Stevens*

Compiled by James Steven Cost.

With special thanks to the contributions of Mary Ellen Cost, and many family members and friends.

For my son and my grandchildren
Dedicated to my mother, Mary Ellen Wilhite Cost

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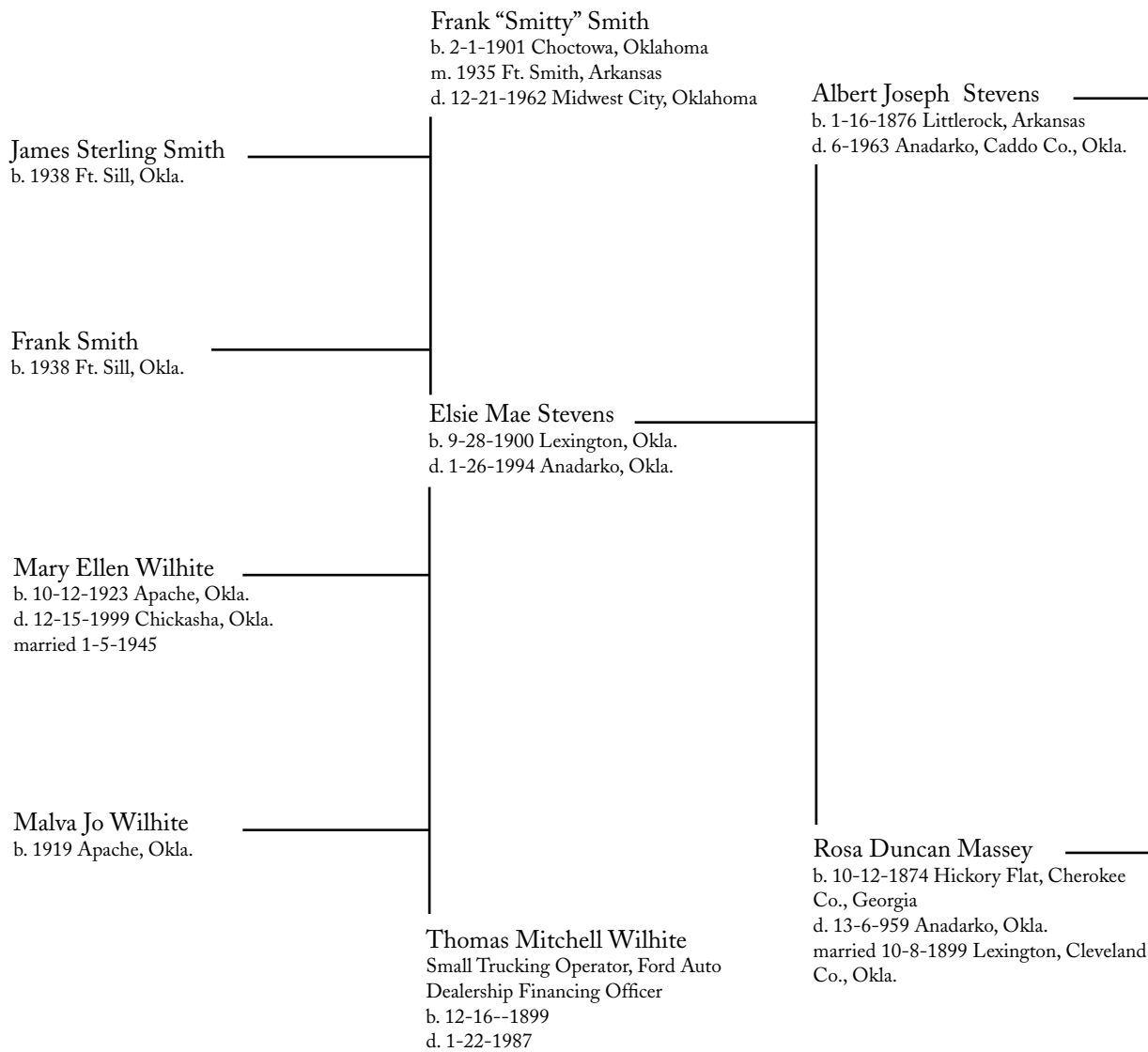
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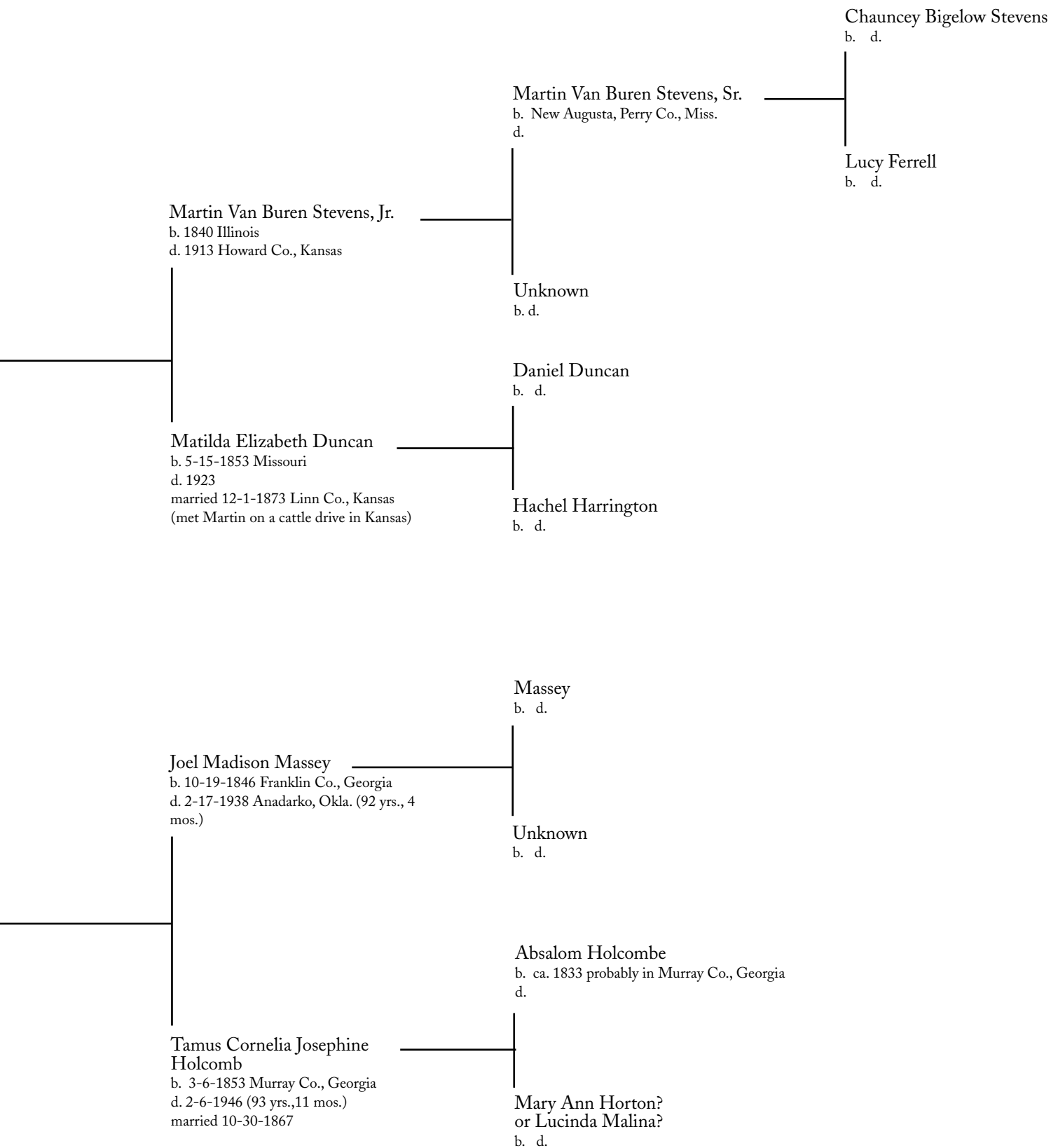


*Family Lineage
traced backward from
Elsie Mae Stevens*

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Mary Ellen Wilhite Cost	p. 6
Elsie Mae Stevens	p. 8
Nelia Mae Stevens Roberts	p. 9
Rosa Duncan Massey Stevens	p. 10
Albert Joseph Stevens.....	p. 12
Matilda Elizabeth Duncan Stevens.....	p. 14
Joel Massey.....	p. 15
Tamus Cornelia Josephine Holcomb Massey	p. 17
History of the name Massey.....	p. 19





Mary Ellen Wilhite

b. 10-12-1923 Apache, Okla.

m. 1-5-1945

d. 12-15-1999 Chickasha, Okla.

Mary Ellen was a devoted wife and loving mother. Her youth was not always pleasant with a strict and domineering mother. After her parents divorced, and her mother remarried, she lived in Lawton, Oklahoma where she was happier. After the birth of her twin half-brothers, she and the other siblings including Jo, infants Jim and Frank, were baptized into the Catholic Church. She remained a faithful Catholic for the rest of her life. Even though her husband, Micky, remained a Baptist, she brought up her son in the Catholic church as well.

In Lawton she enjoyed horseback riding and won several English-style competitions. She was in the Lawton High chorus and glee club and excelled in the high school band, as well.

She worked as a dental assistant during the war at nearby Fort Sill, where her step-father, "Smitty," was an Army sergeant. She and her sister, Jo, were very close and remained so throughout their lives. Both married service men. Both helped in the rearing of their younger twin half-brothers.

She married staff sergeant F. M. "Micky" Cost at Fort Sill Chapel on January 5, 1945 while the war was still continuing. After the war and his discharge, the



couple moved to Oklahoma City, and Micky went to college at the University of Oklahoma studying geology. Later they moved to Anadarko, Oklahoma, the home of her aunt Nelia and her grandmother Rosa. Her own mother and the twins also moved to Anadarko. Jo was married and was living in Baltimore, Maryland about this time.

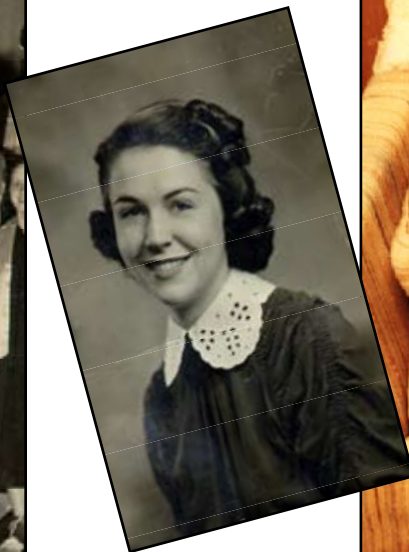
Micky and Mary Ellen rented a small but cozy home from her grandmother at 214 West Central Blvd. that they fixed up beautifully. Micky went to work for the Post Office as a walking mail carrier in Anadarko. She worked for her grandmother and aunt as a secretary at Stevens and Roberts Real Estate and Insurance office.

Steve was born May 16, 1949 after the couple tried for five years to conceive. He was to be their only child. He spent time at the office with the family when he was a small child and later after school. When he was a senior in high school she quit her job at Stevens and Roberts to spend time with him before he went off to college.

In 1967 she accepted an executive secretary position at Western Farmers Electric, the big industry in Anadarko and worked there into the late 1980s. She missed Steve very much when he married and then moved to Florida to be in the Navy and stayed to work in advertising. But in 1979 the couple returned to live in Amarillo, Texas and have their own son, Christopher. Now closer the family got to visit much more often.

Micky passed on in 1989, but Mary Ellen remained in their home in Anadarko. She spent time making crafts and going to craft shows with her sister, Jo. She also spent time when she could with her brothers, especially Jim. Around this time her mother, Elsie, became somewhat mentally ill, and had nothing to do with Mary Ellen. But Mary Ellen remained close to her aunt Nelia and in later years became Nelia's primary caretaker.

Mary Ellen died of cancer in a coma on December 15, 1999, with her son, Steve, at her side. She received a beautiful church funeral and is buried beside her husband in the Anadarko Memorial Cemetery.



Elsie Marie Stevens

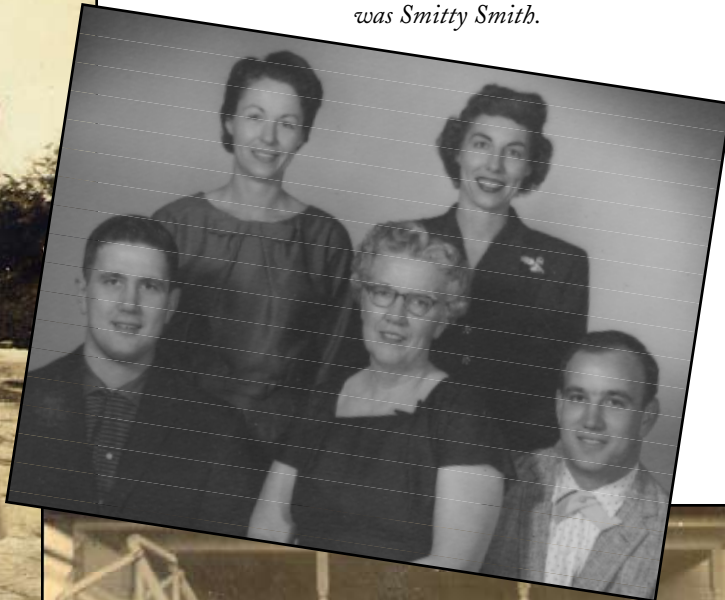
b. 9-28-1900 at 2 am Purcell, Oklahoma
m. 9-15-1918 to Thomas Mitchell Wilhite
remarried to James Franklin "Smitty" Smith, Ft. Sill, Okla.
d. 1988 Anadarko, Oklahoma



Left to right: Smitty, Mary Ellen, Elsie, Elvie Roberts, and Jo



Children and mother: left to right— Jim, Mary Ellen, Elsie, Jo, and Frank. Jim and Frank are twins and their father was Smitty Smith.



Adopted son, Tony Perez Smith



Nelia Mae Stevens

b. 12-14-1909 Anadarko, Oklahoma
m. 4-8-1928 Elva Martin Roberts, Anadarko
d. 8-2000 Anadarko, Oklahoma

Nelia was named after her grandmother CORNELIA Massey. She was born on the Stevens homestead south of Anadarko and lived her entire life in Anadarko. She graduated from Anadarko High School and went on to study at the Anadarko Business School.

She married E.M. "Elvie" Roberts when he was 25 and she 19. They became business partners with her mother in 1928, the Stevens and Roberts Real Estate and Insurance Co. The building was on North Broadway St., across from the county courthouse, next to the Chevrolet dealership and on the same block as the Redskin Movie Theater. E. M. Roberts was born 9-14-1904 in Apache, Oklahoma, a U.S. Navy veteran of World War II serving on an aircraft carrier through several naval battles in the Pacific Ocean. He died of diabetes complications at home at 62 years old 12-30-1966.

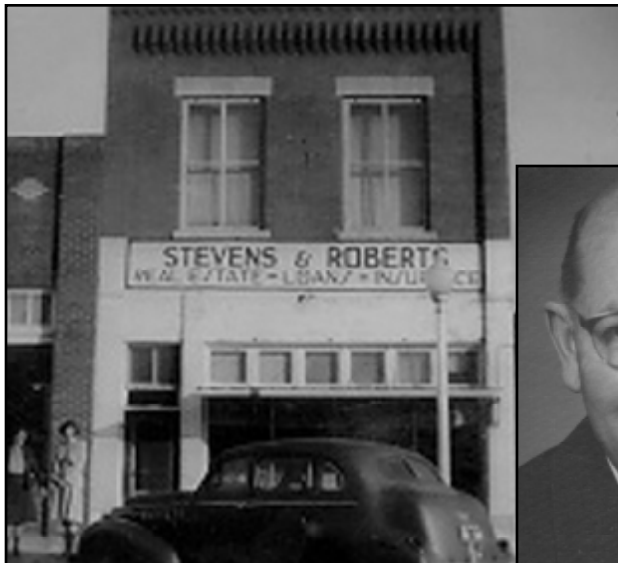
Nelia started an Indian trading store in the same building as the Real Estate business in 1949. She was an avid Indian lore and history enthusiast. She was a great collector along with her husband amassing collections of Indian arts and crafts and antiques, antique guns, knives and coins. She knew all the Oklahoma Indian artists and craftspersons personally through her business and hobby.

E. M. and Nelia also loved to travel, especially in their Airstream travel trailer going all over America and Mexico. E. M. also enjoyed deer hunting in Colorado with my dad and friends. Nelia and E. M. went fishing whenever the could. She was an accomplished oil painter and china painter. E. M. loved to work with wood in his home workshop. They both created a lush backyard with fishpond, waterfall and bridge from the house to workshop.

Nelia was like a grandmother to me. She was my greatest benefactor in many ways. Taught me all about



Indian lore and crafts, Indian costume making and dancing, coin collecting, and much more. She and E. M. helped me and my parents live a little better than our own means. They gave us our first color TV, helped me with college expenses, and helped me extensively when I became a full-time fine artist in 1989. Nelia was understanding, beloved and trusted. She was the first person to whom Sharon and I announced our wedding engagement.



Rosa Duncan Massey

b. 10-12-1874 Hickory Flat, near Macon, Cherokee Co., Georgia
m. 10-8-1899 to Albert Joseph Stevens, Purcell, Okla.
d. 13-6-1959 in her home, Anadarko, Okla. after an 8-year illness

Part owner of Stevens and Roberts Insurance and Real Estate. Homesteaded in Anadarko in 1907. Charter member of the Anadarko First Christian Church, member of Eastern Star, Rebekah Lodge, and Royal Neighbors.

Nelia, Rosie, Stevie, Mary Ellen



Rosie and husband A.J. Stevens



Rosie and great-grandson, Stevie Cost





ROSA D. MASSEY STEVENS - TEACHER + CLASS



ROSA & ELSIE M. STEVENS + OLD BOSS + HOMESTEAD 509 CASHBARKS



Rosie Massey Stevens silver class bell and slate blackboard, and her eye-glasses

Albert Joseph Stevens

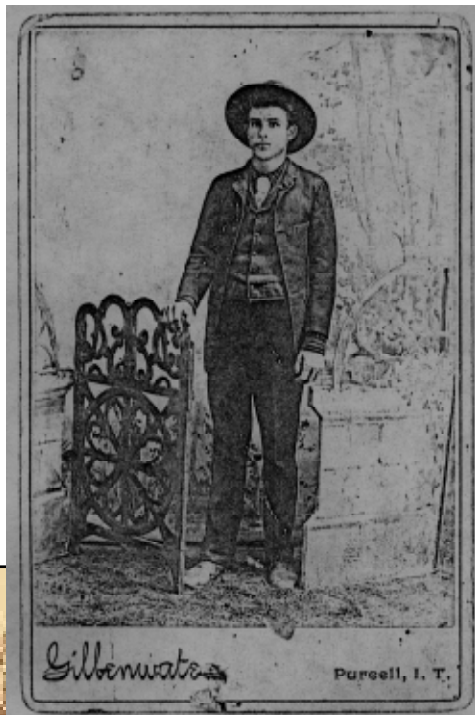
b. 1-16-1876 Littlerock, Pulaski Co., Arkansas
m. 10-8-1899 to Rosa Duncan Massey, Purcell, Okla.
d. 6-1963 Anadarko, Caddo Co., Okla.

Farmer, county agent, real estate, insurance, and loans agent.

Children of Albert and Rosa Stevens:

Elsie Marie
b. 9-28-1900 at 2 am Purcell, Oklahoma
m. 9-15-1918 to Thomas Mitchell Wilhite
remarried to James Franklin "Smitty" Smith, Ft. Sill, Okla.
d. 1988 Anadarko, Oklahoma

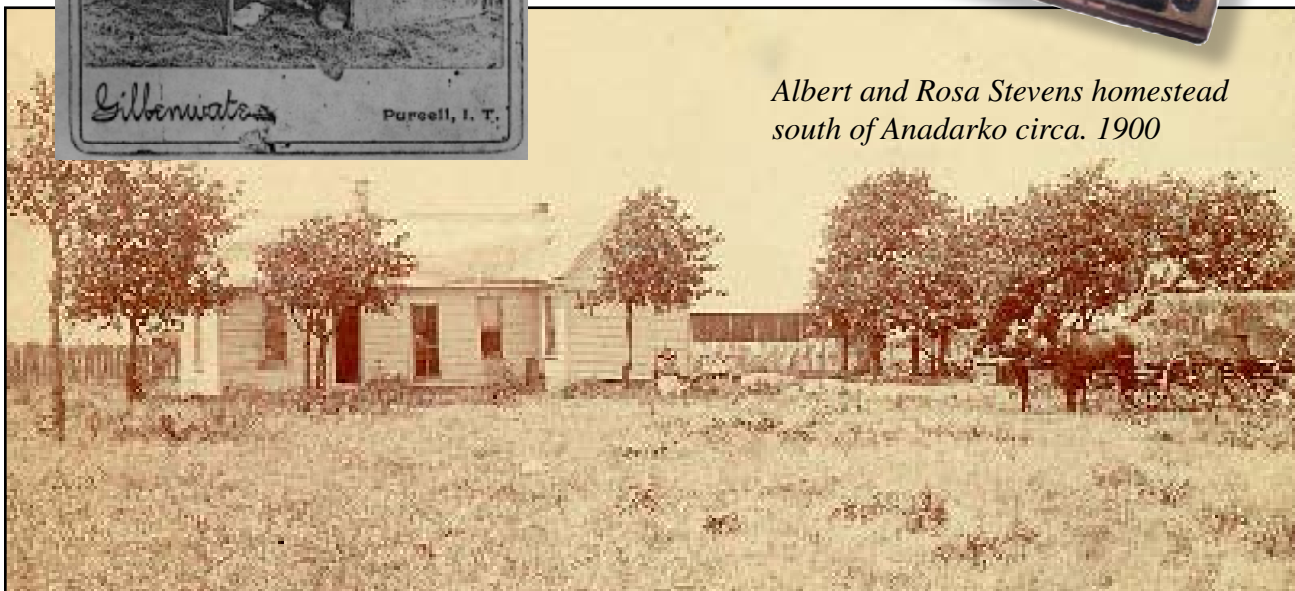
Nelia Mae
b. 12-14-1909 Anadarko, Okla. m. Elva M. Roberts
d. 8-2000 in her home of heart attack, Anadarko

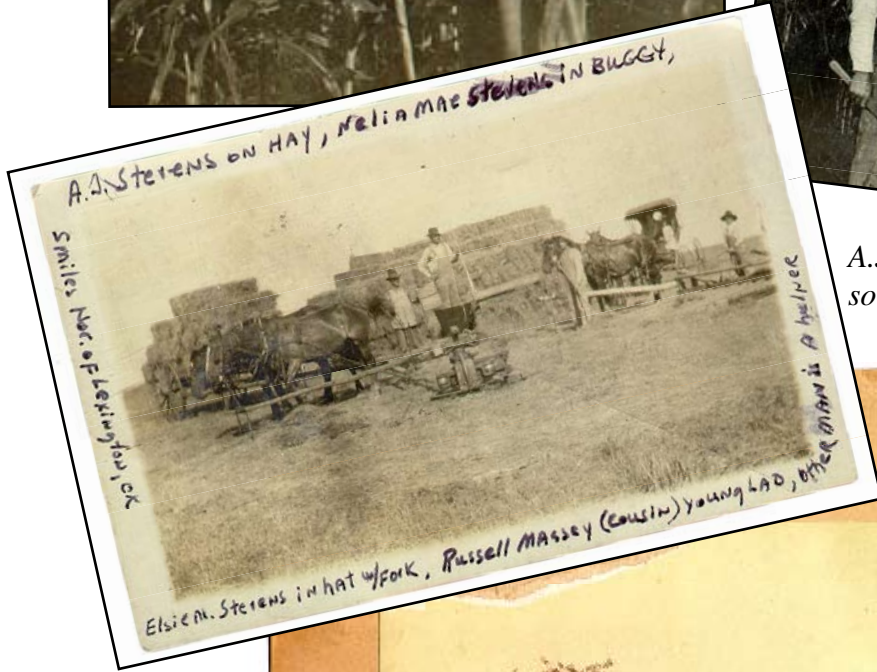
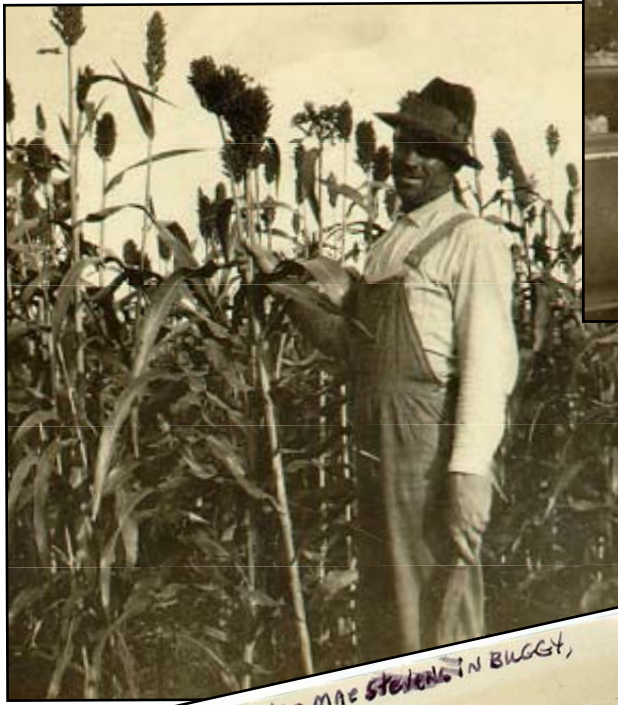


A.J. Stevens harmonica



Albert and Rosa Stevens homestead south of Anadarko circa. 1900





A.J. and Rosa Stevens homestead south of Anadarko circa. 1900



A.J. & Rosa B. Stevens
Homestead
South of Anadarko

Matilda Elizabeth Duncan

b. 5-15-1853 Missouri

d. 1923

Matilda was the mother of Albert Stevens.



Joel Madison Massey

Confederate soldier, Justice of the Peace, mercantile businessman.

b. 10-19-1846 Franklin Co., Georgia

m. 10-39-1867 Springlake, Georgia

d. 2-17-1938 Anadarko, Okla., buried Clinton, Okla.

When he was 17 years old, on November 20, 1863, Joel volunteered for service as a Confederate soldier at Marietta, Georgia and enlisted in Company "C" 42nd Georgia, Stovall Brigade, Stewart Division, Hood Cavalry, Western Army, Joseph E. Johnson Comander. He fought in several battles, including the Battle of Kennesaw Mountain, Resaca, Ga., New Hope Church, Ga., and all the battles around Atlanta and Marietta, Georgia. He was transferred to Meridian, Mississippi and then back again to Atlanta where his company eventually surrendered.

At the closing of the war he return home and married his sweetheart, Tamus Josephine Cornelia Holcum—who waited for him since she was 10 years old—on October 30, 1867. He was 21 and she 15 years old. On the inside of her wedding band was inscribed "J to N" which meant Joel to Nelia, the name he called her. Nelia Mae (Stevens) Roberts was named after her grandmother CORNELIA. Her great-grand niece was named Jo after her name, Josephine. Joel and Cornelia had ten children, three of whom died in infancy or early in childhood. They lived in Cherokee County, Georgia, on the site of the old family homestead. There Joel served for several years as a Justice of the Peace and farmed. He became a member of the Masonic Order in 1876 and the Odd Fellows Lodge in 1888.

He and his large family moved to Cleveland County, Oklahoma in 1893 when the Indian Territory was opened for settlement. In and around Lexington, Oklahoma, Joel went into the mercantile business and was successful for over 20 years. In 1918 he moved with his wife to Clinton, Oklahoma. He assisted in the operation of the T. J. Massey Buick Company. There he changed church affiliation and became a member of the Methodist Church.

Joel retired in 1932, and moved to Anadarko, Oklahoma where his daughter, Rosa Duncan Massey Stevens was living with her husband, Albert J. Stevens. Joel Massey died in his home in Anadarko 1938 a the age of 91. Funeral services were held in Clinton, Oklahoma and is buried in Clinton.

Joel and Cornelia's children:

William Isaac Massey

b. 2-17-1869 lived 18 mo.

Martha "Mattie" Eugene Massey

b. 5-29-1872 d. 10-29-1879



Rosa Duncan Massey

b. 10-12-1874 m. Albert Stevens 10-8-1899 d. 3-6-1959

Mary Etna Massey

b. 1-4-1877 m. Henry Dodson 10-1901 d. 4-24-1931

John Russell Massey

b. 7-5-1879 m. Emma Davis 2-6-1898 d. 8-1971

Joel Thomas Massey

b. 4-10-1882 m. Sue Virginia Thackston 12-29-1902 in Waco, Texas d. 21-1926

Infant baby un-named

b. 10-21-1884 died at birth

Two others died at birth, birth dates unknown

Aquilla Jack Massey

b. 12-18-1885 m. Viola Taylor 2-1918 d.

Emmet Lee Massey

b. 5-5-1889 m. Vashua Virginia Jones 12-25-1909 noon in Pauls Valley, Okla. d.

Alma Irene Massey

b. 8-12-1892 m. Claude Chiles Perkins 8-27-1913 d.

A favorite aunt of Mary Ellen Wilhite Cost. Alma was a gifted pastel artist and Steve Cost inherited some of her paintings.

Civil War Battles in which Joel Massey fought:

New Hope Church

Location: Paulding County, Georgia

Campaign: Atlanta Campaign (1864)

Date(s): May 25-26, 1864. Principal Commanders: Maj. Gen. William T. Sherman and Maj. Gen. Joseph Hooker [US]; Gen. Joseph E. Johnston [CS]. Forces Engaged: Military Division of the Mississippi [US]; Army of Tennessee [CS].

Battle of Resaca

Location: Gordon County and Whitfield County, Georgia Campaign: Atlanta Campaign (1864). Date(s): May 13-15, 1864. Principal Commanders: Maj. Gen. William T. Sherman [US]; Gen. Joseph E. Johnston [CS] Forces Engaged: Military Division of the Mississippi [US]; Army of Tennessee [CS].

Battle of Atlanta

Location: Fulton County, Georgia. Campaign: Atlanta Campaign (1864). Date(s): July 22, 1864. Principal Commanders: Maj. Gen. William T. Sherman [US]; Gen. John Bell Hood [CS]. Forces Engaged: Military Division of the Mississippi [US]; Army of Tennessee [CS].

Battle of Kennesaw Mountain

Location: Cobb County, Georgia. Campaign: Atlanta Campaign (1864). Date(s): June 27, 1864. Principal Commanders: Maj. Gen. William T. Sherman [US]; Gen. Joseph E. Johnston [CS]. Forces Engaged: Military Division of the Mississippi [US]; Army of Tennessee [CS].

Battle of Marietta

Other Names: Marietta Operations, Pine Hill, Pine Mountain, Brushy Mountain, Lost Mountain, Gilgal Creek, Noonday Creek, Ruff's Mill Location: Cobb County Campaign: Atlanta Campaign (1864). Date(s): June 9-July 3, 1864. Principal Commanders: Maj. Gen. William T. Sherman [US]; Gen. Joseph E. Johnston [CS]. Forces Engaged: Military Division of the Mississippi [US]; Army of Tennessee [CS].



Left to right: Matilda Stevens, Josephine Corneilia Massey, Rosa Duncan Stevens, Joel Massey, Elsie Mae Stevens (child in front)



Joel Massey and wife Josephine Corneilia Massey

Pea Ridge

Under Gen. Johnston. Location: Benton County. Campaign: Pea Ridge Campaign (1862). Date(s): March 6-8, 1862. Principal Commanders: Maj. General Samuel R. Curtis [US]; Maj. General Earl Van Dorn [CS]. Forces Engaged: Army of the Southwest. [US]; Army of the West [CS].

Tamus Cornelia Josephine Holcomb Massey

b. 3-6-1853 Murray Co., Georgia

m. 10-30-1867

d. 2-6-1946 Oklahoma

Known as Nelia, shortened for CORNELIA, her granddaughter Nelia Mae Stevens was named after her. Cornelia's mother was a Cherokee Indian whose parents died on the "Trail of Tears" being forced to move from Georgia to Oklahoma. She was found while still in Georgia and reared by Absalom Holcomb and his own Indian wife as their own.

Cornelia married her childhood sweetheart, Joel, when he returned from the Civil War. They left Georgia and moved west to Purcell, Oklahoma to pursue a better life away from the war-torn South.



Joel + Josephine Cornelius Massey's home, Lexington, OK feeding prize chickens



SEPT MASSEY

The chronicles of England, though sometimes shrouded by the mists of time, reveal the early records of the name Massey as a Norman surname which ranks as one of the oldest. The history of name is interwoven into the colorful fabric as an intrinsic part of the history of Britain.

Careful research by professional analysts using such ancient manuscripts as the Domesday book (compiled in 1086 by William the Conqueror), the ragman rolls, the Wace poem, the Honour roll of the battle Abbey, the Curia Regis, Pipe Rolls, the Falaise Roll, tax records, baptisms, family genealogies, and local parish and church records, shows the first record of the name Massey was found in Cheshire where they were seated from very early times and were granted lands by Duke William of Normandy, their liege lord, for their distinguished assistance at the Battle of Hastings in 1066 A.D.

Many alternate spellings of the name were found. They were typically linked to a common root, usually one of the Norman nobles at the Battle of Hastings. The name Massey occurred in many references and Macy, macey, Puddington, Piddington, and many more. Scribes recorded and spelled the name as it sounded. It was not unlikely that a person would be born with one spelling, married with another, and buried with a headstone which showed another. All three spellings related to the same person. Sometimes preferences for different spelling variations either came from a division of the family, or had religious reason or sometimes patriotic reasons.

The family name Massey is believed to be descended originally from the Norman race. They were commonly believed to be of French origin but were, more accurately, of Viking origin. The Vikings landed in the Orkneys and Northern Scotland about the year 870 A.D. under their Chief, Stigurd the Stout. Later, under their Jarl, Thorfinn Rollo, they invaded France about 911 A.D. The French king, Charles the Simple, after Rollo laid siege to Paris, finally conceded defeat and granted northern France to Rollo. Rollo became the first Duke of Normandy, the territory of the North Men. Duke William who invaded and defeated England in 1066, was descended from the first Duke Rollo of Normandy.

Duke William took a census of most of England in 1086, and recorded it in the Domesday Book. A family name capable of being traced back to this document, or to Hastings, was a signal honour for most families during the middle ages and even to this day.

The surname Massey emerged as a notable English family name in the county of Cheshire where they were recorded as a family of great antiquity seated as Lords of the manor and estates in that shire. This Norman family originated from Macey in Manche in Normandy and Hamon Massie arrived in England with the Conqueror and was granted the lands of Dunham-Massey in Cheshire.

Hamon Massie was a tenant of Lupus, Earl of Chester. One of the first on record was Sir John Massie of Tatton and the family also acquired at the same time the estates of Puddington. This caused a great schism in the family and junior branches claim the name Puddington, their seat being at Puddington Hall in the vicinity of the Massey estates in Cheshire. Meanwhile the senior branch acquired the estates of Sir John Bold in Lancashire through marriage, and the main stem was seated at Coddington. They also acquired estates at Easton and John Massey was High Sheriff of Cheshire in 1602. Of note among the family at this time was General Edward Massey who fought with Charles I at Worcester.

The surname Massey contributed much to local politics and in the affairs of England or Scotland. During the 12th century many of these Norman families moved north to Scotland, following Earl David of Huntingdon who would become King of Scotland. Later, in the 16th, 17th and 18th centuries, England and Scotland were ravaged by religious and political conflict. The Monarchy, the Church and Parliament fought for supremacy. The unrest caused many to think of distant lands. Many emigrated to the Americas, especially in North Carolina.

Settlers in Ireland became known as the "Adventurers for land in Ireland". They undertook to keep the Protestant faith, and were granted lands previously owned by the Catholic Irish. In Ireland they settled in Limerick.

The news of attractions of the New World spread like wildfire. Many sailed aboard the fleet of sailing ships known as the White Sails.

In North America, migrants which could be considered kinsmen of the family name Massey, variable spellings of that same family name included Edward Massey who settled in Virginia in 1653; Thomas Massey who settled in Virginia in 1634; Jeffrey Massey who settled in Salem Massachusetts in 1630; Robert Massey who settled in Virginia in 1653; Thomas Massey who settled in the Barbados Islands in 1668; Andrew Massey who settled in New York in 1775; George Puddington settled in Maine in 1630; Robert Puddington settled in Portsmouth, New Hampshire in 1634; Christopher Piddington settled in Virginia in 1685 at the age of 18. From the port of arrival many settlers joined the wagon trains westward. During the War of Independence some declared their loyalty to the Crown of England and moved northward into Canada and became known as the United Empire of Loyalists. Meanwhile, the family name was prominent in the social scene. There were many notables of this name, Massey such as Raymond Massey (1896-1983) the Canadian actor and brother of Vincent Massey. Vincent Massey was the first Canadian to be Governor General of Canada. Others are Professor Sir Harry Massey, Sir Arthur Massey a famous medical officer, William Massey the British diplomat, and Roy Massey a noted organist.



CLAN MATHESON

Associated Family Names:
MACPHUN, MASSEY, MATHIE.

A brief History:

In common with many clans, the Mathesons suffer from the anglicisation of their name from more than one Gaelic derivation ie *Mic Mhathghamhuin* meaning son of the bear or others suggest *MacMhathain* meaning son of heroes.

There is also a Lowland derivation which is simply son of Mathew. They seem to have settled around Lochalsh, Lochcarron and Kintail, where they were granted lands by the Celtic Earls of Ross.

In 1411 they fought for Donald, Lord of the Isles at the battle of Harlaw where Alasdair the chief was captured.

The Mathesons were said to number over 2000 men at that time. When the power of the Lords of the Isles waned so did the fortunes of the Mathesons.

In 1539 Iain Dubh was killed defending Eilean Donan Castle. He had become constable of the Mackenzie stronghold after marrying the widow of Sir Dugald Mackenzie. In 1631 Dugall, styled of Balmacara became chamberlain of Lochalsh.

The Mathesons were bailies to the Earls of Sutherland in the late 15th century and settled on the north side of Loch Shin. Donald Matheson of Shiness fought against the Jacobites during the 1715 rising.

Meanwhile the chiefship had descended through the line of Dugal of Balmacaras elder brother, Roderick. His family acquired Bennetsfield in the Black Isle in 1688. John 2nd of Bennetsfield was, unlike his Sutherland cousins, a Jacobite who fought at Culloden. The name Matheson comes from the Gaelic *MacMathain*, "son of the bear" not to be confused with the English Matthewson which is simply 'Son of Matthew'. The *MacMathans* were settled in Lochalsh in Wester Ross from an early period. Kenneth *MacMathan*, constable of Eilean Donan is recorded in both the Norse account of the expedition

of King Haakon IV against Scotland in 1263, and in the Chamberlain Rolls of that year, which culminated in the defeat of King Haakon at Largs. The Mathesons fought for Donald of the Isles at Harlaw in 1411 and afterwards Chief Alastair, leader of 2000 men, was arrested by James I at Inverness and beheaded in Edinburgh in 1427. He had two sons; John from whom the Mathesons of Lochalsh descend and Donald Bain from whom the Sutherland Mathesons, "Siol Wohan" descend. John, was constable of Eilean Donnan Castle under Mackenzie, 9th of Kintail, and was killed defending the fortress against the MacDonalds of Sleat in 1539. His grandson Murdoch Buidhe had two sons Roderick of Fernaig and Dugald an Oir of Balmacarra. John (Ian Mor), son of Roderick bought Bennetsfield on the Black Isle c. 1688 and with his family left Lochalsh. The chiefship remained in this family, the Mathesons of Bennetsfield until 1975 when the then chief Colonel Bertram Matheson of Matheson, M.C. died without issue. Dugald an Oir was the progenitor of the Mathesons of Attadale and Lochalsh, Alexander of that family (b. 1805) bought back the Lochalsh estate in 1851 and was created Baronet of Lochalsh in 1882. His grandson Major Torquhil Matheson of Matheson, 6th Baronet of Lochalsh succeeded Colonel Bertram by tanistry. From the Sutherland Mathesons descend Sir James Matheson of the Shiness branch. He joined the well-known mercantile house of Jardine, Matheson and Co. of India and China where he amassed a large fortune. He bought the island of Lewis and was created the Baronet of Lewis in 1851 for his exertions and generosity in alleviating the sufferings of the inhabitants of the island during a period of famine. Descendants of the Lochalsh and Siol Wohan Mathesons are to be found today in Australia, Canada, U.S.A. and New Zealand.

Another Account of the Clan

BADGE: Bealaidh (*Sarothamnus scorparius*) broom.
SLOGAN: *Dail acha 'n da thear nai*'.

CARE is taken by the historians of this clan to draw a distinction between its patronymic and that of the Lowland families whose original name was "Mathew's son" The Highland name, they point out, is *Mac Mhathain*, "the son of heroes," and the chiefs of the clan claimed to have been settled on the shores of Lochalsh in the west of Ross-shire as long ago as the time of Kenneth MacAlpin in the middle of the ninth century. According to tradition they were among the followers of that king in his wars with the Picts, whom he finally overthrew at the great battle of Cambuskenneth near Stirling in 838. They claimed to be of the same blood as the MacKenzies, whom they aver to have been the junior line. A certain Coinneach, or Kenneth, who was chief in the twelfth century, they say left two sons. From the elder of these Cailean or Colin, the Mathesons were descended, and from the younger, Coinneach or Kenneth, the MacKenzies took their origin. In the beginning of the fifteenth century the Matheson

chief was strong enough to defy the Earl of Sutherland, and upon the latter descending upon Lochalsh, intent upon punishing so presumptuous a person, he was actually defeated and slain by the Mathesons. The scene of the encounter is still pointed out at a spot known from the event as Cnoc an Cattich.

Alastair MacRuari, who achieved this feat of arms, was among the turbulent chiefs of clans who supported the Lord of the Isles in his claim to the earldom of Ross and his struggle against the power of the Scottish kings. In the struggles of those times he is said to have been able to bring as many as 2,000 men into the field. Every student of Scottish history knows how those troublers of the peace were dealt with by James I. upon his return from his long captivity in England. Summoning them to a "Parliament" at Inverness, he promptly arrested the most dangerous of them, executed some on the spot, and carried others to Edinburgh, where a number more were tried and condemned to the same fate. Alastair MacRuari was among the latter, and was executed in 1427.

Alastair left a widow with two sons, and his widow presently married again, her second husband being a son of Macleod of the Lews. This individual took advantage of the youth of his stepsons to endeavour to establish himself in possession of their property, and at last, finding themselves probably in actual danger, the lads fled from Lochalsh. While the younger went to Caithness, John, the elder of the two, betook himself to his mother's father, the chief of the Mackintoshes. He did not, however, give up the hope of recovering his patrimony, and by and by, having arrived at years of manhood, he obtained from his grandfather a force of men for his purpose, and set out to surprise the usurper. It was night when the party arrived at Lochalsh, and having observed the utmost precautions of secrecy, young Matheson succeeded in his purpose. Making a sudden assault, he set the castle on fire, and as the garrison was forced to come out they were slain or captured by the Mackintoshes. Anxious to save his mother's life, Matheson took up a position at the gate, and when she appeared, she was, by his orders, safely passed through the lines of the Mackintoshes. In the midst of the tumult, however, and flashings of the torches, it was not perceived that she was walking in an unusual way. She was wearing an arisaid, or wide plaited garment with heavy folds doubled around the hips. Under this she had managed to conceal her husband, and in a few moments the latter was beyond the light of the torches and able to escape in the darkness.

The Matheson chief then took possession of his patrimony, but he was not allowed to enjoy it long in peace. MacLeod, hastening to the Lews, raised a considerable force, with which he returned and deliberately invaded the Matheson country. In the encounter which took place he was finally forced to retreat, and as he fell back upon his birlinns or galleys, his force suffered severely from the flights of arrows poured into it by a company of Matheson bowmen under a certain Ian Ciar MacMurghai Mhic-Thomais. From this incident the battle is remembered as

Blar-na-saigheadear. But MacLeod was not yet completely discouraged. Once more he gathered his men on the Lews, and once more came back. But in this second attempt he was defeated and slain, and the MacLeods troubled the Mathesons no more.

Meanwhile the MacKenzies had gradually risen to be a clan of great power in the region, and in their island fastness of Eilandonan, at the mouth of Loch Duich, they were able to resist the attacks of all their enemies. The Macraes and the Mathesons in turn deemed it an honour to be appointed constable of Eilandonan, and a later Matheson chief, John, greatly distinguished himself in discharge of this duty. It was at the time of the great feud between the Macdonalds and the MacKenzies. Again and again the savage Donald Gorm of Sleat, on the coast of Skye, opposite, raided the MacKenzie country, but in these attacks Eilandonan was successfully defended by the Matheson chief. At last, however, as he stood by a window watching the progress of the defence, Matheson was struck down and slain by a Macdonald arrow. This was in 1537.

