

William S. Lanier (Sr.)
and
Seleta Jane (Hale) Lanier

This biographical data was compiled for use in preparation of a history of Peachtree Baptist Church.

~~William S. Lanier (Sr.) and Seleta Jane (Hale) Lanier are buried in the Peachtree Baptist Church cemetery, along with their son George Edward Lanier and his wife Sadie A. Parker Lanier and William Sampson Lanier (Jr.) Also in the cemetery is Josie E. Lanier, born May 9, 1894, date of death not given, who was perhaps the daughter of William S. and Seleta J. Lanier. (1900 census says they had three children who had died prior to 1900.)~~

Note: I have used (Sr.) and (Jr.) in parentheses in referring to father and son because I am not sure they had the same middle name. The son's middle name is Sampson (as shown on the father's Confederate pension application). Also, Mrs. Lanier's name is shown as spelled Saleta and as Seleta. The latter is used on the tombstone, so I use that spelling.

1841. William S. Lanier (Sr.) was born February 15, 1841. (Tombstone data.) 1860 census indicates he may have been born in 1835.

1850. Seleta Jane (Hale) Lanier was born November 23, 1850. (Tombstone data.)

1850. 1850 Gwinnett County census lists parents of Seleta Jane Hale on page 133, dwelling 51, family no. 51, as follows:

James R. Hale, age 22, farmer, no real estate, born in Georgia.
Elizabeth Hale, wife, age 19, born in Georgia.

1857. Gwinnett County marriage book 4, page 376, shows that William S. Lannair [sic] married Rachael C. Steel. License issued and marriage ceremony both February 3, 1857. Marriage by N. Reeder, Justice of the Peace.

1860. Gwinnett County census for 1850 lists W. S. Lanier in the Berkshire District on page 761 in dwelling no. 1139, family no. 1139 as follows:

W. S. Lanier, age 25, farmer, no real estate, personal property worth \$460, born in Georgia.

Cate Lanier, wife, age 18, born in Georgia

John Lanier, son, age 4 months, born in Georgia.

1860. Seleta Jane Hale is listed on the 1860 census of Gwinnett County, living in the Berkshire District, on page 813, dwelling no. 1464, family no. 1464, as follows:

James R. Hale, age 33, farmer, real estate valued at \$700, personal property valued at \$500, born in Georgia.

Elizabeth Hale, age 30, wife, born in Georgia.

Saleta Hale, age 10, daughter, born in Georgia, attended school in past year.

Mary Hale, age 8, daughter, born in Georgia, attended school in past year.

Shady (?) Hale, age 5, daughter, born in Georgia.

Nancy Hale, age 1, daughter, born in Georgia.

(Note: also on same page, next family, is Thompson Hale, age 53, who could be James R. Hale's father.)

1862). William S. Lanier (Sr.) enlisted as a private in Company K, 36th (Broyles!) Regiment Georgia Volunteer Infantry, Confederate States Army, on May 13, 1862, at Lawrenceville, Georgia. Subsequent muster roll for May to June, 1862, shows he was present with his company at Big Creek Gap, Tennessee. Muster roll for May 1 to Sept. 1, 1863, shows he was present with his company at Bakers Creek, Mississippi. He appears on a roll of Confederate soldiers who were surrendered to the U. S. Army at Vicksburg, Mississippi, on July 4, 1863, and subsequently paroled on the condition that he not re-enter service until he could be exchanged. He appears on a receipt roll for clothing dated August 6, 1863, listed as a paroled prisoner of war. Muster roll for November and December 1864, shows he was absent without leave. No further record appears on the "Compiled Service Records of Soldiers in Military Units from Georgia."

Witness to William S. Lanier (Sr.) pension, W. T. Annold, says that Co. K, 36th (Broyles!) Regiment Georgia Volunteer Infantry merged with and became part of Co. B, 42nd Regiment Georgia Volunteer Infantry in 1865.

1865.) Marriage record attached to widow's pension application of Mrs. Seleta Jane Lanier shows William S. Lanier and S. J. Hale applied for a marriage license in Gwinnett County, Georgia, on October 28, 1865. The record shows they were married November 3, 1865, by William A. Jordan, Justice of the Peace. Also found in Gwinnett County marriage book 4, page 479.

1870. Mother of Seleta Jane (Hale) Lanier and family are listed on the 1870 census of Gwinnett County, Stone Mountain Post Office address, on page 95 (or 48), dwelling no. 676, family no. 682, as follows:

Elizabeth Hale, age 39, farmer, value of real estate: \$700, value of personal property: \$500, born in Georgia.

Shady Hale, daughter, age 14, born in Georgia.

Nancy Hale, son, age 11, born in Georgia.

James Hale, son, age 9, born in Georgia.

Note: Father of Seleta Jane Hale Lanier does not appear with the family. He probably had died. Could it be he died as a soldier in the Civil War?

1875. Emma Lanier, daughter of William S. Lanier (Sr.) and Seleta Jane Lanier, was born in January 1875. (1900 census)

1878. James Lanier, son of William S. Lanier (Sr.) and Seleta Jane Lanier, was born in December 1878. (1900 census)

1882. George Edward Lanier, son of William S. Lanier (Sr.) and Seleta Jane Lanier, was born in April 1882. (1900 census)

1886. Nora Lanier, daughter of William S. Lanier (Sr.) and Seleta Jane Lanier, was born in March 1886. (1900 census)

1887. Sadie A. Parker Lanier, wife of George Edward Lanier, was born in 1887. (Tombstone data & Marriage record)

1892. William Sampson Lanier (Jr.) son of William S. Lanier (Sr.) and Seleta Jane Lanier, was born January 31, 1892. (tombstone)

1894. Josie E. Lanier was born May 9, 1894. She was probably the daughter of William S. (Sr.) and Seleta Jane Lanier. She probably died as an infant.

1900. William S. Lanier (Sr.) appears on the 1900 census of DeKalb County, Georgia, in volume 20, enumeration district 13, page 21, line 50 ff., as being in the Decatur District, (531st Georgia Militia

District), as follows:

William S. Lanier, born February 1841, age 59, married 35 years, he and parents all born in Georgia, occupation: farming, rents farm.

Saleta Lanier, wife, born November 1850, age 49, married 35 years, mother of eight children, five children still living, she and parents all born in Georgia, no occupation.

Emma Lanier, daughter, born January 1875, age 25, single, born in Georgia, no occupation.

James Lanier, son, born December 1878, age 21, single, born in Georgia, occupation: farm laborer.

George E. Lanier, son, born April 1882, age 18, single, born in Georgia, occupation: drover [?] in dairy.

Nora Lanier, daughter, born March 1886, age 14, single, no occupation.

William Lanier, son, born January 1892, age 8, single, born in Georgia, at school 6 months in past year.

1902. George E. Lanier, son of William S. and Seleta J. Lanier married Sadie Parker. License obtained July 1, 1902, marriage ceremony performed September 21, 1902, with James L. Martin, Minister of the Gospel officiating. DeKalb County Marriage book G, page 401.

1905. W. S. Lanier applied for a Confederate soldier's pension as a resident of DeKalb County, Georgia, on September 19, 1905. He says his residence is Wallace Post Office, DeKalb County. Says further:

Enlisted in Co. K, 36th Regiment Georgia Volunteer Infantry in May 1862.

He was present with his company at High Point, North Carolina, when General Johnson surrendered his Army of Tennessee at Greensboro, North Carolina.

Applies for pension on basis of indigency. Says he has for last four years been in declining health, suffering from rheumatism and catarrh. Is not able to work and has been supported by his family to the extent of \$50 to \$100 per year, which is all the money he has had. He lists his wife Saleta (not Seleta), age 54, and his son William Sampson Lanier, age 12, as members of his family.

1916. William S. Lanier (Sr.) died April 27, 1916. (From widow's pension application of Seleta Jane Lanier. Also, Confederate Pension and Records Office files show that he received a pension in 1916 and also implies that he received one in 1917. Tombstone, however, says he died April 22, 1915. No obituary found in Atlanta Constitution for April 22-29 in either 1915 or 1916.)

1916. Seleta Jane Lanier applied for a Confederate widow's pension as a resident of DeKalb County, Georgia, on August 11, 1916. She says her husband died April 27, 1916. He was on pension roll as an indigent pensioner. He served in Company K, 36th Regiment Georgia Volunteer Infantry and later in Company B, 42nd Regiment Georgia Volunteer Infantry. She says they were married April 2, 1865.

1918. William Sampson Lanier died Oct. 10, 1918 says tombstone.

1918. Seleta J. Lanier died December 19, 1918. Her obituary notice appears in the Atlanta Constitution, on December 20 and 21, 1918 (with varying texts). First, December 20, page 12, column

5, reads:

"Mrs. W. S. Lanier

Mrs. W. S. Lanier, 69 years old, died at 6 o'clock Thursday evening at the residence 69 Ashland street. She was survived by one daughter, Mrs. H. H. Jones; two sons, J. F. and C. [not G.] Lanier. The body was removed to the chapel of Turner & Everett."

And on December 21, page 5, column 4:

"Mrs. W. S. Lanier

Mrs. W. S. Lanier died at her residence, 69 Ashland avenue, Inman Park, Atlanta, Thursday afternoon at 6 o'clock after prolonged illness. Survivors, two sons, J. E. and G. E. Lanier, and one daughter Mrs. H. H. Jones, all of Atlanta. Funeral services will be held at and the interment will be in Peachtree Creek churchyard, DeKalb County Saturday."

Notes:

Tombstone shows Jessie E. Lanier born May 9, 1894, died January 1, 1981. Is she wife of either James or George E. Lanier? Her obituary appears in the Atlanta Constitution of January 2, 1981, page 2C, column 4, as follows:

"Mrs. Jessie Lanier

"Graveside services for Mrs. Jessie Lanier, 87, of Atlanta, will be at 3 p.m. Friday in Peachtree Baptist Church cemetery. Mrs. Lanier, a retired seamstress for the Nunnally-McRae clothing company, died Thursday. There are no immediate survivors."

Also, same issue page 4C is the funeral notice as follows:

"LANIER

"Mrs. Jessie Lanier of Atlanta, passed away Jan. 1, 1981. There are no immediate survivors. Graveside services will be held Friday, Jan. 2, 1981, at 3 p.m. from the Peachtree Baptist Churchyard. Rev. Jimmie Thompson will officiate. Horis A. Ward, Inc."

Tombstone shows William Horace Lanier born Oct. 30, 1913, died October 1, 1914. Is he a grandchild of William S. and Seleta Jane Lanier? If so, who is his father?

Sources searched:

William S. Lanier not found on 1850 census of Gwinnett County unless he is the William L. Lanier age 4, listed as a son of Pasley and Nancy Lanier (page 130, dwelling no. 7, family no. 7, in the Berkshire District. I doubt that this is the same William S. Lanier.

No obituary for William S. Lanier was found in the Atlanta Constitution, April 22-24, 1915, April 22-29, 1916 or April 22-29, 1917.

William S. Lanier, Sr. and his wife Seleta J. Lanier do not appear on the 1910 census soundex.

No marriage record for Emma Lanier in DeKalb County brides index.

No marriage record for Nora Lanier in DeKalb county brides index.

Not found on 1880 census soundex of Georgia: William S. and Seleta Jane Lanier.

Not found on DeKalb County deeds index (grantees) to 1901

Items to be searched:

Search 1870 census (DeKalb County) for William S. and Seleta Jane Lanier.

Search 1850 census for Rachael C. (perhaps Cate) Steel living with parents in Gwinnett county.

Be on the lookout for evidence that the William S. Lanier married in 1857 to Rachael C. Steel and in 1865 to Seleta Jane Hale are the same person.

1870 census of Gwinnett County does not have William S. Lanier nor a Steel family. (Not all of Pinckneyville district was searched.)