

In the courthouse at Brownsville, deed book "G", page 371, dated November 25, 1857, we found the following:

Indenture made between John S. Durbin, of the first part, and John N. Durbin, of the second part, both of Edmonson County, Ky., Witnesseth that the said John S. Durbin for the natural affection he has for the said John N. Durbin, and the further consideration of one dollar in hand paid, . . . being a tract of land patented to the said John S. Durbin on the 22nd of January, 1845, . . . .

This deed seems to point to John S. Durbin as being the father of John N. I have not found John S. Durbin on any census, and this is the only deed with his name on it. According to marriage records at Brownsville, John N. Durbin was born in Indiana. He first appeared in Edmonson County on the tax list for 1847, and his name was placed between that of Joseph C. Durbin and Christopher N. Durbin.

John N. Durbin, parentage unknown, was married to Mary H., daughter of Silas Z. Simon and Mary Sarah Durbin, in Edmonson County, January 20, 1848. Christopher Durbin was on the marriage bond.

In the baptismal records of St. Joseph:

John S., born September 25, 1853.

Sarah Ann, born May 16, 1856.

James, born February 19, 1863.

On the census of Edmonson County, 1860:

John N. Durbin	35
Mary	31
Silas M.	11
Joseph B.	9
John S.	7
Sarah Ann	4
Dorothy I.	5/12

John N. Durbin died sometime between the time James was born and April, 1865. On April 1, 1865, a sale was held to dispose of the personal property of John H. Durbin, dec't.

The following is a list of property, the buyer, and the price paid:

The John N. Durbin Family

Christopher Z. Simon	one small mare	\$27.25
Silas A. Simon	one colt	\$25.00
Martin Durbin	one turning plow	\$ 4.50
John Cockerel	one shovel plow	\$ 3.00
Silas Durbin	one saddle	\$ 2.50
J.W. Hack	one ax	\$ .30
D.B. Davis	one ax	\$ 1.00
Christopher Simon	one ax	\$ .75
Mary Durbin	one pair of gears	\$ 1.50
Mary Durbin	one pair of stretchers	\$ .75
B.L. Davis	one clock	\$ 2.80
Mary Durbin	one clevis	\$ .30
T.J. Cissell	one rifle gun	\$ 6.95
Mary Durbin	one safe	\$ 8.00
Mary Durbin	one heifer	\$11.00
Silas A. Simon	one steer	\$12.75
Mary Durbin	two ewes, two lambs	\$ 8.00
Mary Durbin	two ewes	\$ 6.00
Silas A. Simon	one turned bedstead	\$ 6.00
Silas A. Simon	one small bulk of tobacco	\$ 2.25
Mary Durbin	one kettle and hooks	\$ 6.00
Mary Durbin	one broken set of cups & saucers	\$ .75
Mary Durbin	one pitcher	\$ 1.10
Mary Durbin	two plates and two dishes	\$ 1.50
Mary Durbin	cups and saucers	\$ .25

I truly certify that the foregoing is a true and correct list of the personal estate of John N. Durbin, sold at a sale of said property on the 1st day of April, 1865.

Given under my hand as admin., this 8th day of April, 1865.

her  
Mary X Durbin  
mark

Attest:

A. Kirtty

State of Kentucky, Edmonson County

I, Aron Lawson, Clerk of Edmonson County Court, do certify that the within sale bill was on the 12th day of June, 1865, produced in open court and ordered to record, and that I have recorded it and this certificate in my office.

Witness my hand this 10th day of December, 1865.

Aron Lawson, Clk.

On the census of Edmonson County, 1870:

M.H. Durbin	41
Silas M.	21
Joseph B.	19
John S.	16
Sarah A.	14
Dorothy	10
John T.	7 (this should be James T.)

On the census of Edmonson County, 1880:

Mary H. Durbin	51
Thomas	17

In deed book "N", page 223:

This indenture made and entered into this Nov. 7th 1885, between S.M. Durbin and Martha E. Durbin his wife, Mary H. Durbin, John S. Durbin and Sarah Ann Durbin his wife, C.N. Durbin and Sarah Ann Durbin his wife, Lewis Metcalf and Dorotha Metcalf his wife, and James T. Durbin, legal heirs and representatives of John N. Durbin of the first part, and James E. Hayes of the second part, all of the County of Edmonson, State of Ky., . . . for the sum of \$50.00 paid in hand . . . a certain tract or parcel of land on the waters of Sunfish Creek . . . containing 54 acres, more or less . . . .

In the cemetery of St. John, Sunfish:

Mary H. Durbin, Feb. 20, 1829 - Nov. 21, 1891.

Mary was on this earth for 62 years, nine months, and one day.

#### Children of John N. Durbin and Mary H. Simon

1. Silas M., son of John N. Durbin and Mary H. Simon, was married to Martha E., daughter of William H. Bush and Sarah Ann Metcalf, March 31, 1872.

On the census of Edmonson County, 1880:

Silas M. Durbin	31
Martha E.	28
John W.	7
Sarah	5
Mary	3
Martina	5/12

Baptismal records at St. Joseph show the following children born to Silas and Martha:

John W., born February 18, 1873.

Sarah Ellen, born January 13, 1875.

Mary Jane, born October 6, 1877.

Martina, born February 18, 1880.

Michael Melvin, born October 8, 1882.

Theodore, born January 20, 1885.

Ann Florence, born August 26, 1887.

Adeline, born October 7, 1889.

Silas M. Durbin, born February 2, 1848, died September 9, 1902.

Martha E. Bush Durbin was on the census of McLean County with her son-in-law, Clarence Baker, and daughter, Ann Florence, in 1910. She was the mother of nine children, with six living, and was 60 years old. Martha E. died in 1925 in Louisville and is buried at St. Michael's Cemetery.

#### Children of Silas M. Durbin and Martha E. Bush

A. John William, son of Silas M. Durbin and Martha E. Bush, was married to Elenora, daughter of John Thomas French and Martha Ann Hunt, January 26, 1895.

On the census of Edmonson County, 1900:

John W. Durbin	Feb. 1872
Elenor	Feb. 1877
Estell	Nov. 1895
Alonzo	Mar. 1900

Other children of John William Durbin and Elenora French:

Unnamed son, born and died September, 1902.

Elmer ("Jack"), born October, 1904.

Alma, born March, 1909.

Angelia, born October, 1914.

Marjorie, born December, 1919.

Laymon, born December, 1922.

John Will and Elenora lived, in my lifetime, north of Sunfish Creek and south of the Sunfish-Bee Spring Road. John Will owned a small farm, and in the 1930's worked buying land for the Mammoth Cave National Park.

Around the turn of the century, John Will was cutting ties for the railroad. At the time, there was a gang of "night riders" similar to the Ku Klux Klan operating in the Sunfish area, and they wanted some of their men to cut the ties for John Will. He refused to hire them, and when he had a big stack of ties ready for the market, they were burned, along with his barn, during the night.

I can remember John Will sitting on his front porch feeding squirrels. There was a little patch of woods around his house, and the squirrels would come up and climb to John Will's shoulders to be fed. He never allowed anyone to hunt on his property.

John Will died in 1940, and Elenora died in 1960.

#### **Children of John W. Durbin and Elenora French**

- a. Estill was in the Army during World War I. On his way overseas, he and several others in his Company were stricken with the flu. They were put in the hospital in Hoboken, New Jersey, and soon it was learned that Estill had contracted meningitis.

The Army, or someone, informed John Will of Estill's condition, and John Will boarded a train bound for the hospital in Hoboken. Before he arrived Estill died, and his casket had been sealed to prevent any contamination from the meningitis. When John Will returned with Estill's body, he opened the casket to make sure he had his son.

Estill died October 14, 1918, and is buried at St. John Cemetery, Sunfish.

- b. Alonzo was married to June Houtchins, parentage unknown, August 24, 1939. Alonzo built the store on the southeast corner of Ky. 187 and the Bee Spring Road (presently operated by John A. Durbin) and operated it for several years. He and June were divorced after their first son was born, and the son was reared mainly by Angelia, Alonzo's sister.

June was discovered to have a severe case of tuberculosis and spent several months in a sanitarium before she was cured. When she was released she joined the Church, and she and Alonzo were remarried. June was, I believe, a school teacher.

Alonzo and June were the parents of three children:

- aa. David, born September 29, 1940, was married to Betty \_\_\_\_\_, and ran a service station in western Louisville. They had two children, Patrick and David Jr. David Sr. was killed in an automobile accident January 6, 1972.
- bb. James Alonzo Jr., born June 22, 1947, was married to Christina Earles. James Alonzo ran a men's store in Leitchfield and an insurance agency. He died at age 38, August 16, 1985.
- cc. C.C. Jack - no information.

Alonzo was buried March 4, 1986, at St. John Cemetery, Sunfish.

- c. Elmer ("Jack") was married to Tina, daughter of O.B. French and Idora Lashley, May 30, 1936. There were no children.

Tina was a school teacher, and Jack farmed. Tina was the only teacher who ever whipped me in school, and I'm sure I deserved the spanking. Jack and Tina lived for a number of years in an old log cabin, or house, that sat off the road on the east side, but after I left Sunfish they built themselves a fine brick home on the highway.

Jack and Tina retired to Leitchfield a few years ago, and Jack died there, at age 80 years, September 17, 1985.

- d. Mary Alma was married to Thomas Woodrow, son of Scott Shanks and Frances Zonie Durbin, of Graves County, in Louisville, November 23, 1936.

Alma died in 1972, and Thomas died December 3, 1984. His obituary listed his children as: John W., Louis E., James E. and Thomas E.

- e. Angelia was never married. She kept house for several priests, and died March 23, 1984 at age 69.
- f. Marjorie was married to Herbert, son of Martin Robert Durbin and Laura Ellen Higgs, May 5, 1941. (This line will be carried later in this section.)
- g. Laymon died in a fire in January, 1925.

- B. Sarah Ellen, daughter of Silas M. Durbin and Martha E. Bush, was first married as second wife of James Elisha, son of Christopher C. Durbin and Elizabeth Lashley, September 6, 1898.

After the death of James Elisha, Sarah Ellen was married as second wife of Thomas F., son of Francis Lashley and Jemima Durbin, September 26, 1909. (This line will be found in the Christopher Durbin, Jr. Family Section, and in the Lashley Family Section.)

- C. Mary Jane, daughter of Silas M. Durbin and Martha E. Bush.
- D. Martina, daughter of Silas M. Durbin and Martha E. Bush, was married to William P., son of Presley Cockerel and Sarah M. Hayes, September 5, 1899.

William died August 28, 1901, and Martina was then married to Martin Joseph, son of James Robert Durbin and Teresa Ellen Gatton, November 9, 1902. (This line will be carried in the William Richard Durbin Family Section.)

- E. Michael Melvin, son of Silas M. Durbin and Martha E. Bush, died August 9, 1900. He was 17 years old.
- F. Theodore, son of Silas M. Durbin and Martha E. Bush, was married to Zella Winchell, parentage unknown, in Evansville, Indiana, date not known.

I have no other information on this family since they lived in or near Evansville, Indiana.

- G. Ann Florence, daughter of Silas M. Durbin and Martha E. Bush, was married to Clarence, son of Squire Olliver Baker and Martha Ann Hunt, August 29, 1909. (This line will be carried in the French Family Section, Squire O. Baker Family.)
- H. Adelaide, daughter of Silas M. Durbin and Martha E. Bush, was married to Martin Joseph, son of John Thomas Logsdon and Kitty Ann Robinson, March 1, 1908. (This line will be carried in the Logsdon Family Section.)

- 2. Joseph B., son of John N. Durbin and Mary H. Simon, was married to Rachael Ellen, 14, daughter of James Robert Durbin and Teresa Ellen Gatton, May 26, 1872.

Joseph B. apparently died shortly after this marriage date, for Rachael Ellen was married second to John Thomas, son of James Hayes and Parmelia Jones, November 12, 1876. (This line will be carried in the Hayes Family Section.)

3. John S., son of John N. Durbin and Mary H. Simon, was married to Sarah Ann, daughter of Martin Durbin and Mary Ann Bush, December 8, 1875.

On the census of Edmonson County, 1880:

John Durbin	26
Sarah A.	25
Joseph M.	3
Thomas C.	1

John S. Durbin and Sarah Ann Durbin are not on the census for 1900. We know they moved to Missouri, but we don't know the year they moved there, or where they moved to, but believe it was Sikeston.

From the baptismal records at St. Joseph, we have the records of birth for eight of their children:

Joseph Melvin, born September 18, 1876.

Thomas S., born August 17, 1878.

Martin Robert, born August 25, 1880.

James G., born May 22, 1882.

John Christopher, born September 11, 1884.

William, born February 25, 1886.

Mary Ellen, born January 12, 1888.

Lilia (Lilly), born September 12, 1894.

John S. and Sarah Ann were the parents of twelve children, all dying as infants or young adults except for three.

- A. Joseph Melvin, son of John S. Durbin and Sarah Ann Durbin, died in Fancy Farm November 23, 1902 and is buried at St. Jerome Cemetery.
- B. Thomas S., son of John S. Durbin and Sarah Ann Durbin, died October 27, 1897 at age 19. He is buried at St. John Cemetery, Sunfish.
- C. Martin Robert, son of John S. Durbin and Sarah Ann Durbin, was married to Laura E., daughter of Isaac Higgs and Elizabeth Duvall, September 11, 1902.

During my early years in Sunfish, Martin and Laura lived at the top of the hill directly west of the St. John Church Lane. I knew Martin quite well, but never knew he was kin to the Simon family, and me. Martin was a redhead and chewed tobacco. I am sure I knew Laura, but I cannot remember what she looked like.

Martin Robert Durbin died July 11, 1950. Laura E. Higgs Durbin, born June 12, 1884, died December 30, 1966.



On the census of Edmonson County, 1910:

Martin R. Durbin	29
Laura E.	25
Girtie	6
Herbert	4
Nora	10/12

**Children of Martin Robert Durbin and Laura E. Higgs**

- a. Girtie, born January 2, 1904, was married to Andy J., born May 12, 1903, died July 5, 1962, son of James Key and Emily French, June 23, 1923.

I found records of birth for two children:

Ulysus, born February 1, 1925, was married to Mary Elizabeth Morgan in Pee Wee Valley, Kentucky, February 12, 1945.

Waladean, born January 11, 1930.

I have no other information on this line.

- b. Herbert, son of Martin R. Durbin and Laura E. Higgs, was married to Marjorie, daughter of John Will Durbin and Elenora French, May 5, 1941.

Herbert and Marjorie made their home in Louisville, and were the parents of four children:

Roy, born March 19, 1942, was married to Jody McAfee in May, 1963.

Martha, born January 27, 1944, was married to James Ballard in February, 1963.

Ruth, born February 9, 1951, is single.

Paula, born November 1, 1952, was married to Gilbert Markuson in May, 1978.

Herbert was born in 1906, died in 1960. Marjorie was born in December, 1919.

- c. Nora, daughter of Martin R. Durbin and Laura E. Higgs, was married to Elbert, son of John A. Young and Teresa Ellen Durbin.

Nora and Elbert lived in Indiana, and I have no information.

- d. Benedict, son of Martin R. Durbin and Laura E. Higgs, was married to Gladys, daughter of Daniel Anderson and Sonora Tomes, August 30, 1933.

Ben and Gladys lived in Sunfish for a time after they were married, and I thought they had the most beautiful children in the world. Ben moved the family to Louisville, but then moved back to Sunfish after a short time. In 1966 they moved back to Louisville, and have remained there.

Ben and Gladys were the parents of eight children:

James Roger, born January 1, 1935, lives in Indiana.

Laurence Randell, born November 6, 1936, lives in Arlington, Texas.

Anna, born September 10, 1938, married to Paul Gnadinger, lives in Crestwood.

Joyce, born March 6, 1940, was married to Dick Harlow, lives in Houston, Texas.

Joan, born December 16, 1941, was married to Dave Elder, lives in Louisville.

Daniel Benedict, born July 9, 1946.

Debbie, born November 7, 1957, was married to Mike Bacarella and lives in Coral Gables, Florida.

Barbie, born July 8, 1961, was married to Mike Stevens and lives in Taylorsville, Kentucky.

e. Ulyssus (Eulissus on the birth records), born March 10, 1915, died as a child.

f. Estill John, son of Martin R. Durbin and Laura E. Higgs, was married to Anna J. daughter of Christopher A. Logsdon and Eliza J. Durbin, May 1, 1943.

Estill and Anna have lived their entire lives in Sunfish, and were the parents of eleven children:

Elizabeth Jane, born February 6, 1944, was married to Joseph Devine of Barren County.

Stephen, born September 10, 1945, was married to Diane Lott of California.

Raymond John, born April 17, 1947, was married to Debora Irene Swallows of Indiana.

Mary Louise, born July 12, 1948, was married to Randell Wilson.

Margret Anne, born February 16, 1950, was married to Stephan Mathias of Tennessee.

Harold Lynn, born January 4, 1952, was married to Marilyn Woodcock.

Paula Elaine, born January 11, 1953, was married to Estel Wilson, brother of Randell, above.

Dennis Gerald, born April 13, 1954, was married to Shelia Ray.

Patrick Allen, born August 27, 1955, was married to Tyra Rippy of Bowling Green, Kentucky.

Carolyn Marie, born December 26, 1956, was married to Donald, son of Philip Harold Simon and Fannie Lashley of Bowling Green, Kentucky.

Joseph Dominic, born June 23, 1958, was married to Marjean Roundtree.

D. Mary Ellen, daughter of John S. Durbin and Sarah Ann Durbin, while in Missouri, was engaged to be married, but her fiance was killed just before the wedding. She never married. I believe she is buried with her parents in Mineola, Wood County, Texas.

E. Lilly, daughter of John S. Durbin and Sarah Ann Durbin, was married to a Cleve Miller, parentage unknown, in Missouri.

Cleve was a railroader, and his work took him to Texas. He moved his family there, and Lilly sent for her parents to come live with them in Grapevine.

Herbert, son of Martin Robert Durbin and grandson of John S. Durbin, bought a new car in 1939, and in 1940 drove his father to Texas to see John S. and Sarah Ann. It is believed that John S. died at Mineola, Wood County, Texas, shortly after this visit. He and Sarah Ann, and their daughter, Mary Ellen, are believed to be buried at Mineola at the Catholic Cemetery.

4. Sarah Ann, daughter of John N. Durbin and Mary H. Simon, was married to Christopher N., son of John R. Durbin and Nancy Metcalf, April 25, 1874. (This line will be carried in the Christopher N. Durbin Family Section.)

5. Dorothy, daughter of John N. Durbin and Mary H. Simon, was married to Louis D., son of John D. Metcalf and Agatha Surrilda Bush, February 20, 1878. (This line will be carried in the Metcalf Family Section.)

6. James Thomas, son of John N. Durbin and Mary H. Simon, was married to Nancy Catherine, daughter of John R. Durbin and Nancy Metcalf, September 11, 1886.

I found the baptismal record for only one of the many children of James T. and Cassie Durbin:

Lythia Jane, born May 16, 1891.

On the census of Butler County, 1900:

Tom Durbin	Jan. 1865 - 35
Nancy	May 1870 - 30
Polly	Jan. 1894 - 6
Jesse (son)	Mar. 1897 - 3

Two other children of James Thomas Durbin and Nancy Catherine Durbin:

Clarence ("Little Tom").

Mary Ann

There are three children buried at St. John, Sunfish:

Mary S., born April 16, 1888, died November 9, 1889.

Lydia J., born May 16, 1891, died June 1, 1892.

Nora F., born December 21, 1892, died June 21, 1893.

When Christopher N. Durbin and wife, Sarah Ann, went to Missouri in 1901, James Thomas and Cassie went with them. Also Dorothy and her husband, Louis D. Metcalf, made the move. All settled in an area around Portageville, and I assume they all died there. I have no other information on the family of John N. Durbin and Mary H. Simon.