

Bates Family

The Williams are connected to the Bates family through marriage. William Williams (William Warner, Thomas A, William E, Fidelio, Thomas Simpson, William) married Martha Ann Wells. Martha's mother was Elizabeth Bates. Elizabeth was the daughter of Joseph Bates and Anna Schmidt.

Anna Schmidt and her parents came to America from Germany. They could not afford passage and came as indentured servants. During the voyage her parents died. So Anna had to be indentured to pay for her passage. We don't know who held her indenture. She married Joseph Bates and they had 4 boys and one girl (Elizabeth).

Joseph Bates settled in 200 acres of land in the Fair Forest area of Union County, SC. Union County is located in upstate South Carolina. The land was located in the fork between the Broad and Saluda Rivers. He had paid off half of the taxes in May 1761 and was planning on paying off the remainder at a later date, probably after the crops came in.

The family was working the land when Indians arrived (probably Cherokee, possibly relatives). Anna got on a horse and begged her husband to run. She and the children were captured by the Indians. At camp that night some Indians brought in scalps and pieces of clothing. The family recognized the items as Joseph's. Anna was pregnant and she had a boy on the flight. The baby was lost in a river crossing. After about a year the family was ransomed and returned home.

We don't know much after that. The records are just not there. Right now we are looking for a marriage record for Anna. After she got back she would have had to remarry and if not then a male would have been appointed guardian to the children and the land. Women were not seen fit to be solely responsible for land and/or families.

Elizabeth married Lewis Wells and they lived in Greenville County, SC. Around 1805 the family along with the Pyle, Teague, and Williams families moved to Christian County, KY. Originally, they had planned on moving to Perry County, IL but the Indians were active at the time. I can imagine that Elizabeth did not want to have to deal with Indians again. After about 10-15 years they moved to Perry County, IL.

Information on the family can be found on the family tree.

http://www.green-acre-plants.com/Family_Tree/Page2.html	family tree
http://www.green-acre-plants.com/Family_Tree/Bates_Joseph.htm	Joseph Bates
http://www.green-acre-plants.com/Family_Tree/Schmidt_Anna.htm	Anna
http://www.green-acre-plants.com/Family_Tree/Bates_Elizabeth.htm	Elizabeth