

THE FAMILY OF GEORGE STELLY

George Stelly, the pathetic youth whose violent death, whether by his own hands or by the hands of another, was the son of Jean George Stelly and Marie Barbara Miller. (1) George's father, the son of Jean George Stelly (Echetaire, Eschstelly, originally Steiger) and Christine Edelmeyer, (2) was born and reared in St. John the Baptist Parish. The elder Stelly sold his farm in St. John on Dec. 12, 1772, and moved with his younger children to the Prairie Grand Coteau in the Opelousas area sometime later. (3) Here his son, Jean George, met and married Marie Barbara Miller. (4) She was the daughter of Jacob Miller and Marie Ann Tegen (Theison, Thequint, Theiper, Degin), natives of Germany. (5) Besides George, their oldest child, Jean George and Marie Barbara had six children, the youngest only an infant when her father died July 23, 1794. (6) A little more than a year later, Marie Barbara married Joseph Frozard of Reine, France. (7) Their first child, Jean Baptist, was born in September 1796. George Stelly, the subject of this inquiry, then, had four brothers, two sisters, and one half brother (8) when he apparently disagreed with his step-father and decided to live with his grandfather.

In the years that followed, the Stelly family in the Opelousas area grew and branched out in all directions while the Frozard name seems to have all but died out. (9)

1. Records of the Opelousas church (Vol. I, p. 40) indicate that George Stelly was baptised Aug. 15, 1782, at the age of three weeks.

2. Jean George Eschstelly and Christine Edelmeyer were married July 9, 1743. He was the son of Jean Eschstelly of Holbershausen, Germany, and Marguerite Grainerin. Glenn R. Conrad, *Saint-Jean-Baptiste des Allemonds* (Lafayette, La., 1972), p. 312.

An entry in the Opelousas church records shows a George Stelly died in 1792. Since another entry shows another George Stelly, the son of Jean-George and Christine, dying in 1794, the first could have been the father. Donald J. Hebert, *Southwest Louisiana Records* (Privately printed, 1976), Vol. I.

3. Conrad, *Saint-Jean-Baptiste*, p. 21.

He received a land grant along Bayou Borbeux, October 7, 1774. Francois Stelly, Jean-George's oldest son, sold his property on the Mississippi River, August 18, 1777. Since this is his last entry in the St. John records, he probably joined his father, receiving a land grant on Bayou Borbeux a year later. A sister, Catherine, married Michael Cormier, an Acadian who received a land grant in the same area in 1771. For location of the Stelly and Cormier grants, see Gertrude C. Taylor, *Land Grants Along the Teche, Part I* (Lafayette, La., 1980).

4. Jean George Stelly married Marie Barbara Miller, October 2, 1781. She was born in Frederick County, Maryland. Hebert, *Southwest Louisiana Records*, Vol. I. Her family could have been one of the group of German families who came to Louisiana from Maryland in 1774.

5. Jacob Miller was the son of Nicholas and Rosalie Miller of Germany. He settled on the Prairie des Femmes, in the area where Bayou Borbeux joins Bayou Fusilier. Miller died December 20, 1807, at the age of seventy. *Ibid.* THIS IS NOT CORRECT - SEE BELOW

6. The children born after George were Jean Michel, 1774; Jean Pierre, 1785; Jean Jacques; Marie Louise, 1789; Alexis, 1793; and Marie Ann, 1794. *Ibid.*

7. Joseph Frozard and Marie Barbara Stelly married October 6, 1795. *Ibid.* His property was located south of the land grant to Michael Cormier.

8. Hebert's *Southwest Louisiana Records* lists four children born to Joseph Frozard and his wife: Jean Baptiste, 1796; Virgil, 1798; Marie Barbe, 1800; and Marie Rose, 1803. There is no entry for Frozard's death. His wife died in 1824 at the age of 64. *Ibid.*

9. This conclusion is drawn from investigation into *Southwest Louisiana Records*, from telephone directories, and from inquiries to persons living in the area.

Item # 5 is not correct. This has led many to conclude that Nicholas and Rosalie are the parents of Jacob Miller when infact they are the parents of Joseph Frozard, second husband of Marie B Miller.