

DEVENPORT

W. C. Fletcher Married Rachel Devenport *law. of Wm. & Cynthia* - DAYENPORT.
 Their Daughter Bettie Married James McFarland Ball, Son of Lemuel Morris Ball

Some of the early emigrants spelled the name Debenport, Devenport, Devinport and Davenport. Lemuel Franklin Ball, Sr., son of James McFarland Ball, said that they spelled the family name Devenport. One line said that their ancestors came over from Ireland but another line said that their ancestors were of English descent. Many English people fled to Ireland and Scotland and then when America opened, they or their descendants came to the colonies. [I have made no check of records in either Ireland or England. My older relatives thought their ancestors of the Devenport line came from England.]

Early ships passengers to Virginia included several Davenports.

Davenport, Ann	1637	Davenport, Anne	1658
Davenport, Edward	1702	Davenport, Hannah	1650
Davenport, George	1713	Davenport, Edward	1643

These are only a few of the Davenports who came over to the colonies. Many others made the trip to New York, Philadelphia, Massachusetts, Connecticut and Barbados. Many of the very early emigrants coming to the New World first stopped in Barbados and later shipped to the colonies.¹

One of the older American Davenports was Thomas of Burke County, North Carolina. Thomas lived long and raised one son and six daughters. When he died December 10, 1809 he was 98 years of age. As they numbered his descendants, it was estimated they were to the fifth generation and some 300 in number.² Davenports in all walks of life were recorded as a part of early Americana. As a people they were no better nor worse than any other name you care to investigate. There were many successful businessmen, professional persons and artisans who carried the name Davenport or a variation of the spelling in the building of America.

Rowan County, North Carolina was formed from Anson County in 1753. From that time until 1771 Roan County included the northwest section of North Carolina. Twenty seven counties including Wilkes, Burke, Randolph and Watauga eventually came out of Roan County. In a tax list for 1759 William Devenport was listed with one taxable.³

In modern times we hear the term "pork barrel" projects. These are often in an elected official's home district or to particularly benefit their constituency. In the January, 1704 court record for Perquimans Precinct, North Carolina, Richard Davenport was in debt to another person for six barrels of pork. Davenport's lawyer asked for a jury trial. The jury listened to the case and Davenport had to pay the man six barrels of pork plus court costs.⁴ Since pork in colonial America was packed in barrels for shipment perhaps this was an influence in our present day term of political favor "pork barrel."

In 1779 persons living in Tyrrell County, North Carolina petitioned for the county to be split at Cypress Swamp. The courthouse at that time was seventy miles from some of the county residents. The split was not made until 1799. The western part of old Tyrrell County was now called Washington County. Several men named Davenport signed the 1779 petition. These were Danl., David, Isaac, James, John and Stephen Davenport and Jacob Devenport.⁵

On January 15, 1787 James Devenport and Ann his wife were the administrators for the James Blair estate. James, Ann and George Blair, the other heir, were in Burke County, North Carolina. The land was located in Wilkes County, North Carolina. They sold the land to William Suddoth for forty pounds. The land was described as a four hundred acre tract at the head of Warrior Fork of the Yadkin River.⁶

One branch of Debenports were descendents of Edmond Debenport [Davenport] who came to

America from Liverpool, England. A son Reuben was born ca 1798 in North Carolina. When this Reuben was about 20 years of age he came to Warren County, Tennessee.⁷

I have not tied into any of these Davenport-Devenport-Debenport lines. I include them for information purposes only. I have only worked William Davenport-Devenport born in North Carolina, county not known at present, in 1803. He died in Texas in the 1860's. I picked him up in Hempstead County, Arkansas in 1821.

Reuban Davenport of Virginia made application for a federal pension. This was for service during the American Revolution. The application [S 39407] was made in 1790. On October 17, 1796 Reuban Devenport received 100 acres of land on Roan's Creek in Wilkes County, North Carolina. This is recorded in deed book D page 48. On May 12, 1798 in Wilkes County, North Carolina Reuben Devenport sold the 100 acres of land on Roans Creek to Landrene Eggers. Reuben sold the land for forty pounds.⁸ [Are the two Reubans one and the same?]

The 1790 U. S. Census for Wilkes County had a Reuben Devenport who had one male under sixteen, one male over sixteen and one female. In 1800 the U. S. Census for Wilkes County, North Carolina included heads of families of Wilkes, Eastern two thirds of Watauga and the Northeastern one third of Caldwell County. Reuben Devenport was one of the family heads listed.

Age	Male	Female
Under 10	2	1
10-16	0	0
16-26	0	0
26-45	1	1
45-up	0	0

In 1821 a letter was written to the President of the United States from the U. S. Citizens in the Arkansas Territory. The letter was sent from Arkansas Post, Territory of Arkansas. Arkansas Post was located where the White and Arkansas Rivers come together just before entering the Mississippi River. The object under discussion was a treaty which was being considered between the U. S. Government and the Choctaw Nation Chiefs. If the treaty was ratified in its present form the Anglos would loose all their rights and improvements made in a certain area of the Arkansas Territory. The settlers pointed out how they had been encouraged by the government to develop the land. Through the hard work of all family members, male and female, young and old, a niche had been carved out for them in the raw Arkansas Territory. Ratification of the treaty was discouraged because there was no provision to pay the Anglos for their laborious efforts in developing the area to its present state. The group appealed to the well known philanthropy and discretion of the President for the suspension of the treaty's immediate operation. The petition was signed by 376 men. Among the signers of this petition were William Devenport and Ruben Devenport.⁹

In the reconstructed Arkansas Census for 1820 Reuben and William Devenport were in Hempstead County in 1821. On the 1829 Arkansas Tax list William and Reuben Davenport were in Crawford County, Arkansas. The area was defined as north of the Arkansas River which placed them in the Crawford County area.

Reuban Devenport was in Wilkes County, North Carolina in 1800. He was in the 25-45 age range so he could have been born about 1765. This placed him well within the age range to participate in the American Revolution. Reuban who received land in Wilkes County, North Carolina in 1796 and sold it in 1798 was within the age range to be the father of a son in 1803. In 1800 this Reuban had two sons and a daughter, all under ten years of age. His wife was within his age range. [In my opinion he is the father of William Devenport born 1803 in North Carolina and died about 1869 in Texas. I have no idea who this Reuban's father was.]

In 1820 a Reuben Davenport sold all his personal property in Pitt County. Why would he have sold his stock and furniture at a Sheriff's sale if he were not moving. Perhaps his wife died and he wanted a

change of landscape. In 1821 a Reuben Devenport signed a petition from Arkansas Territory to the U. S. President. An eighteen year old William was with him in Arkansas Territory in 1821. William may have been the only child left at home. This William was born in North Carolina in 1803. On the official death certificate for Rebecca Ann Devenport Clements, William and Cynthia Devenport's daughter, her father's birthplace is Raleigh, North Carolina.

Hempstead County, Arkansas Territory was organized in 1819, under an act of 1818, by the Missouri Territorial Legislature. Early settlers could enter the area by coming up the Red River in boats. A family named Tyree came into the Arkansas Territory in 1817 before Hempstead County was formed. They were among many other land hungry settlers coming into this new land. Among the children of this Tyree family were sons John, Robert, Daniel, Stephen and Josiah. Reuban and William Devenport were on the tax list for Hempstead County, Arkansas in 1821. On March 26, 1826 Clarinda Devenport, about 16 years of age, married John Tyree. Clarinda could be the daughter of Reuban and sister of William Devenport. When William and Reuban were in Washington County, Arkansas in later years there were also Tyrees in Washington County. In 1860 John was not named and Clarinda was the head of the Tyree household. The family had moved to Sevier County, Arkansas in the Little River Township. Clarinda's son Daniel C. served in Company B, 20th Arkansas Infantry, Confederate States of America in the Civil War.

In the 1830 U. S. Census for Washington County, Arkansas William Davenport is listed with these persons in his household.

Age	Male	Female
0-5	0	3
5-10	0	1
20-30	1	0
30-40	0	1
60-70	1	0

The males in order of age are William and a sixty-five year old who probably was his father Reuben. The females are Sarah, Rebecca, Sina, Malisa and Cynthia, the wife of William and mother of the girls. William and Cynthia did not have any sons.

The 1840 U. S. Census for Washington County, Arkansas lists these persons in William's household.

Age	Male	Female
0-5	0	1
5-10	0	2
10-15	0	2
15-20	0	1
30-40	1	0
40-50	0	1

The male age 30-40 is 37 year old William. The females in order were Rachel age 3, Lousia age 6, Elizabeth age 8, Sarah age 11, Rebecca age 13, Malisa age 16 and Cynthia, the mother, age 42. Sina had married John Blevins and had a one year old daughter. [It is my belief that Reuben had died within this ten year period.]

On the Arkansas Tax list for 1836 William Devinport was in Washington County and had four cattle. In 1838 William Devinport was in Washington County, Arkansas with two horses and mules, two cattle and one taxable male. His total tax bill was \$1.36 for the county and .18 cents for the state. There was also a Bailey Devinport in Washington County with one horse and 1 male taxable in 1838. Relationship, if any, between Bailey and William was not indicated. [I do not know of the relationship, if any.] William was also on the tax list in Washington County for 1841, 1842 and 1843. In 1841 he paid \$1.58 tax on 160 acres of land as his county tax.

In Washington County, Arkansas on June 12, 1837 William Davenport sold 39 acres of land. The land was northwest of Cane Hill, Arkansas. The selling price was \$600 and the buyer was Analiza Hornage. Again on September 11, 1843 William and Cynthia Davenport sold Analiza Hornage another piece of land. This 160 acres was also located northwest of Cane Hill, Arkansas. The selling price for the 160 acres was \$600.¹⁰

The center of development of this area was Cane Hill, Arkansas. Switch Cane, a member of the bamboo family of plants, normally grows only on fertile bottom land soils in the Arkansas area. The switch cane covered the hillside when the first settlers came into the area. This was because of the great number of springs closely spaced over the hillsides. The extra water and virgin soil made excellent conditions for the cane to grow.

Cane Hill, Arkansas was a planned settlement. The organizers of the group of settlers who came to Cane Hill encouraged persons with the skills a frontier settlement needed to join with the group. It was not left to chance for a doctor, banker, miller and business operators to be among the first residents.

The Anglos who settled Cane Hill in 1827 were not the first of their kind to live in the area. Local tradition submits that the walls of an old fort found there were constructed by Spanish explorers. In 1859 a four foot diameter oak was growing out of stone walls. The stones had been shaped with steel tools. All traces of the old fort had been obliterated before 1900 through continued development of the area by Anglos.¹¹

In 1835 a seat of higher education was established at Cane Hill by the Presbyterian Church. It was chartered as Cane Hill College in 1852. Burned during the Civil War, it was reconstructed and served as a college until 1892.¹²

The Cane Hill area was noted as an educational center comparing favorably with Tahlequah, Indian Territory. It was also an apple growing center from very early days. In 1833, J. B. Russell put in an apple tree nursery at Cane Hill. During the Civil War the nursery stock grew without any care. The Wilson June apple came out of a planting of a thousand trees planted in 1865. A teenager and his younger brother planted the trees a few miles north of Lincoln, Arkansas. The planting stock came from the Cane Hill nursery which had grown wild during the war.

When the college started at Fayetteville, which later became the University of Arkansas, the Cane Hill college closed. It could not compete with the much larger subject offering of the University at Fayetteville. Cane Hill college closed its doors in 1891.

William Davenport and his family lived in the Cane Hill area during its early development. Most of his daughters, if not all of them, were born while William and Cynthia lived at Cane Hill. The Davenports were definitely a part of the group who developed the area. As the conflict over the issues which exploded into the Civil War festered, many people left the Cane Hill area. William Davenport and his family were among those who emigrated to Texas in the hope of better times.

On July 1, 1844, William Davenport was a member of a group appointed to look about a road from Bonham, Texas to Dallas, Texas. On June 6, 1845, William Davenport and the others were reviewing the route for the road from Bonham to Dallas. On July 1, 1845, the Davenport residence was located in the first precinct across Bois de Arc Creek from Bonham. Theirs was the first residence across the creek. On April 20, 1850, William Davenport was replaced as a road overseer in the Bonham area and was a road worker on February 22, 1853. On August 18, 1856, William was working on the road layout in the Bonham, Texas area.¹³

On February 17, 1851, William Davenport and his wife Cynthia were in Fannin County, Texas. He was a farmer with real and personal property each with an evaluation of \$1,000. Three daughters Elizabeth, Louisa and Rachel were at home.

In the 1860 census William and Cynthia were in Grayson County, Texas. They were alone in the household. William was a farmer with a real property evaluation of \$800 and a personal property with an evaluation of \$1,620.

On November 23, 1857 William Devenport purchased 160 acres of land in Grayson County, Texas. The land was located on the waters of Pilot Grove Creek. It was located two miles southwest of Pilot Grove Village. The 160 acres was part of a 640 acre headright survey for Samuel Craig. Craig had received a patent for the survey on February 10, 1845.

On January 10, 1870, the heirs of William Devenport sold their interest in the tract of land on Pilot Grove Creek. It was sold to Patrick Couch, the husband of Louisa Devenport, a daughter of William and Cynthia. In the 1870 census for Grayson County, Texas, Cynthia Devenport was living with a daughter. William had died perhaps in late 1869 as he was not in the 1870 census.

Sina Devenport—Daughter of William and Cynthia Devenport

Sister of Rachel Devenport Fletcher—Wife of William C. Fletcher

Sina was not in the William Devenport household in the 1840 Washington County, Arkansas census. In the 1850 census of Fannin County, Texas, Sina, had an eleven year old daughter. This would indicate she married at about 16 or 17 years of age in Washington County, Arkansas. The 1850 census also listed Sina, John Blevins her husband and their family of five children in Fannin County, Texas. John was a farmer with a real property evaluation of \$660. John was born in Kentucky.

Sina and her family were in Grayson County, Texas in the 1860 census. John was not present and Sina was the head of the household. In the 1870 census Sina and family were still in Grayson County with a real property evaluation of \$2,000 and personal property evaluation of \$1,000.

Malisa Jane Devenport—Daughter of William and Cynthia Devenport

Sister of Rachel Devenport—Wife of William C. Fletcher

In the 1850 U. S. Census for Fannin County, Texas, Malisa was the wife of S. B. Leisenby who was a carpenter. They had two children at that time. The post office was McKinney, Texas. In 1870 Malisa was with her mother, Cynthia, in precinct 4, Kentucky Town, Grayson County, Texas. Malisa's husband, S. B. Leisenby was not in the household.

Rebecca Ann Devenport—Daughter of William and Cynthia Devenport

Sister of Rachel Devenport Fletcher—Wife of William C. Fletcher

Rebecca's family was from Ireland according to one line of descendants. They were craftsmen working in glass crystal. The family also produced wool and made it into wool products. Some crystal and shawls may have survived in the possession of Rebecca's grandchildren.¹⁴

Rebecca married in 1844 Buford [Bluford] Clement, a widower with children. Buford drowned in the Sabine River in Texas. Rebecca kept the family together and raised all the children from both marriages of Buford.¹⁵

Rebecca operated a stage line from Jefferson, Texas to Chicago. The horses were stabled beneath the house to protect them from thieves. The stables were dug under the house as a basement. Rebecca is buried in the Old Pilot Grove Cemetery.¹⁶

Buford Clements was postmaster when the Pilot Grove Post Office was opened May 18, 1850. In the 1850 census of Grayson County, Texas, Buford Clement had a real property evaluation of \$1,200. In the 1860 census of Grayson County, Texas, Rebecca Devenport Clement had a real property evaluation of \$3,000 and personal property evaluated at \$1,200. In the 1870 census Rebecca had a real property evaluation of \$1,000 and personal property evaluated at \$150. She was living in precinct 4 of Kentucky Town, Grayson County, Texas. In the 1880 census of Grayson County, Rebecca was living as head of the household with some of her children and grandchildren living in the household with her.

Sarah Ann Devenport—Daughter of William and Cynthia Devenport

Sister of Rachel Devenport Fletcher—Wife of William C. Fletcher

Sarah married W. H. Hampton and they had daughters age 3 years and one age 6 months in 1850. W. H. had real property evaluated at \$575. They were in Collin County, Texas in 1860 and W. H. had real property evaluated at \$5,828 and personal property evaluated at \$2,500. In the 1870 census the

Hamptons were living in Grayson County and W. H. had real property evaluation of \$3,300 and personal property evaluation of \$3,000. In 1880 they were living at Pilot Grove in Grayson County, Texas.

Elizabeth Devenport—Daughter of William and Cynthia Devenport

Sister of Rachel Devenport Fletcher—Wife of William C. Fletcher

Elizabeth married John H. Brown. In 1870 they were living in precinct 4, Kentucky Town, Grayson County, Texas. John was a farmer with real property evaluation of \$3,600 and a personal property evaluation of \$1,000. John was born in North Carolina. Their family included two sons and four daughters.

Louisa Devenport—Daughter of William and Cynthia Devenport

Sister of Rachel Devenport Fletcher—Wife of William C. Fletcher

Louisa [Louise] married Patrick Couch who was born in Missouri. In 1860 they were in Fannin County, Texas with three children. Patrick had a real property evaluation of \$500. In 1870 Patrick and Louisa were living in precinct 4, Kentucky Town, Grayson County, Texas. Patrick had a real property evaluation of \$725 and personal property evaluated at \$300. On January 10, 1870 Patrick bought the shares of the other heirs of William Devenport including that of Cynthia. In 1880, P. J. Couch, a son of Louisa and Patrick, was the head of the household in Pilot Grove, Grayson County, Texas. He had a sister Ellen and brothers John, Henry and Lee, all minors, living in his household along with his own wife and children.

Rachel Melvina Devenport—Daughter of William and Cynthia Devenport

Rachel Devenport—Wife of William C. Fletcher—Parents of Bettie Fletcher Ball

Rachel Devenport married William C. Fletcher on September 16, 1853. They were the parents of a son and six daughters. Rachel and William Fletcher died in 1898 in Indian Territory [now Oklahoma.] They are buried in the Short Mountain Cemetery near Cowlington, LeFlore County, Oklahoma. Rachel and William C. Fletcher are covered in more detail in the Fletcher family section of this chapter.

[Kentucky Town, Texas, in the early days, was reported to be very easy to protect from attack by bands of hostile Indians. This may have been the reason for so many persons to move within its protective range.]

End Notes

¹ *Passenger and Immigration Lists Index*, 1984 Supplement

² *The North Carolinian*, March 1957

³ *North Carolina Genealogy*, Summer, 1967

⁴ Colonial Records, Perquimans Precinct Court Records, January 1704

⁵ North Carolina Legislative Papers, Tyrell County

⁶ Wilkes County, North Carolina, Deed Book, 1, pg. 380-1

⁷ *Ibid.*, D, pg. 532

⁸ Bell, Georgia, *The Davenport Family*, 1942

⁹ Carter, Clarence Edwin, *The Territorial Papers of the United States*, Volume XIX

¹⁰ Washington County, Arkansas, Deed Book D pg. 603

¹¹ Ellis, David B., *Cane Hill Chronicles*, 1993

¹² *Ibid.*

¹³ Fannin County, Texas, Records

¹⁴ Hoffman, Donna, *Clement Family Stories*

¹⁵ LaFerry, Barbara Clement, *Clement Family History*

¹⁶ Prince, Gayle Taylor, *Clement Family History*

DEVENPORT FAMILY

Reuben Devenport b. ca 1765 d. 1830-40

His children:

William
Clarinda

William Devenport—Son of Reuben Devenport

William b. 1803 d. 1869

Sina b. 1822

Their children:

Martha E. b. ca 1839

Sarah E. b. ca 1843

William J. b. ca 1846

Margaret b. ca 1847

John b. ca 1849

George b. ca 1854

Hiram b. ca 1856

Malisa b. 1824

Their children:

Eben B. b. ca 1858

Cynthia b. ca 1861

Rebecca b. 11-21-1827 d. 2-22-1911

Their children:

Len b. ca 1836 son of first wife

Ryla b. ca 1838 son of first wife

Elizabeth b. ca 1845

John W. b. ca 1849

Izora F. b. ca 1852

Herbert b. 1854

William M. b. ca 1856

Malinda L. b. 1859

Sarah b. 1829

Their children:

Narcissa b. ca 1847

Sarah T. b. ca 1850

Sintha b. ca 1852

Martha E. b. ca 1854

Mary b. ca 1856

Artimus b. ca 1858

Rebecca R. b. ca 1860

Nathan D. b. ca 1863

Lee b. ca 1864

P. J. b. ca 1867

S. D. b. ca 1870

J. A. b. ca 1876

Elizabeth b. 1832

Their children:

Robert I. b. ca 1853

Cynthia b. ca 1856

Martha b. ca 1858

m Cynthia b. 1798 d. after 1870

m ca 1838 John Blevins b. ca 1815

m S. B. Leisenby b. ca 1820

m 4-17-1844 [2nd wife] Buford Clement
b. ca 1817 d. ca 2-1860

Nathan
m W. H. Hampton b. ca 1824

m John H. Brown b. ca 1824

William A. b. ca 1860
 Nancy b. ca 1863
 Elizabeth b. ca 1865
 Louisa [Louise] b. 1834

m Patrick Couch b. ca 1829

Their children:

Pleasant S. b. ca 1851
 Jane E. b. ca 1856
 Mary b. ca 1858
 Louise b. ca 1861
 Ellen b. ca 1865
 John D. b. ca 1868
 Henry b. ca 1872
 Lee b. ca 1874

Rachel Melvina b. 1837 d. 1898 m 9-16-1853 William C. Fletcher b. 1835 d. 1898

Their children:

Sarah J. b. 1854
 Martha E. b. 12-2-1859 d. 11-10-1902
 Rena M. b. 1866
 Mary J. b. 1868
 Pearl H. b. 10-10-1872 d. 12-16-1921
 John W. b. 2-21-1880 d. 1-19-1958
 Ruth b. 8-17-1882 d. 3-5-1911

Tyree

Clarinda Devenport—Daughter of Reuban Devenport

Clarinda b. ca 1800 **N. C.**

son of
 m 3-26-1826 John Tyree b. ca 1789

Their children:

Sarah H. b. ca 1828
 Daniel C. b. ca 1830
 Martha J. b. ca 1831
 John M. b. ca 1833
 Robert b. ca 1838
 William C. b. ca 1840
 Mary M. b. ca 1843
 Malissa A. b. ca 1845
 Nelson T. b. ca 1847
 James S. b. ca 1850

m 3-3-1853 William Edmonson b. ca 1828
 m 6-20-1850 Mariah T. Whitesides b. 1826 d. 1893
 m 2-27-1851 William Thomas b. 1823
 m 9-12-1858 Temperance E. Stranger b. 1833

m 2-14-1872 S. C. Porterfield b. 1851