The Naumann/Norman/Nauman Family

After the Great Flood, God said to Noah and his sons, "Be fruitful and multiply and replenish the earth." The Nauman family seems to have thought that God wanted them to do this single-handedly, because Naumans are plentiful, and their families have been large – particularly after their arrival in America.

It's just one of the many reasons why tracing the early history of the Nauman family has been difficult. The original form of the family name is Naumann — a high German dialectic spelling of the more common German name of Neumann. Literally translated into English, it means "new man" and was probably first used as a reference to a newcomer in a Germanic village. Over time, this catch-all reference became a formal name for specific individuals in multiple locations. It's as near to a generic name as can be found in Germany, Austria, and parts of German speaking Switzerland. In a sense, Naumans are the Smiths of Germany.

It's important to recognize that the inability of most German immigrants to read, write, spell, or speak English required immigration and other government officials to write down the name they thought they heard when it was spoken to them. All these factors have resulted in a variety of spellings that today include Naumann, Nauman, Neumann, Neuman, Norman, Norman, Noman, Nowman, Nawman, Nowlan, and Nowland. Finally, the number of Naumans who came to America, the large families they had after they arrived, and the old European propensity for recycling given or first names from one generation to the next has ensured that the Nauman family history is littered with lots of Reubens, Davids, Johns, Johans, Augusts, Jacobs, and Williams. How are they all related? No one seems to know for certain. It's likely that some, in fact, share only the name and are not related by blood at all. Fortunately, we do know the facts about the Naumans in our family tree.

Just 150 miles northeast of Framersheim, Germany (the origin of the Pfundstein family) is found the modern-day city of Hanover, the

capital city of the German state of Niedersachsen or Lower Saxony. The area borders on the North Sea and the Netherlands. Hanover began as a small river fishing village in the 13th century. It eventually became the seat of the Hanoverian kings, and by the 18th century, it had become an important center of government and commerce. It's here that we find the beginnings of the Nauman family name that is part of our family.

The oldest known patriarch of our Nauman family is Johannes Naumann, Martha's sixth great grandfather. He was born somewhere in Niedersachsen in about 1700. The names of his parents are unknown as is the name of the woman he later married. What is known is that Johannes and his wife had at least four boys. Their names were Johannes, Johann Gottlieb, Christian, and Emil. Johann Gottlieb Nauman was Martha's fifth great-grandfather.

Like the Palatinate, Lower Saxony had been ravaged by the Wars of the Reformation. Military conflicts continued into the 1700s, and when the Wars of Austrian succession erupted in 1740, Lower Saxony pursued alliances aimed at winning its own piece of the pie. Of course, the immediate needs of the population became a secondary concern for Lower Saxony's government. The consequences for the people were much like those that affected the population of the Palatinate hunger, poverty, homelessness, social upheaval, and despair. By the mid-1700s, some in the Naumann family were seeking an escape. Like Reinhardt Pfundstein, several of Johannes's sons responded to an invitation from the English Crown to settle in the American colonies. At least six different Naumann families arrived in Philadelphia in the 20-year period between 1750 and 1770. It's not certain how or if they were all related. Others continued to arrive even later. On August 21, 1750, a ship named the Anderson docked in Philadelphia. It had sailed from Rotterdam in the Netherlands, stopped in Cowes, England for provisions, and continued on to the American colonies with 86 German passengers on board. Among them were Johannes Naumann,

Jr. and his brother Johann Gottlieb Naumann. Johann Gottlieb was accompanied by his wife Dorothea. There are some who claim that they had small children with them, but this cannot be proven. The third brother, Christian, arrived in Philadelphia on the ship Brotherhood on November 3, 1750. All three took the required Oath of Fidelity and Abjuration. (See sidebar)

It is said that their brother Emil remained in Hanover. For the rest of his life, he advised his children to never go to America because, "I had brothers who went to America, and I never heard of them afterwards. I am certain the wild beasts must have killed them." Later, Emil's grandson, also named Johannes Gottlieb Nauman, ignored his grandfather's advice and came to America. He settled in Iowa in 1853.

The Naumann brothers now faced a new life on the North American frontier. Christian immediately headed south and, according to family legend, was never heard from again. Johann and Dorothea settled in Pennsylvania. What happened to them immediately after they arrived isn't known for certain, but it's reasonable to assume that, like many German immigrants, Johann spent at least some time working in English labor camps to pay for their passage to the Colonies.

In Lancaster County, their family expanded. A son named Thomas Wilhelm was born in 1752, and in October 1753, another son named John Christian was born. John Christian was Martha's fourth greatgrandfather. A daughter named Eve was born in 1761. The family was now firmly established in the New World.

Like Reinhardt Pfundstein, though, Johann's escape to America was not an escape from conflict. When America declared its independence from England in 1776, Johann was 47 years old. With the start of the American Revolution, Johann's life becomes a bit cloudy due to conflicting historical interpretations by several genealogical researchers.

According to one explanation, Johann's name by this time had been Americanized to John Jacob Nauman. If this is true, we know something of his history during the Revolutionary War. Records show that in 1780, a John Jacob Nauman enlisted in the 2nd company of the

Oath of Fidelity and Abjuration

I, Johann Gottlieb Nauman, do solemnly and sincerely promise and declare that I will be true and faithful to King George the Second and do solemnly, sincerely, and truly profess, testify, and declare that I do from my heart abhor, detest, and renounce as impious and heretical that wicked doctrine and position that princes excommunicated or deprived by the Pope or any authority of the See of Rome may be deposed or murthered by their subjects or any other whatsoever. And I do declare that no foreign prince, person, prelate, state or potentate hath or ought to have any power, jurisdiction, superiority, preeminence, or authority ecclesiastical or spiritual within the Realm of Great Britain or the dominions thereunto belonging.

I, Johann Gottlieb Nauman, do solemnly, sincerely, and truly acknowledge, profess, testify, and declare that King George the Second is lawful and rightful king of the Realm of Great Britain and of all others his dominions and countries thereunto belonging. And I do solemnly and sincerely declare that I do believe the person pretending to be Prince of Wales during the life of the late King James, and since his decease pretending to be and taking upon himself the style and title of King of England by the name of James III or of Scotland by the name of James VIII or the Stile and Title of King of Great Britain has not any right or title whatsoever to the crown of the Realm of Great Britain, nor any other of the dominions thereunto belonging. And I do renounce and refuse any allegiance or obedience to him and do solemnly promise that I will be true and faithful and bear true allegiance to King George the Second and to him will be faithful against all traitorous conspiracies and attempts whatsoever which shall be made against his person, crown, and dignity and I will do my best endeavors to disclose and make known to King George the Second and his successors all treasons and traitorous conspiracies which I show know to be made against him or any of them. And I will be true and faithful to the succession of the Crown against him the said James and all other persons whatsoever as the same is and stands settled by an act entitled An Act Declaring the Rights and Liberties of the Subject and Settling the Succession of the Crown to the Late Queen and in the Heirs of Her Body Being Protestants and as the same by one other act entitled An Act for the Further Limitation of the Crown and Better Securing the Rights and Liberties of the Subject and stands settled and entailed after the decease of the said late Queen and for the default of issue of the said late Queen to the late Princess Sofia Electoress and Dutchess Dowager of Hannover and the heirs of her body being Protestants and all these things I do plainly and sincerely acknowledge, promise, and declare according to these express words by me spoken and according to the plain and common sense and understanding of the same words without any equivocation, mental evasion, or secret reservation whatsoever. And I do make this recognition, acknowledgment, renunciation, and promise heartily, willingly, and truly.

At the Statehouse at Philadelphia, Tuesday, 21 August, 1750.

4th Battalion of the Pennsylvania militia under the command of Captain John Missimer. At 47 years of age, it's reasonable to assume that if Johann did serve in the Revolutionary War, it would have been in the part-time militia and not the regular Continental Army. If this interpretation of Johann's history is accurate, then we know exactly when Johann died and where he is buried. Records show that John Jacob Nauman died on February 8, 1790 and that he's buried in the Faulkner Swamp Cemetery at New Hanover, Pennsylvania. His gravestone is still there with the name Johan Jacob Nauman clearly legible.

It's also possible that the man buried in this grave is not Johann but his brother Johannes. Johannes, though gave no middle name when taking his legal oath, and there's no record anywhere of him using Jacob as his middle name later in life. On the other hand, while both Johannes and Johann translate to John, there's also no narrative to suggest that German immigrants of the time changed the name Gottlieb to Jacob.

There are several reasons, though, to believe that Johan Jacob Nauman and Johann Gottlieb Nauman might be the same person. It's difficult to overlook the coincidence that Johann Gottlieb Nauman came from Hanover, Germany and that this man is buried in New Hanover, Pennsylvania. New Hanover Township was the destination of thousands of German immigrants who flocked to the area beginning in the early 1700s. These immigrants established the Faulkner Swamp Church in 1725. It's still in existence today and is the nation's oldest German congregation in continuous existence.

Whether these two are the same man hinges largely on the question of whether or not Johann Americanized his middle name from Gottlieb to Jacob. A study of the name Jacob can be of considerable interest in this area.

Jacob is a Hebrew name with two meanings: the follower and the supplanter. The book of Genesis in the Bible's Old Testament relates the story of the birth of Jacob and his twin brother Esau. According to the story, Esau was born first and Jacob immediately after. Jacob came from his mother's womb with his hand grasping Esau's heel — the



Janine Hebner and Martha Ver Mulm with the headstone of Johan Jacob Naumann

origin of the Hebrew meaning "the follower." According to Hebrew law, Esau, as the oldest was to receive his father Isaac's birthright or inheritance. As he grew older, Isaac's eyesight failed, and Jacob, with

his mother Rebecca's help, tricked his father into giving him the birthright instead. Subsequently, Jacob eclipsed Esau as the family's patriarch and became the father of the 12 tribes of Israel. This is the origin of the second Hebrew meaning 'the supplanter."

The story of Jacob and Esau is related several other times in the Old Testament with the explanation that it was God's will that Jacob become the patriarch of the 12 tribes of the Israeli nation and that God blessed him for this reason. In the Old Testament, Malachi 1, verse 3 quotes God as having said, "Was not Esau Jacob's brother? Yes, I have loved Jacob but Esau I have hated." In the New Testament, the Apostle Paul related the story of Esau and Jacob in his letters to the Christians in Rome. In Romans 9, verse 13, Paul once again referenced God's Old Testament quote. "Just as it is written, Jacob I have loved, but Esau I hated." This verse is the origin for the Christian meaning of the name Jacob which is "loved by God."

This change from the Old Testament Hebrew meaning of Jacob to the New Testament Christian meaning of the name is significant. That's because the name Gottlieb is a compound German word — Gott and lieb or God and loved. Translated literally, Gottlieb means God beloved. Given all this evidence, although some is circumstantial, it's plausible that Johann Gottlieb Nauman could have Americanized his name by changing the middle name from Gottlieb to Jacob. It appears possible that the Johann Jacob Nauman buried in the Faulkner Swamp Cemetery is the modern patriarch of our modern-day Nauman family. However, no conclusive evidence exists. If Johann Jacob Nauman and Johann Gottlieb Nauman are in fact not the same man, then we have no other history on Johann Gottlieb or his wife Dorothea, and they have been lost to time.

The Migration to Virginia

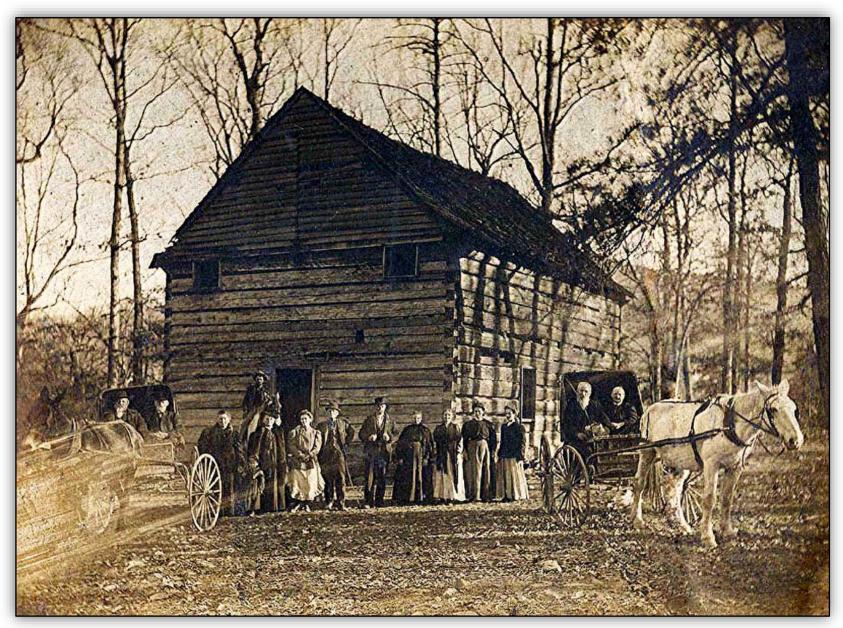
In 1774, at the age of 21, John Christian Nauman (Martha's fourth great-grandfather) and his brother Thomas Wilheim moved from Pennsylvania to the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia. There they joined other Swiss and German settlers in an area near the modern—day town

of Stanley in what later became Page County. At the time, it was hard to find a town or village of any size in the area. The defining feature for the area was the South Fork of the Shenandoah River. In later years, President Thomas Jefferson referred to the German and Swiss immigrants of this Valley as his 10th Legion of Democracy. Jefferson viewed them as industrious, thrifty, and very religious. They worked hard and made little trouble for anyone.

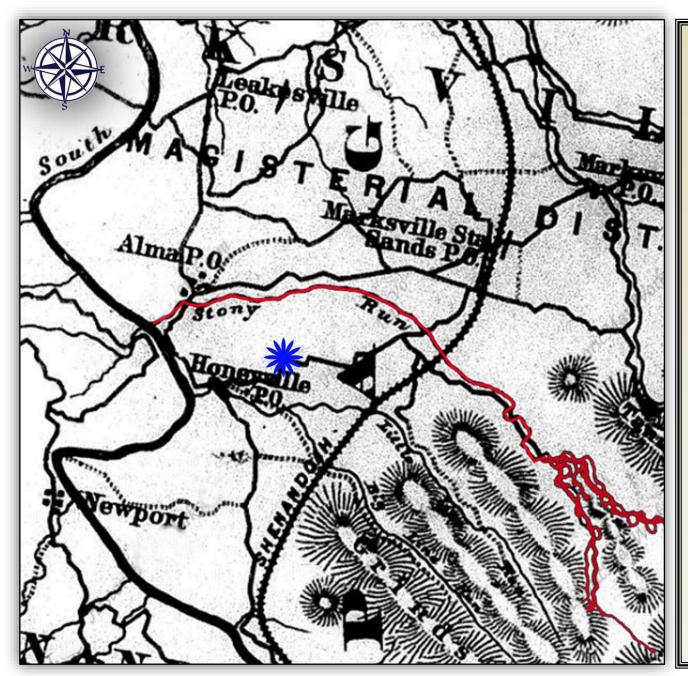
Thomas Nauman stayed in the valley only briefly before moving to Ohio — a move that foreshadowed difficult times waiting in the family's future. Nauman's were now in Pennsylvania, Virginia, and Ohio. Before long, other Nauman's appeared in Iowa, Missouri, Louisiana, and Mississippi. In 1861, the American Civil War split the Nauman family with Johann Gottlieb's descendants fighting on both sides of the conflict — and both sides paying the price. For his lifetime though, John Christian found happiness in the Shenandoah Valley, and it became his permanent home. By 1777, he had become the local schoolmaster and a farmer. He met a young lady from another German family. She'd been born in the Shenandoah Valley in 1755. Her name was Christina Stoneberger, and they were married in 1778. Their union produced a family of seven girls and three boys. Their middle son was born in 1780. They named him David, and he was Martha's third great-grandfather.

John Christian Nauman emerged in the Valley as a successful local figure. He acquired nearly 1000 acres of land and built a sawmill on the Stony Run, a small tributary of the South Fork of the Shenandoah River that flows close by modern-day Stanley. Using timber from his land, he produced lumber and sold it to those building homes in the area. Income from his mill along with the Nauman farm helped him build a successful life for his family.

In 1795, Christina's father, Frederick Stoneberger, deeded a piece of land for use as a church. John Christian and Christina helped form the congregation, and John was an early trustee. The congregation was long known as the old Stoneberger Lutheran Church. Originally located on the Stony Run, it was replaced in 1801 by a new log



The old Stoneberger Lutheran Church – The identity of the people in the photo is unknown



This map is from an early 1800s atlas of Page County, Virginia. The modern-day town of Stanley is slightly west of the area shown as Marksville Station. The South Fork of the Shenandoah River is the meandering bold black line running from top to bottom on the left side.

The village of Honeyville is the official place of birth shown in the records for many Nauman children.

The blue marker on the map shows the location of the home of John Christian and Christina Nauman. John owned about 1000 acres of land in this general area. When he and Christina died in 1835, they were buried on this property. A memorial marker stands nearby there today.

The Stony Run, a short tributary to the South Fork of the Shenandoah River, is shown in red.

John built a sawmill on the Stony Run, probably somewhere close to where it empties into the Shenandoah. After his death, the sawmill and 200 acres of land surrounding it went to his son David. Neither David's nor Catherine's graves have been definitively located. However, like his father John Christian, they are probably buried nearby—most likely in a family cemetery to be described later in the Nauman Story.

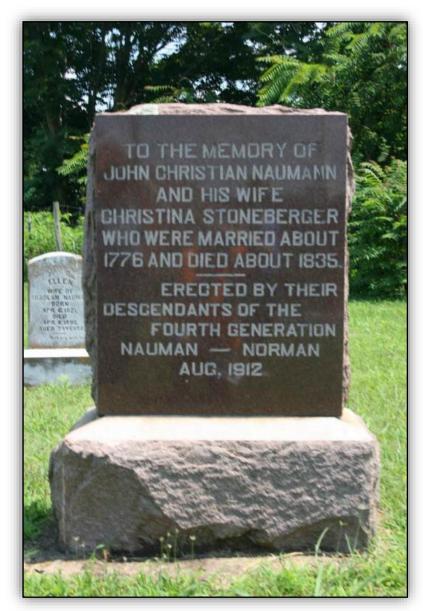
structure. Eventually it was abandoned when St. Luke's Lutheran Church at Alma took its place.

John and Christina both died in 1835. He was 82, and she was 80. They were reportedly buried on their farm in roughly marked graves shaded by a large white oak tree. Its location is now known as the John Christian Nauman Cemetery. It's located southwest of Stanley, Virginia, on state Route 638 (Honeyville Road). It's across the road from the Hilliard Chapel Assembly of God church and the adjacent Leaks Chapel Cemetery. Three other Nauman family members share this cemetery and 23 more are interred in the Leakes Chapel Cemetery across the road. The exact location of John's and Christina's graves is unknown and reasonable questions may be asked about whether or not they are buried in this cemetery at all. In 1912, Nauman/Norman family members erected a permanent marker as a memorial to them. The topic of their actual burial location will be explored in more depth later in the Nauman story.

John's last will and testament is dated March 1835 and details the distribution of his estate. The will itself is also an early testament to the different forms used in spelling the family name. In it he refers to himself and his family as "Norman." It could be his doing or perhaps the action of whoever formally prepared his will.

The will is interesting in that, except for his daughter Elizabeth, who was single, John Christian left nothing to his other daughters, but to their heirs instead. Possibly John reasoned that, since his other daughters were married. They were already adequately supported by their husbands and needed no other resources. The will is reproduced on the following page.

After John Christian's death, David inherited the sawmill and 200 acres of his father's Shenandoah Valley Farm. David farmed and continued running the sawmill for most of his life. In 1806, he had met and married Catherine Siegler, a lady from neighboring Rockingham County. Over the following 16 years, they raised a family of four girls and four boys. Their son Reuben was born in 1817. He was Martha's great-great-grandfather.



The memorial marker for John Christian and Christian Nauman erected in 1912 by Nauman family descendants. It is unlikely that it marks the actual graves of these pioneers.

John Christian Norman Sr.

In the name of God Amen -

I, John Norman, Sr. of the County of Page and the mortal life, and being of sound and perfect mind and memory though weakened body, after committing my soul to the care of God of Heaven and Earth do make and publish this my last will and testament in the matter and form following. (That is to say)

First:

I give and bequeath to my second son, David Norman – 200 acres of land on which he now resides together with all the buildings and appertaining to the same by his paying out \$150. Four years after my death and \$75 the sale experation of four years and the remainder one year following. To be disposed of in a manner hereinafter expressed.

Secondly:

I give and bequeath to my son-in-law John Siegler – 200 acres of land which he now lives together with all the buildings and appurtenances belonging in the same manner above-named and provided for.

Thirdly:

I give and bequeath unto my son, Benjamin Norman's three sons, Absalom, Samuel, and Gideon – 200 acres of land, being my home farm and the same on which my son, Benjamin and myself resides together with all the buildings and appurtenances belonging in the same. In the same manner and farm named in the former provisions, I also bequeath to the same three boys my two horses, wagon and farming utensils such as may be found belonging to me at my decease.

Fourthly:

I give and bequeath unto my eldest son, Christian Norman – \$60 when the above-named money becomes due.

Fifthly:

I give and bequeath to my daughter, Elisabeth Norman, single woman - \$100 payable in four years after my death, also all property she may claim as her own or have in her possession.

Sixthly:

I give and bequeath to the heirs of my daughter Yves, Benjamin Folz's wife, the sum of \$50 to be paid them when the above-named money becomes due.

Seventhly;

I give and bequeath unto the heirs of my daughter Mary, formerly the wife of James Houston deceased the sum of \$50 also payable at the time above provided.

Eighthly:

I give and bequeath to the heirs of my daughter Catherine Sibert the sum of \$50, payable as above provided.

Ninthly:

I give and bequeath unto the heirs of my daughter Barbara Hanbeck the sum of \$50 also payable at the time above provided.

Tenthly:

The residue of my land should there be any after my death, I wish sold and all property not otherwise provided in the will after paying all my debts. Wish the remainder equally divided between legatees.

And lastly:

I hereby appoint my son David Norman sole executor of this, my last will and testament, hereby revoking all former wills by me made in Witness Whereof, I have here unto set my hand and seal the 7th day of March in the year of our Lord One Thousand Eight Hundred Thirty-Five.

Signed sealed published and declared by the above-named John Norman as his last will and testament in the presence of us what his request and at presence have hereunto due subscribe our names as witnesses the same.

George Sibert, Christian Yeakel, Benjamin Grigsby

Written – March 7, 1835, Page County, Virginia and recorded – November 28, 1836

David died sometime after 1860, but the exact year is not known. Catherine died in 1866. In their later years, they lived with their son Jacob and his wife Catherine as shown in the 1850 and 1860 census. It's not known what became of David and Catherine. Their possible burial location is discussed later in the Nauman story.

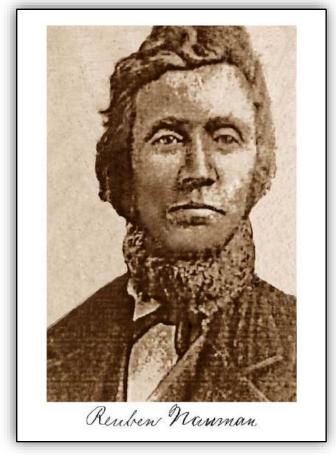
David's four sons were farmers. Each probably inherited part of their father's land since the 1850 census shows each held Page County real estate valued at about \$1600. No will for David has been found, so the issue of their inheritance can only be an assumption. Their farming occupation, however, is not the interesting part of the boy's story. Nor was farming responsible for the tragedy that was to come.

The Nauman Family in the American Civil War

When the Civil War broke out in 1861, Naumans in Virginia, Louisiana, and Mississippi found themselves in Confederate territory. Naumans in Pennsylvania, Connecticut, New York, Illinois, Iowa, Ohio, and Missouri found themselves on the Union side. Civil War records are a bit sketchy in determining exactly who's who, but they tell us that Nauman family members served on both sides of the conflict. Their stories are representative of many who fought each other during this dark time in American history.

Reuben (Martha's great-great-grandfather) joined Company C, 3rd Battalion of the Virginia Reserves, and later on, the 8th Battalion of Virginia Reserves. On June 21, 1861 Reuben offered the use of his store for the organizational meeting of the Dixie Artillery, a volunteer unit of Robert E. Lee's Army of Northern Virginia.

For Reuben, the war created challenging circumstances. His first wife Elisabeth died on April 3, 1861 — just nine days before hostilities formally erupted. This left Reuben with 10 children to look after. Three of them were under the age of five. This and his age are probably the reasons why he was placed in the reserves. The assignment allowed him to continue caring for his family and to keep farming, which was essential for supplying the Confederacy with food. He was still available for service were he to be activated in the event of



Reuben Nauman - Martha's great-great grandfather

an emergency. Records in the National Archives contain Reuben's CMSR (Consolidated Military Service Record) in the Confederacy. His CMSR shows that he was issued clothing from the Confederate supply stores three times during the term of the war — the last time in the fourth quarter of 1864. There is no record of his participation in any specific action, although he must have worn out his clothing somehow. Some records suggest his unit participated in the Battle of New Market just 15 miles away.

The New Market battle was the opening move in the Union Army's first 1864 Valley Campaign. In that engagement, the Union Army suffered 96 killed, 520 wounded, and 255 captured or missing. The Confederacy lost 43 killed, 474 wounded, and three missing. Confederate manpower was in such short supply by this time in the war, that a group of partially trained and poorly equipped cadets from the Virginia Military Institute were pressed into service. Their footwear fit so poorly that during their charge on the Union line at Bushong's Hill, many of them lost their shoes in the muddy field. Their section of the front line became known as the "Field of Lost Shoes," which inspired a 2015 Hollywood movie of the same name.

The mid-May battle, however, was considered a Confederate victory because it delayed the Union Army's advance long enough that Valley farmers were able to harvest their wheat crops to feed Lee's army. It was their last good harvest for nearly 5 years. The second Valley Campaign began under Union General Philip Sheridan the following August. As it stretched into the fall of 1864, it turned into a nightmare for Valley residents. During one 13-day period, the destruction was so thorough that Valley residents still refer to it as "The Burning."

On October 7, Sheridan reported to Grant, "I have destroyed over 2,000 barns filled with wheat, hay and farming implements; over 70 mills filled with flour and wheat; have driven in front of the army over 4,000 head of stock; and have killed and issued to the troops not less than 3,000 sheep." A Union Army legend relates that Sheridan also said, "If a bird flies over the Shenandoah Valley, he better bring his own lunch." Included in Sheridan's toll was Jacob Nauman's sheep herd, his turkey flock, and all the family's milk supply.

Reuben's oldest son, Joseph Sirum, volunteered in the Confederate infantry, and according to his 1908 disability application, his service caused life-long heart, bladder, and kidney problems as a result of exposure. Joseph died of an embolism in Missouri in 1922.

Reuben's older brother John Perry was too old to serve in the Civil War, but nevertheless, the war exacted an excruciating price from him. His wife Lucy had died on Christmas Day in 1857. Their son Robert

Franklin Nauman first joined Spitler's 97th and later was folded into company K of the 10th Virginia Infantry. Robert was captured at the Battle of Gettysburg and confined to Fort Delaware prison where he died in October 1863 from a lung infection.

Their son Thomas Jefferson Nauman, joined Spitler's 97th Regiment, too. While at home on an approved ten-day sick leave in 1863, he was apprehended by two Confederates States of America conscript agents who were out hunting for deserters. Tragically, both of the agents were illiterate and not being able to read the leave papers that Thomas showed them, they arrested him as a deserter.

A Mr. J. H. Coffman from Page County was a young schoolboy at the time and later recalled what he witnessed that day. As the agents brought Thomas to the Nauman School building, he tried to run away. Coffman's eyewitness account states:

"He started running toward the old Stoneberger Church, but by the time he was only 20 yards away, one of them shot him dead. The bullet hit in the back of the head near the top, splitting his head from back to the forehead and spilling his brains to the ground."

Coffman identified the man who shot Thomas as Alfred Campbell. In his later recollections of the event, Coffman said that Thomas's body was carried into the school, and the stain of his blood remained on the schoolhouse floor for as long as he could remember. The Nauman family offered a cash reward to the first person who killed Campbell. According to the people of Page County at the time, the Nauman family never stopped hunting Alfred Campbell, who for the rest of his life, believed they would kill him on sight. Campbell never appeared in public again.

John and Lucy's son William D. Nauman served alongside his uncles Christian and Jacob (Reuben's two youngest brothers). All three joined E Company of Spitler's 97th regiment of Virginia militia. William died on May 2, 1863 on the second day of the Battle of Chancellorsville.

John and Lucy's son John P. Nauman joined Company K, 2nd Regiment of the Virginia Infantry. His unit saw action at Fredericksburg, Chancellorsville, Cold Harbor, Kernstown, Cross Keys, Port Republic, Gaines Mill, and at both Bull Run battles (1st Manassas and 2nd Manassas) in July 1861 and August 1862. John P. also saw action at Gettysburg. He was captured near Luray close to the end of the war and released after Lee's surrender at Appomattox.

The Civil War did not leave John untouched in his civilian life either. Following the war, the United States Congress created the Southern Claims Commission on March 3, 1871 so that pro-Union Southerners who had lost property to invading Union armies could request compensation. Congress most likely took this step to help calm the sectional tensions of the Reconstruction era.

In the records of the Southern Claims Commission is found a claim filed by John Nauman on September 5, 1871. In it, John is asking the U.S. government to compensate him in the amount of \$259.50 for livestock and supplies taken from his farm on June 7 and June 10, 1862. These dates coincide with the Battle of Port Republic, which occurred in neighboring Rockingham County, Virginia on June 9, 1862. According to the narrative in John's claim, Union forces under the command of General John Shields encamped within a mile of his farm on June 7 in their advance on Port Republic. While there on the 7th, they confiscated six fat sheep, five fat hogs, and 100 pounds of bacon. The sheep and hogs were butchered, and along with the bacon, were used to feed General Shield's Union soldiers.

The Battle of Port Republic was a Union defeat, and in their retreat from the Shenandoah Valley, Shield's army once again encamped near John's farm on June 10, 1862. On this date, they confiscated John's seven-year-old Sorrel horse, two bushels of rye, and five bushels of wheat.

In order for his claim to be approved, John was required to swear an oath that he had been loyal to the Union cause. Attached to John's claim is a handwritten letter in which John seems to imply that the required oath is nearly impossible to take given the circumstances

of life during the Civil War. Most of the letter can be deciphered and is shown below with no changes to spelling or grammar, or punctuation.

Page Co. VA, Jan the 24th, 1879

Dear Sirs:

As you have been writing to me time and again about my claim of what the Federal army had taken from me in the time of war, all I have to say is that no Union man can take the oath laid down in the law that he did all that was in his power to help or aid the army from first to last. For many was not abel to help them selves, union or not union, and them that had plenty did not doo it and no that they did not. As the saying is charity begins at home first and why would they ask any man to take that oath. All that I say, I was as good a union man as sum that did get pay or at lest I think so. For my family cooked one hole nite and part of the next day and all they got was counterfite money, and that's what I got for what they taking from me. For I had bought my bred and meet for my own use and I toled the men so but they only made lite of it. One officer said I had better sell it and get pay for they would take it eny how, so I got nothing no way. And a nother thing, they want a man to say is they want a man to prove his claim out with six of his family and by union men as much as pasabel, or his neighbors when men knew when the army came on him. To have sum one to prove it by, it did happen that one of my neighbor woman was at my house at that time and that was all out side my family. And so to my family that was at home at that time is now all in the west but one, if I would have had pleny of my own raising and the army would have taken a part of it, it would not of hurt me so bad but as it was done in a scarce time it did put me to a heap of trubel. To get some little of it back agane at a time as I was abel to get it, and in a short time after that my house burnt down and I lost nearly all I had, so I haven't got half of that back yet and never exspect as I haven't bein abel to work for the last 5 years and more. And if you think me worthy of my pay for my property pay me. If not all rite then.

Yours Respectfully, John Nauman

The claim was witnessed by his brothers Reuben and Jacob. The records show that the claim was disallowed probably because the Commissioners were not convinced that John was a "pro-union" Southerner."

In the north, Naumans fought in the Union Army, and for at least one, his heart was not in the conflict. On November 11, 1861, Major John Wool of the Union Army's Department of Virginia wrote to Major General George B. McClellan requesting that his Lieutenant Colonel Nauman be transferred to another outfit. Wool reported that,

'Lieutenant Colonel Nauman cannot be of service. He reported to me highly intoxicated, and it is said that he sympathizes with the Rebels."

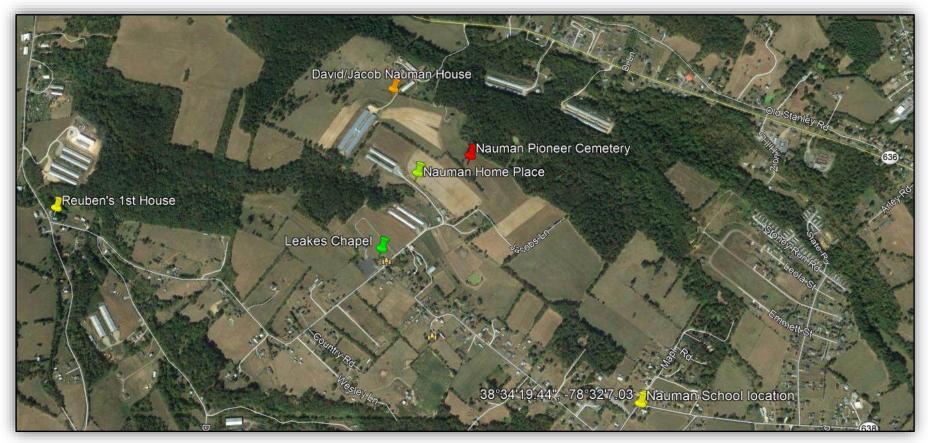
We can't be certain which branch of the family Lieutenant Colonel Nauman came from or what ultimately became of him. Naumans on the Union side suffered physical consequences from the war, too. There's an 1880 record showing that yet another John Nauman was committed to the US Naval Asylum in Philadelphia as a result of his experiences in the war.

The stories of Reuben, Joseph, John, Robert, Thomas, Jacob, Christian, William, John P., and thousands of others illustrate the emotional misgiving, the tragedies, and the personal consequences that faced families split in two by the Civil War. But how did the Naumans feel about the conflict and the division within their family? If we examine the historical context of their lives, we can still only speculate.

Not everyone in the South was militant in their support of the Confederacy, and not all supported secession. Nor was everyone in the north supportive of the Union. History is full of stories of people on both sides of the conflict who supported the opposite side, or who despised the idea of war, or who believed that the disagreement should have been solved without violence. Some Southerners kept silent as the war began while still others disbelieved in the larger cause but joined the Confederate Army out of loyalty to their state or their village. As in some of America's other wars, there were soldiers on both sides who enlisted simply to avoid forced conscription into an undesirable Regiment. Some in the South supported secession because they believed that federal authorities were trampling on State's rights, they considered to be inviolable. Others went off to war because they wanted to watch over a friend or family member. Some just wanted an adventure.

Finally, there was the issue of slavery. Among all the areas of Virginia, Page County had the lowest rate of slave ownership at around 19% of the white population, and the rate was declining in the years before the War. To the German immigrant population of the Valley, the idea of owning another human being had been tried and discarded in European society centuries earlier. Slave owners were so unpopular that Page County even took the step in 1836 of levying a \$10 fine each time a slave owner "allowed his "colored folks to run at large." Still, even though they were in the minority, slave owners remained adamant about their rights.

A close examination of the slave schedules that were part of the 1850 and 1860 Federal Census proves that no Nauman in Page County owned a slave — not one. The same cannot be said for the family of Reuben's wife, Elisabeth Dovel. The Dovel family had long inhabited the Shenandoah Valley. Dovel Hollow Road just outside of Stanley still recalls the family's name today. Elisabeth's father Peter and other Dovel relatives in the county owned a total of 20 slaves according to the slave schedules. Clearly, Elisabeth grew up in an environment in which slave ownership was not only allowed but also practiced. It's easy to imagine that, for the sake of love and household harmony, Reuben might have allowed himself to be influenced by her just a little bit. But we can never know. As for Robert and Thomas, and Reuben's two brothers Jacob and Christian, they volunteered for an outfit led by Man Spitler. Spitler was a Shenandoah Valley resident who himself owned numerous slaves. It seems unlikely they would have voluntarily joined Spitler if they weren't somewhat supportive of slavery. Nevertheless, that judgment might be unfair because "joining" a Confederate unit didn't always mean it was voluntary. Perhaps they were sympathetic toward the rights of others to own slaves or perhaps they were indifferent. In any case, where matters of the rebellion were concerned, Page County (like the rest of Virginia) was not an easy place to be a "fence sitter." Most people took sides, and the safest side to take in the Confederate South was the cause of the Confederacy. More than anything else, this probably influenced the Virginian Naumans. Today, Civil War records document 12 Naumans fighting for the Confederacy and 62 in the service of the Union. It's likely that,



This is an aerial view of the Stanley, Virginia area. Stanley is just off the picture at the upper right corner. The South Fork of the Shenandoah River is to the left side of the photo. Shown with colored pins are the locations for the homes of Reuben Nauman, David/Jacob Nauman, the original Nauman home place of John Christian and Christina Nauman, the Nauman Pioneer Cemetery, and the location of the Nauman School. The Nauman home place, David/Jacob Nauman home, and the Nauman School all no longer exist.

John Christian Nauman owned around 1000 acres in this area during his lifetime. The land eventually became the property of his children. So many Naumans lived in this area in the 1800s that it was popularly known as Nauman Town. The area around Reuben's house is now known as Honeyville—named for a small stream flowing nearby called the Honey Run.

due to multiple unit entries, the number of Union Naumans is actually less. And yes, it's plausible that the two sides of the family met each other on the battlefield—most certainly at Gettysburg.

Before the Civil War, it appears that Reuben and Elisabeth were quite prosperous. In addition to their farm, home, and store on Honeyville Road, they also owned a home about 3 miles away at the foot of the Blue Ridge Mountains in Dovel Hollow. Reuben's father David had owned this home prior to 1848 at which time Reuben bought it from him.

The 1850 agricultural census for Page County shows that Reuben's farmland was worth \$1600. His livestock was valued at \$375, and his farm had yielded a crop of nearly 400 bushels of wheat, rye, Indian corn, oats, Irish potatoes, sweet potatoes, and buckwheat. In addition, the farm produced 15 pounds of wool, 104 pounds of butter, and more than a ton of hay. All totaled, it was the equivalent of nearly \$90,000 in 2024 dollars. 10 years later, the census shows that his personal wealth had increased to \$8833 or about \$340,000 in 2024 dollars. Reuben did not enjoy his prosperity for long. The combination of war and the 1870 Shenandoah Valley flood ensured that the decade of the 1850s was the economic high point in Reuben and Elisabeth's life.

The Civil War and the economic hardships it caused were not kind to anyone in the Shenandoah Valley. Reuben was no exception. During the war, he'd taken pity on his less fortunate neighbors. He loaned them money and extended them credit for goods from his store. In the wake of the Union Army's Valley campaigns, his neighbors were all left impoverished. Their promissory notes, if Reuben even required any, were worthless. Much of Reuben's wealth evaporated. Perhaps this is why he sold the store and home in 1866. We don't know if the family moved to the Dovel Hollow home at that time, but it's possible since Reuben owned that property until 1880 when he sold it to his son Hiram. In January 1866, Reuben was appointed to the position of postmaster at nearby Alma, Virginia. This helped supplement the family's income. He served in that position until September 1871 by which time he'd regained about half of his prewar wealth.

Back to the Family

Before Reuben's first wife Elisabeth died, she gave birth to a family of three girls and seven boys. A son named John William was born in 1853. He was Martha's great-grandfather. In 1863, Reuben married a second time to a lady named Eliza Blosser. Together they had two more children — a girl named Eliza in 1864 and a boy named Edwin in 1866.

Following the surrender, the South went through some long and lean years. Farmers in the Shenandoah Valley found things particularly difficult. 1864 had seen the beginning of the Valley Campaigns. The Burning laid total waste to the agricultural base of the Valley. Farmers found their lives ruined before the War was even over. This is probably one of the reasons why within years of the War's end, members of the family began drifting away from Virginia to seek their fortunes in other parts of the reunified United States. After the deaths of David and Catherine Nauman, Reuben's brother Jacob moved his wife Catherine and their family to Sugarcreek in Cedar County, Iowa. Catherine died a few years later in 1873 and Jacob died in 1898. They are buried in the Sharon Cemetery just off I-80 north of Wilton, Iowa.

For Reuben and the family still in Virginia, the worst was yet to come. On Wednesday, September 28, 1870, rain began to fall in the Shenandoah Valley. For the Valley's residents, it marked the welcome end to a long drought. Their dusty, cracked fields had produced no crop that year.

All that night and the next day, rain fell at an alarming rate. The Shenandoah River began to rise steadily. By the second day, it began running out of its banks. By nightfall of the second day, it had become a raging torrent that was rising at a rate of 2 feet per hour. Most of the population quickly deserted their homes. Leaving all their possessions behind, they gathered on the hillsides as the rising water flooded everything in sight. At dawn on Friday, September 30, a scene of utter devastation greeted the survivors. During the night, most of the houses (many built with lumber from the Nauman sawmill) had been swept

away. The rain continued to fall. By 5 o'clock that afternoon, the river was 30 feet above its normal level and nearly half mile wide. Trees, mills, houses, and bridges along with nearly every sign of civilization were swept away as the deluge roared down the Valley.

By Saturday evening, October 1, the river had fallen by 20 feet. Everywhere its devastation was complete. The storm had extended over the entire expanse of the Shenandoah Valley. Not one single bridge was left standing over the entire length of the river. At the Shenandoah Ironworks, the Valley's major employer, the houses, store, mill, furnaces, and stables were all gone. The devastation ran all the way to Harpers Ferry, 85 miles away at the confluence of the Shenandoah and Potomac Rivers. More than 50 deaths were reported. In the aftermath of the flood, the river bottom farmland had been turned into a landscape of new lakes, sand drifts, eroded riverbanks, and deep pits of varying sizes and depths. It was this once fertile river bottom where the Nauman family had long farmed and made their living.

The Move to Missouri

The 1870 Shenandoah Valley Flood is still the worst disaster in the area's history. We can't be certain, but this event is probably what caused Reuben and Elisabeth's children to leave Virginia. Over the next few years, they all left for Missouri. Their son Peter later moved on to South Dakota.

Reuben and Eliza stayed behind in Page County with their son Edwin. Young Eliza had died at the age of two in 1866. There's one reference in a Page County historical article that refers to Reuben and a mill that he had built on Honey Run, a stream just south of Honeyville. Whether a flour mill or sawmill, it's possible that this business interest is what kept Reuben in Virginia.

Now separated from most of his children, Reuben occasionally visited them at their new homes in Missouri. While on one of these trips to Holt County, Missouri, in 1884, Reuben died at the age of 66. His body was not returned to his native Virginia. He was buried in New

Liberty Cemetery just north of Mound City. Eliza spent the rest of her life in Page County. She died there in 1898 at the age of 72. She is buried in Antioch Cemetery at Luray, Virginia.

Reuben's first wife Elisabeth, Martha's great-great grandmother, died just nine days before the American Civil War began in 1861. A search for records of her death and burial were met with little success, and with Reuben being buried in Holt County, Missouri, it appeared that information about Elisabeth's death and burial mysteriously vanished in 1861 a year after the birth of her last child.

During the search for any trace of Elisabeth after early 1860, one tiny reference was discovered concerning an Elisabeth Nauman who was buried in the same cemetery as a William Oakley Nauman. The hunt for William Oakley Nauman yielded much more helpful information. William Oakley Nauman was the great-grandson of John Christian Nauman. A search for William's name produced a listing for his grave on the website findagrave.com. The listing was maintained by his great-great grandson, a man named Robert H. Moore II of Winchester, Virginia. Moore is a Shenandoah Valley native, history buff, and author of numerous books on the Civil War and the Shenandoah Valley. Moore responded to an email request and provided advice on how to locate William Oakley's grave, which was in a place his family had long referred to as the Nauman #1 Cemetery.

The cemetery is located in a farm field within a small thicket of trees about 1/3 mile away from the Leakes Chapel. Moore advised that it had not been tended in decades and that, while it was terribly overgrown, he encouraged us to investigate. We decided to do just that, and along with Larry and Janine Hebner, we planned a trip to the Shenandoah Valley in July 2013.

Moore was helpful in providing a Google Earth view of the cemetery's location. Overlaying that view on a land plot from the Page County, Virginia assessor's office helped identify the present-day owner of the land. His name was Bobby Dovel—interestingly the same last name as Elisabeth's maiden name. In accordance with Virginia law, we

contacted Dovel for permission to visit the cemetery. Bobby agreed, and on July 19, 2013, we made the trip to the Shenandoah Valley.

Moore was completely correct. The cemetery was an overgrown mess. Only two or three tombstones were visible. One was the stone of William Oakley Nauman, which lay broken and entangled in branches. The cemetery was nearly impenetrable, but just poking from the weeds on one side was the very tip of a cast-iron marker.

Elisabeth had been found! Her marker is interesting in several ways. Cast-iron markers were not uncommon in the mid-1800s, especially in the Shenandoah Valley where there were numerous iron deposits and several smelting furnaces. Nevertheless, cast-iron markers were still expensive alternatives to ordinary stone, and the use of cast-iron for Elisabeth's marker tells us something about the family's wealth at the time of her death. It's also interesting to note that Elisabeth's marker contains two errors. The first is the spelling of her last name — Nanmen rather than Nauman. The second is her stated age of 36, when she actually died at the age of 39. Initially, it's difficult to understand how such errors can occur until you realize that the letter "u" was used for both letters "u" and "n" while the number "6" was used for both "6" and "9". Whoever set the type for the sand mold used to cast her marker accidentally turned the two characters upside down resulting in the errors. We can't know why they weren't corrected. The marker (at right) reads:

Sacred to the memory of Elisabeth Nanmen
Consort of R. Nauman
Was born 13 of November 1822.
Died April 3, 1861.
Age 36 years 4 months & 12 days.
Married 18 years 3 months & 6 days.
Mother of 10 children
Lived as member of the Lutheran Church 12 years.
2 Cor., 3 Chapter, 1 & 4 verses



The use of the term "consort" is also noteworthy, since in the 1800s, it said something about the timing of the deaths of both wife and husband. In this instance, consort indicates that Reuben was still alive at the time of Elisabeth's death. Had Reuben died before Elisabeth, leaving her a widow, her grave marker would have referred to her as Reuben's "relic" rather than his consort.

Finally, there is the presence of a large gouge on the left-hand side of the marker between the 15th and 16th lines of text. The gouge is an example of a process called spalling, which occurs when a cast surface is hit by a high velocity object. The impact causes material compression, which is then reflected back to the surface resulting in flakes of material popping off the surface leaving a cavity at the point of impact. The pattern of the gouge on Elisabeth's marker exactly mimics the pattern found on many bronze and stone monuments in Europe, which were struck by bullets and shrapnel during World Wars I & II. It appears likely that Elisabeth's marker had been struck by some sort of projectile during the Civil War — perhaps a Minie ball from some Union soldier's target practice.

Robert Moore had been right. The cemetery was a mess and had not seen attention in decades. Still, there was a degree of underlying beauty if one looked closely. Under all the fallen branches was a carpet of periwinkle and numerous wild daylilies. Both plants had been planted at one time or another to decorate a loved one's grave. Over the years, both had naturalized throughout the area. Among all the smaller saplings were larger stately trees including several oaks and two old aromatic cedar trees. If all the fallen branches, twigs, and volunteer saplings were disregarded, this had been once been a quiet and graceful place of rest for at least a few Nauman family members.

Moore had mentioned in an email how he badly wanted to clean the cemetery and repair his great- great grandfather's gravestone. After our July visit, Martha also mentioned how interesting it would be to do the same work. Out of their shared desire came the idea of rescuing the Nauman #1 Cemetery, and that idea came to be called the Nauman Project. It would lead us to meet new family members, discover much more information, and finally suggest answers to some of our other questions.

The Nauman Project

More than a year of preparation got underway in August 2013, when a few Nauman descendants agreed to join together and organize the rescue of the old Nauman #1 Cemetery. During that year, the project

organizers published a project website, mailed letters and sent emails to Nauman family members across the country informing them of the Nauman project and asking for project volunteers or offers of financial support. By Spring 2014, a team of 10 volunteers had been organized. The group met on Monday morning October 6, 2014 in the parking lot of the Leakes Chapel.

The team included Peggy (Nauman) Johnson of Simi Valley California; Gary and Debbie (Nauman) Shade of Westminster, Colorado; Denny and Martha Ver Mulm of Urbandale, Iowa; Larry and Janine Hebner of Rogers, Minnesota; Robert Moore of Winchester, Virginia; Terry Mays of Stanley, Virginia; and Luke Rush of Stanley, Virginia. Like Robert, Terry is a great-great grandson of William Oakley Nauman. The team was joined by Junior (Harry) Nauman a local Nauman descendent. While not able to help with the physical work, Junior provided us with a lot of Nauman history, and his recollections of the cemetery from when he helped his parents and grandparents clean it as a small boy was indispensable. He became the project's historical consultant and advised us that in the 1950s, there had been 15 graves there.

Over a period of five days, the team removed nearly 10 tons of vegetation. This included dead limbs and branches, fallen trees, old bushes, and small saplings. Trees of historical significance, such as the large oak trees and the aromatic cedars, were allowed to remain. Most of the debris was chipped up and hauled away. Some was kept for grave mulch. The larger tree trunks and limbs were stacked for firewood. Red flags were available to mark suspected gravesites that appeared as cleaning progressed. Soon the project team was making many discoveries. Before the first day's work was completed, it was apparent that there were more than 15 graves there — a great many more.

By the time the project was completed, the team had documented 42 burials in the cemetery. Only six were marked with some type of formal monument. Those were the graves of Elisabeth (Dovel) Nauman, William Oakley Nauman, his son Earnest Lee Nauman,

James Madison Nauman (a great-grandson of John Christian Nauman), Verenda (Nauman) Pence (a great granddaughter of John Christian Nauman) and her son John W. Pence. The 36 remaining graves were marked with simple field stones set deeply in the dirt — one at the head of the grave and one at the foot. The cemetery holds the graves of at least eight infants or small children as evidenced by the short distance between the head and foot stones.

Thanks to the help of Bobby Dovel and Junior Nauman, the team was able to piece together other fragments of helpful information. Less than 600 feet away from the cemetery was a hand dug stone-lined well. It's a surviving remnant of the original "Nauman homeplace"—a log cabin, which was torn down long ago. This was the original homestead cabin of John Christian and Christina Nauman. The home was eventually occupied by his great-grandson William Oakley Nauman. About 1000 feet from the cemetery in different direction was the site of David and Catherine Nauman's home. So many Naumans lived in this general area in the 1800s that the locals referred to the area as Nauman Town. There can be no doubt that this cemetery was the original Nauman family cemetery and it is highly likely that John and Christina Nauman are buried here and not at the site of their memorial stone across from Leakes Chapel. There is another reason for this conclusion. Family histories are crystal clear that John and Christina died in 1835 and were buried under a tree on their own land. However, a newly erected sign in the cemetery where their memorial stone is located states that the small cemetery is called the Oak Family Cemetery and that it was 184 years old in 2014. The sign states that the land for the cemetery was donated in 1830 by a landowner named Matthew Lucas.

Clearly the Oak Family Cemetery site of John Christian and Christina Nauman's memorial marker, is on land that was not theirs when they died in 1835. Either the story of them being buried on their own farm is not true or more likely, their memorial stone is not actually on the site of their graves. This second explanation is probably correct. It makes sense that, in 1912, the family would place the memorial stone in a location where it could be easily accessed by visitors rather than to place it one third of a mile away in the middle of a farm field in a

cemetery where most of the graves were unmarked and where only a few of them could be individually identified with any degree of certainty. This explanation is more logical than the earlier ones, and it leads to other equally logical conclusions.

The proximity of the Nauman "homeplace" to the cemetery makes it reasonable to assume that this is where the earliest members of the Nauman family were buried. Six of John and Christina's children lived and died in the Shenandoah Valley and some may be buried here, too. Three of their children proceeded them in death. One, eight-year-old Elisabeth, died in 1798 at the age of eight and is most likely one of the child graves in the cemetery.

Because the cemetery is so close to the location of David and Catherine Nauman's home, it's equally logical to assume that they were buried here, too. There are no other records concerning Catherine's death and burial, and since both died during or shortly after the Civil War when the family's fortunes had hit a low tide, it's likely that they are buried in two of the 36 unidentified graves.

Findagrave.com lists two additional interments at the cemetery and family records mention at least three other Nauman burials at what was called the "Old Nauman Burying Ground". All the evidence points to the conclusion that the cemetery is the original Nauman family cemetery and used for family burials for at least 129 years. For those reasons the Nauman Project team decided to formally name the cemetery the Nauman Pioneer Cemetery.

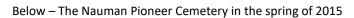
As part of the project, the team contracted Freeze Fencing of Stanley, Virginia to install a new four-foot-high chain link fence and gate around the cemetery. Once all the work was finished. The northeast and southeast fence lines were used as reference lines to plot the location of each headstone in the cemetery. Using these coordinates, a detailed map of the cemetery was completed. All the graves were photographed and GPS coordinates of the cemetery corners were obtained. All this information was compiled, and along with appropriate application forms, the data was submitted to the Historical



The Nauman Pioneer Cemetery as it looked in 2013



Above – The Nauman Pioneer Cemetery after restoration in 2014





Resources Department of the Commonwealth of Virginia. On November 13, 2014, the department advised that the Nauman Pioneer Cemetery had been registered with their database and assigned the official inventory number 069 - 5295.

The David and Kathryn Nauman home

In 1936, the Works Progress Administration (WPA) conducted an inventory of historical properties in Virginia. The project documented several historical properties in Page County. Among them was the home of David and Catherine Nauman. It was built about 1800 by a Michael Armentrout who sold it to David in 1833.

The one-story log house had pine board siding, a rock foundation, a cellar, and an attic. The home was L-shaped with a single-story kitchen on the west side. It had two fireplaces, two rock chimneys, and five rooms. The 1850 census shows that 70-year-old David and 67-year-old Catherine were living there with their son Jacob and his wife Catherine. This is probably the house they were living in at the time of their deaths since records show David sold the house to Jacob in 1848.



The Reuben and Elisabeth Nauman home

The same WPA project documented another home that was in the Nauman family for about 30 years. That was the home of Reuben and Elisabeth Nauman. The records document that it was built in 1835 by a John Nauman – possibly Reuben's older brother, although that can't be confirmed. Reuben bought the home in 1851. It was custom-built to function as both a dwelling and a general store. The building is a two-story brick structure. The front of the lower floor was one large room used as the store while two back rooms were used as kitchen and dining room. Four bedrooms were on the second floor. There were four fireplaces, three chimneys, a cellar, and 21 windows. The interior was plastered and painted, and the floor was wide pine boards. It is still used as a home today. The house is only a mile southwest of the Nauman Pioneer Cemetery at the junction of River Road and Honeyville Road. The last five of Reuben and Elisabeth's children were born in this house as were both of Reuben's two children with his second wife Eliza Blosser. This is also the house were Reuben's first wife Elisabeth died in April 1861.







The graves of Reuben Nauman (top) and John William and Mollie Nauman (bottom) at New Liberty Cemetery at Mound City, MO.

Reuben and Elisabeth's Descendants

The Shenandoah Valley offered little opportunity in the decade following the close of the Civil War. Poverty brought on by the War and the destruction of the 1870 flood caused many to seek greener pastures. Reuben and Elisabeth's children were among them. Eventually they all found their way to northwest Missouri. One, Peter Simon, later moved on to South Dakota where he was joined by his half-brother Edwin from Reuben's second marriage to Eliza Blosser.

Before he moved to Missouri, Reuben's son Hiram Godfrey married a local girl named Eleanora Kite in January 1870. They had been married only nine months when Eleanora and her family were all swept to their deaths by the 1870 flood on the Shenandoah River. After that tragedy Hiram married Mary Susan Dovel. The couple later pulled up stakes and moved to Holt County, Missouri.

In 1870, John William Nauman, Martha's great-grandfather, went to Cedar County, Iowa with his brothers Jacob and Joseph. There they looked for opportunity with their uncle Jacob who had moved there with his family after the death of Jacob and Reuben's parents David and Catherine. John William spent two years there before returning to Virginia to finish school. For a time, he taught school. In 1880 he moved to Craig, Missouri where he went to work as a bookkeeper in the David and Peter's general merchandise store. In 1880, at the age of 26, the federal census shows that he was living in Craig, Missouri with the family of Samuel Peters.

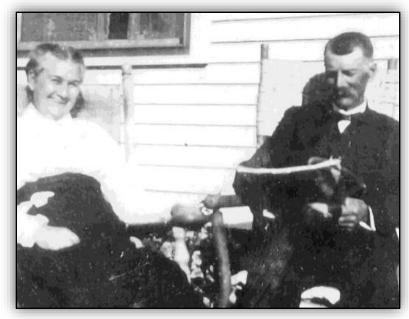
In 1882, another local merchant named Henry Thomas offered John a partnership in his operation, and the store became Thomas, Griffey, and Nauman. Later Thomas sold his share, and the store's name was changed to Ford, Griffey, and Nauman. In the spring of 1887, John sold his share of the store and moved his family to the farm.

In June 1883, John married Mary Irene (Mollie) David, a local Craig girl. John and Mollie raised a family of five boys and three girls. Their eldest son Luther Harold was born in 1884. He was Martha's

grandfather. John William continued farming in and around Holt and Union counties in Missouri until his death from stomach cancer in September 1921. He was nearly 68 years old. Family history says that John William was a member of the Presbyterian Church where he was an elder and Sunday school teacher for more than 40 years.

Family history research often uncovers evidence that suggests forgotten stories. They'd be of interest today simply because they would help us better understand the personalities and family dynamics of our ancestors. That's the case with John William and Mollie Nauman. In a letter written October 11, 1921, John and Molly's eldest daughter Ethel writes to her older brother Luther Harold (Martha's grandfather) complaining about the terms of their father's will. It's apparent that John William left everything to his wife Molly including the farm, a house in town, and the right to collect on any loans he had made to his children. Clearly, Ethel was not happy—a story indeed.

Mollie lived another 30 years and died in February 1951 at age 83. Both are buried in New Liberty Cemetery north of Mound City, Missouri.



John William and Mollie Nauman

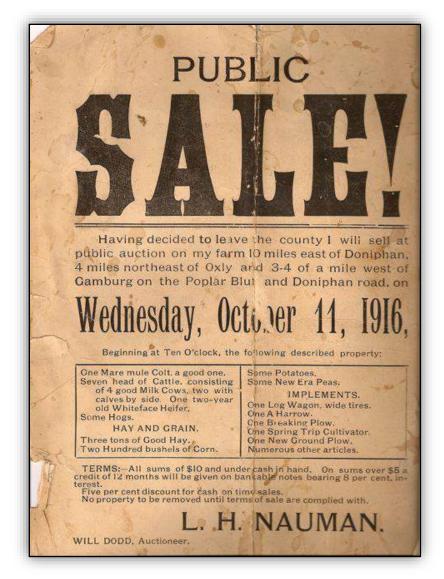
The Luther Nauman family

In 1908, Luther Harold married Edna Bell Eddy in Holt County, Missouri. The census taken a couple of years later in 1910 shows that he was farming there, too. Martha's mother Edna and her brother Bud were born to them in 1914, and according to her memoirs they were born in Oxley, Missouri. That's in Ripley County on the Missouri/Arkansas border. The family had moved from Holt County, Missouri to southern Missouri for several reasons. Among them were the desire for a better life and their distaste for northern Missouri winters. The family moved everything there by rail, and they farmed near Doniphan, Missouri, the county seat for several years.

They were not there for very long. As the sale bill on the next page shows, they left in 1916. According to family members, once there, the family encountered some "perils" they hadn't planned on. It's unknown exactly what those perils were, but we can speculate.

The Ozark Foothills Regional Planning Commission natural hazard mitigation plan for Ripley County identifies four naturally reoccurring hazards — each with a very high likelihood of occurrence and each with a very high level of resulting property damage. The assessment is based on the frequency of these events gleaned from historical records. These hazards are severe flooding, severe summer heat waves, severe drought, and severe winter storms. Of these four, flooding is the largest peril. The county has several rivers and streams, which are all part of the Mississippi River watershed. With the Mississippi River only about 40 miles away, flood conditions on that river have frequently meant flood conditions for Ripley County, too. It's not difficult to predict what effect all these hazards meant farmers back in the early 1900s. Perhaps these were the perils that drove them away and returned them to Holt County, Missouri.

However, the return to northwest Missouri was not immediate. Mary Nauman was born in 1918 in Forsyth, Missouri in Taney County not far from Lake Taneycomo and Branson. It's obvious that the family tried farming in that area for a few years, too.



In any case they finally returned to Holt County. Their story is proof once again that the grass is not always greener on the other side of the fence.

It's unknown why the family was living in Ripley County at the time of Edna and Bud's birth. However, Edna's notes are quite specific, that

she lived in Oxley until she was about 2 ½ years old. We don't know when exactly the family moved to Oxley, we don't know why, and we don't know exactly when they moved back. By 1920 however the census shows that Luther was once again farming in Union Township of Holt County Missouri. He and Edna lived in Holt County for the rest of their lives.

Martha's mother Edna recalls that her mother Edna was good natured with a wonderful sense of humor — a woman who never complained of her lot in life. Luther was fun-loving but, nevertheless, a strict disciplinarian. He was hard-working and always put plenty of food on the table even when times were lean. And he loved to tease. Luther and Edna eventually had 10 children in all — eight girls and two boys. One daughter, Louella, lived less than two weeks after her birth. A son named Harold lived less than a month.

After moving back to Holt County, the records show that Luther never bought a farm. At least through 1940, he rented the land that he farmed. That was probably a good thing, because it spared the family the serious financial loss suffered by many farmers who lost their farms to foreclosure during the Depression. Nevertheless, the Nauman family did experience lean times. Christmas of 1929 found the family with very little. Luther had three cents in the bank. Still, the kids hung up their stockings. No word on what they found in them on Christmas morning.

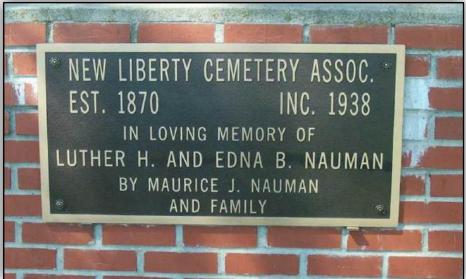
Luther died of heart disease on January 27, 1969. He was 84 years old. His wife Edna survived him by nearly 5 years. She died on November 11, 1975 at the age of 89. Luther and Edna are buried in New Liberty Cemetery at Mound City.

One final story bookends the Nauman family narrative. John's older brother Jacob set the family record for the most children, the most wealth, and the most peculiar way for a family member to die. Married two times, Jacob and his wives gave birth to a total of 27 children — 11 with his first wife and 16 with his second. He came to Holt County, Missouri with nothing and died the wealthiest man in the county. Jacob hanged himself on November 3, 1911.



Luther and Edna Nauman on their Holt County, Missouri farm





Above – Janine Hebner and Martha Ver Mulm at Luther and Edna's gravesite Below – The memorial plaque to the Nauman family at New Liberty Cemetery

The Descendants of Johannes Naumann)

- Generation #1 Johannes Naumann Niedersachsen, Germany, b. ??, d. ?? & Spouse Unknown and had a child named
- Generation #2 Johann Gottlieb Naumann b. 1729 Hanover, Niedersachsen, Germany, d. 8 Feb 1790 New Hanover, Montgomery, Pennsylvania & Spouse Magdalena Dorothea Kuensemoeller b. 1729, d. ?? Pennsylvania m. ?? and had a child named
- Generation #3 John Christian Nauman b. 17 Oct. 1753 Lancaster, Pennsylvania d. 1835 Stanley, Page, Virginia & Spouse Christina Stoneberger b. 1755 Shenandoah, Virginia, d. 1835 Stanley, Page, Virginia m. 1788 and had a child named
- Generation #4 David Nauman b. 1780 Page, Virginia d.after 1860 Stanley, Page, Virginia & Spouse Catherine Siegler b. 30 Jun 1783 Rockingham, Virginia d. 24 Mar 1866 Honey Run, Page, Virginia m 18 Nov 1806 and had a child named
- Generation #5 Reuben Nauman b. 1817 Stanley, Page, Virginia d. 10 Feb 1884 Holt, Missouri & Spouse Elisabeth Dovel – b. 5 Nov 1822 – Page, Virginia – d. 3 Apr 1861 – Page, Virginia – m. 23 Dec 1843 & Spouse Eliza Blosser – b. 22 Nov 1825 – Page, Virginia – d. 2 Jul 1898 – Page, Virginia – m. 14 May 1863 With his first wife Elisabeth, Reuben had a child named
- Generation #6 John William Nauman b. 4 Oct 1854 Stanley, Page, Virginia d. 12 Sep 1921 Holt, Missouri & Spouse Mary Irene (Mollie) David – b. 30 Apr 1867 – Holt, Missouri – d. 15 Feb 1951 – Holt, Missouri – m. 7 Jun 1883 and had a child named
- Generation #7 Luther Harold Nauman b. 19 Apr 1884 Craig, Holt, Missouri d. 15 Jan 1969 Mound City, Holt, Missouri & Spouse Edna Belle Eddy b. 29 Aug 1886 Bates, Missouri d. 11 Nov 1975 Atchison, Missouri m. 1 Apr 1908 and had a child named
- Generation #8 Edna Desdemonia Nauman b. 31 Mar 1914 Fair Deeling, Missouri d. 7 Feb 1990 Clarion, Wright, Iowa & Spouse Donald Rudolph Scott B. 8 Sep 1919 Redwood, Minnesota d. 8 Mar 1980 Clarion, Wright, Iowa m. 1 Sep 1940 and had a child named
- Generation #9 Martha Leu Scott b. 14 Apr 52, Clarion, Wright, Iowa & Spouse Dennis Eugene Ver Mulm, b. 6 Jul 1952 Sioux Center, Sioux, Iowa, m. 15 May 1976 and had children named
- Generation #10 Scott Evan Ver Mulm b. 10 Feb 1982 Des Moines, Polk, Iowa & Spouse Kasey Baker – b. 27 Feb 1979 – Dallas Center, Dallas, Iowa, m. 2010
- Generation #10 Molly Erin Ver Mulm b. 7 Nov 1986 Des Moines, Polk, Iowa

The Nauman family originated in Hanover in the German province of Niedersachsen – known as Old Saxony at the time the family came to America. At the time of their immigration, much of their home area was enduring economic and social hardship in the aftermath of the Wars of the Reformation and related conflicts, which persisted into the 18th Century.

In the early 1700s, the English Crown had become concerned about the unequal proportion of Catholics to Protestants in the American colonies. Their strategy to counteract the perceived threat was to invite German Protestants to resettle in America. Building on the work done by William Penn in 1709, Queen Anne of England extended a formal invitation to residents in several area of Germany including Old Saxony.

In 1750, three brothers of the Naumann family, Johannes, Johan Gottlieb, and Christian, came to Philadelphia. Within a generation of the brother's arrival, their descendants had spread from Pennsylvania to Virginia and Ohio. Within another generation, the family was in Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, Iowa, New York, and Connecticut. Until more recently, Nauman families have been large, ensuring that the family name is now common and widely found throughout America.

For a variety of reasons, the original Naumann name has evolved to include other spellings including Nauman, Norman, and others. The result is that knowing (with confidence) who is related to whom is difficult at best.



Philadelphia in 1750





Hanover, Old Saxony in about 1750

Johann Gottlieb Naumann - Family Group Sheet

Johann Gottlieb Naumann

Birth:1729 in Hanover, Stadt Hanover, Niedersachsen Death:8 Feb 1790 in New Hanover, Montgomery, PA Parents:Johannes Nauman and Unknown Mother



Magdalena Dorothea Kuensemoeller

Birth: 15 Apr 1735 in Thuringia Death: 20 Aug 1784 in Lancaster, Pennsylvania



Marriage: 1742 in Niedersachsen

CHILDREN	SEX	BIRTH	SPOUSE	MARRIAGE	DEATH
Thomas Wilheim Nauman	М	18 Feb 1752 in Lancaster, Pennsylvania	Elizabeth Huffman	1778	23 May 1821 in Clark, Ohio
John Christian Nauman	М	17 Oct 1753 in Lancaster, Pennsylvania	Christina Stoneberger	1778 in Shenandoah, Virginia	1835 in Page, Virginia
Eve Nauman	F	12 Nov 1761 in Lancaster, Pennsylvania	Philip Ramer		

John Christian Nauman - Family Group Sheet

John Christian Nauman

Birth:17 Oct 1753 in Lancaster, Pennsylvania Death:1835 in Stanley, Page, Virginia Parents:Johann Gottlieb Nauman & Dorothea Kuensemoller



Christina Stoneberger

Birth: 1755 in Shenandoah, Virginia Death: 1835 in Stanley, Page, Virginia Parents:Friedrich Johann Stoneberger & Mary Schuklthies



Marriage: 1778 in Shendandoah, Virginia

CHILDREN	SEX	BIRTH	SPOUSE	MARRIAGE	DEATH
John Christian Nauman	М	4 Nov 1755 in Shenandoah, VA	Anna Pence Mary M. Zimmerman	1800	12 Sep 1850 in Johnson, Champaign, Ohio
Maria (Mary) Nauman	F	1780 in Shenandoah, VA	James Housden Peter Dovel	1 Jun 1808 in Page, VA 24 Jan 1832 in Page, VA	1850 in Page, VA
David Nauman	M	1781 in Shenandoah, VA	Catherine Siegler	18 Nov 1896 In Rockingham, VA	After 1860 in Page, VA
Barbara Nauman	F	1785 in Shenandoah, VA	Lewis Hanbeck	12 Mar 1806 in Shenandoah, VA	16 Mar 1835 Johnson, Champaign, Ohio
Catherine Nauman	F	17 Dec 1790 in Shenandoah, VA	Jeremiah Fultz (d. 1831) John Sibert (d. 1871)	18 Dec 1812 2 Nov 1815	1817
Hannah Nauman	F	1790 in Shenandoah, VA	John Sigler	16 Jun 1808	After 1856
Elizabeth Nauman	F	2 Jul 1794 in Shenandoah, VA	Daniel Judy	1 Jan 1838 in Page, VA	18 Dec 1877 in Page, VA
Eve Nauman	F	1797 în Shenandoah, VA	Benjamin Folz	13 Jun 1814 in Shenandoah, VA	5 Nov 1847 in Page, VA
Benjamin Harrison Nauman	М	1800 in Stanley, Page, VA	Susanna Sarah Huffman	15 Feb 1820 in Shenandoah, VA	19 Apr 1883 in Page, VA
Christina	F	Christina is listed on an early Nauma	ın family tree, but her existence o	cannot be verified through birth, death, or	census records.

David Nauman - Family Group Sheet

David Nauman

Birth:1780 in Shenandoah, Virginia Death: After 1860 in Page, Virginia Parents: John Christian Nauman & Christina Stoneberger



Catherine Siegler

Birth: 30 Jun 1783 in Rockingham, Virginia Death: 24 March 1866 in Honey Run, Page, Virginia Parents: Jacob Siegler & Elizabeth Smeltzer



Marriage: November 18, 1806 in Rockingham, Virginia

CHILDREN	SEX	BIRTH	SPOUSE	MARRIAGE	DEATH
Anna Nauman	F	1808 in Page, VA			
Elizabeth (Betey) Nauman	F	Aug 1810 in Honey Run, Page, VA	Frederick Judy	24 Jun 1830 in Shenandoah, VA	12 Nov 1866 in Page, VA
Mary Nauman	F	Oct 1811 in Page, VA	Jonas Folz	24 Nov 1835 in Page, VA	14 Aug 1890 in Shenandoah, VA
John Perry Nauman	М	15 Apr 1815 in Honeyville, Page, VA	Lucinda A. Peterfish (d. 1857) Catherine Pence	28 Jun 1838 in Rockingham, VA	23 Nov 1882 in Honeyville, Page, VA
Reuben Nauman	М	10 Oct 1817 in Page, VA	Elizabeth Dovel (d. 1861) Eliza Blosser	23 Dec 1843 in Page, VA 14 May 1863 in Page, VA	10 Feb 1884 in Holt, Missouri
Christina Nauman	F	1820 in Shenandoah, VA	John R. Bumgardner	11 Oct 1843 in Frederick, MD	3 Jan 1877 in Honeyville, Page, VA
Christian Nauman	М	23 Apr 1822 in Shenandoah, VA	Mary Susan Lucas	8 Dec 1845 in Page, VA	10 Sep 1891 in Stanley, Page, VA
Jacob Nauman	М	2 Mar 1823 in Shenandoah, VA	Katherine Keyser	7 Feb 1848 in Page, VA	11 Apr 1898 in Cedar, Iowa

Reuben Nauman - Family Group Sheet

Reuben Nauman

Birth:10 Oct 1817 in Page, Virginia Death: 10 Feb 1884 in Holt, Missouri Parents: David Nauman and Catherine Seigler



Elisabeth Dovel

Birth: 13 Nov 1822 in Page, Virginia Death: 3 Apr 1861 in Page, Virginia Parents: Peter Dovel and Elizabeth Keyser



Marriage: December 23, 1843 in Page, Virginia

CI	IILDREN	SEX	BIRTH	SPOUSE	MARRIAGE	DEATH
Joseph Si	rum Nauman	М	4 Jan 18455 in Page, VA	Mary Alice Long	19 May 1868	6 Dec 1922 in Craig, Holt, Missouri
James C.	Nauman	М	1846			
Hiram Go	odfrey Nauman	М	20 Mar 1847 in Page, Virgina	Elenora Kite Mary Susan Dovel	Aug 1869 in Page, Virginia 16 Nov 1871 in Page, Virginia	17 Jan 1914 in Holt, Missoun
Eliza E. N	Jauman	F	8 May 1848 in Page, Virginia	William Tazewell Dovel	30 Jan 1873 in Page, Virginia	19 Dec 1933 in St. Joseph, Buchanan, Missouri
Jacob Rui	nus Nauman	М	29 June 1850 in Page, VA	Lena J Long Sarah Elizabeth Huffman	28 Mar 1871 in Page, Virginia 4 Mar 1885 in Page, Virginia	3 Nov 1911 in Holt, Missouri from suicide (hanging)
Mary Catl	nerine Nauman	F	29 Dec 1851 in Page, Virginia	Jarvis David Martin	14 Apr 1870 at Honeyville, Virginia	6 Dec 1911 in Holt, Missouri
John Wil	liam Nauman	М	4 Oct 1853 in Page, Virginia	Mary Irene (Mollie) David	7 June 1883 in Holt, Missouri	12 Sep 1921 in Holt, Missouri
Anna Ba	rbara Nauman	F	29 Sep 1856 in Page, Virginia	Isaac Griffith	Unknown	18 Dec 1938 in St. Joseph, Buchanan, Missouri *
Peter Sim	on Nauman	М	16 Sep 1857 in Page, Virginia	Anna Victoria Proud	2 Sep 1884 in Fairfax, Atchison, Missouri	25 Dec 1918 in Gettysburg, Potter, South Dakota
David Cli	nton Nauman	М	20 Mar 1860 in Page, Virginia	Elizabeth C. Dawson	18 Mar 1884	6 Feb 1932 in Holt, Missouri
Eliza Nau	man	F	6 Mar 1864 in Page, Virginia	aildren Born to Reuben and Eliza	Blosser	3 Jun 1866 in Page, Virginia
Edwin Th	neodore Nauman	М	13 Oct 1866 in Page, Virginia	Nettie Ann Ramey	1906	7 Oct, 1936 in Potter, South Dakota
	ed in the St. Joseph Hospital from re burns when her house burned					

John William Nauman - Family Group Sheet

John William Nauman

Birth:4 Oct 1853 in Page, Virginia Death: 12 Sep 1921 in Holt, Missouri Parents:Reuben Nauman & Elisabeth Dovel



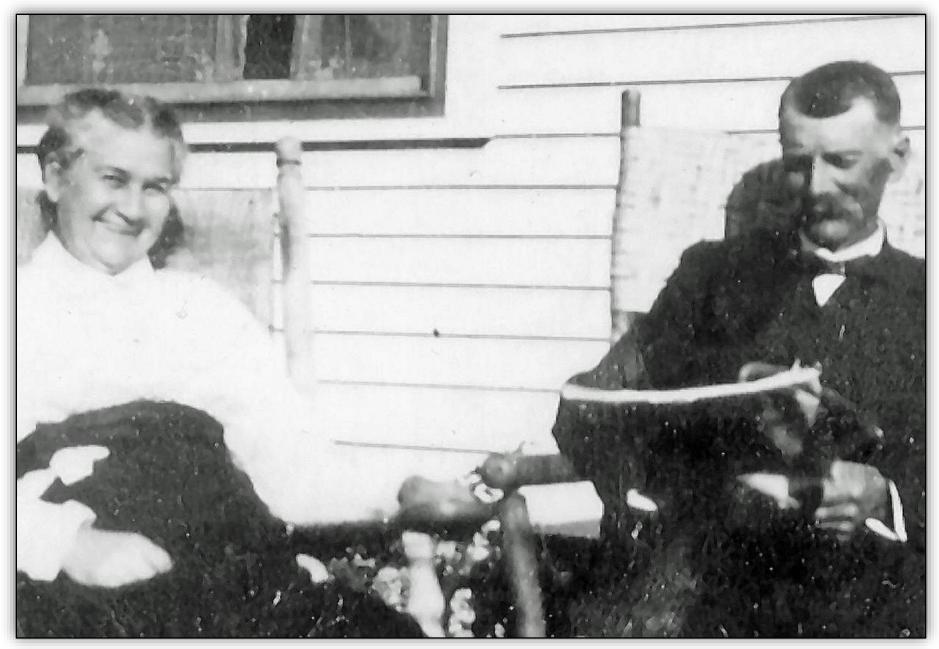
Mary Irene (Mollie) David

Birth: 30 Apr 1867 in Craig, Holt, Missouri Death: 15 Feb 1951in Holt, Missouri Parents: Charles William David & Harriet Kelso



Marriage: June 7, 1883 in Holt County, Missouri

CHILDREN	SEX	BIRTH	SPOUSE	MARRIAGE	DEATH
Luther Harold Nauman	М	19 Apr 1884 in Holt, Missouri	Edna Bell Eddy	1 Apr 1908 in Holt, Missouri	27 Jan 1969 in St. Joseph, Buchanan, Missouri
Ethel Louviece Nauman	F	6 Nov 1885 in Holt, Missouri	Theodor Guy Marshall	3 May 1911 in Holt, Missouri	23 Apr 1973 in St. Joseph, Buchanan, Missouri
Mabel Marion Nauman	F	16 Mar 1888 in Holt, Missouri	Chester Clinton Caton	16 May 1906 in Holt, Missouri	4 Dec 1955 in Holt, Missouri
Charles Spurgeon Nauman	М	15 Mar 1895 in Holt, Missouri	Evelyn Hackley	Date and place unknown	12 Dec 1970 in Kansas City, KS
Jacob Nauman	М	10 Jun 1895 in Holt, Missouri			1896 in Holt, Missouri
Benis Irving Nauman	М	9 Feb 1897 in Holt, Missouri	Anna Marie Lutz	Date and place unknown	22 Dec 1958 in Jackson, Missouri
Katherine Nauman	F	27 Jun 1901 in Holt, Missouri	Otto August Voltmer	Unknown	5 Nov 1985 in St. Joseph, Buchanan, Missouri
John Russel Nauman	М	1 Nov 1904 in Holt, Missouri	Frances J. Herod	Abt 1928 at place unknown	14 Aug 1973 in LaPuente, Los Angeles, California



John William and Mollie Nauman

Luther Harold Nauman - Family Group Sheet

Luther Harold Nauman

Birth:19 Apr 1884 in Holt, Missouri Death: 27 Jan 1969 in Buchanan, Missouri Parents: John William Nauman & Mary Irene (Mollie) David



Edna Bell Eddy

Birth: 29 Aug 1886 in Bates, Missouri Death: 11 Nov 1975 in Atchison, Missouri Parents: Elmer Percival Eddy & Mary Emily Lansdown



Marriage: April 1, 1908 in Craig, Holt County, Missouri

CHILDREN	SEX	BIRTH	SPOUSE	MARRIAGE	DEATH
Doris Carolyn Nauman	F	1 Jan 1910 in Holt, Missouri	Doran Earl Hathorn	10 Dec 1926 in place unknown	11 Dec 1995 in Brazona, Texas
Thelma Louise Nauman	F	25 Jun 1911 in Holt, Missouri	Gerald King Gifford	4 Jun 1932 in Holt, Missouri	27 sep 1997 in Sonoma, California
Julia Margaret Nauman	F	20 Dec 1912 in Holt, Missouri	Arthur Wayne Staley	23 Dec 1930 in Holt, Missouri	4 Aug 2006 in Harris, Texas
Edna Desdamonia Nauman	F	31 Mar 1914 in Ripley, Oxley, Missouri	Donald Rudolph Scott	1 Sep 1940 in Clarion, Wright, Iowa	7 Feb 1990 in Clarion, Wright, Iowa
Maurice Jerome (Bud) Nauman	М	5 Dec 1915 in Oxley, Missouri	Lucille May Pilkington	3 Oct 1936 in Sidney, Fremont, Iowa	7 Oct 2003 in Pottawattamie, Iowa
Mary Francis Nauman	F	28 Mar 1918 in Taney, Missouri	James Wesley Krusor III	24 Jun 1934 in Holt, Missouri	4 Jan 2007 in Atchison, Missouri
Louella Maxine Nauman	F	20 Mar 1920 in Holt, Missouri			2 Apr 1920 in Holt, Missouri
Jean Eleanor Nauman	F	5 Jun 1922 in Holt, Missouri	Marvin Lee Eiman	10 Dec 1947 in Buchanan, Missouri	20 Feb 2006 in Buchanan, Missouri
Lorene Belle Nauman	F	29 Aug 1923 in Holt, Missouri	William Kleinberg Harry Michael Epstein	9 Aug 1942 in Holt, Missouri 24 Jun 1945	21 May 2007 in St. Louis, Missouri
Harold William Nauman	М	3 Dec 1927 in Holt, Missouri			24 Dec 1927 in Holt, Missouri



The Luther Nauman Family
Front row (L-R) Lorene, Edna, Luther, Doris
Back row (L-R) Julia, Thelma, Maurice (Bud). Jeanne, Edna, Mary



The 1907 Nauman Family Reunion in Mound City, Missouri