

# COUSIN IDA



By  
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*“What I spent I had,  
What I left I lost,  
What I gave I have”*

**Ida Dobson Stanton  
Los Angeles, California  
September 1917**

On Cover: Ida Dobson Stanton in front of California home. Date unknown.

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## VIOLA COUSINS



*Robert Locksley Stubblefield's (R.L.) Family: Front: R.L., Mary Jane Catherine (Aunt Mary), Emma,, Haskell, George, James Robert (J.R.) Back: Adalaide (Aunt Addie), Laura, Martha, Louisa*



*J.R.'s Children: Lota, Herman, Grant, Howard and Rovce*



*Herman's Children: James, Charles, Sarah, Edwin, Robert and Herman*

## PREFACE

Ida Stanton, or Cousin Ida as I knew her, was a relative of the Stubblefield Family. She was a niece of my great-grandmother, Mary Stubblefield, and the first cousin of my grandfather



*Ida Stanton*

J.R. Stubblefield. She was frequently spoken of when I was a child, although I recall only seeing her once; that was most likely in the late 1930's or early 1940's when she came by our house probably on her last visit to her Tennessee relatives. There is not much I can remember about her, but I do recall that there were times she sent clothing her grandsons had outgrown and my brothers and I would wear what ever would fit us. In the past few years we have learned more about Ida through letters that she wrote to her Aunt Mary that we found in a shed on the Stubblefield farm. Other information about Ida was obtained by talking with my brother Herman, who had visited Ida when he

was stationed in California at the beginning of WWII. Finally, my wife Carolyn, obtained much of the information we now have about Ida and her family through books and articles, Internet sources, census data, genealogy records, and various old correspondences (over 50 letters). We have learned a lot about Ida, her philosophy, and what a generous, thoughtful, and caring person that she was. We believe the information about her and her family is of general interest and will share the things we learned with you in the following pages.

Charles Bryan Stubblefield

2007

## FAMILY HISTORY

### Phillip Anthony and Lucretia Catherine Runner

Ida Stanton's great grandfather, Phillip Anthony, the earliest of Ida's ancestors for which we have information, was born in Maryland in 1774. Phillip married Lucretia Catherine Runner who was born in Kentucky in 1790. He lived in Kentucky and served in the War of 1812 under General Andrew Jackson. His daughter, Maria(h) was born in Kentucky in 1814, and sometime later the family moved to Nashville, Tennessee. Phillip died between 1850 and 1860 in Nashville and Lucretia died in Nashville sometime after 1860. An account of Phillip's life was written by his granddaughter, Mary Stout Stubblefield, whose remembrances we found with other letters and family papers. Although Mary's recollections were undated, the handwriting indicated that she was probably in advanced age when she wrote them:

“My grandfather, Phillip Anthony, resided in Pennsylvania until he married Lucretia Catherine Runner who was a handsome, pretty woman. Her parents were wealthy, owned a large number of slaves and many acres of land.

Having accumulated sufficient money he moved to Nashville, Tennessee, purchased a large lot, cornering on Summer and Demonbreun Streets, thence to the corner of Demonbreun and Cherry Streets. On the corner marked by a 4' stone (which he carved himself). He built a large and handsome residence, and some distance from it a house in which to carry on his business, which was that of making pottery. He made beautiful ware and had an extensive trade in the city and surrounding country.

I remember when as a child of 7 or 8 years, of riding on the lever of the mill that ground the clay as the old grey horse pulled it around and the picture of grandfather standing on the wheel fashioning the clay into crocks, pipes, cups, saucers and other vessels.

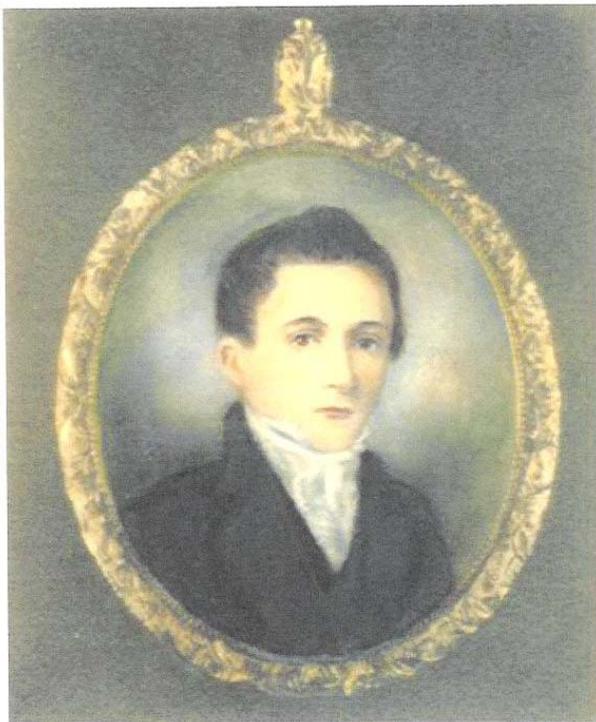
As he grew old, and his men-servants died, he sold out, and employed himself in working his garden, orchard, and cornfield. He played beautifully on the flute and when a child he taught me to dance to the music. He was in the battle of New Orleans (1812), under General Jackson. He and wife were of Dutch and German blood. They were both honest, benevolent, aspiring people. Loved and respected by all who knew them, especially children.



Lafayette ball must have been the social event of the year, and probably only the wealthiest, most prominent members of the Nashville society were invited. We found a copy of an invitation among Lota Stubblefield's personal effects that we have, for a Masonic Ball to be held December 27, 1824 in Nashville. While someone had typed at the bottom of the copy that this was Maria's invitation to the ball honoring Lafayette, the ticket itself makes no mention of Lafayette. Furthermore, the 1983 Tennessee newspaper article states that General Lafayette was in Nashville in May of 1825 rather than in December of 1824. Thus, we must conclude that the invitation that we found in our collection was an invitation to some other ball, and was incorrectly labeled. Ida Stanton had the actual invitation at one time. She writes in a 1916 letter to her Aunt Mary Stubblefield that she had copied the Lafayette invitation exactly and sent it to a Mr. Fairbanks.

### **Maria Anthony and Jacob Van Dyke Stout**

Maria, born in 1814, married Jacob Van Dyke Stout. He was born in 1810. We know very little about Jacob's early life, but the 1860 census lists both Maria and Jacob being born in Kentucky. A daughter, Mary Jane Catherine, was born January 1, 1830 on board the



*Jacob Van Dyke Stout*

steamboat General Coffee, 25 miles from the mouth of the Cumberland River in the State of Kentucky. In the 1850 census, Jacob and Maria were living in Nashville, Tennessee with her parents, Phillip and Lucretia. Jacob's occupation was a tailor. According to a letter written to his daughter Mary in January 1857, he had opened a shop on Deadevich Street. Maria seemed to be sick a great deal during the 1850's and was often confined to her bed or to the house. She died in the late 1850's or early 1860's. On August 15, 1863, Jacob wrote a letter to Mary and Robert

Locksley describing his service in the Civil War and his allegiance to the Union Army.  
Jacob died on September 27, 1863.

“Nashville August 15<sup>th</sup> 1863”

“Dear Son and Daughter,

It is more than a year since I have one word from you or the children. I tried once to come to you but could not cross the lines. And before the Union Army advanced I was taken sick and have not been down stairs for sixty days. My disease is the inflammatory dysentery of a very bad character. But thanks to a kind Providence and to my doctor who is a Homeopathist, I have suffered much less than could be expected. His medicines are mild without having hardly any taste more than water. And creates no nausea whatever on the stomach whatever. My disease is entirely confined to the lower bowels. And although I have been for over two months sick, I have no excruciating .....(this section cut out of letter).....symptoms. I attribute to the pleasant character of the medicine I have taken. I have no fever nor thirst, and have not one quart of water or eat one pound of meat in the whole time. I have wanted nothing to make me as comfortable as possible under the circumstances. I have two clean beds, one a mattress and the other of feathers and I go from one to the other as suits my feelings. Bathe once a day in cold water which is greatly to my advantage, and my doctor says if I will be prudent I will be out in a few days. William Dobson and Laura moved in with grandmother last fall to take care of her and are there yet, but will leave in a few days or as soon as he comes back from Cincinnati. He has sold his place for two thousand dollars cash to Mr. Nokes. What he is going to do for the future.....(Section cut out of letter)

As for myself I do not know what course I shall take. Should my health ..... I have many things to draw my attention both in the army and out of it. I will inform you that Laura has lost her younger boy, Bolivar, who died on the first of June of teething and summer complaint. She went out to her home thinking it would benefit his health, but it done no good. While laying on her lap he suddenly raised his little hand, looked upward as if he expected to be taken by some person and immediately sunk down in her arms and was a corpse. He was buried while I was at Murfreesboro.

I would so wish to hear from you all and what has become of you in these momentous and dreadful times of mans bloodshed and carnage. Let me know whether dead or alive, sick or well, robbed, ruined, or despoiled by the .....(section cut out) anything about the war as you will see the accounts in the newspaper. I will only (say) that the prospects look flattering to the government of the Union, which I pray for all the day. Union now and

forever, one and inseparable. With it we are a prosperous nation without it a nation of outlaws, cutthroats and murderers, violating all law, moral, civil and divine. One union, one government, and one flag to wave over the land from Maine to the Gulf of Mexico and from the Atlantic to the Pacific Ocean. The Star Spangled Banner has been a beauty and glory all my life and I want to see no other wave over this land. And when the last sun of my life shall descent to the western, I will call upon those around me to raise me up and let me look upon it for the last time. And as it waves its star lit foulds in the breeze I can exclaim with joy that it is my country without one star or stripe torn beautiful fould, so let me sink to rest. Yours affectionately, JVD Stout.”

(Jacob Stout died a little over a month after writing this letter.)

Jacob and Maria had five (or six) children: Jacob Jr., Mary Jane Catherine, Phillip, Laura, and Maria Adalaide. The 1850 census also lists a 6-year-old child named **George** in the household, and in 1855 Jacob refers to George in a letter he wrote to Mary. We could find no other references to George in census or family records. **Jacob Jr.**, the oldest Stout child, was born in 1828. He was living in Cape Giradau, MO, when both his wife Rachel and baby daughter Kate died in October of 1855. Jacob Jr. was said to be a fine carriage maker. As far as we know, he never remarried. **Mary**, Charles’ great grandmother, born in 1830, attended the Nashville Female Academy when she was a young woman, and became the first schoolteacher at the Viola School. She married Robert Locksley Stubblefield in 1851 and they lived on the Stubblefield farm in the Viola community in Warren County Tennessee. They had seven children: Laura, Martha Jane (Mattie), Mary Louisa (Lou), Haskell, George, James Robert (J.R.), and Emma. . **Phillip** never married and we know very little about him. Around 1855, he made a trip to New Orleans and contracted yellow fever, he did make it back to Nashville to convalesce, but we do not know if he fully recovered.

**Maria Adalaide** never married and had to drop out of school to take care of her sick mother, although she had a lively social life and many suitors when she was young. After her mother died, she lived with her sister Mary, and was affectionately called “Aunt Addie” by all the



*Maria Adalaide Stout*

*(Aunt Addie)*

Stubblefields. She was known for her good works and care for the sick. She was buried in the Stubblefield cemetery on the Stubblefield farm in Viola, Tennessee.

### **Laura Stout and William Dobson**

**Laura** Stout, Ida Stanton's mother, married William K. Dobson who was born in Ireland. We can assume that Laura was educated in the Nashville schools, probably also at the Nashville Female Academy that Mary had attended. Where she met William Dobson is not known, but Jacob Van Dyke Stout describes William as selling land for \$2,000 in 1863, and that he had gone to Cincinnati. In the 1880 census, his profession is listed as an architect. Laura and William had three children: **Angelo, Ida, and Bolivar**. Bolivar Dobson died as a young child. Angelo married a second cousin, Alice Anthony, and they lived in Nashville. His profession is listed as a paperhanger in the 1880 census, but later his letters revealed that he worked for the railroad. Angelo and Alice had no children. Herman Hall remembers that Angelo visited Viola numerous times after Alice died and stayed several days at a time with Royce and Ruth on the farm. Aunt Ruth expressed great pleasure in his visits because he would bring a large bag of sugar. As Herman remembers, it seemed like a 100-pound cloth sack. This was really appreciated because it was during the worst of the Great Depression and sugar was one of the more expensive of regular purchases, with much of it used in canning. Cousin Angelo's visits were especially enjoyed by the kids because Angelo told such interesting stories. One Herman remembered was about a man who traveled in an area known for "pick pockets". As the story went, the man sewed fishhooks inside his coat pocket for protection. All was uneventful until the pick pocketeer tapped the man on the shoulder and begged to be released! Angelo died in 1939 and was buried in the Mount Olivet Cemetery in Nashville. Mary and Laura were the only children of Jacob and Maria Stout to have children, and consequently the families were very close. There were many visits between the Stubblefield and Dobson children, numerous letters written, and all of life's pleasures and sorrows shared.

### **Ida Dobson and Chappel Quillian Stanton**

Ida was born on April 9, 1861, the second child of William and Laura Stout Dobson. Ida evidently grew up in a household with money and educational opportunities. We can assume that she was educated in good schools in Nashville, and growing up participated in the Nashville society scene. In the 1880 census, her occupation was a schoolteacher and she lived with her parents. In 1884 she married a young lawyer named Chappel Stanton and moved to El Paso, Texas.

Chappel Stanton was born in 1852 in Whitfield County, Georgia, the fifth child of Wesley and Lucinda Hale Stanton. In 1863, the family moved to a larger farm in Gordon County, Georgia. Wesley was born in Tennessee and Lucinda in Virginia. The Stanton's did not own slaves, they used a system of overseers and hired help for the work of the farm. During the Civil War, Wesley and William L., an older son, fought under the flag of the confederacy. Their youngest child, Irene, was born in 1862. All of the nine children graduated from college except for William, the oldest, because his education was interrupted by the Civil War. Chappel probably attended Salaquay Academy as a young man, and in the 1880 census, he was attending law school in St. Louis, MO.

## **EL PASO**

### **Move to El Paso**

After he finished law school and before he married Ida, Chappel moved to El Paso, Texas. Why he moved to El Paso is a matter for pure speculation. Perhaps an older brother had already moved there, or maybe he saw opportunities in the Wild West. In late 1879 or early 1880, two entrepreneurs, Charles Moorehead and O. T. Bassett, came to St. Louis to convince a group of capitalists to invest in a bank in El Paso. Plans were also underway to extend the railroad from Fort Worth to El Paso. Whether or not Chappel had contact with these two men is not known, but in 1880 Chappel came to El Paso from Saint Louis when the trip to this sleepy Texas town must have been perilous. He probably traveled by train to Albuquerque, New Mexico and then by stage to El Paso. Stagecoaches at this time were likely to be attacked by Indians or outlaws, and a person must have been a risk-taker to

attempt such a journey. His brother, Marvin, also an attorney, was in El Paso before 1884, but we do not know exactly when he arrived.

We believe that Chappel, probably along with his brother, established a law practice in El Paso and invested in the bank along with other real estate. He is mentioned in the El Paso City minutes in 1885 as a part owner of a city block. In 1882 the Trinity Methodist Church finished the construction of its new building and Chappel was a member at the time of its construction.

### **Irene Stanton**

In 1884, Irene Stanton, Chappel's younger sister, joined her older brothers in El Paso to teach in the local public schools. She taught third grade in the recently completed two-story brick school building, called the Central School. Irene describes the event that made her quite famous in El Paso for establishing the first children's library in Texas, and the beginning of the library in El Paso. She writes in her autobiography:

“It was in 1894, while a teacher in the El Paso Public schools, that I began what was afterwards to become the El Paso Pubic Library. I first organized a reading club for boys of high school age, and its members used my personal library composed of six or eight hundred volumes, which I had placed in a room on the fourth floor of what was then the Sheldon Office Building. Each member of the club contributed either some standard periodical to our reading table each month, or fifty cents, as a membership fee. In my absence, the key to the reading room was hung in the elevator, so that members could have access to the room. Books taken out were recorded in a blank book, with the date and the name of the borrower; and such was the integrity of the members of the club, no book was ever lost!

And so successful was the organization, that, when I spoke of it to Mrs. Sheldon, owner of the building who chanced to be visiting El Paso, she readily consented to donate the reading room rent free. Such interest and generosity were sincerely appreciated, and most encouraging to members of the club.

As the reading club became more popular and useful, the organization became a Library Association with a board of directors.....”

A major street in El Paso, Stanton Street, is named for Irene Stanton.

### Ida and Chappel's Marriage

By searching through census records and knowing the birthday of their first child, we believe that Ida and Chappel were married in 1884. We do not know how Ida and Chappel met or where they were married. Irene Stanton reveals in her autobiography that she was visiting in Nashville, Tennessee in 1884, just prior to the time she arrived in El Paso. We speculate that Irene's brother Chappel accompanied her at some time during such a visit and met Ida at that time. Nevertheless, the evidence suggests that Ida left Nashville in 1884 and headed for the Wild Western town of El Paso to make a new life. She arrived just after the completion of the new railroad in El Paso and the beginning of unprecedented growth. The *Handbook of Texas* describes El Paso during this period



*Ida & Chappel Stanton and children Herbert, Forrest, and baby Edwin - 1895*

“Most authorities agree that the arrival of the railroads in 1881 and 1882 was the single most significant event in El Paso history, as it transformed a sleepy, dusty little adobe village of several hundred inhabitants into a flourishing frontier community that became the county seat in 1883 and reached a population of more than 10,000 by 1890. As El Paso became a western boomtown, it also became ‘six shooter capital’ and ‘sin city’, where scores of saloons, dance halls, gambling establishments, and houses of prostitution lined the main streets. At first the city fathers exploited the town’s evil reputation by permitting vice for a price, but in time the more farsighted began to insist that El Paso’s future might be in jeopardy if vice and crime were not brought under a measure of control. In the 1890’s, reform-minded citizens conducted a campaign to curb El Paso’s most visible forms of vice and lawlessness, and in 1905 the city enacted ordinances closing houses of gambling and prostitution.”

Chappel was a leading citizen in El Paso and the family was probably sheltered from the vice that was going on around them. Certainly, Ida, because of her family background, would have easily melded with the educated and moneyed society in El Paso and probably looked

on her new life as a great adventure. Ida and Chappel were blessed with two sons while they were living in El Paso; Herbert, born on May 19, 1885 and Forrest, born on June 28, 1886.

Because Chappel had arrived in El Paso a year before the railroad was completed, it is likely that he made a lot of money on his investments when he sold out, and the family moved to a new home in Los Angeles, California sometime between 1886 and 1893.

## **LOS ANGELES**

### **California History**

After its discovery, California was largely a Spanish Mission state. Franciscan monks, Spanish in blood and sympathies, established twenty-one missions between 1769 and 1823. In 1820 the Spanish constitution was duly sworn to in California and in 1822 allegiance was given to Mexico. Gradually Americans appeared in California and after gold was discovered at Sutter's Mill in 1848 the rush to get rich in California further increased the population of Americans. By the treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo in 1848 Mexico ceded California to the United States. In 1850 a bill passed congress making California a free state. Because men came to California to 'strike it rich', only 8% of the population in 1850 were women. In 1869 the Central Pacific and Union Pacific railroads were joined in Ogden, Utah, making the journey from the Eastern United States to California much easier and safer. The railroads completed the New Orleans line in 1872 making California even more accessible. The population of the city of Los Angeles doubled between 1890 and 1900, then tripled again between 1900 and 1910. In 1892 Edward Doheny made the first oil discovery within the City of Los Angeles. In 1900 the population of Los Angeles was 102,479.

### Moving To Los Angeles

Perhaps the excitement of the new opportunities awaiting the Stantons in the West caused them to move to California, or it might have been the lawlessness in El Paso, but whatever the motive, Chappel, Ida, and their two sons moved to California sometime between 1886 and 1893.

In 1893 another son, Edwin L. was born. After 1895, Chappel's brother and his wife, William L. and Sallie Stanton, moved to Los Angeles.

William died in 1909 in Los Angeles.

Incidentally, we think the Sallie Stanton who was the Rose Bowl queen in 1941 was William L. and Sallie Stanton's granddaughter, given

that the Rose Bowl queen's father was also named William. The senior William L. had a son named William Lewis.



*Sallie Stanton - 1941 Rose Bowl Queen*

Chappel opened a real estate office and immediately took advantage of the tremendous population growth, the discovery of oil and the proliferation of the auto in Los Angeles. We believe that some of his investments were in Long Beach at Signal Hill, which became one of the most productive oil fields in the world during the 1920's. The Stanton Family became very wealthy and enjoyed all the pleasures, responsibilities, and influence that riches bring.

### Society

Ida, having money and a great personality, enthusiastically participated in the social functions in LA. In 1915 Ida was to give a paper to her club on the "Old time Arts of the South" and she wrote to her Aunt Mary Stubblefield for some information. Ida writes in a letter dated December 27, 1915:

"Aunt Mary, from time to time will you write down for me exactly how you make all the old fashioned dyes? I am to give a paper on the old time arts of the South and that will be so nice to have. If you have any drawings of designs in weaving, please lend them to me. Any suggestions of the homely

arts I will greatly appreciate. Anything that the mountain people, colored people, or any old time decorations that were homemade, tell me about. If you will write a little at a time, it will not weary you. But be sure to let me have it within a month".

In the 1990's our daughter, Jane, found a copy of Aunt Mary's letter in response to Ida's request, while doing a search in the University of North Carolina library.



*Ida's California Home*

Ida and Chappel are listed as Mr. and Mrs. C. Q. Stanton along with their sons, Forrest and Edwin and their families, in the

1923-1924 "Blue Book" of Los Angeles. Herbert's name is not listed in the book, leaving room for speculation that perhaps he was not as involved in society as other members of his family.

The Stanton's owned large houses, and sometimes in her letters, Ida would refer to the household help. One time when she had visitors, she complained that she was without a cook, but intended to hire one right away.

In a letter to her Aunt Mary dated September 18, 1919, Ida writes that "President Wilson arrives Saturday at noon (in LA). Our girls will be with a group of about one hundred, will wear white dresses, and carry large bouquets and form a palm decked aisle overarched with fine soft vines and ferns which will lead from the train to his automobiles at the depot. Saturday night there will be a banquet of 600, where we will go and hear the president speak." It must have been the social event of the year in Los Angeles and the Stanton's were invited.

In a letter dated in March of 1920 Ida says that she had attended a meeting of women protesting high prices. She also was on Jury Duty that month. Although there were a few exceptions, most letters did not mention her high society life in Los Angeles. She was more intent on knowing the welfare of her Viola cousins, and the good she could do in the world.

### Travels

The Stanton's had the money to travel, and they took advantage of every opportunity to do so. Ida made frequent trips to Tennessee to visit her mother and brother Angelo in Nashville, and then on to visit her aunt and cousins in Viola. Often she would be on her way to somewhere else when she came to Tennessee. One letter revealed that Ida would visit relatives in Tennessee and then meet Chappel in New York and then journey to Europe. She must have taken several round the world trips. In one letter from New Orleans Ida wrote that she was awaiting a ship to take her through the Panama Canal. Her children also traveled extensively and Edwin, her son, even took a year off from college to make a trip around the world.



*Lucy May Stanton*

In a letter dated in July of 1917, Ida wrote from a Canadian-Pacific train as she was traveling through Canada on a journey from New England to California. She mentions that she is visiting one of Mr. Stanton's (Chappel) nieces in Maine. We believe this niece to be Lucy May Stanton, a daughter of Chappel's older brother, William. In 1904 Lucy worked in Los

Angeles for a year, teaching art and visiting her father. At this time, she probably became close to Ida and Chappel. In 1905, Lucy was living and studying in Paris, France and writes to Ida inviting Ida to visit her. In June 1916, Lucy went to Ogunquit, Maine, for the summer, the first of ten consecutive seasons there. Thus, we can be fairly certain that Ida joined Lucy there in the summer of 1917. Lucy was among many artists from around the country who flocked to the picturesque village, known for its white sand beaches and friendly local population. Lucy was a famous artist especially for her miniatures. She studied in Atlanta, where she lived and had a studio, and in New Orleans, and Paris. She taught school in Boston for several years, and her work has been exhibited in famous museums both in the United States and abroad. As recently as in 2002, Lucy's work was exhibited in the Georgia Museum of Art.

Herman Hall Stubblefield said he remembered hearing many stories about Cousin Ida's travels. The one he just loved the most was a story about a trip she made to Russia. The party she was with wanted to go to one of the famous symphonic Russian concerts. The way they described the situation was that they were a little bit late for the performance. When they walked in and everything was ready to go, the conductor acknowledged their entrance by having the orchestra play Dixie! When Herman visited Cousin Ida in California he remembers that she talked about some of her travels and she urged Herman to travel, saying "whatever you do, travel, even if you have to go steerage". Herman said he did not know the details of what steerage involved, but he understood it to be the lowest class travel on a steamship, and she knew about steerage.



*One-inch carved ivory 'telescope'  
containing the Lord's Prayer*

When Herman visited Cousin Ida, she showed him something from one of her trips----a container with water from the Dead Sea. Although Herman said he now had his own Dead Sea water, before Cousin Ida showed him hers, he had never heard of anybody bringing back water from the dead sea.

Herman remembered one time that Cousin Ida visited Viola when she was old and she made the remark that she had made her last world trip and probably would not make any more. And the very next time anybody heard from her, it was from a letter to Aunt Lota written while Ida was on another foreign trip.

In the edge of Los Angeles are the La Brea tar pits. These are naturally occurring open pits of tar containing the bones of many prehistoric animals. (The pits are described as the world's richest source of Ice Age fossils). So much material has been recovered from the pits that a museum was built to house them. During one of Herman's visits with Cousin Ida she insisted on taking him to the museum. He said they rode the public transportation that was in use then, such as the electric trolley cars, and that Cousin Ida knew just how to make the various changes to get them there. Herman recalled that the skull of the saber-toothed tiger was one of the fossils on display. Herman was amazed that this elderly woman, over 80 years of age, had taken him on a streetcar to see this museum. Obviously, Ida knew how to get around even at an advanced age.

Charles can remember "trinkets" that Cousin Ida would send to them from her travels; everything from a tiny ivory telescope, or an unusual pocketknife, to a cocoa pod. Herman remembers that when he was a very young child, Ida visited the family and insisted that her drinking water be boiled, and she drank it while it was still hot. At Herman's young age he thought that was very peculiar because he thought their well water was perfect. Herman is sure now that she learned that from her travels, because he too has learned from sad experience "not to drink the water".



*Knife and cocoa pod from Ida*

### **The War**

In the July, 1917 letter that Ida wrote from the Canadian train she describes a stop they had made to a Toronto hospital:

“We spent the day in Toronto, Canada and went to two hospitals for the returned wounded soldiers and saw some very sad sights. Men with no legs---arms gone—one man brought in in a basket having no legs no arms and no eyes. So I began to realize what war is going to mean to us. For the allies are basing their hope on the United States. They told us France is done, and unless the USA can help win, the cause is lost. The atrocities of the Germans are beyond telling that we have heard.----fiendish, brutal and worse than barbarians.”

In her next letter, she states that she is afraid that “our” boys are going to have to go to war. Edwin subsequently entered officer’s school and Herbert went into the artillery. They persuaded Forrest not to go, because of his family and the need to help his father. (He had two young children at the time). By November of 1917, Edwin had graduated as a 1<sup>st</sup> Lieutenant, and Herbert calculated ballistics and did surveying. Forrest evidently joined the Army later because in 1919, Ida described Forrest as looking stunning in his uniform, and will wear it until he can get his “citizen” suit made. In 1919, both Edwin and Herbert were coming home from France. Ida describes an experience that Forrest had in the army camp that revealed what a hard time soldiers must have had during this war:

“Forrest had the flu at the camp, and they died by dozens there. He said a man came through, tagging certain ones, and he put a tag on Forrest and Forrest said ‘don’t tag me, I’m not going to die’, whereupon the man said: ‘oh you can’t always tell. Who is your next of kin’? Fortunately, Forrest pulled through.”

During this period (1917-1919), Ida worked to help the troops. She said in one letter that almost all society functions had stopped, and they were packaging food, clothing and blankets to send to the war arena. Ida was also busy working for the Red Cross, and taking a first aid and a home health course, doing all she could to support the troops on the battlefields of a brutal war. Characteristic of all parents of young men going off to war, the times were stressful for Ida and Chappel.

## Devotion and Advice



*Front: Lota, Mamie, Aunt Mary, Ida Stanton, Sallie; Back: Rovce. Dollie. Herman: At J.R.'s House. Viola. ca 1920*

Ida's devotion to her extended family was remarkable given that she had a family of her own and lived so far away from Tennessee. In March of 1898, she went from Los Angeles, CA to Redlands, CA to check on her first cousin, Emma Stubblefield Wilson who was living in Redlands at the time with her husband, Noel, and their young daughter, Mary. Ida reported in a letter written to Mattie, Emma's sister, that Emma was very ill and she didn't expect her to live much longer. Ida wished she could stay in Redlands, and help out, but she had family of her own and she had to go back to Los Angeles. "But I will come again", she declared.

Letters between Ida and her Aunt Mary Stubblefield were numerous and showed the love she had for her mother's sister. After her Aunt Mary died in 1926, Ida continued to write to Lota and Ruth and from time to time, visit with her cousins in Viola. Her letters to her Viola relatives were sprinkled with advice. She advises in one of her letters in 1912 that Aunt Mary should give all that she has in her will to Jimmy and Sallie, because of their untiring devotion to her. (We assume that Mary was living with her son Jim and daughter-in-law Sallie on the farm in Viola after her husband died). She goes on to say "It seems to me it would be more satisfying to you to pay each



*Lota Stubblefield*

month your expenses. If you were with strangers you would, and certainly justice demands that Sallie and Jimmie are entitled to remuneration.”

In 1915 when Lota, Mary’s granddaughter, was growing up, Ida’s attention turned to Lota’s education. Thinking Lota was a very bright and accomplished young lady, Ida really wanted her to go to a Domestic Science School. She thought that such a school would prepare Lota for teaching Domestic Science or if she didn’t teach, such a course would prepare her to become a more useful and efficient citizen. Evidently, Lota was not much taken with domestic science because in each successive letter to her Aunt Mary, Ida keeps pressing the point and asking for feedback. Ida checked into the Domestic Science program at Peabody in Nashville, requested a catalog, and recommended that if Lota was not qualified for Peabody, she should prepare to fulfill the requirements. Ida offers to send \$100/year for up to three years, if it took that long and also asked Mary to help with the program. Ida suggested “there is no money in art or music, (these are the fields Lota seems most interested in) although they are fine for the individual, but few ever go far in it, and it is not needed, but Domestic Science covers all the avenues of modern life and needs.” It appears that Ida’s letter was not answered concerning Lota’s schooling and over the following months, she continued the subject in two more letters. Ida stated that she has not heard from Aunt Mary in over two months concerning her offer to help pay for Lota’s schooling at Peabody. She said, "please talk it over with the family and let me know.

Time is on the wing.” In the next letter, Ida continued, “If she (Lota) could get her credits to go to Peabody, or its equivalent, I would give her \$300---and more, if she could take her degree or get her diploma. I would like to hear what you think best to do”. As it turned out, Lota chose a different line of study. In 1917, Lota enrolled in Nashville Bible School, now David Lipscomb University, and studied music but not Domestic Science. Later she went to



*Lota's piano from Ida*

Burritt College, and eventually to Middle Tennessee State and Tennessee Tech. Lota did

make a career as an elementary school teacher and continued pursuing and enjoying her hobbies in music and art.

### Gifts

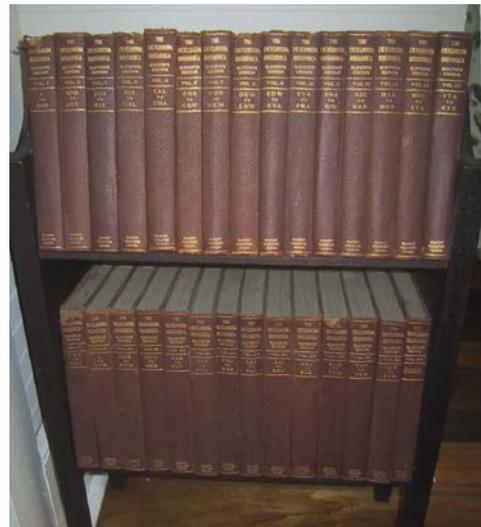
In letters that we have from Ida to her Aunt Mary, and then in later years to Lota, almost every one of them mentions gifts she is sending to some member of the family. While Howard and Lota were in school she encloses \$5 or \$10 for their school or books. She frequently describes both Lota and Howard as "bright". We do not know why she does not include money for J.R.'s other children unless she did not want to encourage them to go to Auto Mechanics School. Ida remarks in one letter that she did not know how there would ever be enough autos "up there" (presumably in Viola) for a person to make much money repairing them.

Actually the brothers Royce, Herman, Howard, and Grant all did auto repair work, and Howard maintained an auto repair business in downtown Nashville for many years. Other gifts Ida mentioned in her letters to Mary included trinkets for Christmas, raisins, clothing her children had outgrown, material for quilts, stockings for rugs, handkerchiefs and a pillow for J.R. when he was sick. She sent subscriptions for

magazines, especially National Geographic, to family members even when she was well into her 80's. Ida sent \$5 each to Royce and Herman when they were married, and a pink blanket and silk cap to Howard's wife, Annie, when their daughter Elizabeth was born.



*Trunk from Ida  
Restored by Charles in 2004*



*Encyclopedia set from Ida*

Lota seemed to be Ida's favorite of all of J.R.'s children and she showered Lota with gifts. In 1914 when Lota was about 15 years old, Ida sends

\$25 to buy her a piano and then frequently sent her money for music lessons. After J.R. died and Lota moved from the home place, she took the piano with her and enjoyed it all of her life. Charles remembers taking music lessons from his Aunt Lota, and playing on her piano. When Lota died in 1990, Charles' brother, Robert, bought the piano from her estate. Since he did not have enough space for the piano, he temporarily moved it to Sandy Stubblefield's home in Viola. After we purchased J.R.'s farm and house, we bought the piano from Robert and moved it from Sandy's house back into the old farmhouse, where it sits today and is occasionally played by us, our children and grandchildren, and others who wish to do so.

Also in 1914 after her children were about through school, Ida sent J.R.'s family a complete set of the 11th edition (1910) of the Encyclopedia Britannica. She did not think her children would use the set anymore, so she thought it would be profitable for J.R.'s family. It is quite an impressive set, and still occupies a spot in the upstairs of the farmhouse. We used the "C" volume recently when we were writing the history of Los Angeles for this paper. Along with the encyclopedia, she sent a technical magazine thinking the auto-repair boys might like it.

Herman Hall recalls that Cousin Ida shipped clothing to his dad's family several times when he was young. Herman said that when he was ten or eleven years old, or about the time Charles was born, that the family received clothes from Cousin Ida that her grandchildren had obviously outgrown. Herman said that Ida knew that they were living in the middle of the depression in circumstances where they did not have a whole lot, and the family looked forward to getting the clothes. Herman remembered that some of the things he wore, for example a pair of corduroy shorts that were just the right size for him, and he wore them until they were not fit to wear. Herman said that the first zipper he ever saw in his life was on some of that clothing, and before they were generally on everybody's clothes.



*Ida Stanton at J.R.'s House  
ca 1920*

When we were researching the artist, Lucy May Stanton, Chappel's niece, on the Internet, we found an extensive biography written for the 2002 Atlanta exhibition of her work. Embedded in the biography we found that in 1926, Ida sent Lucy \$1,000 after Lucy fell on hard times when a bank failed that held all of her savings. So Ida's gifts were not limited to members of the Stubblefield family. There is really no way of knowing how much money Ida gave away to people who needed it.

Gifts also went to California from Viola. Ida particularly loved country-cured hams and in the early 1900's she requested them frequently, especially around Christmas. She always sent money to pay for the hams. The Stubblefield family also sent holly, nuts, meal, and other farm products that were difficult to get in Los Angeles. Before one of Ida's visits to Viola she requested that her Cousin George make baskets for her that she planned to use in a project. Aunt Mary sent gifts to Ida's children when they were married, usually some doilies or other handwork that Mary and Sallie had made. Ida liked tatting so much that she commissioned a lady in Viola to craft some for her.

### **Division of the Farm**

The largest and most appreciated gift from Ida to the Stubblefield's was the \$3,000 she gave to Charles' dad, Herman, to buy a part of the Stubblefield farm. The family ownership of the Stubblefield farm began when William Stubblefield purchased 275 acres of land in Middle Tennessee in 1814 in the community we now call Viola. The farm was passed on to William's son R.L. who married Mary Stout, and then down to their son, J.R. in the early 1900's. After R.L. died, Mary lived with J.R. and his family until her death in 1926. George, J.R.'s brother, owned other land in Viola, and just before the Great Depression, George purchased several head of cattle, mortgaged his farm and asked his brother J.R. to counter sign, which put a \$6,000 mortgage on what was then a 226.5 acre farm of J.R.'s.

In the early 1930's George lost his farm and the original Stubblefield property was in danger of being lost also if the \$6,000 debt was not paid. The year 1931 (the year I was born) was in the depth of one of the worst depressions our country has experienced, when farm prices were low and jobs were hard to find. All the family must have been desperate to find

resources in a period where money was hard to come by. Herman, Grant, and Howard had large families to support and struggled just to make ends meet. Lota was unmarried, and while Royce was married, he had no children. Since Royce and Herman were the oldest of J.R.'s children, they probably felt more obligated to help bail the farm out of debt than did the other children. Although they did not have the money to buy the farm at that point, J.R. deeded the farm over to his sons, Royce and Herman, who were interested in farming at the time and the only children who took steps to save it from bankruptcy.

Seeing the impending doom for the farm, Herman and Royce looked for ways to keep from losing it. To settle the matter with the loan company, Royce set up payments over an extended period to pay the mortgage off. Alternately, to reduce or eliminate the indebtedness, Herman, thinking of Cousin Ida's wealth, Chappel's investment in real estate, and Ida's generosity to the family, wrote to her and asked her to invest in the property. Instead, she just sent him \$3,000, giving Herman a life estate in 103 acres of the north part of the farm, with the property going to Herman and Mamie's children after their death. This part of the farm had no barn or other buildings and was made up of cropland, trees, "new ground" containing many stumps, and was bordered by Hickory Creek on the east side. Since Herman's land had no house or barn, he rented and later bought Mrs. Gunn's house and lot that was across the road from his farm. Subsequently he built a barn and other sheds for mules, cattle, and other livestock.

Although Royce had to assume the remaining \$3,000 debt to the loan company, he gained considerably more than Herman from the way things were divided up. Not only did he acquire more acres, 126-1/2 versus the 103 acres Herman received, but he also got his dad's home, tools, the various sheds, chicken houses, barn, granary and workshops, plus the R.L. Stubblefield "Old House" which Herman had been living in before moving his family to Mrs. Gunn's house.

The deed to Herman's part of the farm reads: "The consideration for the said land is the sum of Three Thousand Dollars paid to the said Royce L. Stubblefield and wife in cash, by Mrs. Ida D. Stanton, a resident of Los Angeles, California, in memory of her husband, Chappel Q.

Stanton, who loved little children and home" (Chappel had died in 1926). Herman and Mamie's children inherited the farm at their death. There may have been some resentment from other members of J.R.'s children and grandchildren about the way the property was settled, given that Cousin Ida gave Herman \$3,000 outright to pay for his part of the farm and that Royce was left to pay off his \$3,000 indebtedness himself. Howard's son Jack remembers his dad saying they visited Royce and Ruth from time to time to buy farm goods and vegetables to help them with the debt. Howard's daughter Elizabeth also recalled that Aunt Ruth sometimes complained about all the hard work she had to do on the farm. Most of the resentment seemed to be directed toward Cousin Ida, although we found no evidence that Royce had ever requested any help from her.

After the death of Herman and Mamie, Herman's part of the Stubblefield farm was divided up and acquired by Steve Stubblefield, Herman's grandson. In 1991 we bought Royce's half of the farm from Aunt Ruth, paying her \$129,000 for the farm, buildings, and their contents. Since then we restored the farmhouse, and now divide our time between North Carolina and Viola. Thus, because of Ida's love and respect for cousins, the Stubblefield farm has remained in the family since 1814.

### **Philosophy**

Out of the almost fifty letters that survive from Ida to her Aunt Mary or to other family members, several of them contain gems of wisdom from a very wise and successful woman. Listed below are several quotes that we gleaned from the letters:

- "Do not worry Aunt Mary about the evil doers; it will soon be over any day. What they say will soon be forgotten and justice and right will prevail. I take pleasure in the thought that it will do none of them any good." (This comment was written January 10, 1913 at the time of the trial pertaining to the settlement of Mary's husband's estate.)
- "Knowledge is a great power and the world is calling for those who can do something better than others."

- "She (Lota) ought to begin to fit herself for her life's work, and be prepared for a broader outlook. For it is true that some must make the effort if they do not wish to remain where numbers preclude the possibility of much success. I grant that success does not mean just making money, but it does mean what we are as an individual to the world and our environment. And to be able to contribute to the constructive up building of society, be it in the mountains, or in the crowded cities, is to be a success"
- "I was so glad to hear that Lota does well at school. I feel that she will make a fine teacher. I hope to live to see her accomplishing the things that go to make up a useful and splendid life. In a way, I feel that Angelo (Ida's brother) has done that. He has lived and given of his religion, thought to be to the benefit of so many men that would have had nothing and been nothing if he had not shown an interest in them. He (Angelo) has made them interested in saving to own a home; he has grown plants and seeds and given to them to have a garden, and flowers and the things that go to make a home sweet. So it does not always take money to be useful. He has indeed made the world better because he is in it".
- "Aunt Mary, don't grieve a moment because of the little rift in the family lute. That is just the working out of human experiences, and since all minds and temperaments are not the same, we must just consider those things a part of individual lives; that you with your wonderful Christian fortitude can surmount sad experience is most fortunate. As we live our lives in relation to people and things about us, it is always one's right to choose those with whom we are most comfortable and therefore most happy. And if other conditions arise, one simply uses the right they should use, and reject that which makes for discord and (is not) in harmony".
- "I suppose Cousin Sallie has not worked out the matter of Lota's doing something definite in the school matter. If one does not push such things, they will never happen. I am still ready to do my part".
- "It is bad business to buy on time, for it costs a third more and if paid for at once, one can do so much better".
- "..... for without health nothing is much worthwhile and life at best is a drag".
- "The first draft of soldiers is mustering now, and today the city entertained them at the park with a barbeque. ...it is terrible that at this time of the Christian era, men

- must make ready to go out and slay each other". (This was written September 1, 1917 at the beginning of World War I)
- "That was lovely for you to give the children the money gifts. They can use what you give them now and you can see your money work while you live. If you put it away, when you are gone, you cannot see what it will mean or what good it will be applied to"
  - "What I spent I had; what I left I lost; what I gave I have".
  - "We have been hearing some returned British soldiers talk about the war, (WWI) and it is unbelievable the awful things the Germans do. We tell our boys, if they go, never to be taken prisoner, but fight to the last; better be dead, then maimed and tortured to a slow death".
  - "This leaves us all well, but depressed about the war, for our boys will have to go as their time comes. I greatly fear that the Kaiser will never be whipped and all the world destroyed in trying it. What can civilization do against such a monster and organized deviltry".
  - "War is a terrible thing, and I am longing for the peace terms to be signed so that we will have some means of preventing its recurrence".
  - (Concerning her 85th birthday) "My table is full of flowers, now. I told the children not to give me any gifts; I was tired of putting things away. Give me something I can eat up in half a day".

## THE CHILDREN

Ida and Chappel had three children; **Herbert**, born on May 19, 1885 in El Paso, Texas, **Forrest**, born on June 28, 1886 in El Paso, Texas and **Edwin**, born on July 12, 1893 in Los Angeles, California. All three children were successful, even by Ida's definition of success, and all very prominent businessmen. All three sons evidently not only inherited the wealth, but also the business acumen of their father.

## **Herbert**

Of all three of Ida's children, we know the least about Herbert. In the 1920 census, he is thirty-four years old and living with his parents. His occupation was in real estate. In the 1930 census, he is living with his wife Alice B. who was fifty years old, and a daughter also named Alice, who was six. According to the census, they were married when Herbert was thirty-seven and Alice was forty-two. We do not know whether her age in the census is correct or not, but she seems a little old to be having a child. Also listed in the census were servants living in the household.

Herbert served in World War I with the artillery and fought in France. After the war, Herbert went into the real estate business with his father. The 1920 Los Angeles city directory listed his office address as the same as his father's (Chappel).

Herman Hall remembers Herbert, Alice, and daughter Alice when he visited Ida while in flight training in Ontario, California during World War II in 1943. He remembers the young Alice as a beautiful girl, with a boyfriend who was trying to break into the movie business. She was a student at Pomona College in Claremont, California and accompanied Herman to his graduation dinner when he finished flight school. He remembers that either the elder Alice or Herbert lectured him, because they did not want their daughter riding in a car with anybody drinking at the party. Alice married the young boyfriend, but later divorced him. Herman also remembers one of Ida's sons was upset that some of the army planes had buzzed his farm and injured some of his cattle.

Herbert died on January 21, 1969 in Los Angeles at the age of 83. He was the last of Ida and Chappel's children to die.

## **Forrest**

The following quotation describing Forrest, Ida and Chappel's second son, is from his biography in *The National Cyclopedia* obtained by inter-library loan from the Los Angeles Library.

"Forrest Quillian, contractor, was born in El Paso, Texas, June 28, 1886, son of Chappel Quillian and Ida (Dobson) Stanton and grandson of John Wesley and Lucinda (Hale) Stanton. His father was a lawyer and real estate operator. After receiving his preliminary education at public schools in Los Angeles, California, and at the Harvard School in that city, Forrest Q. Stanton attended the University of California during 1905-08 and the University of Virginia during 1908-10. He moved to Los Angeles and for two years he worked in his father's real estate office. Thereafter, he founded the Stanton-Reed Company, a general contracting firm with which he continued to be associated as a partner until his retirement in 1951. His firm built many large projects in the Los Angeles area, among which were the Long Beach Community Hospital, Hollywood Baseball Park, Architect's Building, several structures at the University of Southern California, and the Los Angeles building for the Pacific Telephone and Telegraph Company, and at one time engaged in ship construction in Wilmington, California. He built the Biltmore Garage and until his death was a director of the Biltmore Garage Corporation. He also had an interest in the San Gorgonia Power Company, Banning California.

During the First World War he served as a 1st lieutenant of artillery in the U.S. Army, stationed at Camp Taylor, Kentucky. He belonged to Sigma Nu Fraternity, the Valley Hunt Club of Pasadena, California, and the University Club of Los Angeles. His religious affiliation was with the Episcopal church. Politically he was a Republican. He was especially interested in farming and the management of his 4,000-acre cattle ranch, Rancho Potrero, Riverside County, California.

During his college years he was noted as an athlete and participated in track events, football, rugby, baseball, and basketball. A four-letter man at the University of California and the University of Virginia, he was captain of the varsity track team at the former in 1908 and of the football team at the latter school. In football he played the halfback position, and he made several high school and college running records.

Stanton was married in Charleston, West Virginia, February 22, 1911, to Elizabeth, daughter of Charles Stephen Peyton of that city, and had two daughters: Diane, who married Varick Dey Martin, Jr. and Parthenia, who married Frances Sellers McComb. His death occurred at Rancho Potrero, California, February 27, 1953".

### *FORREST Q. STANTON*

Member of the firm of Stanton, Reed, and Hibbard, Architecture, Engineering, and Construction, 622 Metropolitan Building; has been in Los Angeles for the past twenty-five years, and is a member of the University Club, California Yacht Club, Auto Club, and others. Residence, Flintridge, Los Angeles.



*Forrest's Children*

*Parthenia & Peyton Stanton with Ida's Maid - 1915*

World War, Ida again wrote to Lota: "My children all have Victory Gardens, and we have had fine rains; more than for 20 years. Elizabeth, Forrest's' wife, has put up 300 quarts of vegetables and fruits. She bought some kind of vessel that is air tight, and does the canning like a canning factory."

In December of 1937 Ida wrote in a letter to Lota and Ruth:

...."and going with friends next weekend to Palm Springs on the desert where Forrest has a little house. We will take towels, sheets and pillowcases and our own food and stay two nights. They will never know we have been there".

In 1943 during the Second

Forrest also had a son, Peyton, that Ida refers to in her letters, and who is listed in the *1923-24 Bluebook* of Los Angeles. Since he is not named in the above biography as one of Forrest's children, he must have died prior to 1953.

In Forrest's obituary published in the *New York Times*, the cause of death was a heart attack. Forrest died about a year before Ida and was the first of her children to go. He was only 66 years old.

### **Edwin**

Edwin Stanton was born on July 12, 1893 in Los Angeles. He graduated from the State College (University of California) in December of 1915 after taking a year off to make an around the world trip. In 1916 he married Evelyn Carey, who Ida describes as "a girl of attainment, poise and good looking"

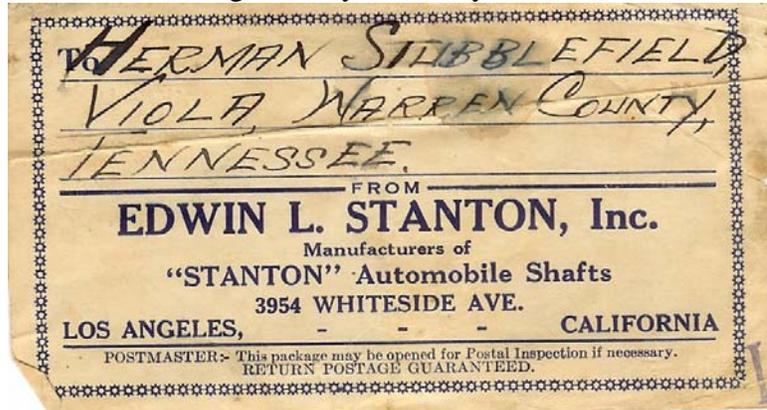
Edwin, after attending officer's training school where he made first lieutenant, fought in France during World War I. Edwin and Evelyn stayed with Chappel and Ida for a while after the war, before building a house of their own.



*Dr. Carey Stanton*

Edwin and Evelyn had two sons, Edwin II, and Carey. Edwin II tragically died in World War II while serving in Normandy. Ida wrote to Lota in March, 1945: "Edwin's things have come from Normandy minus two gold watches and two guns of two German snipers he killed from up in a tree--he wrote home that he had the two guns, but they were missing. A schoolmate wrote Edwin and Evelyn that he had been to Edwin II's grave in Normandy." Edwin II had at least one child, Edwin III. Carey graduated from the Stanford University School of Medicine and practiced in Los Angeles. He contracted polio after treating polio patients.

Edwin is described in an article on Santa Cruz Island found on the Internet, as a Los Angeles businessman. So besides real estate and oil revenue from Signal Hill, Edwin at one time or another owned other businesses. On Edwin's registration card in June 1917, he is employed by the Film Advertising agency. The 1920 Los Angeles City Directory shows Edwin working in his father's real estate office. A label on a package sent to Herman Stubblefield says it's from Edwin L. Stanton, Inc.: Manufacturers of "Stanton" Automobile Shafts. No date was on the label.



*Label probably on a package Herman received from Ida*

In 1937, the Santa Cruz Island Company sold a ninety percent share of Santa Cruz Island, a Channel Island off the coast of Los Angeles, to Edwin for \$750,000. He had conservationist attitudes toward the island and made several improvements in an effort to restore the natural ecosystem. Edwin, his wife, and 2 sons visited the island regularly from Los Angeles. After Edwin II died in the war, and Carey contracted polio, Carey managed the island's interest. Edwin died on June 5, 1963 in Los Angeles at the age of 69. After Edwin's death, Edwin III, and Carey inherited the island, and later sold the property to a Nature Conservatory at below market value. Carey Stanton died in 1987. We do not know anything further about Edwin III.

## SUMMARY.

Ida Stanton was a wonderful woman who was steadfastly devoted to her family. She stayed in touch with her cousins and was a wonderful example to her children and grandchildren. She also had spunk. Herman Hall recalls a family story about the reason she moved to an apartment from her big house. The house where she raised her children was said to have been quite a large house, and she lived there alone after Chappel died in 1926. One day while she was babysitting with a grandchild, a burglar walked in on them brandishing a gun. As the story goes, she very calmly looked up and told the burglar to "put the gun away, I'll give you anything you want but don't frighten the child." It was said that after she stood up to him in that way he reacted like a whipped dog, turned, and walked out. Although she kept her cool at the time, she decided immediately to move to an apartment.

Ida loved to travel and she had the means to make many world trips, but she always came back to Tennessee to visit her mother, and even after Laura passed away in 1914, she continued to visit her brother Angelo, her aunt Mary, and her Viola cousins.

She used her wealth for the betterment of others. Always giving gifts, she was not content with self-indulgence and introspection. When she saw the need, Ida used her money to try to better the human condition. Herman Hall remembered that one time when he visited her apartment in 1942 or 1943, Ida insisted on cooking for him. Among the dishes that the 84 year-old served was spoon bread. Herman thought it was remarkable that this woman, near his grandfather's age, would be cooking for him.

Ida wrote concerning Herman's visit with her in Los Angeles and spoke of her impression of him. In March 1943, she wrote to Lota: "We were all so glad we could meet Herman Hall who is a fine lad, and an intelligent young man. He didn't get to meet Forrest and his little family, because Herman's stay in town was only for a night and a part of a day and Forrest's family goes every Friday afternoon to his ranch 80 miles from here and stays until Sunday night, and, too, they live in Pasadena. I just had a letter from Herman Hall from Bakersfield, where he says the training is 'most rigorous' and 'I have already started flying the basic

trainers. I am very sorry to have gotten so far from Los Angeles, I don't expect to be able to go to LA again before I finish basic here'. I will write to him every little while, (Bakersfield is more than 200 miles from LA), and send him some reading matter." (She just had to send a little something!)

Ida died on April 1, 1954 at the age of 93. Alice, Herbert's wife, wrote to Lota on April 3, 1954 and described her passing.

"Grandma Stanton passed away Thursday evening and the funeral was this morning. As she was 93, and most of her friends gone, we had just a quiet service at the interment. Just the family: Ed and his wife, Elizabeth, Forrest's widow with his two daughters, our daughter, Alice, with her husband, and Stanton Forbs (Lucy May Stanton's nephew), who is spending a couple of months painting California scenes. Grandma had no aches or pains; she simply slept more and at seven-thirty Thursday evening, gave up breathing without even a sigh.

We are about as usual. I am never very good and, of late, Herbert has been extra tired. Alice's three boys (3-½, 7, 9) and Grandma have been quite a care to him. Alice lives three blocks from us and the boys are darlings but Herb and I are not as young as we used to be and when a voice says over the phone, 'may I please come over and stay all night', you can guess what the answer is. Alice is to have another baby in July.

I hope you fare well. Where is the next trip to be? You are so wise to keep on the go as long as you are free to do so. Good night.

Affectionately,  
Your Cousin Alice".

**What can we learn from this remarkable woman, Ida Dobson Stanton?**

We have thought of some things, and perhaps you can add others to the list:

- Education is very important. Take advantage of it.
- Travel to expand your horizons.
- Family, even extended family, is very important. Do not neglect them.
- Whether wealthy or not, give to your fellow man whenever you can.
- Do not be pretentious if you are better off financially than someone else is. Being frugal is wise, for the poor and the rich.
- Participate in community affairs. Your opinion might be important.
- Be ethical in all of your behavior and practice Christian principles.
- The consequences of war are terrible.

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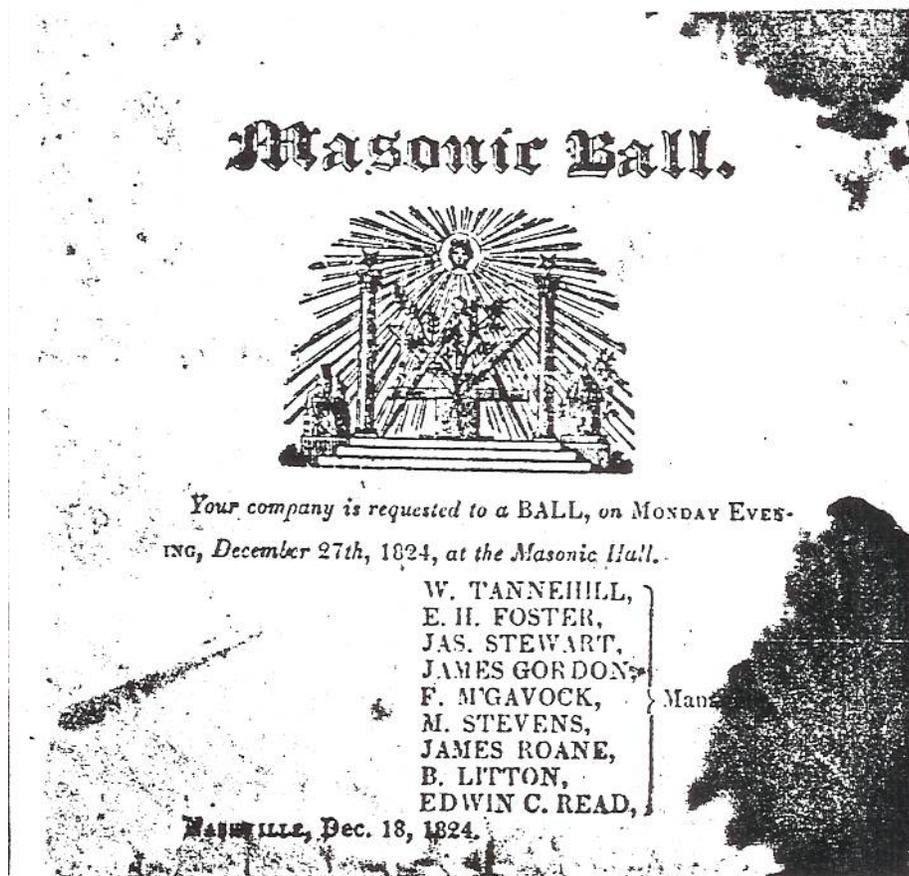
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Warren County Deeds. Land Transfer from Royce and Ruth Stubblefield to Herman and  
Mamie Stubblefield, 8/19/1931

## APPENDIX



This is a ticket issued to Miss Mariah Anthony, entitling her to attend a ball given in honor of General LaFayette on his visit to Nashville in 1824.

Mariah Anthony married Jacob Van Dyke Stout. She became the mother of Mary Jane Catherine Stout, who married Robert Locksley Stubblefield.

(Apparently someone incorrectly labeled this as being Mariah Anthony's invitation to a Lafayette Ball to be held on December 27, 1924. Actually Lafayette did not visit Nashville until May 1925.)

## FARM DEED

For the consideration hereinafter mentioned, We, Royce L. Stubblefield and wife, Ruth Stubblefield of Viola Tennessee, do hereby sell, transfer and convey unto Herman P. Stubblefield and wife Mamie Hall Stubblefield, for and during each of their natural lives, and at the death of the survivor, to their child or children then living, share and share alike, the said land herein conveyed shall not be subject to the debts, contracts or liabilities of any of the conveyees herein.

The tract of land so conveyed is located in the 8th Civil District of Warren County Tennessee and bounded as follows:

Beginning in center of Hickory Creek where east tributary flows in to same; thence down and with said creek north  $7\frac{1}{2}$  east 16 poles; north 45 deg. west 22 poles; north 32 deg. west 13 poles; north 10 poles; north 70 deg. east 10 poles; north 4 poles north 57 deg. west 15 poles; north 30 west 17 poles; north 9 deg. east 28 poles; north 15 east 32 poles to point in said creek where Willis south boundary crosses same; thence with his line north  $85\frac{1}{2}$  west 114 poles to post oak stump on west side of Viola and McMinnville Highway; thence along west side of said Highway south  $4\frac{1}{2}$  deg. west 139.76 poles to stone about 4 feet southwestward from fence post at southeast corner of Winton wood lawn; thence south  $85\frac{1}{2}$  east 141 poles to the beginning, containing 103 acres.

To have and to hold the said tract or parcel of land with the appurtenances, estate, title and interest thereto belonging to the said conveyees above mentioned and in the manner mentioned in fee simple forever.

We, the said Royce Stubblefield and wife do covenant with the said conveyees that we are lawfully seized and possessed of the said land in fee simple, have a good right to convey it, and the same is unincumbered; and we do further covenant and bind ourselves, heirs and representatives to warrant and forever defend the title to the said land to the said conveyees, in the manner aforesaid, against the lawful claims of all persons whomsoever.

The consideration for the said land is the sum of Three Thousand (\$3000.00) Dollars paid to the said Royce L. Stubblefield and wife in cash, by Mrs. Ida D. Stanton, a resident of Los Angeles, California; in memory of her husband, Chappel Q. Stanton, who loved little children & home. It being the understanding and purpose of Mrs. Stanton to furnish the consideration of \$3000.00 to provide a home for the conveyees herein, which home and land shall not be subject to the contracts, debts or liabilities of the conveyees herein, or to either one of them.

This August 19, 1931.

Royce L. Stubblefield

Ruth Stubblefield

State of Tennessee

Warren County

Personally appeared before me Frank Davenport a Notary Public in and for said County and State, the within named Royce L. Stubblefield and wife Ruth Stubblefield the bargainors with whom I am personally acquainted and who acknowledged that they executed the within instrument for the purposes therein contained.

And the said Ruth Stubblefield, wife of the said Royce Stubblefield having personally appeared before me privately and apart from her husband, the said Ruth Stubblefield acknowledged the execution of the said instrument to have been done by her freely, voluntarily, and understandingly without compulsion or constraint from her said husband, and for the purposes therein expressed.

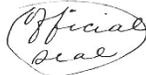
Witness my hand and official seal this the 19th day of August 1931.

Frank Davenport Notary Public.

My commission expires April 1934.

Filed for record 19th day of  
Aug. 1931 at 10:47 O'clock A.M.  
This 19th day of Aug. 1931.

*Roy E. Wood*  
Registrar.



## TRUNK RESTORATION

Charles and Carolyn Stubblefield reconditioned the Ida Stanton trunk in July 2004. The trunk was in the Viola farmhouse and apparently belonged to Cousin Ida Stanton originally. Some of J.R. and Sallie's things were inside the trunk when we first cleaned it out. The trunk was in the J.R. Stubblefield house when Carolyn and Charles bought the property from Aunt Ruth in 1991, after her husband Royce Stubblefield had died in 1983. We do not recall all the things that were in the trunk when we emptied it, but there seemed to be many things that belonged to J.R. For example, it contained a shaving mug and straight razor, various assortments of medicines, letters, and other personal things. It is likely that J.R.'s wife Sallie and some of the children used the trunk to store things because penciled at the top of the back side of the trunk lid lining was the name of Sallie's daughter, "Lota Stubblefield". Along with some wrapping paper that was in the trunk, two old labels were found: a Sears, Roebuck and Co. tag addressed to Mrs. J.R. Stubblefield, and a Remien & Kuhnert Co. label from a wall paper shipment.

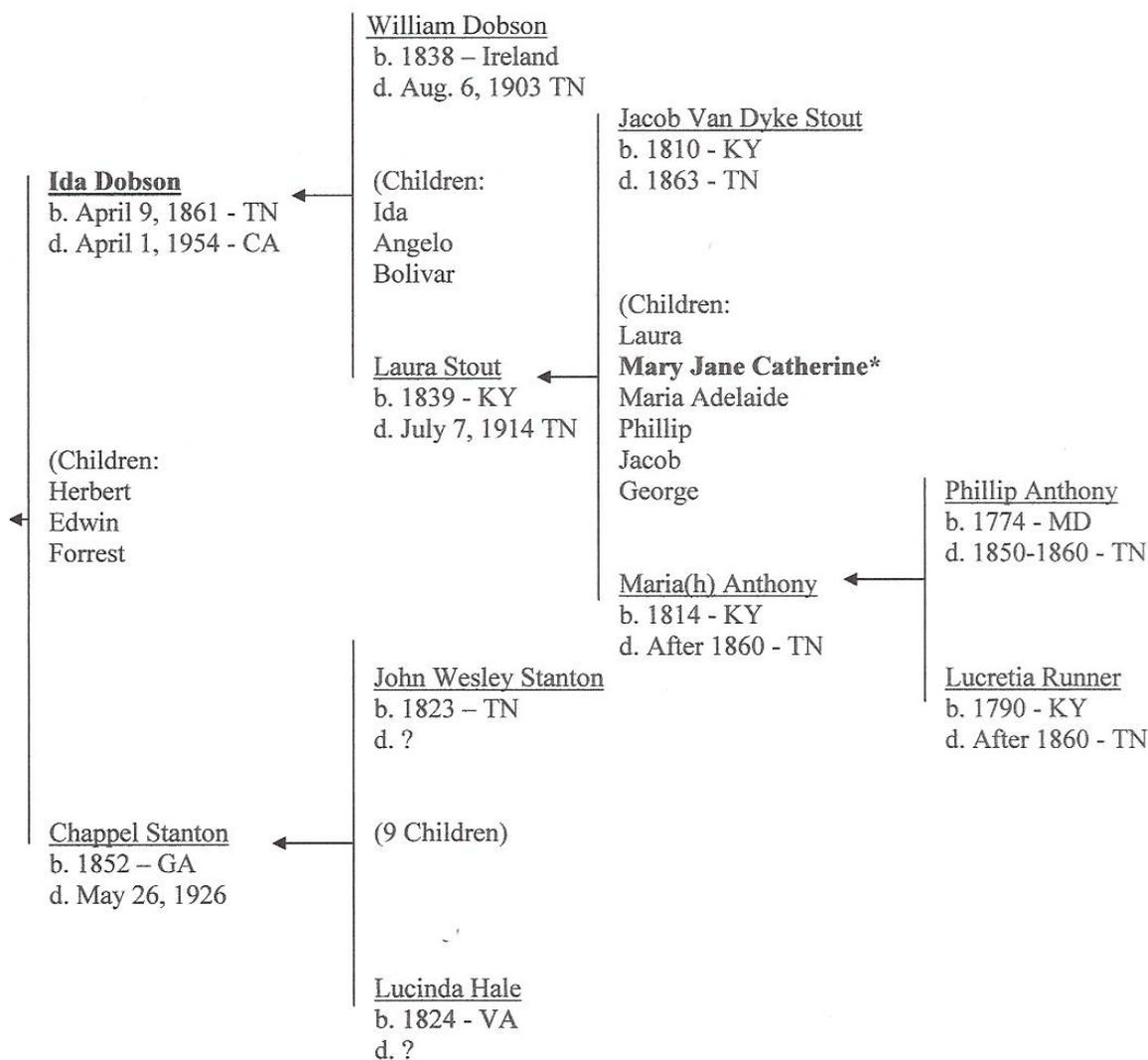
In restoring the trunk, effort was directed to make the trunk clean and useful again. We did not replace the missing latch and lock parts, but a piece of wood was fabricated to replace a broken slat and metal pieces were fabricated to replace two missing corner braces. Because the rollers were so worn and damaged, wooden blocks were cut and glued to the bottom of the trunk to provide support without scratching the floor.

The upper tray was missing when we first found the trunk. So in the restoration, Charles built a new tray to make the trunk more versatile. We returned the trunk to the Viola farmhouse so it could be used to store various blankets, clothing, and other things used while staying on the farm.

Cousin Ida was a well-traveled person. After her sons were grown she frequently took voyages around the world and brought back interesting things, perhaps in this very trunk. The most likely reason the trunk remained with the Stubblefields is that Cousin Ida, being a very generous person, probably sent it along with gifts of clothing and other things that could be used by various family members, or she may have used the trunk to simply send gifts of general curiosity to the family.

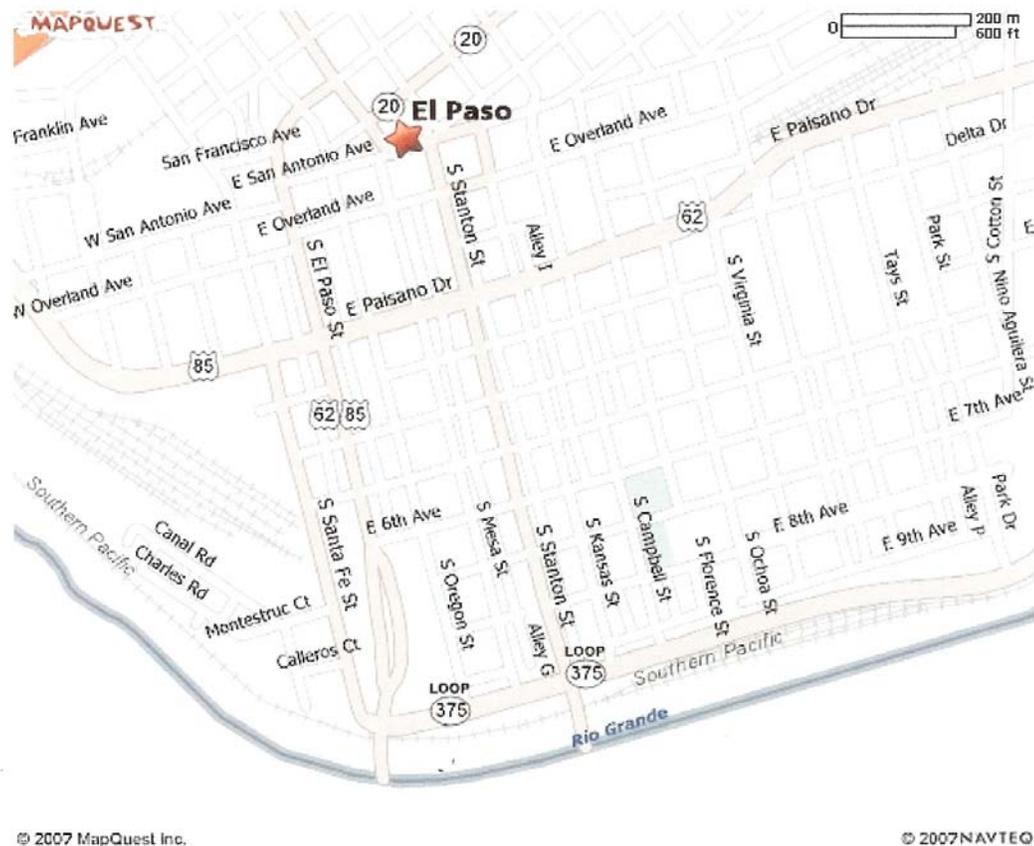
## FAMILY RECORD OF 'COUSIN' IDA STANTON

Compiled By: Charles & Carolyn Stubblefield  
2007



\*Wife of RL Stubblefield – Charles' Great-Grandmother.

## EL PASO CITY MAP SHOWING STANTON STREET



## ANGELO DOBSON OBITUARY

**DOBSON**—Wednesday evening, June 28, 1939, at McMinnville, Tenn., M. Angelo Dodson, aged 84 years. Survived by one sister, Mrs. Ida Stanton, of Los Angeles, Calif. Remains are at the parlors of Wiles & Wood, 1903 West End Avenue, where funeral services will be conducted Friday morning at 10 o'clock by the Rev. E. C. Shelton. Pallbearers, N. J. Watts, T. J. Wright, Bates Young, P. W. Miller, Joe Chastain, Bob Nicks. Interment, Mt. Olivet Cemetery.

## SANTA CRUZ CHANNEL ISLAND

(Once owned by Ida's son Edwin)

