

Luther Franklin Bragg, Jr.

Biographical Sketch

Luther Franklin Bragg, Jr., who created the collection of genealogical and local history records which bears his name and which is now on deposit in the Demopolis public Library, was born in a mill house owned by Henderson-Baker Lumber Company in Myrtlewood, Marengo County, Alabama on November 13, 1922. He was the grandson of John Branch and Mamie Anna Pond Bragg and the son of Luther Franklin, Sr. and Mary Lee Coats Bragg.

Luther or "Luke" Bragg, as he was known to relatives and friends, was educated, first, in the public elementary school at Myrtlewood and, subsequently, in Conecuh County at Repton High School, Repton, Alabama, from which he graduated in 1940.

During World War II, he served in the U. S. Navy. After that tour of duty, he left Alabama and moved to New York City, seeking a career as a dancer and an actor. Thirty-six years later, he returned to Alabama where he continued the research he had begun while in New York into the history of Myrtlewood, the families associated with that community and with Marengo County, and other genealogical and local history subjects.

Bragg died in Birmingham, Alabama on Saturday, December 24, 1994 and was buried four days later, in Myrtlewood Cemetery.

DEMOPOLIS PUBLIC LIBRARY

ARCHIVES

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

LUTHER FRANKLIN BRAGG, JR .

GENEALOGICAL AND LOCAL HISTORY RECORDS

The Luther Franklin Bragg, Jr. collection is a 22 linear foot body of genealogical and local history records focusing upon the town of Myrtlewood, Marengo County, Alabama but also including information on other areas of that county. The information on Myrtlewood includes data on persons and families who were, in one way or another, associated with the town; data on "places" (streets, roads, and structures) in and around the town; and historical data about the town, plus photographs of people and places. This data is available through the research cards which Bragg produced and through notebooks in which the information contained on the cards was organized. The subject headings which Bragg used are as follows: "Myrtlewood -- Her People," "Myrtlewood -- Her History," "Myrtlewood -- Places," and "Myrtlewood -- Photographs". The photographs which are a part of the records are not to be found only under the heading "Myrtlewood -- Photographs" but are dispersed throughout the other notebooks.

Bragg's records were created as the support for a projected comprehensive history of Myrtlewood. Although a brief history was published, it was not the comprehensive one which he envisioned.

In arranging and describing the records, a division of them has been imposed. The first group contains all the research cards; the second group is made up of the notebooks. A further division segregates the cards and notebooks containing data on Myrtlewood from those which contain data on Marengo County. Finally, the records have been divided into series and numbered from 1 to 17. Within each series each card file or notebook has also been numbered, so that #1.1 refers to the first card file in the first series.

The series are as follows:

- #1 - Research Cards, "Myrtlewood
People"
- #2 - Research Cards, "Myrtlewood
Cemetery"
- #3 - Research Cards, "Myrtlewood
Places"
- #4 - Research Cards, "Myrtlewood
Methodist and Presbyterian Churches"

5. Research Cards, "Myrtlewood Work File, Manuscript - Yearly"
6. Research Cards, "Myrtlewood Working"
7. Research Cards, "History Addresses"
8. Research Cards, "Marengo County Families"
9. Genealogy and Local History Notebooks, "Myrtlewood Her History"
10. Genealogy and Local History Notebooks, "Myrtlewood Her People"
11. Genealogy and Local History Notebooks, "Myrtlewood Places"
12. Genealogy and Local History Notebooks, "Myrtlewood Categories"
13. Genealogy and Local History Notebooks, "Land Records for Myrtlewood and Surrounding Areas"
14. Genealogy and Local History Notebooks, "Myrtlewood People"
(Photographs)
15. Genealogy and Local History Notebooks, "Marengo County Families"
16. Genealogy and Local History Notebooks, "Marengo County Cemeteries and Marengo County Churches"
17. Genealogy and Local History Notebooks, "The Class of 1940" (Repton High School, Repton, Conecuh County, Alabama)

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ARCHIVES

Main Entry: Bragg, Luther Franklin, Jr.

Title: Genealogical and Local History Records

Geographical Focus: Myrtlewood and Marengo County, Alabama

Research Cards

1.1 Research Cards, "Myrtlewood People": A - B

These cards, which are arranged alphabetically by last name, then first name or initial, followed by middle or maiden name, contain personal and family information on individuals who either lived in Myrtlewood, Marengo County, Alabama, or were in some other way associated with the place. If known, data is provided as to parentage, birth and death dates, place of burial, marriage or marriages, with date or dates, place or places of residence, names of children, and employment.

If the data from these cards was transferred to specific named binders, e. g. "Myrtlewood, Her People" or "Marengo County Families," a notice of that is supplied on the card.

1.2 Research Cards, "Myrtlewood People": C - E

See annotation for entry #1.1.

1.3 Research Cards, "Myrtlewood People": F - K

See annotation for entry #1.1.

1.4 Research Cards, "Myrtlewood People": L - P

See annotation for entry #1.1.

1.5 Research Cards, "Myrtlewood People": Q - T

See annotation for entry #1.1.

1.6' Research Cards, "Myrtlewood People": U - Z

See annotation for entry #1.1.

2.1

Research Cards, "Myrtlewood Cemetery": A - Y

These cards include the following: (1) a final alphabetical list of persons buried in Myrtlewood Cemetery, arranged by last name, first name, middle initial or middle or maiden name, containing data from their tombstones; (2) two cards on members of the Meador family; (3) the first draft cards on those individuals included in #1 above; and (4) cards

(2.1 continued)

relating to Edwin Augustus Poellnitz, his civil War history, plus other personal data. Cards are also included which date crucial events during the civil War.

3.1 Research Cards, "Myrtlewood Places": section #1 - section #16 and Highway #69

The cards in this file provide a varying amount of information about places -- streets, roads, houses, and other structures -- in Myrtlewood. The cards are arranged by numbered section. An index at the front of the file identifies the location of each section.

4.1 Research Cards, "Myrtlewood Methodist and Presbyterian Churches": History

Data in this file includes (1) information on the ministers of each denomination who served these churches, with the dates of service provided for each; (2) an alphabetical list of members' names, first for the Methodists, then for the presbyterians with information regarding membership and relation to the church in the period after membership was established. The omission of data regarding the Baptist church and its membership is significant. No explanation for that omission is provided.

5.1 Research Cards, "Myrtlewood Work File, Manuscript-Yearly": Pre-1850s - 1990s

The cards in this file are divided into two sections:

(1) "Notes," containing information on subjects as diverse as the L & N Railroad, Myrtlewood School Teachers, and Cotton and Land (1812 - 1845); (2) information arranged by year beginning in 1771 and coming forward into the early 1990s. The cards in this section of the file are designated "Records," and are grouped largely by decade or other general time span.

6.1 Research Cards, "Myrtlewood Working": Subjects Included in this file are cards entitled "Manuscript," "People," "Black Families," "Places," "Church[es]," "Cemetery," "Schools," "Photos," and "Miscellaneous". These cards apparently contained incomplete information or information which still required verification.

7.1:" Research Cards, "History Addresses": Address Cards

This file contains two sections: (1) Address Cards entitled as follows: "Myrtlewood Addresses," "Research," "Information," "Personal," "Miscellaneous," and "Obsolete"; (2) Family Address Cards entitled as follows: "Bragg," "Cammack," "Lockard-Stewrt," "Pond-Pistole," "Walt-Frank," "John B. Pond," "F. D. Scott," "Coats," "Thomas," "McCrary," and "Reid".

8.1 Research Cards, "Marengo Families, #1: A - H

(#8.1 continued)

The cards in this file are arranged alphabetically by the last name of a principal family member, then by first name and middle or maiden name, or by family name alone. Where known, information is provided as to birth, marriage, children, death, and burial place.

Also see binders entitled "Marengo Families".

8.2 Research Cards, "Marengo Families," #2: I - S
See annotation for entry #8.1.

8.3 Research Cards, "Marengo Families," #3: T - Y
See annotation for entry #8.1.

At the end of this file is a section entitled "Marengo County Information," subdivided into the following sections: "Info," "Places," "Linden," and "People".

RESEARCH NOTEBOOKS

9.1

Genealogy and Local History Notebooks, "Myrtlewood - Her History, Vol #1: The Beginning - 1899

This volume and those that follow it in the "Myrtlewood Her History" series are part of a four-series record group (Notebooks about Myrtlewood History, People, and Places, and Photographs), designed to be published as parts of a comprehensive history.

Vol. #1 begins with explanations regarding Luther Franklin Bragg, Jr.'s research. Particularly interesting are the prefatory sections entitled "Format," "The Great Effort," and "Material Involved". What follows is a Prologue and 10 chapters tracing the history of Myrtlewood from the period of Indian civilization to 1899.

Photographs are included in all volumes.

- 9.2 Genealogy and Local History Notebooks, "Myrtlewood - Her History," Vol. #2: 1900 - 1919
- Y..
- 9.3 Genealogy and Local History Notebooks, "Myrtlewood - Her History," Vol. #3: 1920 - 1939
- 9.4 Genealogy and Local History Notebooks, "Myrtlewood - Her History," Vol. #4: 1940 - 1959
- 9.5 Genealogy and Local History Notebooks, "Myrtlewood - Her History," Vol. #5: 1960 - 1969

9.6

Genealogy and Local History Notebooks, "Myrtlewood - Her History," Vol. #6: 1970s (1970 - 1976)

9.7 Genealogy and Local History Notebooks, "Myrtlewood - Her History," Vol. #[7]: 1970s(1977 - 1979)

9.8 Genealogy and Local History Notebooks, "Myrtlewood - Her History," Vol. #[8]: 1980s(1980 - 1984)

9.9 Genealogy and Local History Notebooks, "Myrtlewood - Her History," Vol. #[9]: 1980s(1985 - 1989)

9.10 Genealogy and Local History Notebooks, "Myrtlewood - Her History," Vol. #[10]: 1990s (1990 - 1994)

10.1 Genealogy and Local History Notebooks, "Myrtlewood - Her People, " Vol. #1: A - B

This volume and those that follow it in the "Myrtlewood Her People" series are part of a four-series record group (Notebooks about Myrtlewood History, People, and Places, and Photographs, designed to be published as parts of a comprehensive history.

The data in this volume and those that follow it in the series is organized alphabetically by family name or by the name of the head of a major family branch.

Photographs are included.

10.2 Genealogy and Local History Notebooks, "Myrtlewood - Her People," Vol. #2: C - E
See annotation for entry #10.1.

10.3 Genealogy and Local History Notebooks, "Myrtlewood - Her People," Vol. #3: F - L
See annotation for entry #10.1.

10.4 Genealogy and Local History Notebooks, "Myrtlewood - Her People," Vol. #4: M - R
See annotation for entry #10.1.

10.5, Genealogy and Local History Notebooks, "Myrtlewood - Her .. People," Vol. #5: S - Y
See annotation for entry #10.1.

10.6

Genealogy and Local History Notebooks, ["Myrtlewood People"], Bragg Family, Vol. #1: William Bragg and His Descendants
This volume and those that follow are a genealogical record of the Bragg Family. In this volume is data on the following:

(#10.6 continued)

William and Margaret Bragg
Thomas and Hannah Knott Bragg
Richard Bragg
Mary Polly Bragg
Nancy Bragg
William Bragg
James T. Bragg
David Bragg
Branch Knott Bragg

10.7 Genealogy and Local History Notebooks, ["Myrtlewood People"], Bragg Family, Vol. #2: Branch Knott Bragg and His Descendants

In this volume is data on the following:

Branch Knott and Nancy Cammack Bragg
James Richard Bragg
Mary E. Bragg
William Thomas Bragg
Nancy Elizabeth Bragg
Hannah Knott Bragg
Martha Virginia Bragg
Richard Knott Bragg, Jr.
Sterling Parker Bragg
Robert Braxton Bragg. Sr.

10.8 Genealogy and Local History Notebooks, ["Myrtlewood People"], Bragg Family, Vol. #3: James Richard Bragg and His Descendants

James Richard and Martha Elizabeth
Lockard Bragg
Ida Lockard Bragg
John Branch Bragg
William Thomas Bragg
James Richard Bragg, Jr.
Edwin Stewart Bragg
Robert Lester Bragg

10.9 Genealogy and Local History Notebooks, ["Myrtlewood People"], Bragg Family, Vol. #4: John Branch Bragg
John Branch and Mamie Anna Pond Bragg

10.10 Genealogy and Local History Notebooks, ["Myrtlewood People"], Bragg Family, Vol. #5: Descendants of John Branch and Mamie Anna Pond Bragg

Luther Franklin Bragg, Sr.

(#10.10 continued)

John Richard Bragg
Mattie Elizabeth Bragg Gilmer
Mary (Mamie) Amanda Bragg
Edwin Thomas Bragg
Charlie Pond Bragg
James Harold Bragg
Hattie Eugenia Bragg
Henry Lumpkin Bragg
Lloyd Elmer Bragg
Lela Merle Bragg
Lillie Pearl Bragg

- 10.10A Genealogy and Local History Notebooks, ["Myrtlewood People"], Bragg Family, Vol. [#6]: Sterling Parker Bragg and His Descendants
- 10.11 Genealogy and Local History Notebooks, ["Myrtlewood People"], Bragg Family, Vol. [#7]: Bragg and Related Families
This volume contains miscellaneous data on the Bragg family and information on certain related families, including Bragg lines from Virginia and the Braxton Bragg family.
- 10.12 Genealogy and Local History Notebooks, ["Myrtlewood People"], Bragg Family, Vol. [#8]: Hugh Bragg and William Bragg of Virginia
These Bragg family lines were not those of Luther Franklin Bragg, Jr.
- 10.13 Genealogy and Local History Notebooks, ["Myrtlewood People"], Bragg Family, Vol. [#9]: Luther Franklin Bragg, Jr.
- 10.14 Genealogy and Local History Notebooks, ["Myrtlewood People"], Bragg Family, Vol. [#10]: Bragg Family of Virginia
This volume contains genealogical data compiled by Clara Cammack Park and sent to Luther Franklin Bragg, Jr.
- 10.15 Genealogy and Local History Notebooks, ["Myrtlewood People"], Bragg Family, Vol. [#11]: Bragg Family of Virginia
This volume on the Braggs of Lunenburg County, Virginia was also compiled by Clara Cammack Park.
- 10.16 Genealogy and Local History Notebooks, ["Myrtlewood People"], Bragg Family, Vol. [#12]: Knott/Bragg/ Claughton/Cammack Families
This volume was compiled by Luther Franklin Bragg, Jr.

- 10.17 Genealogy and Local History Notebooks, Knott Family: General Information
The data in this volume on the Knott Families of Lunenburg County, Virginia was compiled by Clara Cammack Park.
- 10.18 Genealogy and Local History Notebooks, Coats Family, Vol. #1:
General Information
- 10.19 Genealogy and Local History Notebooks, Coats Family, Vol. #2: John and Ann Dunnigan Coats
This volume, prepared by Luther Franklin Bragg, Jr., contains genealogical data on his Great-Great Grandfather and Grandmother.
- 10.20 Genealogy and Local History Notebooks, Coats Family, Vol. [#3]: Charles Sidney Coats and His Descendants This volume contains genealogical data on Charles Sidney Coats, his first wife, Amanda J. Bustain Coats, and his second wife, Tranquilla R. Cook Coats, and their descendants.
- 10.21 Genealogy and Local History Notebooks, Lockard/Stewart/ Bragg Families: History
- 10.22 Genealogy and Local History Notebooks, McCrary Family: "McCray Ancestors"
- 10.23 Genealogy and Local History Notebooks, McCrary Family: McCrary Family History
This volume was prepared by Marjorie McCreary, with whom Luther Franklin Bragg, Jr. corresponded.
- 10.24 Genealogy and Local History Notebooks, McCrary Family:
Budd and Margaret Ann Reid McCrary and Their Descendants
- 10.25 Genealogy and Local History Notebooks, McCrary Family: "Southern McCrary Genealogy"
The data in this volume was compiled by Marjorie McCreary.
- 10.26 Genealogy and Local History Notebooks, Pistole/Moore Families: History
- 10.27 Genealogy and Local History Notebooks, Pond Family: John Broadway Pond and Francis David Scott Pond
- 10.28 Genealogy and Local History Notebooks, Pond Family: Walter Franklin Pond Family
- 10.29 Genealogy and Local History Notebooks, Pond Family: "Pond Ancestors"

This volume contains data on Samuel Pond and his descendants.

10.30 Genealogy and Local History Notebooks, Reid Family: James M. Reid and His Descendants

10.31 Genealogy and Local History Notebooks, Rentz Family: History

10.32 Genealogy and Local History Notebooks, Thomas/Cook Families: History

11.1 Genealogy and Local History Notebooks, "Myrtlewood Places," Vol. #1: section #1 - Section #4

The sections covered in this volume are identified. See the brief explanation regarding them on the introductory page entitled "Explanations". Photographs are included.

11.2 Genealogy and Local History Notebooks, "Myrtlewood Places," Vol. #2: section #5 - section #6
See annotation for entry #11.1.

11.3 Genealogy and Local History Notebooks, "Myrtlewood Places," Vol. #3: Section #7 - section #9
See annotation for entry #11.1.

11.4 Genealogy and Local History Notebooks, "Myrtlewood Places," Vol. #4: section #10 - section #12
See annotation for entry #11.1

11.5 Genealogy and Local History Notebooks, "Myrtlewood Places," Vol. #5: Section #13 - section #16
See annotation for entry #11.1.

12.1 Genealogy and Local History Notebooks, "Myrtlewood categories," Vol. #1: Subjects

This volume and those that follow it contain a variety of information pertinent to Myrtlewood history, the life styles of those who lived in the town, and other data about the place and its people. This volume includes subject categories "Business" through "Post Office," with subjects arranged alphabetically.

12.2 Genealogy and Local History Notebooks, "Myrtlewood categories," Vol. #2: Subjects

The subjects covered in this volume range from "Railroad" through "Weather" and also sections marked "Miscellaneous," "Other History," and "Notes".

12.3 Genealogy and Local History Notebooks, ["Myrtlewood

(#12.3 continued)

Categories"], Vol. [#3]: Subjects

The subject of this volume is the cemetery at Myrtlewood. The volume is apparently an early "working" copy of the data that Luther Franklin Bragg, Jr. had gathered.

12.4

Genealogy and Local History Notebooks, ["Myrtlewood Categories"], Vol. [#4]: Subjects

This volume is a later draft of the one cited in entry #12.3. It, of course, deals with the cemetery at Myrtlewood.

12.5 Genealogy and Local History Notebooks, ["Myrtlewood Categories"], Vol. [#5]: Subjects

This volume concerns the Post Office at Myrtlewood.

12.6 Genealogy and Local History Notebooks, ["Myrtlewood categories"], Vol. [#6]: Subjects

The subject of this volume is Myrtlewood saw mills.

12.7 Genealogy and Local History Notebooks, ["Myrtlewood Categories"], Vol. [#7]: Subjects

This volume contains data of schools at Myrtlewood.

13.1 Genealogy and Local History Notebooks, "Land Records for Myrtlewood and Surrounding Areas": Township 15, Range 1 East

14.1

Genealogy and Local History Notebooks, "Myrtlewood People," Album #1: Photographs

The photographs in this album were designed to be included in Luther Franklin Bragg, Jr.'s comprehensive history of Myrtlewood. They are arranged chronologically.

14.2 Genealogy and Local History Notebooks, "Myrtlewood loath Memorial": Photographs and Related Historical Material

15.1 Genealogy and Local History Notebooks, "Marengo County Families," Vol #1: A - D

Like the volumes in the "Myrtlewood Families" series, this volume and those that follow it contain information on cfamilies living beyond Myrtlewood but in Marengo County,

. Alabama. The data in the volumes of this series is arranged alphabetically by family name or by the name of the principal individual in a family branch.

15.2 Genealogy and Local History Notebooks, "Marengo County Families," Vol #2: E - I

See annotation for entry #15.1.

15.3 Genealogy and Local History Notebooks, "Marengo County

(#15.3 continued) Families," Vol. #3: JK - R
See annotation for entry #15.1.

15.4 Genealogy and Local History Notebooks, "Marengo County
Families," Vol. #4: S - W
See annotation for entry #15.1.

15.5 Genealogy and Local History Notebooks, ["Marengo County Families"], Vol.
[#5]: Tucker, Hill, Glass and Related Families

16.1 Genealogy and Local History Notebooks, "Marengo County Cemeteries," Vol.
#1: Aimwell - Rembert Hills
The data in this volume is arranged alphabetically by the name of the
cemetery.

16.2 Genealogy and Local History Notebooks, ["Marengo County
Cemeteries"], Vol. #2: Cemetery Histories
The articles in this volume were photocopied from either the Demopolis
Times or the Democrat-Reporter. The earliest article appeared in 1988,
with the bulk of the others dating from the early 1990s. A majority of
the articles concern Marengo County, Alabama cemeteries. These are
arranged in the volume by the dates they were published. At the rear of
the volume are articles on Cokes Chapel Cemetery in Sumter County,
Alabama, on Elizabeth Church Cemetery in York, Alabama, and on Old Salem
Cemetery in Lauderdale County, Mississippi.

16.3 Genealogy and Local History Notebooks, ["Marengo County Cemeteries"],
Vol. [#3]: Cemetery Histories
The only two sites mentioned in this volume are ones at Spring Hill and
at Thomaston.

16.4 Genealogy and Local History Notebooks, ["Marengo County Cemeteries"],
Vol. [#4]: Cemetery Histories
This volume is devoted to Camp Ground Cemetery. The data in it is
arranged by subject.

16.5 Genealogy and Local History Notebooks, ["Marengo County Cemeteries"],
[Vols. #5 and #6]: Cemetery Histories
These two volumes, contained in one binder, were created by Mauriece
Dixon Hinson. The subject matter of both is Riverside cemetery in
Demopolis, Alabama. The first volume is subtitled "NO'rth or Old Side";
the second volume has the title "South Side".

16.6 Genealogy and Local History Notebooks, "Marengo County
Churches": Name of Church

(#16.6 continued)

The information provided in this volume is arranged by name of church, but the church names are not arranged alphabetically.

17.1

Genealogy and Local History Notebooks, "The Class of 1940": "The Repton High School, Repton, Conecuh County, This volume was prepared by Luther Franklin Bragg, Jr. who was a graduate of Repton High School.