

**George Bruton family**  
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George Bruton first appears on the Stewart County tax lists in 1806. He is present in the deed records, usually with purchase and sale of slaves, but also with purchase of land from John Polk and Charles Polk. His land is in the Barrett's Creek and dry fork of Panther Creek area. He died intestate in 1834, and the deed records indicate that he had twelve children who shared in the division of lands. The attached article describing the chancery court case is the only listing of his children that has been found. His widow Sallie Bruton (formerly Sallie Cherry) received ¼ of the land (50 acres) and the remaining 150 acres was divided into 12 parts of 12 ½ acres to each of his children. Most all of the children deeded their land to Marville Mattison Bruton, apparently the youngest child.

The family probably originated in Montgomery County, North Carolina.

The three Merriman heirs are children of Harris T. Merriman and Suviena Bruton, a daughter of George Bruton. This couple is found in the deed records of Stewart County (Book 12, pg. 239 and also pg. 241) in which their portion is deeded to their brothers-in-law William Olive and Ira Olive. The deeds indicated that Harris T. and Suviena Merriman are residents of Van Buren County, Arkansas Territory. William Olive moved to that county in about 1837. In 1839, a listing in *The Batesville News*, on Thursday, April 18, 1839, names William Olive as the administrator of the estate of Sevienna Merriman, deceased. The tax lists of that county list H. T. Merriman in 1837 and 1838, and then H. T. Merriman Heirs in 1839.

William Olive married Martha (diminutive Patsy) Bruton according to the chancery case. They were the parents of one son, Marville Mattison Bruton, apparently named for his mother's brother. Ira Olive married Nancy Bruton. He is found in Franklin County, Alabama, in 1820, and then in Tipton County, Tennessee, in 1830. He served a two-year term in the Tennessee Penitentiary, and the article in the book *Tennessee Convicts: Early Records of the State Penitentiary* by Charles A. Sherrill indicate that while he was incarcerated, his wife and four children lived with his father-in-law George Bruton. His four children appear to be: Elizabeth Olive, married William B. Holland; Mary Ann Olive, married Ephraim Lemaster, Abel Olive, married Sabre Burns, and Emiline Olive, married Andrew Jackson Gardner. William and Ira are the youngest of five children born to Abel Olive and his first wife Betty Ann Willis in Chatham County, North Carolina. Abel is present in Stewart County records, but he settled in Christian County, in the portion that became Trigg County.

Elizabeth Bruton and Ephraim Gatlin are well documented in the deed and probate records.

Marville Mattison Bruton married Preanna Petty and moved to St. Francis County, Arkansas. His brother Parsons Bruton apparently moved with this couple as he is found in their household in the 1850 census. M. M. and Preanna had four known children as per the 1850 and 1860 census records of St. Francis County.

John Hewing Petty married Theora or Terry Bruton. He was the brother of Preanna, mentioned above. The couple moved to Texas, first to Indianola in Calhoun County and then to Seguin, Guadalupe County, Texas, where they are buried. One Ancestry family tree lists them as having ten children, two of which were Confederate officers.

The attached chancery court article seems also to be the only listing of the children of Ross Skinner and his wife Catharine Bruton. Ross Skinner deeded his portion to M. M. Burton on August 1, 1834, in the Stewart Deed Book 11 pg. 195 The families of Baxter Alexander and his wife Tamor Bruton and David Thompson and his wife Sarah Bruton have not been located outside the record of the chancery court and the Stewart deed records ( the Alexanders of Trigg County, Kentucky, deeded their portion of George Bruton's estate in Book 14, pg. 106. The Thompsons of Stewart County in 1834, deeded their portion in Book 11, pg. 194).