

## GAUTIER BEGINNINGS

The first generation of Gautiers, of which little is known, was started by Auguste Gautier (b.1759 d.9/9/1841) of Lyon, France who sailed from France to the United States and met and married Laura LaVerne (b.1805 d.2/18/1880) of Boston Massachusetts. He was 50 years old and she was 14. (By one account, she was a Quaker from Pennsylvania, another said she was an Indian). Their first child was Auguste, Jr. born in 1820 in New York. They then returned to France. A decision was made by the couple, possibly in response to a war in France, to move their family and make their home in the United States. In the spring of 1822, the couple boarded a cargo ship bound for New York which was to stop in South America to complete its cargo with hides. On their voyage they encountered a gale, which damaged the ship and forced the Captain, Henry Upton, to let his vessel drift in mid ocean. With the winds of the gale and the current of the seas, Laura Gautier was impelled to give birth April 15, 1822. Land was sighted a few days later, which proved to be the San Juan Fernando Islands off the coast of South America. Thankful for their safety and to see land again, the couple gave the name of Fernando Upton to their son, who was named after the islands and the captain of the vessel.

After reaching the United States the young couple settled in New Orleans, Louisiana. The Auguste Gautier family grew in number with the births of their other children, Laura (b.1824 d.9/9/1891 buried in Gautier), Aimee (b.1826 d.7/12/1895), and Rayoule. Here Fernando passed his younger days, and at the age of sixteen he found employment in the cotton office of Meggett & Company, with whom he remained for several years. (1)

Not caring for the city life of New Orleans, at the age of 20, Fernando Upton Gautier moved to Biloxi, Mississippi, then to Tchoutacabouffa River where he met and married Theresa Fayard (a descendent of a Choctaw Indian Princess) on December 10, 1845. With the marriage of the couple, the third generation of Gautiers began.

The war came, and, what with profit of mill and farm, Fernando Gautier was, if not rich, comfortable. His first intention was to go to the front, but, seeing that he could be of more service as a provider than as a soldier, he remained at home to look after his neighbors' families. As the war continued, comforts and luxury disappeared, and Fernando found it a difficult matter to provide food for all who depended on him. However, regardless of how scant his own supply of food, the women and children for whom he promised to provide were freely given a share. (1)

When a Yankee gunboat came up Back Bay and then into the Tchoutacabouf River toward their family, Fernando and his sons knocked the bottom boards loose in each boat they owned. As he foresaw, the Yankees took their boats as they passed, but as the water seeped between the loosened boards and the boats began to sink, they were turned loose rather than slow the group down. Fernando, who had followed far behind as he had planned, then simply retrieved his boats, one by one, without any show of force. (2)

After the war, when he decided to move to the West Pascagoula River, he loaded his family and possessions onto a large barge and poled down the Tchoutacabouffa River until he could "sail" over to the Pascagoula River. Walter was only 10-11 years old at the time and was carried up the hill to his new home in a washpot carried by four men.(2)

The family lived in a small temporary shack until the sawmill, F. Gautier & Sons, was established to provide the lumber and finances to build the big house. A typical Southern home, the family home was built low and encircled on all sides with a large covered piazzas, and was thickly shaded by huge oak trees. The West Pascagoula River glided by the front of the house on its way to the Gulf only a short distance away, and an orchard of orange trees grew to the left and north of the house. A spring of cool clear water south of the homestead, which once supported a fresh marsh and swamp, was cleared to flow over a watercress bed and into a luxurious vegetable garden. Further to the south, fronting the river, stood the mill that provided comfort and security for his family and allowed him to give the generous hospitality to his friends for which he was so well known.

Fernando and Theresa are both buried in the family cemetery in Gautier, Mississippi.

- | Compiled by Karen A. Westphal from existing documents
- | (1) Taken from the "In Memorium" by E.H. (Copied from the Democrat Star)
- | (2) As told by Quinn Gautier at the 1988 Gautier family reunion.

The children of Fernando and Theresa Gautier were:

Henry	b. 1/15/1848	d.<1946
Ada	b. 8/1/1849	d.<1946
married Thompson		
Joseph	b. 12/4/1851	
Walter	b. 1/6/1854	d.<1946
Eve	b. 1/25/1856 Tchoutacabouffa	d.11/20/1946
married John Mann Pelham b. d.1893		
10 children: J.H., J.A., J.M., Walter, Mrs. N.W. Alley (of Pasc.), Mrs. E.P. Spearman (N.O.)		
Mina	b. 4/9/1858	
married John O'Donohoe		
Emma	b. 8/16/1860	d.<1946
married Johnson		
Julia	b. 7/23/1863	
married Canty		
Fernando	b. 6/3/1866	d.10/25/1879
Eugene	b. 9/22/1868	d.<1946
<b>Adam</b>	b. 9/14/1873 Gautier, MS	d. 1/20/1963 in Pascagoula, MS

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#### **Adam Gautier/Mercee'Inez Jane'**

The last born, Adam, married Mercee'Inez Jane' June 2, 1897 in Scranton, MS (now Pascagoula, MS) where they made their home.

Mercee's father was Buenaventura Jane'(b.1/17/1839). He left his home in Barcelona, Spain, at about the age of fifteen on a ship, and when it landed at a port in the U.S. he decided to make his home here locating in Scranton, Miss. (now Pascagoula). After establishing himself in the banking business and founding the Merchants & Marine Bank in Scranton he was married to Marie Aimee' Krebs (b.8/20/1837 d.12/4/1884) who was a descendant of Joseph de la Pointe who built the "Old Spanish Fort" in 1718. (See Appendix)

Their children were:

Edmond J. Jane' (b.11/24/1874 d.12/4/1947) buried in Pasc.

married to Frances Federick

9 children

Marie Rose Jane' (b.12/31/1870 d.12/4/1947) buried in Pasc.

married Walter W. Cox

7 children

Pedro Rene' Jane' (b.10/4/1872 d.1/5/1912)

married Dora Nelson

no children

Mercee' Inez Jane' (b.5/6/1879 d.8/21/1956) buried in Gautier

married Adam Gautier (b.9/14/1873 d.1/20/1963) buried in Gautier

The children of Adam Gautier and Mercee' Inez Gautier were:

Inez Laura

b. 3/25/1898 d. 5/1/1980

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Fernando Jane'	b. 4/3/1899		
Henry Elmer	b. 5/16/1900	d. 1/21/1984	83
Marie Virginia Theresa	b. 9/8/1901		
Ruth Mordella	b. 4/7/1903	d. 1/13/1984	80
Mercee' Jane	b. 6/3/1908	d. 8/6/1970	62
Catheleene Aimee'	b. 5/30/1909	d. 5/30/1909	died at birth
Horace Patrick	b. 11/3/1910		
Harry Joseph	b. 2/1/1912		
Upton Renee'	b. 8/7/1913		
Marguerite Mildred	b. 4/1/1915	d. 3/23/1990	74
Frank Allen	b. 9/30/1920		

The twelve children of the fourth generation brought forth descendants as follows:

4. Inez Laura Gautier (b.3/25/1898 d.5/1/1980)  
married John White
  5. John Gautier White (b.8/27/1922 d.10/18/1944) buried in England
  5. Frances Mildred White (b.8/10/1923)  
married John Osborne
    6. Toni Mildred Osborne (.11/29/1943)  
married Lewis Daniel Tillson
      7. Sherron Danielle Tillson (b.12/4/1972)
- Frances married her 2nd husband Richard Ferguson
  6. Michael Richard Ferguson (b.4/12/1952)
- Frances married her 3rd husband Theodore Caluori
  6. Theodore Jerome Caluori (b.3/3/1959)
  6. John Scott Caluori (b.10/29/1960)
- Inez married her second husband Henry Jordan
  5. Robert Arlan Jordan (b.12/27/1929)  
married Norma Brown
    6. Geoffrey Robert Jordan (b.6/27/ )
- Robert married his second wife June Bassfield Lee  
(her son) Mark Lee Jordan (b.1955)

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4. Fernando Jane' Gautier (b.4/3/1899)  
married January 8, 1919 to Pearl Jennings Smith (b.8/28/1895)
  5. Doris Aimee' Gautier (b.12/3/1920)  
married May 30, 1943 to  
Dr. William Howard Briscoe (b.8/18/1914)

6. Carol Jean Briscoe (b.6/4/1945)  
married Robert Douglas Thorpe

7. Robert Douglas Thorpe, Jr. (b.7/25/1974)

6. Donna Ann Briscoe (b.10/23/1946)  
married Michael Coyne

6. Linda Sue Briscoe (b.2/19/1950)  
married Donald DeWitt Flint

6. Robert William Briscoe (b.4/6/1955)

6. John Howard Briscoe (b.10/ /1957)

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4. Henry Elmer Gautier (b.5/16/1900 d.1/21/1984)  
married May 31, 1924 to Edna Lillian Purdy (b.5/17/1904 d.1978)

5. Henry Elmer (Bill) Gautier, Jr. (b.4/26/1925)  
married Donna Eckels

6. David Scott Gautier (adopted) (b.12/11/1956)

6. Nancy Lynn Gautier (adopted) (b.3/1/1961)

6. Paul Mathew Gautier (b.9/18/1964)

5. Robert Adam (Bob) Gautier (b.5/2/1927)  
married Jerry Cronier

6. Toni Gautier (b.10/14/1952)

6. Terri Gautier (b.9/4/1958)

6. Robert Adam Gautier, Jr. (b.12/30/1954)

6. Michael Gautier (b.1/14/1957)

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4. Ruth Mordello Gautier (b.4/7/1903 Pasc., MS d.1/13/1984 Pascagoula, MS)  
 married March 14, 1925 to  
 Gerald Robert Purdy (b.6/16/1902 New York, NY d.8/6/71 Pascagoula, MS)  
 They are both buried in Pascagoula, MS.
  
5. Shirley Aimee Purdy (b. 12/25/25 Pascagoula,MS)  
 married November 21, 1946 in Pascagoula, MS to  
 Arsene Oswald Westphal (b. 11/4/1921 Pascagoula, MS)
  
6. Daniel Arsene Westphal (b. 2/2/1949 Pascagoula, MS)  
 married June 1969 in Pascagoula, MS to  
 JoAnn Sanchez (b. 1/19/1951) divorced
  
7. Donna Renae Westphal (b. 12/8/1969 Pascagoula, MS)
  
7. Kenneth Arsene Westphal (b. 6/12/1972 Pascagoula, MS)  
 married second wife March 17, 1981 in Gautier, MS  
 Carolyn Ann Dean (b. 6/6/1947)  
 7.(her daughter) Tonya Rae Rose (b. 4/9/1966)
  
6. Bruce Stephen Westphal (b. 10/10/1950 Pascagoula, MS)  
 married July 21, 1971 in New Orleans, LA to  
 Naomi Gorman (b. 2/3/1952 New Orleans, LA) divorced
  
7. Eric Stephen Westphal (b. 6/16/1972 New Orleans,LA)
  
7. Jason Louis Westphal (b. 12/27/1973 New Orleans,LA)
  
7. Connie Maria Westphal (b. 2/26/1976 New Orleans,LA)
  
- Steve married his third wife April 12, 1986 in Houston,TX  
 Shellie Gadja (b. 1/26/1962 Michigan)
  
6. Michael Alan Westphal (b.5/27/1953 Pascagoula,MS)  
 married April 2, 1977 in Baton Rouge,LA to  
 Denise Purcell (b. 4/15/1955 Big Spring,TX)
  
7. Dustin Michael Westphal (b. 4/19/1980 Baton Rouge,LA)
  
7. Elliot Thomas Westphal (b. 6/28/1983 Baton Rouge,LA)
  
7. Hayley Paige Westphal (b. 9/2/1988 Baton Rouge, LA)
  
6. Karen Aimee Westphal (b. 4/29/1956 Pascagoula,MS)  
 married July 16, 1983 in Baton Rouge,LA to  
 James Gillespie Wilkins (b. 3/4/1949 Austin, TX)  
 (his sons:) 7. Blaine Gillespie Wilkins (b.1/30/1969 Bossier City,LA)  
 7. Shane Gillespie Wilkins (b.4/23/1971 Bossier City,LA)
  
7. Darcy Aimee Wilkins (b.2/22/1989 Baton Rouge, LA)
  
6. Rebecca Darlene Westphal (b. 2/6/1959 Pascagoula,MS)  
 married May 30, 1981 in Pascagoula,MS to  
 Roger Terry Butler (b. 6/22/1960 Laurel, MS)

- 7. Krystal Danielle Butler (b. 9/21/89)  
(adopted)
- 7. Matthew Christopher Butler (b.12/29/1992 Pascagoula, MS)
- 6. Tami Celine Westphal (b. 3/10/1961 Pascagoula,MS)  
married 3/25/1989 in New Orleans, LA  
to Thomas Steven Do (b. 11/7/1956 Orlando, FL)
- 2. Doris Jane Purdy (b. 2/2/1927 Pascagoula,MS)  
married April 15, 1948 to  
Robert McVae Witchen (b. 9/21/1927)
- 3. Deborah Jane Witchen (b. 12/6/1950 Biloxi,MS)  
married November 1971 in Pascagoula, MS to  
Douglas Burton Leuschen (b.5/31/1949 Erie, PA)  
divorced 1974
- 4. Andrea Michelle (Leuschen) Fulkerson (b.10/20/1973 Erie, PA)
- Debbie married her second husband July 3, 1976 in Pascagoula, MS  
Bernard Lloyd Fulkerson, Jr (b.7/27/1948 Chicago, IL)
- 4. Tina LuAnn Fulkerson (b.6/27/1977 Pasc.,MS)
- 4. Jessie Jane' Fulkerson (9/21/1982 Pasc.,MS)
- 3. Vicki Lynn Witchen (b.10/8/1952 Pasc.,MS)  
married March 26, 1970 in Pascagoula, MS to  
Teddy Russell Sloan (b.8/11/1947 Itawamba, MS)  
divorced 9/24/1986
- 4. Teddy Russell Sloan, Jr. (b.10/19/1970 Pasc.,MS)
- 4. Robert Witchen Sloan (b.5/5/1975 Pasc.,MS)
- 3. Janis Ruth Witchen (b.11/13/1960 Pasc.,MS)  
married July 27, 1985 in Pascagoula, MS to  
Andrew Brian Voda (b.4/17/1961 Huntsville, AL)
- 4. Britni Michelle Voda (b. 9/29/1987 Pasc., MS)
- 4. Garret Andrew Voda (b. 2/24/1992 Pasc., MS)
- 2. Gerald Gilbert Purdy (b.4/1/1928 Pasc.,MS)  
married 1951 in Pascagoula, MS to  
Marjorie Elizabeth Moore (b.10/22/1931) divorced
- 3. Cynthia Ann Purdy (b.2/25/1955 Pasc.,MS)  
married September 1, 1979 in Ocean Springs, MS to  
Randall Rupert Canady (b.3/7/1956 Jacksonville, FL)

- 4. Erin Nicole Canady (b.8/20/1985 Slidell, LA)
- 4. Russell Gilbert Canady (b.12/18/1990 Slidell, LA)
- 3. Kim Elizabeth Purdy (b.7/31/1956 Pasc.,MS)  
married October 20, 1978 in Pascagoula, MS to  
Jerry Haskins (b. 10/6/1953 Meridian, MS)
- 4. Ashley Danielle Haskins (b.8/17/1981 Pasc., MS)
- 4. Kyle Anthony Haskins (b.10/17/1988 Slidell, LA)
- 3. Ginger Marie Purdy (b. 9/5/1957 Pasc.,MS)  
married 3/9/1979 in Homestead, FL to  
Kenny Joe Christian (b.8/28/1955 Blyville, AR)
- 4. Corey Brandon Christian (b.11/3/1985 Bay City,TX)
- 4. Jason Michael Christian (b.6/20/1988 Bay City,TX)
- 3. Gilbert Ernest Purdy (b.12/10/1959 Pasc.,MS)  
married August 7, 1982 in Pascagoula, MS to  
Blanche Marie Sumrall (b. 10/10/1960)
- 4. Moriah Elizabeth Purdy (b. 2/2/1992 Pasc., MS)
- 3. Toni Annette Purdy (b. 3/23/1961 Pasc., MS)  
married August 27, 1988 in Pascagoula, MS to  
John Ramond Lindgren, III (b.5/13/1961 Pasc., MS)
- 4. Monica Hope Lindgren (b.5/13/91 Pasc., MS)
- 3. Keith Andrew Purdy (b. 9/11/1962 Pasc., MS)  
married \_\_\_\_\_  
to Stefanie \_\_\_\_\_ divorced
- 4. Keith Andrew Purdy, Jr. (b.9/28/1990 p.\_\_\_\_\_)
- Jerry married his second wife April 7, 1970  
Helen Ann Walker (b.3/9/1938 Pasc., MS)
- 2. Beverly Ruth Purdy (b.1/4/1935 Pasc.,MS)  
married June 19, 1955 in Pascagoula, MS to  
Alvie Stafford Walker (b.9/17/1930)
- 3. Suzan Rene' Walker (b.1/28/1958 Pasc., MS)
- 3. Judith Carol Walker (b.12/25/1960 Pasc., MS)  
married April 15, 1989 in Escatawpa, MS  
to William Edgar Ehlers (b. 11/5/1961 Pascagoula, MS)
- 4. Maddison Rene' Ehlers (b.10/5/90 Pascagoula, MS)
- 3. Gregory Paul Walker (b.3/23/1964 Pasc., MS)

- 3. Kevin James Walker (b.8/11/1968 Pasc., MS)
  
- 2. Robert Charles Purdy, Sr. (b. 1/15/1940 Pasc., MS)  
 married June 13, 1959 in Pascagoula, MS to  
 Jacqueline Wimberly (b. 5/14/1940)
  
- 3. Robert Charles Purdy, Jr. (b.12/11/1959 Pasc., MS)  
 married September 13,1980 in Pascagoula, MS to  
 Marla Jean Rockwell (b.9/30/1961 Pasc., MS)
  
- 4. Robert Charles (Chad) Purdy, III (b.6/26/1984 Pasc.,MS)
  
- 4. Nicholas Gene Purdy (b.1/17/1991 Pasc., MS)
  
- 3. Douglas Eugene Purdy (b.4/16/1962 Pasc., MS)  
 married September 4, 1987 in Pascagoula, MS to  
 Dina Marie Wilkie Carpenter (b.12/30/1961)  
 (her daughter:) 4. Natalie Marie Carpenter (b.1/8/1985 Baton Rouge, LA)
  
- 4. Todd Douglas Purdy (b. 5/25/1990 Mobile, AL)
  
- 4. Michael Eugene Purdy (b. 12/3/1992 Mobile, AL)
  
- 3. Lisa Ann Purdy (b. 5/24/1967 in Pascagoula, MS)  
 married June 25, 1988 in Pascagoula, MS to  
 James (Jamie) Marion Kelley (b.1/28/1959 Wein, MS) divorced
  
- married August 28, 1992 in Pascagoula, MS to  
 Kevin Gerard Morgan (b. 7/26/1962 San Antonio, TX)  
 (his son:) 4. Coy Christopher Morgan (b. 5/6/1991)

4. Mercee' Jane Gautier (b.6/3/1908 d.8/6/1970)  
 Unmarried.  
 She is buried in the Gautier Cemetery.

- 4. Horace Patrick Gautier (b.11/3/1910)  
 married Ruby Terry (b.9/3/1916)
  
- 5. Terry Patricia Gautier (b.3/30/1941)  
 married August 27, 1960 to  
 James Richard Shadoin, Jr. (b.7/30/1940)
- 6. Deborah Jane Shadoin (b.7/22/1961)
  
- 6. Catherine Patricia Shadoin (b.3/1/1964)
  
- 6. Traci Lynn Shadoin (b.2/8/1969)
  
- 5. Joseph Patrick Gautier (b.6/9/1949)



married Robin Lynn Ehlert

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4. Harry Joseph Gautier (b.2/1/1912)  
married Rachael Grace Robinson (b.2/21/1915)
  
  5. Kathleen Martha Gautier (b.10/13/1939)  
married December 27, 1959 to  
Frederick Edwin Fugua
  
  6. Michael Edwin Fugua (b.10/13/1960)
  
  6. John Basket Fugua (b.9/1/1962)
  
  6. Patrick Harry Fugua (b.12/11/1964)
  
  
  5. Thomas Harry Gautier (b.7/24/1944)  
married September 14, 1969 to  
Caroline Ann Brou (b.1/7/1947)
  
  6. William Brou Gautier (adopted) (b.8/9/1965)
  
  6. Virginia Mercee' Jane' Gautier (b.8/22/1971)
  
  6. Adam Thomas Gautier (b.8/30/1974)
  
  
  5. Linda Christine Gautier (b.1/8/1949)  
married Lloyd Elmo Seymour, Jr. (b.1/1/1967)
  
  6. Lloyd Elmo Seymour, III (b.5/7/1973)
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4. Upton Renee' Gautier (b.8/7/1913)  
married Shirley Catherine Fayard (b.7/1/1916)
  
  5. James Upton Gautier (b.4/22/1939)  
married Ellen Margaret Tomlin (b.7/9/1944)
  
  6. Rene Ellen Gautier (b.1/1/1967)
  6. Michelle Dora Gautier (b.5/26/1970)
  
  6. Catherine Lynn Gautier (b.7/27/1971)
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4. Marguerite Mildred Gautier (b.4/1/1915)  
married January 8, to John Scott Moore (b.5/8/1915)

5. Mary Sayre Moore (b.7/11/1951)  
married John

6. Leslie Marie (b.2/23/1985)

6. Robin Frances (b.4/10/1987)

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4. Frank Allen Gautier (b.9/30/1920)  
married Verna Davis Mosley (b.3/30/1923)

her children from first marriage:

5. Robert S. Mosley (b.1/16/1958)

5. Richard G. Mosley (b.7/27/1959)

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