

# JOHN A CATHCART

## The Cathcart-Kite/Kyte Connection

William T Cathcart was born on the 17<sup>th</sup> of March, 1886 in Georgia—the son of John A Cathcart and Martha I Karp. At some point after the 1900 census, William changed his last name to Kite. One online source indicates that the reason William changed his last name was because he could not pronounce "Cathcart!"<sup>1</sup> It was that initial search for background on William and the name change that led me to his father John.

### John A Cathcart

Based on various census listings, we know that John was born in Georgia between 1855 in 1858. Given the names and locations, there are three main contenders as the to John's parents:

- James Monroe Cathcart, Sr.
- Samuel Cathcart
- Joseph Harrison Attaway
  - Yes, John may indeed be an Attaway and not a Cathcart!

More about the possible candidates for John's parents later.

Georgia State marriage records record a marriage between John A Cathcart and Martha I Karr on December 7, 1876 in Coweta County, Georgia.<sup>2</sup>

138 138	Kithcart John	W	23		1	Furmer
	Martha	W	7 1/2	Wife	1	House keep
	Mattie	W	3	Daughter	1	
136 136	Dollie	W	5 1/2	Inf Daughter	1	

1880 census: (Military District 746/enumeration district 38), Coweta County, Georgia<sup>3</sup>

By the time of 1880 census, John and Martha are enumerated along with her two daughters: Mattie and Pollie—or perhaps Dollie—ages three and 5/12 respectively. The variation of the Cathcart surname as Kithcart is not unusual, even though John and Martha do not have checkmarks in the columns indicating that they cannot read or write, the spelling of their last name may have been somewhat variable. Given that the enumeration was stated on 9 June, Pollie's 5/12 months age does indeed equally to her having been born in January of 1880.

<sup>1</sup> Refer to my [main Cathcart page](#) for more information on the history of the Cathcart surname. The same online source (perhaps in a tongue-in-cheek way) provides the nickname "Dude" for William.

<sup>2</sup> The marriage record as transcribed indicates that Martha is maiden name was Karr; however the digital image of her gravestone may indicate that her maiden name was Karp. [See photo of gravestone from FindaGrave.com below.](#)

<sup>3</sup> The 746<sup>th</sup> Military District is located in the northeastern corner of Coweta County. The placement of several Georgia census enumerations is made difficult due to changes in the location and names of the various counties in Georgia. [See Georgia page for more information.](#)

For the moment—and given the lack of 1890 census data—we know little of the family's history until the 1900 census.

702 734	Cathcart - L. H. 1873	Martha	W	W	Mar	1873	42	W	23	Georgia	Georgia	Georgia		
702 735	John	Martha	W	F	Jan	1857	41	W	23	13	10	Georgia	Georgia	Georgia
	Jenny	Daughter	W	F	Jan	1851	17	S		Georgia	Georgia	Georgia		
	Sarah	Daughter	W	F	Feb	1852	16	S		Georgia	Georgia	Georgia		
	Susan I	Daughter	W	F	Feb	1853	16	S		Georgia	Georgia	Georgia		
	William T	Son	W	M	Jan	1856	14	S		Georgia	Georgia	Georgia		
	Fannie	Daughter	W	F	Feb	1858	12	S		Georgia	Georgia	Georgia		
	Maria	Son	W	M	Mar	1859	11	S		Georgia	Georgia	Georgia		
	Lillian	Daughter	W	F	Aug	1870	7	S		Georgia	Georgia	Georgia		
	Harvey	Son	W	M	Jan	1875	5	S		Georgia	Georgia	Georgia		
	Paul	Son	W	M	May	1876	5	S		Georgia	Georgia	Georgia		
702 736	Barnett - L. S. 1874	Martha	W	W	Mar	1857	57	W	24	Georgia	Georgia	Georgia		

1900 census: Newnan, Coweta, Georgia<sup>4</sup>

This 1900 census is the only one in which John's wife appears as "Della." However, I think it's safe to assume that Martha and Della is the same person for the following reasons:

1. the close match with her age in 1880 census
2. the fact that the marriage is listed as having lasted 23 years (which would be appropriate, given the December 1876 marriage date reflected in Georgia marriages)
3. the fact that this enumeration records that 10 of Martha/Della's 15 children are still living—without any appreciable gaps in the birth date of the children nor any indication that any of the children are John's stepchildren

Various transcriptions of this enumeration give John's middle name as "H." While it's certainly possible that the initials provided are JH, the middle initial might also be A.

701 105	Cathcart John A.	Head	M	W	53	771	93	Georgia	Georgia	Georgia		
	Martha I.	Wife	F	W	51	771	33	16	11	Georgia	Georgia	Georgia
	Sarah	Daughter	F	W	23	6	Georgia	Georgia	Georgia			
	Lillian	Daughter	F	W	20	6	Georgia	Georgia	Georgia			
	Henry	Son	M	W	18	6	Georgia	Georgia	Georgia			
	Paul	Son	M	W	12	6	Georgia	Georgia	Georgia			

1910 census: FairPlay (militia district 1122), Carroll County, Georgia

John and Martha's son, "Berryman" is found on the next census page—and he is important in deciphering the subsequent 1920 census below. He is apparently the reason why Martha is shown as having 11 of 16 children living in this census (*as opposed to 10 out of 15 in the 1900 census above*).

24-year-old William T Cathcart is not enumerated in this census.

According to her gravestone in the Oak Hill Cemetery (in the city Newnan, in Coweta County) William's wife, Martha I "Della" Karr Cathcart died on the 8<sup>th</sup> October, 1911.<sup>5</sup>



Gravestone Oak Hill Cemetery  
Newnan, Coweta, Georgia

<sup>4</sup> See Georgia page for the location of the city of Newnan.

<sup>5</sup> [FindaGrave.com listing](#) Even when increasing the page magnification to 200%, it's hard to tell whether the spelling is KARP or KARR.

✓	1m 21 22	Cathcart Ja.	Head	R	M	W	63	m	No	Geo	Georgia
✓		Mary L	Wife		F	W	43	m	No	Geo	Georgia
✓		Charles P	Son		M	W	18	s	No	Geo	Georgia
✓		Berryman T	Son		M	W	19	m	No	Geo	Georgia
✓		Mark B	Daughter		F	W	16	s	No	Geo	Georgia
✓		Arthur	Son		M	W	13	s	No	Geo	Georgia
✓		Oscar	Son		M	W	13	s	No	Geo	Georgia
✓		Lucy	Daughter		F	W	9	s	No	Geo	Georgia
✓		William	Son		M	W	7	s	No	Geo	Georgia
	1m 22 23	Farmer Roy	Head	R	M	W	44	m	No	Geo	Georgia

1920 census: Corinth (militia district 1122), Heard County, Georgia

This 1920 census confirms that John remarried after the death of his first wife—the 43-year-old listed as his wife is almost certainly the Mary L. Pindergrass listed as spouse of John a Cathcart in Georgia death records.<sup>6</sup> Perhaps the best indication that we have the correct family is the second son listed: 19-year-old "Berryman" T Cathcart (the same one who appears by himself on the next page of the family's 1910 census enumeration). Berman Thompson Cathcart was on several occasions incorrectly enumerated as "Berryman." Also of note is the 7-year-old son named William. Given this census, one might be tempted to guess that this might be the William Dean Cathcart, who Junior Carey Cathcart mentions as his father... but I guess would prove to be inaccurate.

One final note: 18-year-old Charlie P is listed before Berryman, who is 19 years old. In my experience, listing children out of chronological birth order is often done for a reason—an indication of what he referred to today as a "blended family." But then again... 10 years later things become even more complicated.

15	431	482	Cathcart Mary L.	Head	H	R	4	70	F	W	51	wd	No	Geo	Georgia	
			Pindergrass	Head	Son			✓	M	W	23	s	No	Geo	Georgia	
			Arthur	Son				✓	M	W	23	s	No	Geo	Georgia	
			William	Son				✓	M	W	17	s	No	Geo	Georgia	
			Lucy	Daughter				✓	F	W	20	wd	No	Geo	Georgia	
13	432	483	Kelly Watson R.	Head	R	4		70	M	W	68	m	72	No	Geo	Alabama
			Sarah	Wife	H			✓	F	W	54	m	17	No	Geo	Alabama
			Maggie	Daughter				✓	F	W	30	s	No	Geo	Alabama	
			Archie B.	Daughter				✓	F	W	27	s	No	Geo	Alabama	
			William W.	Son				✓	M	W	24	s	No	Geo	Alabama	
			James J.	Son				✓	M	W	20	s	No	Geo	Georgia	
11	433	484	Cathcart Berman	Head	R	2		70	M	W	29	m	33	No	Geo	Georgia
			Mary B.	Wife	H			✓	F	W	26	m	30	No	Geo	Georgia
			Edward	Son				✓	M	W	8	s	No	Geo	Georgia	
			William	Son				✓	M	W	3	s	No	Geo	Georgia	

1930 census: LaGrange, Troup, Georgia

The head of household is 51-year-old widow, Mary L Cathcart. The fact that she is a widow reflects the fact that her second husband, John A Cathcart, died in 1927.

<sup>6</sup> [Georgia, deaths index, 1914-1927 \(ancestry.com\)](http://Georgia.deaths.index.1914-1927(ancestry.com)). This transcribed death record lists John's spouse as "Mary Pindergrass," and his mother as "Icy Blair." Since the record indicates his birth county as "COLB" rather than "Cobb," the transcription might be considered suspect—and therefore the names given might be taken with a grain of salt.



However, all three of Mary's sons are enumerated with the last name "Pendergrast"—Oscar and Arthur (twin brothers, both age 23); and William, age 17.<sup>7</sup> The explanation/clarification for the different surnames used between the 1920 and 1930 census enumerations is borne out by the 1900 and 1910 census for John N and Mary Pendergrass, which makes it clear that the three boys were incorrectly listed in the 1920 census as John's sons, when they were in fact his stepsons (from his second wife's first marriage).<sup>8</sup>

Another indication that we have the right Mary—John A Cathcart's second wife—is the fact that we find 29-year-old Berman Cathcart and his wife Mary living just down the street from his stepmother.<sup>9</sup>

**William T Kite (formerly Cathcart)**

From the information above, we know that when William was enumerated in the 1900 census he was a Cathcart and 14 years old (birth month and year may 1886).

I have not yet found William in 1910 or 1920 census. However, we do find his wife, Pearl L Blair Cathcart/Kite in the 1920 census. She is living with her parents—Martin Van Buren and Mary Grace [Attaway] Blair.<sup>10</sup>

Blair - Martin V.	Head	M	24	11	56	M						Alabama
Mary G.	Wife		F	11	63	M						Georgia
Percy O.	Daughter		F	11	21	S						Georgia
Sissy J.	Daughter		F	11	19	S						Georgia
Mattie M.	Daughter		F	11	17	S						Georgia
Jack R.	Son		M	11	14	S						Georgia
James M.	Son		M	11	8	S						Georgia
Attaway - Elizabeth	Mother in law		F	11	81	W						Georgia
Martha S.	Sister in law		F	11	41	S						Georgia
Cathcart - Pearl S.	Daughter		F	11	20	W						Georgia
Harry J.	Grandson		M	11	9	S						Georgia
Mattie G.	Granddaughter		F	11	8	S						Georgia
Tommy S.	Grandson		F	11	4 1/2	S						Georgia
William S.	Grandson		M	11	1 1/2	S						Alabama
Blair - Benjamin S.	Son		M	11	26	M						Georgia
Sella G.	Daughter in law		M	11	18	M						Georgia
Glaves - Har. H.	Head	10	M	11	41	M						Alabama
Sella A.	Wife		F	11	21	M						Alabama

1920 census: relationship, Cullman County, Alabama

<sup>7</sup> The enumerator apparently spelled the surname "Pendergrass" incorrectly as "Pendergrast."

<sup>8</sup> Combining information from several online family trees as well as 1900 and 1910 census enumerations, we find that Mary Love Cochran was first married to John Nixon Pendergrass, before marrying her second husband, William.

- 1900 census Military District 645, Coweta County, Georgia—John N and Mary L Pendergrass (ages 29/21). Children: Leonard 6, John E 3, Lavonia L 9 months.
- 1910 census: Military District 746, Coweta County, Georgia—John N and Mary G Pendergrass (ages 39/33). Children: Leonard 16, John E 13, Lavonia L 10, Charles 8, Mary E 6, Arthur & Oscar both age 3.

<sup>9</sup> Interestingly, Georgia marriage records indicate that Berman Cathcart's wife, Mary B's last name was Pendergrass. I think further research will confirm that this is Mary L Pendergrass—daughter of John Nixon and Mary Love Cochran Pendergrass, his stepsister! See footnote below

<sup>10</sup> see the section "Attaway Connection" for more details

Important to note from this census:

- 30-year-old Perle L Cathcart is listed as a widow—but this is apparently not true, when compared to the following census listings 1930 and 1940
- both Perle and her children are listed as Cathcarts... they had not yet changed their names to Kite

In the 1930 in 1940 censuses William and his family reemerge—now all having the surname Kite.

1930 census: West Huntsville, Madison, Alabama; page 2a

Age	Sex	Name	Relationship	Marital Status	Age	Sex	Name	Relationship	Marital Status	Birthplace	State	County	District
28	0	William	Head	M	28	M	Pearl	Wife	M	Georgia	Same Place	Davidson	1st
		Grace	Daughter	F	27	F	Marie	Daughter	F	Alabama	Same Place	Davidson	1st
		Junior	Son	M	7	M			M	Alabama	Same Place	Davidson	1st

1940 census: Madison, Madison, Alabama; page 2a

Perhaps the best (and last) clue for William is his death certificate. There is ample evidence to suggest that this is the former William T Cathcart:

- birth date and location, which matches the 1900 census information
- wife Pearl Blair<sup>11</sup>
- informant Ms. Marie Kite—almost certainly his daughter, born about 1923
- the handwritten corrections in the blocks for parents. Even though the last name is given as Kite, all other information matches what we already know
  - John Allen—matching John A Cathcart
  - Della as the nickname for his first wife, Martha I Karp

<sup>11</sup> see [Attaway connection](#) for more information

## William Paul Kyte

- Dawn Cross searches for father
  - Ancestry.com bulletin board comments
  - Obituary for Junior Carey Kyte (born 6/10/1932, in Huntsville, Alabama ; died 12/28/2005, at the Woodland H Health Care Center in Cullman County, Alabama) mentions parents as William Dean and Grace Irene Ackins Kyte
- more research needed

## The Attaway Connection

William T Cathcart's wife Pearl Blair's mother was Mary Grace Attaway (1866-1939). Mary Grace was born in Georgia; but I have not yet trace down her parents with any certainty.

Joseph Harrison Attaway (circa 1832-1862) first married Miss Harriet Atchison in August of 1855 in Coweta County, Georgia. After Joseph's death, Harriet remarried on 2 September, 1869 (also in Coweta County, Georgia), this time to William Cathcart (1803-1873).

In 1870—the first census after William and Harriet's marriage—Harriet's 14-year-old son (from her previous marriage), John C Attaway is enumerated.<sup>12</sup> Although I can no longer find the listing (more research is needed), I recall seeing John listed elsewhere as a Cathcart... perhaps in 1880 census. Given the name changing and/or possible adoption, as well as the confluence of dates and places, it is certainly possible that the John A Cathcart mentioned at the beginning of this paper is in fact John C Attaway.

Furthermore, in that same 1870 census, there is a 4-year-old Mary H Attaway enumerated with William and Harriet Cathcart and family. Since Mary was born at least three years after the death of Harriet's first husband (Joseph Harrison Attaway, an 1862... assuming that death date is accurate) she cannot have been Joseph's daughter. This makes it is at least conceivable—given date and place of birth—that she is the same individual as the Mary Grace Attaway, mother to Pearl Blair above.

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<sup>12</sup> 1870 census: Newnan, Coweta, Georgia; page 327.