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To start with, I have the Gatlin's in England in 1504 I suspect they were originally from Ireland. They used the name Gatland. The emigrant was Gerard John Gatland b. 1616

I have the tree on Hulsey that Sam married. They lived in Tn, Ky, and Ala. then moved to Tx.

I have not found Sam on any census with a family, the census you mentioned that Sam was living with a Strother family, his sister Martha Jane, she was called Jennie married into that Strother family. James Perry Gatlin had Sam and Mary in Ala. by a first wife, then he had 4 more children with Martha before they got married in 1869. They had a bro. Thomas I have been searching for, finally found him in the census in Ala. and the girl he married was 12 years old, I guess that is why they left Tn. Dad told about one of his brothers killing a man in Tx. and going to the penitentry in early 1900. The Gatlins were a rough and drinking bunch of boys. I have a temperance paper they were all made to sign in early 1900. They were all farmers, tobacco in Tn. and cotton in Tx. All the Gatlin's lived to be close to hundred years old, so I heard lots of stories. Joyce